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Arts Impact Grant: Transformation and Sustainability Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: April 2026

Overview

These are some of the most frequently asked questions about the BC Arts Council [Arts Impact Grant](#).

The most recent program guidelines are posted on the program page on the [BC Arts Council website](#).

If you have questions after you have reviewed the Program Guidelines and the Frequently Asked Questions, contact a program advisor.

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Does the BC Arts Council have a specific priority for the types of projects funded through the Arts Impact Grant?

Yes. The Arts Impact grant is intended to provide funding to support eligible organizations to address capacity, governance, and sustainability while developing new opportunities for transformation and collaboration in the arts sector.

In their application, an applicant must make a compelling case for the urgency of the project, the impact on the organization or the arts sector, how the project aligns with the assessment criteria, and why it is a priority.

Why was the Arts Impact Grant changed to focus specifically on organizational development?

In the context of current Provincial budget constraints, the BC Arts Council is reviewing all programs to ensure they are relevant, efficient, and respond to the needs of arts organizations in B.C.

The Arts Impact Grant was revised to better support organizational transformation, sustainability, and long-term sector health. Feedback from the arts community identified a need for more support for organizational development, governance, and capacity-building initiatives that are not supported through other project-based grant programs.

Funding support for organizational development and capacity building is limited. This revised program is designed to specifically support that work.

The arts sector has been advocating for more stable multi-year operational funding and less project-based funding. Changes to the Arts Impact Grant will give the BC Arts Council flexibility in the overall budget to provide more funding through other programs.

Is the budget for the Arts Impact Grant the same as in previous years?

No. To support other programs and priorities, and considering the new program focus, the budget for the Arts Impact Grant has been reduced from previous years.

Does this mean funding for artistic projects has been reduced?

No. Artistic creation, production, presentation, touring, and engagement continue to be supported through BC Arts Council Project Assistance and Operating Assistance programs. Arts Impact is now dedicated to organizational development work.

Is the Arts Impact Grant still project-based funding?

Yes, but with a more specific focus. Programming on its own is not eligible. Projects focussed on organizational transformation that may also support program delivery may be eligible. Funded projects must be transformational in nature and contribute to organizational or sector sustainability, renewal, or collaboration. Standalone artistic projects or programming are no longer eligible.

See examples in the [Program Guidelines](#) for additional clarity.

Does my project need to be completed within a year?

No. You cannot apply for activities starting before the intake deadline of June 3, 2026. Your project can start any time after this date, there is no requirement to complete projects by a specified date, and your project can be of any duration.

When will I find out if my application has been funded?

You will be informed of the results of your application by late September 2026. If you choose to start your project before you receive the results and you are successful, you can apply the funds retroactively. All applicants will be notified at the same time, regardless of when they submitted their application.

What is the maximum amount of funding I can request?

The maximum request amount is \$30,000. You may request up to 100% of the total project budget; matching funding is not required. If your project does have other revenue sources, indicate in the budget form if that revenue is confirmed or pending.

I am an individual artist working on a project with an organization. Can I apply?

No, individuals cannot apply to the Arts Impact Grant. If the organization you are working with is an eligible arts and culture organization or collective, they can submit the application.

I work in a school that wants to apply for an art project. Can the school apply?

No, schools are not eligible to apply.

My municipality/town/community has a project in mind. Can we apply?

No, this program is only open to arts and culture organizations or collectives.

I am an artist collaborating on a project with a group of artists who I regularly work with. Can we apply as an arts collective?

To be eligible as an arts or curatorial collective, your collective must be established and readily identified as a collective consisting of three or more individuals who are professionally active in their field of practice, each of whom must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the program guidelines. To establish eligibility, you will need to provide the names of each collective member; examples to demonstrate how they each meet the criteria; and examples of a demonstrated history of creation and public presentation of work by the current collective, for which artist fees were received.

We recommend you contact a Program Advisor to determine if your collective is eligible before you apply.

My organization receives Operating Assistance from the BC Arts Council. Can my organization apply for an Arts Impact Grant?

Yes, organizations that receive Operating Assistance are eligible. You cannot apply for projects that are already directly funded through your Operating Assistance grant. However, if – as an example – the focus of your project is the strengthening or stabilization of the organization, you can apply for expenses to hire staff as your organization moves from a working board to a governance board. You can also apply for specialized organizational projects such as accessibility audits or environmental sustainability initiatives.

How many applications do you receive and what is the success rate?

We receive a high volume of applications (almost 400 in 2025) and a high demand for funding, making it a very competitive program. The BC Arts Council targets a 20-40% success rate across all programs.

How is the impact of my project assessed?

Applications are reviewed by an independent peer assessment panel. Your application will be scored against each of the three areas of assessment as listed in the program guidelines. These are: **Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Access** (30%), **Impact** (50%), and **Applicant Readiness** (20%).

Successful applications show how the project will address the criteria for each assessment area.

Can I apply for computer equipment for our office?

Yes, you can request up to \$2,500 for directly related equipment purchases such as office equipment, computers and printers. Consumable supplies such as ink, paint, or paper are also eligible.

If you are looking for additional funding for higher-value capital and/or building-related expenses or other specialized equipment, look at the **Arts Infrastructure** program.

My project includes hiring a new staff person. Do I need to submit a job description?

Yes, we request a maximum one-page job description for any new staff positions. This should be uploaded to the **Support Materials** tab of the application.

Our organization wants to revise our board structure to change from a working board to a governance model. Can we apply for funds to hire a consultant to facilitate this process?

Yes, this change to your organizational structure would be an eligible project.

In the last two years, our organization received an Arts Infrastructure grant from BC Arts Council for \$70,000 and no other grants. Does this mean we must upload a Review Engagement report to our online profile before submitting our application?

If you are applying as a non-profit arts and culture organization, you must upload signed financial statements for your two most recent completed fiscal years to your online Organization Profile. The type of financial statements required is based on the single largest BC Arts Council grant received in the organization's previous two fiscal years, not including Arts Impact Grants or Arts Infrastructure Program grants.

The table in the program guidelines outlines the type of financial statements required depending on the type of BC Arts Council grant previously received. In this example, the organization is only required to provide internally prepared financial statements.

Our organization is working on a project that was funded through another BC Arts Council program. Can we still apply to Arts Impact?

Yes, you can apply even if you have other currently active BC Arts Council-funded projects. However, you cannot apply for overlapping or additional funding for the same project, and you cannot submit an Arts Impact Grant application if you have an *overdue* Final Report for that or any other outstanding grant.

Our organization wants to collaborate with two other arts organizations to hold a performing arts festival in our region. Is this eligible?

No. Production of events, performances, and other programming is not eligible in this program.

Our arts council wants to collaborate with two other community arts councils to develop a shared-service model to support arts organizations in our region. Is this eligible?

Yes – collaborative projects that result in increased capacity and sustainability in the sector are eligible.

Our organization is holding a conference/symposium next year. Can we apply to the Arts Impact program to fund this event?

No. Conferences and symposia are not eligible activities for this program.

I would like to apply for three separate events that our organization is holding throughout the year. Is this eligible?

No, this program no longer supports production of events or programming.

If you receive **Operating Assistance**, you can include these activities in your Operating Assistance application. If you do not receive Operating Assistance, you may be able to apply for this programming through a **Project Assistance** program.