

Project Assistance: Professional Performing Arts Organizations Program Guidelines 2026/27

Grant Program Summary

Grant program purpose: To support professional performing arts organizations and arts or curatorial collectives in the development, production, live performance, or creation of new or unique performing arts works, programming, and community engagement initiatives. Includes dance, music, theatre, multidisciplinary or other performing arts practices such as circus acts and comedy.

Maximum grant amount: \$25,000

Applications – Open: April 8 | **Close:** May 20 | **Results expected:** mid-September 2026

Next intake: Spring 2027 (subject to change). You can find the [Grant Program Calendar](#) on the Funding section of our website.

Who can apply: Professional Performing Arts Organizations, Indigenous Community Organizations, Indigenous Governments, Arts Activator Organizations, Arts or Curatorial Collectives in B.C. Applicants must meet all relevant eligibility criteria listed in the [Who can apply](#) section.

New applicants: You must register in the online system to access the application. Before you register or begin your application, you are encouraged to talk with a Program Advisor and make sure **you are eligible** and **your proposed project is eligible**. Ineligible applications will not be forwarded for assessment.

Contact us. We are here to help.

Review these program guidelines and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the BC Arts Council website before applying. Contact a Program Advisor if you have questions.

Theatre, Multidisciplinary and Other Performing Arts Practices:

Justine Shore – Program Advisor
250-940-8538 | Justine.Shore@gov.bc.ca

Dance and Music:

Kaitlyn Reining – Program Advisor
778-405-3973 | Kaitlyn.Reining@gov.bc.ca

For general information, contact: 250-356-1718 | BCArtsCouncil@gov.bc.ca

BC Arts Council office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Pacific Time), Monday to Friday.

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Guidelines are reviewed and updated before every intake.

Be sure you are working with the most current version.
 Any updates to guidelines made after the grant program opens will be highlighted

Acknowledgement

The BC Arts Council acknowledges it carries out its work on the land of Indigenous nations throughout British Columbia. We pay our respects to the Elders and Knowledge Keepers, past and present, descendants and custodians of these lands and waters. We are grateful for the continuing relationships with Indigenous peoples that develop through our work together. We acknowledge and raise our hands to the lək̓ʷəŋən (Lekwungen) people, known today as the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Kosapsum) Esquimalt Nations, on whose lands we operate our main offices.

About Project Assistance: Professional Performing Arts Organizations

Project Assistance: Professional Performing Arts Organizations supports organizations and arts or curatorial collectives in the development, production, live performance, or creation of new or unique performing arts works, programming, and community engagement initiatives.

BC Arts Council grant programs support a wide variety of practices within the performing arts, including dance, music, theatre, multidisciplinary, or other performing arts practices such as circus arts and comedy.

Grant amounts

Maximum request amount is \$25,000.

Applicants may request:

- a grant amount for up to 50% of the total eligible project expenses
or
- a grant amount for up to 65% of the total eligible project expenses from applicants that are considered part of the BC Arts Council's [designated priority groups](#)

Applicant contributions to the project budget can include both cash and in-kind contributions.

Submit a realistic and balanced budget that shows how much money you need to complete the project. BC Arts Council intends to support successful applications at 100% of their request. However, in some cases, grants may be awarded for less than requested.

BC Arts Council grant programs are competitive. We are not able to support all eligible applications. We generally fund between 20% to 40% of eligible applications in a program intake. To see a list of previous grant recipients and the range of grants awarded, visit the [BC Arts Council Grant Recipients](#) webpage.

Who can apply

Before you begin your application, make sure **you are eligible** and **your proposed project is eligible**. Ineligible applications will not be forwarded for assessment.

Professional performing arts organizations eligibility

- **To be eligible, an organization must be:**
- A **professional performing arts organization** registered and in good standing as a non-profit society or community service co-op in B.C. for at least one fiscal year prior to application with:

- The majority of key staff and board members based in B.C.
- Creative control and decision making for programming and engagement primarily maintained within the organization and by leadership based in B.C.
- A purpose or mandate dedicated to arts and culture programming and activities.
- or
- A purpose or mandate to provide services to the arts and culture sector in B.C.
- Operations and activities that reflect this dedicated purpose or mandate.

OR

- An **Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) community organization** registered and in good standing as a non-profit society or community service co-op in B.C. for at least one fiscal year prior to application with:
 - The majority of key staff and board members based in B.C.
 - A commitment to offering regular arts and culture activities.

OR

- An **Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) government** in B.C. that offers regular arts and culture activities.

OR

- A **professional performing arts organization** operated by a local government in B.C. for at least one fiscal year prior to application, that:
 - Maintains an ongoing arm's length, community-based board of management or advisory structure that sets policy for the organization's programs and services.
 - Holds a dedicated programming space and has at least one dedicated staff person in an artistic, curatorial, or administrative leadership position who is responsible for programming and engagement.
 - Offers ongoing public programming by arts and culture practitioners.
 - Primarily operates with autonomy, holding creative control and decision making for programming and engagement within the organization, with separate financial records for operations. See Financial Statement Requirements section below for more detail.

OR

- A **professional performing arts organization** operated by a public post-secondary institution in B.C. for at least one fiscal year prior to application, that:
 - Holds a dedicated programming space and has at least one dedicated staff person in an artistic, curatorial, or administrative leadership position who is responsible for programming and engagement.
 - Offers ongoing public programming by arts and culture practitioners, the majority of which is not programming of faculty or student works.

- Primarily operates with autonomy, outside of curriculum, holding creative control and decision making for programming and engagement within the organization, with separate financial records for operations. See Financial Statement Requirements section below for more detail.

OR

- A registered **Arts Activator Organization**. Arts Activator Organizations are strongly advised to contact a Program Advisor to confirm the eligibility of their proposed project.

An eligible organization must also:

- **Not currently receive Operating Assistance program grants from the BC Arts Council.**
- Provide public arts and culture programming or service to the arts and culture sector in B.C., as a primary activity, and have done so for a minimum of one year prior to the application closing date.
- Provide programs that benefit the community at-large and not solely the interests of its nonprofit society members.
- Engage skilled artistic, curatorial, and administrative leadership for project or service delivery.
- Fairly compensate artists, arts and culture practitioners, technicians, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers. Compensation must align with project contexts and industry standards within the field of practice.
- Follow international intellectual property rights standards and cultural ownership protocols.
- Follow the [Criminal Records Review Act](#) which requires that people who work with or may have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults must undergo a criminal record check by the [Criminal Records Review Program](#).
- Not have any overdue final reports on previous BC Arts Council grants.

Arts or curatorial collective eligibility

To be eligible, an arts or curatorial collective must:

- Be established and readily identified as a collective of a minimum of 3 independent artists, curators, or arts and culture practitioners who are active in their field of practice and who meet the criteria below. NOTE: The collective may include additional members who do not meet the criteria below as long as at least 3 eligible core members have been identified and meet the following:
 - Have a minimum of two years of practice in their field following basic training, with roles that hold creative control of projects.
 - Have a demonstrated body of previous work as an individual practitioner, including at least one public presentation of work for which an artist fee or equivalent was received.
 - Be a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident.

- Have been a resident of B.C. for at least 12 months immediately prior to the application deadline, and ordinarily reside in B.C. See [Determining B.C. Residency](#) page.
- Have a demonstrated history of creating or presenting work as a collective and have a clear commitment to a current practice. At a minimum, the collective must have:
 - A demonstrated body of previous work by current members of the collective.
 - At least one public presentation of work by the current collective, for which artist fees or equivalent were received.
 - Intention to continue working together with current members as a collective on future projects.
- Apply under the name of an individual member of the collective who acts as the key contact person and is listed as the submitting representative or “Primary Contact” within the online grant system. **If the application is successful, this person will:**
 - Be responsible for submitting the final report.
- Designate a member of the collective as Payee who is registered with an Individual Practitioner account. Their name and email address (that is associated with their system account) must be listed in the application. **If the application is successful, this person will:**
 - Receive payment of the grant on behalf of the collective.
 - Be issued a T4A for the full grant amount.

An eligible arts or curatorial collective must also:

- Provide programs that benefit the community at-large and not solely the interests of the collective’s members.
- Engage skilled artistic, curatorial, and administrative leadership for project or service delivery.
- Fairly compensate artists, arts and culture practitioners, technicians, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers. Compensation must align with project context and industry standards within the field of practice.
- Follow international intellectual property rights standards and cultural ownership protocols.
- Follow the [Criminal Records Review Act](#) which requires that people who work with or may have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults must undergo a criminal record check by the [Criminal Records Review Program](#).
- Not have any overdue final reports on previous BC Arts Council grants.

Ineligible applicants

The following organizations are **not** eligible to apply for this grant:

- Organizations currently receiving grants from BC Arts Council’s Operating Assistance Program

- Arts and culture organizations eligible within the BC Arts Council Community Arts Organization grant programs
- Collectives with fewer than three members, or ad hoc collectives. These types of collectives may be eligible to apply to Individual Arts Grant programs for a collaborative project.
- Organizations or collectives applying on behalf of a private or for-profit entity such as a registered business or sole proprietorship
- Community choirs that are attached to, or affiliated with, educational, religious, or military institutions
- Organizations dedicated to archives
- Industrial sites, archaeological sites, heritage sites, or historic places
- Social service organizations
- Member-funded societies
- Educational institutions and schools
- Non-profit societies registered for less than one fiscal year

What you can apply for

Ineligible applications will not be forwarded for assessment. This grant program provides one-time funding for specific projects. Project grants are not meant to cover ongoing expenses.

Projects can include activities that span multiple phases of the creative process, such as:

- Creation of new work (early drafts, research, composition, creation-based residencies)
- Project development (workshopping, presentations-in-development, collaborations, stage readings, talk-backs)
- Presentation (live performance, world premieres, full productions, post-production, self produced tours)

Examples of eligible projects

Some examples include:

- A dance company commissioning a choreographer and musician to create an original work
- A theatre company in the exploration phase of a collaborative, new performance piece
- A music ensemble embarking on a self-produced tour
- A comedy troupe creating, rehearsing, and hosting a showcase at a local venue
- A multidisciplinary presentation of new works by established and emerging artists
- A theatre collective exploring a new artistic piece by experimenting and collaborating through a series of artist workshops

Required artist payment in project activities

Eligible projects must include appropriate payment to artists, arts and culture practitioners, and other members of the project team engaged in the proposed activities. Payments to artists should

be consistent with recommended rates set by relevant arts service organizations, professional associations, or established practitioners within the field of practice. Payment structures that are not guaranteed, or that risk low or non-payment to artists do not meet this compensation requirement (for example, commission-based sales of artworks, percentage of door sales).

RESOURCES

Recommended Artist Fee Schedules (by discipline):

- **CARFAC** ([Canadian Artists' Representation / Le Front des artistes canadiens](#))
- **CAEA** ([Canadian Actors Equity Association](#))
- **CFM** ([Canadian Federation of Musicians](#))
- **CADA** ([Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists](#))
- **IATSE** ([International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees](#))
- **UBCP-ACTRA** ([Union of BC Performers](#))

Required payment to Elders and Knowledge Keepers in project activities

Applicants should pay Elders and Knowledge Keepers according to community context and appropriate protocols.

RESOURCE: The First Peoples' Cultural Council [Working with Elders](#) document is a free resource to support those engaging with Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

Exclusions - What will not be funded

Grants are not available to support the following projects or activities:

- Project phases or activities that begin before the application closing date
- Projects or activities that are not based on artistic or curatorial decision making, or where arts and culture is not the primary focus
- Projects or activities that do not involve or benefit artists or arts and culture practitioners
- Projects or activities where there is no engagement with or payment to professional artists
- Activities that require payment from artists to participate without compensation, such as art and craft fairs, conferences, and conventions
- Fundraising activities
- Family, religious, anniversary, or community celebrations
- Projects or activities that are primarily intended for or focussed within creative industries including architecture, commercial fashion design, commercial film and television, commercial music activities, culinary arts, games, sports, recreation, mass media, journalism, podcasts, graphic design. For example:
 - Creation, promotion, or distribution of works primarily intended for commercial release, such as recording projects, visual albums, or music videos, except those used to support the creation of new works. For example: field recordings, recordings of rehearsals, or demo recordings for documentation, archival, or development purposes.

- Creation of works primarily intended for promotional or marketing purposes (such as demo reels), or for distribution through streaming platforms or social media channels.
- Music projects or activities supported through Creative BC programs, including the Career Development program. See the Creative BC webpage for funding opportunities in the commercial music industry.
- Podcasts and radio programming that are not embedded within established artistic practice or specifically dedicated to the dissemination of artistic works.
- Contests and competitions, except if competition is integral to the art form or cultural practice, for example: hip-hop and street dance, rap battles, poetry slams, powwows
- Projects where arts therapy, health or therapeutic work is the primary project focus
- Projects that are focused on professional development or arts education. For example: elementary or secondary curriculum-based activities, projects related to continuing education or post-secondary programs at educational institutions, end of the year student productions (except in the case of professional arts training organizations)
- Ongoing multi-day festivals, projects embedded within ongoing multi-day festivals, and other activities eligible within the Project Assistance: Professional Arts Festivals grant program
- Touring, travel, and other activities eligible within the Arts Circulation and Touring grant program
- Project phases or activities previously funded through this grant program or other BC Arts Council grant programs
- Activities funded with BC Arts Council funds received through third-party delivery partners: ArtStarts, First Peoples' Cultural Council, BC Live Performance Network, or Creative BC

Grants are also not available to support the following expenses:

- Operating or ongoing expenses
- Capital expenses (for example, construction, renovation, maintenance, or purchase of property)
- Equipment purchases over \$2,500, or that are not directly related to the project activities
- **Subsistence** (living costs) paid to artists or arts and culture practitioners
- Feasibility studies
- Start-up costs or seed money
- Budget deficits or surpluses
- Contingency expenses

When and how to apply

Applications – Open: April 8 | **Close:** May 20 | **Results:** mid-September 2026

Submit your application through the [online grant system](#).

Applications will only be accepted until 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time) on Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

Organizations and collectives may submit only one application to this grant program, per year.

New applicants

- Closely review these guidelines to make sure your organization or collective and proposed project are eligible.
- Register and create a profile in the BC Arts Council's online Grant Management System (GMS) to access the application. Instructions are on our website: [How to Apply Online](#).
- We recommend you register at least 2 weeks before the application closing date.
- New registrations go through a review. The review and approval process may take up to five business days after we have received all required documents. **Register early to avoid delays.**
- **Registration requests received within five business days of the application closing date will not be processed until after the grant program has closed.** You will not be able to submit an application if you are not registered.
- You will receive an automated email when your registration request is approved.
- Add the automated email address **NoReply@BCArtsCouncil.ca** to your safe senders list and check your spam folders.
- Once approved, you will be able to complete your Organization Profile and access the application.

Returning applicants

- Closely review these guidelines to make sure your organization or collective and proposed activities are eligible.
- Update your Organization Profile in the online system before starting the application.

Registration questions? Contact BCArtsCouncil@gov.bc.ca or 250-356-1718 for registration assistance. The BC Arts Council office hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Accessibility support

Organizations with a primary purpose to serve D/deaf or disability arts practices, or collectives led by artists or arts and culture practitioners who self-identify as D/deaf or disabled, may be eligible for the BC Arts Council's accessibility programs.

[Application Assistance](#) pays for support services for creating and submitting grant applications.

[Access Support](#) provides additional funding for access costs related to a project funded by a BC Arts Council grant.

These programs do not provide funding for audience accessibility or day-to-day access costs outside the scope of a project. Accessibility requests are confidential and will not be part of the assessment panel's evaluation of a grant application.

For more information or to request assistance, contact:

Clayton Baraniuk, Accessibility Coordinator - 250-978-9839 - BCACaccess@gov.bc.ca

Find out more about accessibility supports online at BCArtsCouncil.ca/accessibility.

What is needed for the application

You are responsible for submitting a complete application. We will not contact you to address errors or missing requirements. Eligible applications are assessed as submitted.

As part of our commitment to accessibility, the BC Arts Council accepts specific parts of applications in audio and sign language formats. See instructions within the application.

All applicants: Update your online Organization Profile. See details below for updates and uploads that are required when you apply.

An **application checklist** is included at the end of these guidelines.

A complete application must include:

- Details outlining the proposed project including:
 - Summary of the proposed project with rationale, objectives, and outcomes.
 - Project Start Date (which must be after the application closing date) and a realistic Project End Date.
 - Detailed project timeline or work plan.

Note: Notification of results is generally 16 weeks after the application closing date, so plan accordingly if your project is dependent on this grant funding.

 - Completed Project Team Table, including name, responsibility, current location, confirmation of participation, and 100-word biography for each member of the project's team.
- Balanced project budget.
- All required support material as listed below.

Required support material

Review and follow the [Upload Requirements for Support Material](#) before uploading support material to your online application.

- **Only submit support material that is described below** and related to your proposed activities.
- **Do not submit any additional material.** Excess support material, including multiple links to materials within a single uploaded document, will not be reviewed.
- **Test your materials before submitting your application.** Make sure all support materials open properly and can be read or viewed clearly.
- **Complete the inventory form in the application.** Use this form to provide additional context or information for the assessors about the image, video, audio, or text files you are uploading.

Required support material for this application includes:

- An operating budget for the fiscal year in which the project takes place (organizations only)

- Letters from up to two project partners or collaborators (as applicable) confirming the nature of their participation in the proposed project (maximum two letters, one page each). **Do not include general letters of support.**
- **For applicants who are applying to this program for the first time:** One to two letters of reference from established arts and culture practitioners or organizations familiar with the applicant's work.
- Examples of previous work related to the proposed project, up to a maximum of:
 - **5 images**
 - OR
 - **5 minutes total of video or audio**, noting timecodes of specific excerpts to be viewed (if applicable)
 - OR
 - **Sample of script or score** (up to 10 pages, PDF)
 - OR
 - **Examples of preliminary movement research** (up to 5 minutes of video)

NOTE: You may submit a combination of the above types of examples to best serve your application. Total examples must not exceed the maximum amount allowed in a single format (for example, 3 images and 2 minutes of video can be submitted).

Online profile updates required from collectives

Before you apply, you must update your online Organization Profile with the following:

- **Contact information:** Mailing address and primary contact information.
- **Collective member list:** List of current collective members including name, example of previous work, place of residence, and length of time in collective.
- **Shared purpose,** creative goal, or mandate of your collective.
- Completed **Designated Priority Groups** information section (required for funding prioritization).
- Answers in the **Equity Data Tool** that are relevant to your collective (required for funding prioritization). You are not required to answer every question.

Online profile updates required from organizations

Before you apply, you must update your online Organization Profile with the following:

- **Contact information:** Mailing address and other leadership contact information.
- **Board member list:** The organization's current board of directors, editorial advisory board, trustees, or board of management, including their board position, occupation/expertise, start date, and place of residence.
- **Staff member list:** Administrative, artistic, and editorial staff and significant contractors, including name, position, place of residence, and employment status (for example, permanent or part-time).
- **Constitution or statement of purpose:** Required upload(s):
 - **For non-profit societies:** PDF copy of the organization's certified constitution.

- **For extraprovincial non-share corporations:** PDF copies of the organization's official Certificate of Incorporation under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, Form 4001 Articles of Incorporation, and bylaws.
- **For community service cooperative associations:** PDF copy of the organization's certified Memorandum of Association and Rules.
- **For all other applicants:** Statement of the primary purpose of the organization.
- Completed **Designated Priority Groups** information section (required for funding prioritization).
- Answers in the **Equity Data Tool** that are relevant to your organization (required for funding prioritization). You are not required to answer every question.
- **Financial statements:** Upload signed financial statements for your two most recent completed fiscal years. See details below.

Financial statement requirements

All organizations (except collectives) must upload to their online profile signed financial statements for their two most recent completed fiscal years.

Following standard accounting formatting, financial statements should include comparative information for the prior fiscal year. If a comparative year is not included within a single set of statements, a set of financial statements for each year must be uploaded.

Balance sheets or ledgers alone are not considered complete financial statements.

RESOURCE: Samples of a Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expense Statement (Income Statement) are available through [Community Gaming Grants application resources](#), under Example Documents.

Not-for-profit organization financial statements, including those internally prepared, must include:

- A balance sheet, income statement, and notes following standard accounting formatting.
- An itemized list of grants identified by funder, included either in the income statement or in an attached schedule.
- A breakdown of operating net assets, distinguishing between unrestricted net and capital assets.
- Signatures of the preparer and **two** board members affirming board approval.

For applicants operating under the umbrella of a local government, an Indigenous government, or a post-secondary institution, financial statements must include:

- A statement of income and expenses for the applicant's activities alone.
- A signature of the umbrella organization's financial officer.
- Notes indicating if the applicant entity may accrue assets, surpluses, or deficits from one year to the next.
- An itemized list of grants received that are related to the applicant, not the entire umbrella organization, and identified by funder, either in the income statement or attached schedule.

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, Accelerate grants or Arts Infrastructure Program grants. Refer to the chart below.

If you did not receive an applicable grant in the previous two fiscal years, internally prepared financial statements are acceptable. The statements must include all information listed above.

BC Arts Council reserves the right to request audited financial statements, regardless of the amount of the applicant's previous funding.

Previous BC Arts Council Grant Received (as per above)	Type of Financial Statements Required
\$0 to \$15,000	Internally prepared financial statements
\$15,001 - \$40,000	Independently prepared financial statements: Notice to Reader/Compilation Engagement Report
\$40,001 - \$100,000	Independently prepared financial statements: Review Engagement
Greater than \$100,000	Independently prepared financial statements: Audit

How funding decisions are made

Peer assessment

The following process is used to evaluate applications to this grant program:

- The BC Arts Council reviews each application for eligibility.
- Eligible applications are forwarded to an independent peer assessment panel. Assessment panels include individuals (assessors) with broad artistic knowledge, experience, geographical representation, and diverse aesthetic, institutional, and cultural viewpoints, including those from Indigenous perspectives.
- Assessors read and score the applications using the assessment criteria below.
- The assessment panel discusses, then ranks the applications. Grants are awarded based on this ranking.
- Funding priority may be given to applicants considered part of a [designated priority group](#).
- The BC Arts Council informs each applicant of the peer assessment panel's decision approximately 16 weeks after the application closing date.
- Applicants may check the status of their application at any time through the online system.
- All results are final.

Assessment criteria

The assessment panel will read and evaluate your application based on the following criteria, relative to the applicant's context (including region, capacity, community served, available resources, purpose, and mandate).

Each criteria category is assigned a percentage of your application's total score (out of 100). For example, a category weighted at 20% means you can score between 1 and 20 in that area.

Compelling, detailed, and specific answers with strong evidence and clear alignment with the assessment criteria will score higher.

Keep these criteria in mind as you complete your application. Some of the specific points below may not apply to your project. However, your application should clearly explain how the proposed project generally meets each area of assessment.

RECONCILIATION, EQUITY, DIVERISTY, INCLUSION AND ACCESS (20%)

- Opportunities provided for equity-deserving and under-represented communities.
- Contribution to communities located outside major urban centres (as applicable).
- Support for truth and reconciliation; serves and includes Indigenous peoples of B.C. and Canada. Accessibility and safety, including but not limited to physical spaces, intellectual accessibility, cultural and emotional safety, affordability, and support for those who experience barriers or disability.

ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION, ENGAGEMENT, AND IMPACT (50%)

- Impact on the organization and the communities it serves, as demonstrated through programming, audience development, outreach, editorial, or curatorial choices.
- Contribution to the development of the art form(s) and cultural practices in B.C.
- Artistry, risk, originality, and production values.
- Strength, clarity, and urgency of the proposed outcomes and objectives.
- Integrity of the project including:
 - Ethical approaches to research, collaboration, source materials, and other cultural considerations.
 - Respectful engagement with Indigenous peoples, communities, practices, materials, beliefs.
 - Policies and protocols to eliminate cultural appropriation.

FEASIBILITY (30%)

- A realistic and reasonable plan for using the money.
- A realistic and reasonable timeline demonstrating capacity to complete the project.
- Plans and processes that ensure a respectful, equitable, and safe work environment, including fair compensation.
- Experience of partners, collaborators, and supporters, and the clear articulation of their contribution to the project.

Designated Priority Groups

The BC Arts Council is committed to targeted investment in underserved and equity-deserving organizations. These [designated priority groups](#) are the focus of strategic measures, dedicated programs, funding prioritization processes, and other equity support initiatives.

Designated priority groups include applicants and arts and culture practitioners who are:

- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit) Peoples
- Deaf or experience disability
- Black or people of colour
- Located in areas outside [greater Vancouver or the capital region](#)

If the majority of your activities, programming, and resources are dedicated to one of the groups listed above, and if your organization or collective would like to be considered for equity support measures including priority funding, you must complete the Designated Priority Groups and Equity Data Tool sections in your online Organization Profile.

Notification of results and feedback

The BC Arts Council intends to inform applicants of the assessment results approximately **16 weeks** after the application closing date.

Notification is sent by email to the primary contact linked to the application. Emails are sent through the online system. Be sure the email address **NoReply@BCArtsCouncil.ca** is on your safe sender list.

Results will not be shared before official notification emails are sent.

Feedback

Contact a Program Advisor for feedback on your application after you have received notification of the results.

If a previous application for the same project was unsuccessful, we recommend that you request feedback from the Program Advisor and address the concerns in your next application.

Payment of grants and reporting requirements

Grant payments are subject to an authorizing appropriation under the *Financial Administration Act*.

The BC Arts Council reserves the right to redistribute, delay, or suspend payments if the recipient:

- Does not carry out its planned program of activities.
- Makes major changes in artistic or administrative direction.
- Does not meet its obligations as a grant recipient, including submission of final reports.
- Fails to comply with legal obligations.
- Fails to respect the commitment to provide a safe and respectful workplace free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct.

Grants will be paid by cheque and sent to the mailing address listed in the individual or organization profile in the online system unless the applicant is registered for [direct deposit](#).

Grants are taxable income and must be reported. Individuals receiving grants on their own behalf or on behalf of a collective are issued T4As for the year the grant payment is processed.

Final reports

Grant recipients must submit a final report for the completed project. Final reports must be submitted through the online system within 30 days of the project end date noted in the application.

You will not be able to submit future applications to the BC Arts Council if you have an overdue final report. If at any time, there are significant changes to your approved project or timeline, contact the Program Advisor associated with the program.

Recognition of grants

In recognition of grant funding, BC Arts Council and the Province of British Columbia's support should be acknowledged in all promotional materials, both print and online. The approved BC Arts Council and Province of British Columbia logos and guidelines for use are available [online](#).

Grant recipients with a website are encouraged to add a link to the [BC Arts Council](#) website.

Confidentiality of information

The collection, use, and disclosure of personal information are subject to the privacy provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The applicant's information will be shared in confidence with members of the assessment panel. The names and locations of successful grant recipients may be published, along with the amount of the grant, in the BC Arts Council's Annual Report as well as in various communications and promotional vehicles of the BC Arts Council and Province of British Columbia. Social Insurance Numbers are provided to Canada Revenue Agency through the issuance of T4As.

About the BC Arts Council

The BC Arts Council is an agency of the Province of British Columbia under the Arts Council Act, nurturing and supporting arts and culture activity in communities across British Columbia. The BC Arts Council is actively committed to reconciliation, equity, diversity, inclusion, and access through our programs and processes.

The BC Arts Council conducts its operations and funding activities in accordance with legislation and other guiding documents such as the [BC Human Rights Code](#), [Accessible BC Act](#), [Accessible Canada Act](#), the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) and [Action Plan](#), and the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), as well as the [Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#).

For more information about the BC Arts Council's mandate, vision, values, and strategic directions, visit the [About](#) and [Priorities](#) sections on our website. The [What is the BC Arts Council?](#) video on our website includes ASL interpretation with voice over and captions.

Project Assistance: Professional Performing Arts Organizations Application Checklist 2026-27

Be sure you have included or completed the following before you submit your application.

Before you apply:

Plan to submit your complete application at least two days before the deadline to avoid last-minute technological issues.

- ❑ **New applicants:** Register in the BC Arts Council online system to gain access to the online application. **Registration requests can take up to 5 business days to process.**
- ❑ **Existing applicants:** [Complete all required updates to your organization or collective profile](#)
- ❑ Ensure you have completed and submitted any overdue final reports for previous BC Arts Council grants.
- ❑ Review the Program Guidelines and Application Preview on the [BC Arts Council website](#) for specific requirements for this program.

In your application:

Be sure to read all information outlined in the grey text boxes on the online application, which includes instructions, suggestions, and criteria considerations.

- ❑ Complete each section and answer all questions that are applicable to your project. Questions with the **red *** are mandatory.
- ❑ Ensure your Project Start Date is after the intake closing date; include a realistic Project End Date.
- ❑ Clearly describe your project, including who is involved, how it will impact your organization and the arts sector, and how it will happen.
- ❑ Try to be as clear as possible and fully respond to each question. Use of short, clear sentences, or point form is encouraged.
- ❑ Upload a detailed project timeline or work plan that includes significant milestones and/or benchmarks. Add details wherever possible and identify which activities will be covered under this grant if there are multiple phases.

Pop-out forms to complete in the application:

Make sure you open and complete the pop-up forms within the application.

- ❑ Project Team Table, including name, responsibility, current location, confirmation of participation, and 100-word biography for each member of the project's team.
- ❑ Project Budget (see below for details).
- ❑ Inventory Form on the Support Material tab, including details about the uploaded media files or URL links.

Budget pop-out:

Use the Project Budget Table provided in the application to submit a balanced budget.

- ❑ Include all expenses and revenues described within the Project Information tab.
- ❑ Include detailed notes for each expense. It should be clear which expenses are covered by the request to this program. Break down any large expenses, where possible.

- ❑ Ensure any ineligible expenses listed within program guidelines are covered by other revenue sources.
- ❑ Indicate whether revenues are confirmed or pending. For pending revenues, note if you have previously received this funding in the past.
- ❑ Balance in-kind revenues with in-kind expenses.
- ❑ Make sure Amount Requested in the application matches the requested amount in the Project Budget Table.

Support material to upload:

Information and materials included on the Support Material tab should directly relate to and support the project for which you are seeking funding. The operating budget and letters contribute towards demonstrating feasibility and support for the project.

- ❑ Letters from partners or collaborators, if applicable, confirming the nature of their participation (maximum two letters, one page each – as applicable).
- ❑ An operating budget for the fiscal year in which the project takes place (organizations only).
- ❑ **Applicants who have not previously received funding through this grant program must also submit:** two letters of reference from established arts and culture practitioners familiar with the applicant’s work, who are not directly involved in this project.

Examples of previous work:

Previous work samples should highlight the contribution, impact, and feasibility of the proposed project.

- ❑ Upload examples of previous work relevant to the proposed project, up to the maximums listed in the guidelines and application form.
- ❑ Complete the Inventory Table to provide details about the image, video, audio, or text files you are uploading.

How to name your support material files:

Name your files beginning with your Last Name, First Name - Support Material Type, followed by any additional info such as Image Title, Viewing Order, or Project Partner name. For example:

- Smithers, Nelson – CV.doc
- Smithers, Nelson – image title 1.doc
- Smithers, Nelson – reference letter partner 2.doc

Before you submit your application

Ensure you have not submitted material beyond what is requested. Excess material, including multiple links to materials within a single uploaded document, will not be reviewed and may negatively impact the assessment of your application.

- ❑ Review and proofread your application.
- ❑ Cross reference your answers against the assessment criteria.
- ❑ Make sure you have uploaded all support material and test that all videos, audio clips, and links are working.
- ❑ Ask a friend or trusted advisor to review your application for clarity, omissions, errors, etc.

After you submit your application:

- ❑ Be sure that NoReply@BCArtsCouncil.ca is included in your safe senders list. Notification of results will come from this system email roughly 16 weeks after the intake closing date.
- ❑ Keep your mailing address up to date in your online Organization Profile (or Personal Profile for the designated Collective Payee). Grant payments will be mailed to this address.
- ❑ Once you have received notification of results, contact a Program Advisor for feedback on the assessment of your application.