

Top Tips for Scholarship Applicants



Hi! My name is **Anissa** (pronounced ah-NEE-sah). I am the program advisor for the Scholarship program. Program Advisors at the BC Arts Council are here to answer questions and provide advice about your application or the application process. We also put together peer assessment panels that will review your (and other) applications.

This year I asked my fellow Program Advisors to share their tips for applicants. We hope you will find this advice useful as you prepare your Scholarship application.

To get us started, my top tip is:

- ✓ Read through the Program Guidelines and the Application Checklist. Make sure you are eligible and your program of study is eligible before you spend time registering and applying. Contact me if you have any questions, we program advisors are here to help!



Hello there! My name is **Breanna** (pronounced bree-ANN-ah), and I'm the Program Advisor for Early Career Development (Performing Arts), Arts Circulation and Touring, and Visual Arts Organizations.

My top two tips are:

- ✓ Do not add excess support material - assessors are instructed to only review the maximum number of artistic samples required. They will NOT review anything extra, so adding extra artistic samples will not 'help' your application.
- ✓ Writing a grant is like telling *your story* and your artistic samples support your story. It is important to make sure your artistic samples match the information you've stated in your artistic statement.



Hello, I'm **Michelle** (pronounced mi-SHELL), and I'm the Program Advisor for Literary Arts (Book Publishers, Arts Periodicals, Creative Writers), Early Career Development (Studio Arts), and Arts Impact.

I always encourage applicants to make it personal:

- ✓ Think about "Why you?" and "Why now?" when writing your application. Make a case for yourself. Why should *you* be funded over all the other applicants who are also applying? Give the assessors a solid reason to want to support you and your studies.



Hello there!

I'm **Justine** (pronounced jus-TEEN), Program Advisor for Performing Arts, Professional Development, Accelerate, and Community Arts Organizations.

My advice is to remember:

- ✓ When you have finished drafting your application, go back and reread it. Have you answered the questions asked? If you left something blank or half written, did you go back and finish it?
- ✓ Also, make sure your answers are in your own words and voice. Answer each question honestly. Assessors are looking for applications that are clear, direct and offer insight into you and your practice. Make the assessors understand just how awesome you are!



Hi!

I'm **Paneet** (pronounced puh-NEET), Program Advisor for Media Arts organizations and Professional Development.

My advice might be repetitive, but I will repeat it as I find it so important:

- ✓ Answer every question directly. If you don't understand how you might answer a question, contact a Program Advisor and seek clarification.
- ✓ I also like to encourage applicants to get someone else to read your application before you submit. Ask this person how they would score you if they were an assessor. Do they understand what you've written? Are your answers clear and aligned with the assessment criteria? This process can help you know whether or not your application is clear and makes sense.

Hello!

My name is **Krista** (pronounced KRIS-tah), and I'm the Program Advisor for Community Arts Organizations.

My advice for students is to:

- ✓ Start the application early so you have time to take breaks and not feel rushed.
- ✓ Save your draft within the online system. You do not have to complete it in one sitting.
- ✓ Once you have filled in the application, it is good to take a break and come back to it for a fresh look before submitting.
- ✓ Plan to submit the application at least three days before the deadline. This will give you a cushion in case something goes wrong at the last minute with technology.



Hi everyone!

My name is **Erin** (Pronounced AIR-in), and I'm a Program Advisor who also works in Outreach & Engagement.

Here are my thoughts:

- ✓ Read the assessment criteria and learn how peer assessment works. Like an instructor grading an assignment, folks working in the arts and culture sector review and score applications based on the criteria. They want you to succeed, but they may not know who you are or why you want to pursue a career in the arts. The application is an opportunity to introduce yourself and your work to them.
- ✓ If your application is not successful, call Anissa for feedback. Unfortunately, there's never enough money to fund everyone who applies. As disappointing as it may feel to not receive a grant this time, feedback can help strengthen your next application!



Hey there!

Clayton here (pronounced CLAY-tun)! I'm the Program Advisor for Visual Artists, Arts-Based Community Development, Arts Circulation and Touring and Accelerate. I also co-facilitate our Accessibility Programs.

I'm going to wrap up this "Tips Talk" by looking to the future. Anissa reminded me that this Scholarship grant may be the **first of many** BC Arts Council grants you will write throughout your artistic journey. So consider this:

- ✓ After you finish your studies and basic training for your field of practice, you may be eligible to apply to the **Early Career Development (ECD) program**. ECD grants support early arts practitioners to continue their learning through a residency or mentorship. Find out more on our website: <https://www.bcartscouncil.ca/program/early-career-development/>
- ✓ Once you are established and being paid as a practicing artist, the BC Arts Council has **Individual Arts Grants** for creative writers, visual artists, performing artists and media artists. Our **Professional Development Grants** can also support additional learning opportunities as you move throughout your career. Again, information about all of these grants is on our website: <https://www.bcartscouncil.ca/program/>

We hope these tips will be helpful today - as you prepare your Scholarship application - and also in the years ahead!