

Early Career Development for Individuals: Residency and Mentorship Program Guidelines 2026/27

Grant Program Summary

Grant program purpose: To support immersive and high-impact opportunities for Emerging and Early Arts Practitioners to develop their artistic or administrative practice, participate in learning opportunities and knowledge transfer, and expand their career experience.

Maximum grant amount: \$30,000

Applications – Open: May 27 | **Close:** July 8 | **Results expected:** November 2026

New applicants must register by: Thursday, July 2

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

Who can apply: B.C.-based emerging and early career artists in eligible disciplines. Applicants must meet all eligibility criteria listed in the [Who can apply](#) section.

New applicants: You must register in the online system to access the application. Registration requests must be received at least one week before the application closing date. 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.

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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 people that develop through our work together. We acknowledge and raise our hands to the $\text{lək}^w\text{ə}ŋ\text{ə}ŋ$ (Lekwungen) people, known today as the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Kosapsum) Esquimalt Nations, on whose lands we operate our main offices.

About Early Career Development

Early Career Development supports immersive and high-impact learning opportunities for Early Arts Practitioners (EAP) to:

- Develop their artistic or administrative practice.
- Participate in knowledge transfer, skill sharing, and reciprocal learning in the sector.
- Expand their career experience, professional networks, and exposure.

This program does not support the creation or development of new artistic projects.

Arts and culture organizations and individual Early Arts Practitioners can apply to this program through six components:

For Individual Early Arts Practitioners (use these Guidelines):

Residency component supports Early Arts Practitioners who have completed basic training and are transitioning into professional practice to complete a learning-focused residency with an identified and recognized arts and culture organization.

Mentorship component supports Early Arts Practitioners who have completed basic training and are transitioning into professional practice to engage in one-on-one learning and knowledge transfer with an established practitioner in their art form or field of practice.

For Arts and Culture Organizations (see [Guidelines for Organizations](#)):

Internship component supports arts and culture organizations to host a paid, learning-focused internship for an Early Arts Practitioner who has completed basic training and is transitioning into professional practice.

Cohort component supports arts and culture organizations to host paid, learning-focused positions for a group of two or more Early Arts Practitioners who are transitioning into professional practice.

For Arts and Culture Organizations in Regional Communities – Basic Training (see [Guidelines for Basic Training](#)):

Basic Training component supports emerging and Early Arts Practitioners who may not have access to training opportunities (for example, post-secondary studies) because of where they are located. We developed this component in response to needs identified through sector-wide consultations, in conversations with artists and arts organizations in regional areas, and through a review of results from recent program intakes.

Only arts and culture organizations in [regional communities](#) outside of [greater Vancouver or the capital region](#) can apply to the basic training component.

Basic Training - Internship component supports arts and culture organizations in regional communities to provide paid, foundational on-the-job training and experiential learning for emerging arts practitioners who want to work in their home communities.

Basic Training - Cohort component supports arts and culture organizations in regional communities to provide paid, foundational, on-the-job training and experiential learning for a group of two or more emerging arts practitioners who want to work in their home communities.

Grant amounts

Maximum request amount is \$30,000.

You may request a grant for up to 100% of the total eligible project expenses.

Submit a realistic budget that shows how much money you need to carry out the learning activities. 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 30% 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](#) page.

An Early Arts Practitioner can only be named in one application per intake, regardless of component.

An organization can submit only one application per intake.

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 new application.

Who can apply

Before you begin your application, make sure **you are eligible** and **your proposed activities are eligible**. Ineligible applications will not be forwarded for assessment. If you have questions about eligibility, contact a Program Advisor.

Early Arts Practitioner eligibility

To be eligible, an Early Arts Practitioner must:

- Be working or practicing in an area funded by the BC Arts Council, including but not only:
 - Arts administration
 - Community-based arts
 - D/deaf, Disability and Mad arts
 - Indigenous arts (beadwork, carving, drawing, jewellery, painting, textile or fibre arts, weaving, wearable art, including regalia)
 - Literary arts (creative writing, publishing)
 - Media arts
 - Multi- and interdisciplinary arts

- Museums or Indigenous culture centres
- Performing arts (music, theatre, dance, circus arts, comedy, production and/or technical)
- Visual arts (critic, curator, artist in contemporary or traditional visual arts and/or craft)
- Be legally allowed to work in Canada as a Canadian citizen or a Permanent Resident.
- Be a B.C. resident who ordinarily reside in B.C. and has lived in B.C. for at least 12 continuous months immediately prior to the application closing date. For more information, review our [Determining B.C. Residency](#) page. You must be prepared to provide documentation to support residency status (if requested).
- Not be enrolled in full-time studies when the project is taking place.
- Not have participated in two previously successful Early Career Development applications regardless of component. In other words, an individual may participate in a maximum of two Early Career Development projects in their lifetime.
- Not be a participant in any other application in this program's current intake regardless of component and can only receive one ECD award in the intake.
- Not have any overdue final reports on previous BC Arts Council grants.

AND EITHER

- Identify with one of the BC Arts Council's [designated priority groups](#) and have completed basic training in their field of practice within **ten** years of the application closing date. See basic training definition below.

OR

- Have completed basic training in their field of practice within **five** years of the application closing date. See basic training definition below.

Early Arts Practitioners are eligible if basic training will be complete within six months of the application closing date and before the proposed activity begins.

Basic training eligibility

"Basic training" means appropriate and relevant education that has prepared an Early Arts Practitioner to work at a professional level. This typically involves learning essential and foundational skills through guided and formal instruction or mentorship during which a student will receive feedback, their work will be reviewed and critiqued, and they will develop and deepen their knowledge in their field of practice. Some examples of basic training include:

- Traditional knowledge transfer from an Elder, Knowledge Keeper, or established arts and culture practitioner;
- Apprenticeship with a qualified, peer-recognized arts and culture practitioner;
- Degree, diploma, or certificate from an academic institution. For purposes of the basic training timeline, we consider the first and not necessarily the most recent relevant degree, diploma, or certificate.

Self-directed learning—for example, watching online videos with minimal engagement or feedback, drop-in classes, or a series of workshops—is not eligible as Basic Training.

Basic training requirements for emerging arts administrators may be flexible. Contact a Program Advisor for more information.

Basic training in the following areas of study is not eligible: anthropology, archeology, law, language study, media studies, archival studies, expressive art therapies, business, journalism (including podcasts), library sciences.

Established or mid-career artists and practitioners transitioning within their practice or career are not eligible. Related activities may be eligible through the BC Arts Council's [Professional Development Program](#).

You cannot receive an ECD grant in the same fiscal year (April 1-March 31) as a BC Arts Council Individual Arts Grant.

What you can apply for

General eligibility considerations for a residency or mentorship

- Activities must prioritize learning, knowledge transfer, and skill development, and include specific, tangible learning opportunities and objectives.
- Activities may include a combination of learning and creation. However, learning must be the primary focus with significant opportunities for skills sharing and knowledge exchange with artistic peers, mentors, or community members. The creation, development, and revision of new work cannot be the sole or primary objective.
- Interdisciplinary knowledge transfer is eligible but this program is not intended to support a career change or provide basic training for an Early Arts Practitioner pivoting to a new field of practice. The focus of the application must align with the EAP's basic training.
- Activities must take place over a minimum of eight weeks to a maximum of one year.
- Activities may take place in B.C., in Canada, or internationally.
- Virtual projects are eligible if all other criteria are met.
- A specific and confirmed mentor must be identified in the application.
- It is possible to have more than one mentor or to identify a main mentor and other sources of expertise. However, a series of unrelated mentorships is not eligible. Applicants must clearly describe how different mentors contribute to a cohesive project.
- You must fairly compensate artists, arts and culture practitioners, technicians, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers. Compensation must align with project and community context or with standards in the field of practice.
- You must follow international intellectual property rights standards and cultural ownership protocols.
- A mentorship where two or more Early Arts Practitioners engage in the same learning activities with the same mentor is eligible with these requirements:
 - Each participant and the proposed activities must meet the eligibility criteria.
 - Each participant must apply separately.

- Each application will be assessed on its individual merit.

Examples of eligible residency projects

Examples of eligible residencies include but are not limited to:

- A self-designed residency that takes place at an arts and culture organization where staff are leading and directing learning opportunities and knowledge transfer; for example, 1) an emerging artistic producer participates in a six-month residency at a theatre company with direct mentorship from the artistic director; or 2) an emerging filmmaker attends a two-month residency at a production house to learn directing and editing skills with direct mentorship from the lead artistic team.
- Participation in an established residency program at an arts and culture organization where creation is not the focus; for example, an emerging printmaker participates in a year-long residency program at a printmaking studio, learning how to prepare and maintain equipment and developing specific printmaking skills and techniques.
- An emerging painter registers in an established eight-week intensive residency program to learn specific skills and techniques from established painters and to gain exposure and feedback from curators.

Examples of residencies that are *not* eligible include but are not limited to:

- A self-directed residency where a visual artist plans to complete work for an upcoming exhibit.
- A residency at which an actor intends to do research in support of their solo performance-in-progress.
- A residency for an artist trained in one field of practice that provides basic training in a new field; for example, a ceramics artist enrolls in a writer's residency to learn basic skills as a poet.
- A residency that does not take place in an [arts and culture organization](#).

Examples of eligible mentorship projects

Examples of eligible mentorships include but are not limited to:

- An emerging Indigenous carver learns about the properties of wood and developing new skills with traditional and modern tools through a mentorship with a master carver.
- A ceramic artist mentors with a master ceramicist to learn surface design and share culturally specific techniques.
- An emerging opera singer travels to Italy to mentor with a vocal coach and engage with their network of opera professionals.
- An emerging festival producer mentors with an artistic producer to hone and expand their skills in production management.

Examples of mentorships that are *not* eligible include but are not limited to:

- An assistant or job-shadowing role where the main benefits are to the mentor and knowledge transfer is not the primary focus; for example, an emerging director is the personal assistant and errand-runner for the director of an opera where the mentor's needs are prioritized over the Early Arts Practitioner's learning goals.

- An emerging artist trained in one field of practice seeks mentorship from an established artist in a different field to learn basic skills; for example, a dancer who wants to mentor with a painter to learn fundamental skills in acrylics to pivot to a career as a visual artist.
- A writer hires an editor or dramaturg to help edit the next draft of their manuscript or play.

Eligible expenses

The priority for this program is to support subsistence costs for the Early Arts Practitioner.

You may request subsistence costs of up to \$750 per week, prorated for part-time weeks. Subsistence costs are intended to support basic living costs such as housing, food, and local transportation while pursuing your learning activities. For part-time activities, consider the number of days per week x \$150 per day.

Other eligible expenses include:

- Travel and accommodation costs (for applicant and mentor) that are directly related to the activity. Provide details in the Notes section of the budget.
- Supplies, materials, and other reasonable costs directly related to your eligible activities.
- Equipment or materials directly related to the project (up to \$2,500 maximum).
- Rental or lease of specialized equipment or space directly related to the eligible activities.
- Residency fees paid to a host organization.
- Fees paid to mentors and other professionals. Compensation rates for mentors may vary depending on the activity and the nature of the mentorship. Keep these notes in mind:
 - A mentor should be compensated at a level appropriate to their experience and involvement and reflecting industry standards. This may be an hourly or project rate, or other appropriate structure determined in consultation with the mentor.
 - If the applicant is working with or shadowing a mentor at the mentor's place of work, that mentor may already be receiving compensation for their time. Under these circumstances, it may be appropriate to negotiate a flat mentorship fee.
 - If a mentor chooses to not receive payment for their contribution, they must acknowledge this in their letter.
 - Successful applicants should develop a formal contract with the mentor confirming rate of pay, time commitment, and other arrangements as determined in advance.
 - For further considerations, see [Required artist payment in project activities](#) section below.
- Childcare costs associated with time off for learning activities.
- Accessibility costs related to the project for applicants who are not eligible in the Access Support program.

For applicants who identify as D/deaf or having a disability: You may request additional funding for accessibility expenses (for example, ASL interpretation, personal support worker, transcription, specialized equipment rental) to carry out the learning activities. Review the Access Support program guidelines prior to requesting funds at: www.BCArtsCouncil.ca/program/access-support/.

Required artist payment in project activities

Eligible projects must include appropriate payment to the artists, arts and culture practitioners, and other arts and culture workers 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 requirement (for example, honoraria, commission-based sales of artworks, percentage of door sales).

RESOURCES

Recommended Artist and Crew 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](#))

IMAA ([Independent Media Arts Alliance](#))

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's [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 expenses:

- Budget deficits or surpluses.
- Contingency funds.
- Loan repayments.
- Start-up costs or seed money.
- [Capital expenses](#). For example, construction or renovation costs, purchase of property.
- Equipment purchases over \$2,500 and any equipment purchases not directly related to the project.
- Costs of producing commercial recordings or demo reels.
- Unpaid work placements.
- Touring or travel expenses not directly associated with the proposed activity.

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

- Creation, development, or preparation of work, including for performance, audition, and exhibition.
- Project phases or activities that begin before the application closing date.

- Feasibility studies.
- Activities that are not based upon artistic, editorial, or curatorial decision making, or where arts and culture is not the primary focus.
- Activities that require payment from artists to participate without additional and adequate compensation, for example: art and craft fairs, conferences, and conventions.
- Fundraising activities.
- Conferences and conventions.
- Family, religious, anniversary, or community celebrations.
- Contests and competitions, except if competition is integral to the art form or cultural practice, for example: hip-hop and street dance, poetry slams, powwows.
- Podcasts and radio programming that are not embedded within an established artistic practice or specifically dedicated to the dissemination of artistic works.
- Activities where art therapy, health or therapeutic work is the primary focus or outcome.
- Vocational placements required as part of basic training or accreditation (for example, formal apprenticeship, practicum, co-op programs).
- Curriculum-based activities or projects related to continuing education or post-secondary programs at educational institutions.
- Training to support teaching of non-professional artists. For example, teaching community-based programs or teaching children.
- Activities primarily intended for or focused within creative industries or the commercial sector (with the exception of book publishers) including commercial film and television for theatrical release or prime-time broadcast; voice-over work or acting for camera; music production for film or TV; commercial music activities; animation, video game design and development; mass media, journalism, podcasts; screenwriting; graphic design; industrial design; interior design; commercial fashion design; commercial dance; culinary arts; architecture; games, sports, recreation.
- Projects or activities already funded through this grant program or other BC Arts Council grant programs.
- Activities previously funded with BC Arts Council funds delivered through third-party delivery partners: ArtStarts, First Peoples' Cultural Council, BC Live Performance Network, Creative BC.

When and how to apply

Application Intake – Open: May 27 | **Close:** July 8 | **Results expected:** November 2026

New applicants must register by: Thursday, July 2

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

Applications will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time) on Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

You may apply for one project in an application. You may submit only one application to this grant program per intake.

New applicants

- Closely review these guidelines to make sure you are eligible and your proposed activities 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 Personal Profile and access the application.

Returning applicants

- Closely review these guidelines to make sure you are eligible and your proposed activities are eligible.
- Update your Personal 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 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Accessibility support

If you self-identify as D/deaf or disabled, you are 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 of 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:

Nicola Dunne, Accessibility Coordinator - 778-405-4007 or BCACaccess@gov.bc.ca

Find out more about accessibility supports 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 parts of applications in audio and sign language formats. See instructions within the application.

All applicants: Update your online Personal Profile (including mailing address and Designated Priority Group and Voluntary Self-Identification sections) before submitting your application.

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

A complete application for a Residency or Mentorship must include:

- Answers to questions in the application. Questions with a red * are mandatory and must be answered. [The Application Preview](#) is a downloadable Word document that can be used offline to prepare your responses.
- A completed project expense form. Be sure to include detailed notes on each expense line.
- A resume or CV indicating your training and education, work experience (including volunteer work), and significant achievements or contributions that relate to your practice and your application. Be sure to indicate locations and dates for all of the above. A sample resume and CV can be found on the Early Career Development Program webpage under **Resources**.
- A general description of the project and main activities.
- A work plan that aligns with and supports your learning goals. Use a time period appropriate for your project. For example, for a one-year project, use monthly or bi-monthly periods; for a six-month project, you might use a combination of weekly and monthly periods.

Consider the following when preparing your responses:

- If any personal, social, or cultural identity details are an important consideration or context for your artistic practice or this project, consider referencing them within the biographical statement.
- Assessors may not be familiar with your work, specific practice, community, or culture. Provide the information they need to understand the project. Define technical terms or processes and avoid specialized or academic language or expressions that may be difficult to understand.
- Use short, clear sentences or point form while fully responding to each question.
- Word counts indicate the maximum accepted words. You are not required to write to that limit.

Residency applications must also include:

- A description of the residency including:
 - Name, location, and mandate of the host organization and residency program.
 - Structure and format of the residency.
 - The mentors or instructors involved, and how their experience and expertise will support the learning and career development goals described above.
 - Your reason for selecting this specific residency.
- A letter or other document of confirmation from the host organization including:
 - Confirmation of the structure, timeline, and/or format of the residency.
 - Description of the learning opportunities, resources, and supports the residency provides.

- The host organization's commitment to providing a physically and culturally safe environment, describing their practices and values that support this.
- Confirmation of fees and expenses.

Mentorship applications must also include:

- A description of the mentorship including:
 - Name of mentor(s)
 - Alignment of mentor's expertise and experience with your learning and career development goals.
- A maximum two-page letter from the mentor. The letter must include:
 - Description of their experience that makes them qualified to provide training, mentorship, and/or knowledge transfer that will respond directly to your stated learning goals.
 - Confirmation of their capacity to participate in the project.
 - Commitment to providing a physically and culturally safe work environment, describing their practices and values that support this.
 - Statement about the potential reciprocal impacts of the project on the mentor and on their community of practice.
 - Confirmation of the schedule and format of the mentorship.
 - Confirmation of the agreed rate of compensation.
 - If the mentor is working with more than one Early Arts Practitioner on multiple projects, they must acknowledge this in their letter, addressing how the work plan ensures sufficient time and attention for individual participants, and—especially for intersecting projects—discuss how their compensation is fair and appropriate.
- Resumé or CV for the mentor.

Excess support material, including multiple links to materials within a single uploaded document, will not be reviewed.

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.

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.

The [Scoring Guide](#), which will be used by the assessors as they review your application, will help you to understand and address the program priorities.

IMPACT ON THE EARLY ARTS PRACTITIONER (50%)

- Contribution to the Early Arts Practitioner's professional growth and artistic practice, professional network, and the next stage of their career.
- Depth of knowledge transfer and skill sharing.
- Urgency of the project relative to the Early Arts Practitioner's stated learning and career development goals.
- Early Arts Practitioner's experience and capacity to undertake the project.
- Experience and capacity of mentors and host organizations relative to the Early Arts Practitioner's learning goals and activities.

IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY AND THE ARTS SECTOR (30%)

- Support or benefit to specific arts and culture practices, including in relation to identified needs in the sector.
- Contribution to the artistic practices of equity-deserving arts practitioners and communities, including communities located outside major urban centres.
- Ethical approaches to research, collaboration, ownership, protocols, and issues of cultural appropriation.
- Respectful engagement with Indigenous peoples, communities, practices, materials, and beliefs.
- Impact on the Early Arts Practitioner's community and reciprocal benefit for the mentor(s) or host organization.

APPLICANT READINESS (20%)

- A realistic work plan that supports the learning outcomes.
- A reasonable plan for using the money.
- Plans and processes that confirm a safe, respectful, and equitable work environment including fair compensation and accessibility considerations.

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](#)

Applicants who would like to identify as part of a designated priority group must complete the Designated Priority Groups section in their online Personal Profile. All applicants are encouraged to also complete the Voluntary Self-Identification section, but it is not mandatory.

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.

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 logo 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.

2026/27 Early Career Development - Application Checklist for Individuals

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 issues.
- New BC Arts Council clients:** Register in the [BC Arts Council online system](#) to gain access to the online application. We recommend you register at least two weeks before the application closing date.
- All BC Arts Council clients:** Complete all required updates to your personal profile:
 - Update your mailing address and other contact information.
 - Complete the Designated Priority Group section (required for funding prioritization).
 - Complete the Voluntary ID Form (required for funding prioritization).
 - Ensure you have completed and submitted any overdue final reports for previous BC Arts Council grants. An overdue final report will block your application from being submitted.
 - Review the Program Guidelines and Application Preview on the [BC Arts Council website](#) for specific requirements for this program.

In your application:

- Read and respond to all information in the grey text boxes on the online application.
- Ensure your Project Start Date is after the intake closing; include a realistic Project End Date.
- Complete each section and answer all questions that are applicable to your project. Questions with the **red *** are mandatory. Be sure your responses indicate your project's alignment with the program's intentions and the assessment criteria. Refer to the [Scoring Guide](#) for support.

Expense Summary:

- Review the preamble at the top of the pop-out expense form.
- Include all expenses for which you are requesting funding.
- Include detailed notes for each expense.
- Make sure Amount Requested in the application matches the request in the Expense Form.

Material to upload:

- A CV or resume from the Early Arts Practitioner. Refer to the sample CV on the [BC Arts Council website](#) for guidance.
- For Mentorship Applications:** Letter(s) from Mentors confirming their qualifications, capacity, and the nature of their participation (PDF, maximum two letters, one page each).
- For Residency Applications:** Letter from host organization confirming participation, dates, etc.
- A workplan** that outlines how you will spend your time throughout the project. Refer to the sample workplan on the [BC Arts Council website](#) for guidance.
- Make sure your uploaded material is in the correct format per directions in the guidelines.
- Ensure you have not submitted material beyond what is requested.

Before you submit your application:

- Review and proofread your application for clarity, omissions, errors, etc. Use the [Scoring Guide](#) for support when reviewing your application.
- Ask a friend or trusted colleague to review your application for clarity, omissions, errors, etc.

And then:

- ❑ Complete the Access Support tab (as applicable).
- ❑ Share your feedback in the Feedback tab (optional).
- ❑ Read the Declaration tab and complete the acknowledgement.

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 Profile. Grant payments will be mailed to this address (unless you have registered for Direct Deposit).
- ❑ Once you've received notification of results, contact a Program Advisor for feedback on the assessment of your application.