

Project Assistance: Visual Arts Organizations

Program Guidelines 2026/27

Grant Program Summary

Grant program purpose: To support professional visual arts organizations and arts or curatorial collectives in the development, expansion, enhancement, or creation of new or unique public programming and community engagement initiatives in contemporary and traditional visual arts and craft.

Maximum grant amount: \$25,000

Applications – Open: September 2 | **Close:** October 14 | **Results expected:** February 2027

New applicants must register before: October 7

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

Who can apply: Eligible Professional Visual Arts Organizations, Arts and Curatorial Collectives, Arts Activator Organizations, Indigenous Community Organizations and First Nations Governments, Municipal Governments or Post-secondary Institutions in B.C. that offer dedicated arts and culture programs. Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria listed in the [Who can apply](#) section below.

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 the Program Advisor if you have questions.

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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 First 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 ləkʷəŋən (Lkwungen) People, known today as the Songhees and xʷsepsəm (Kosapsum) Nations, on whose lands we operate our main offices.

About Project Assistance: Visual Arts Organizations

Project Assistance: Visual Arts Organizations supports organizations and arts or curatorial collectives in the development, expansion, enhancement, or creation of new or unique public programming and community engagement initiatives in contemporary and traditional visual arts and craft.

BC Arts Council grant programs support a wide variety of practices within the visual arts, including (but not limited to):

- Independent critical and curatorial practice
- Studio-based practices, such as drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture
- Multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and other visual arts practices, such as installation, video art, performance art, and public art
- Contemporary and traditional craft practices, such as beading, carving, ceramics, and weaving
- Community-engaged practices led by arts and culture practitioners

See [What you can apply for](#) below for more information and examples of projects this grant program intends to support.

Grant amounts

Maximum grant amount is \$25,000.

Applicants may request:

- a grant for up to 50% of the total eligible project expenses
- or
- a grant 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 grant 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 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](#) 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. If you have questions about eligibility, contact the Program Advisor.

Visual Arts Organization eligibility

To be eligible, organizations must be:

- A **professional visual 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

- A **First Nations government** in B.C. that offers regular arts and culture activities.

OR

- A **professional visual 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 visual 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 Activators are strongly advised to contact a Program Advisor to confirm the eligibility of their proposed project.

All eligible organizations 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 and compensate skilled artistic, curatorial, editorial and/or administrative leadership for project or service delivery.
- Fairly compensate artists, arts and culture practitioners, technicians, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers. Compensation must align with project 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.
- Be applying for either the first or second time with an activity. If you have applied twice unsuccessfully for the same activity, the proposal must be substantively changed.

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 of Canada.
 - 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:

- Engage and compensate skilled artistic, curatorial, and administrative leadership for project or service delivery.
- Not be applying on behalf of the activities of a for-profit business.
- Provide programs that benefit the community at-large and not solely the interests of the collective's members.

- 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.
- Adhere to 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.
- Be applying for either the first or second time with an activity. If you have applied twice unsuccessfully for the same activity, the proposal must be substantively changed.

Ineligible applicants

The following types of 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
- Private or for-profit entities
- Member-funded societies
- Social service organizations
- Industrial sites, archaeological sites, heritage sites, or historic places
- Organizations dedicated to archives
- 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.
- Non-profit societies registered for less than one fiscal year

What you can apply for

BC Arts Council project assistance grant programs provide one-time grants for specific projects or distinct phases of projects. Project grants are not meant to cover operating expenses or ongoing expenses.

Grants are available in this program to support specific projects for the development, enrichment, and creation of new or unique public programming and community engagement initiatives in contemporary and traditional visual arts and craft.

Projects that include creation or commissioning of work should be embedded within or in support of programming and engagement initiatives.

Examples of eligible projects

Examples of eligible activities include but are not limited to:

- Exhibitions, including development and installation.
- Publications, documentation and dissemination of artistic works and exhibitions.

- Skill development for artists, including workshops, artists' residencies, and activities that develop the arts sector.
- Exploration of new artistic or curatorial practices, including practice-based research, collaboration, experimentation, and creative development.
- Audience development, collaborations, exchanges, and activities that creatively engage communities.
- Projects may be presented in single iterations or in phases. As applicable, applications for phased projects must include an update on the status of previous phase(s) of the project funded by the BC Arts Council if a final report has not yet been submitted.
 - No guarantees are made to support any or all phases.
 - Separate applications are required for each phase.
 - Write a sentence or two detailing the overall project and all its phases. The current application must detail the current phase activities ONLY within the project description and budget (and not future or past activities, outside the scope of the current phase you are applying for).
 - Talk with the Program Advisor if you plan to apply for a phased project.

Exclusions - What will not be funded

Grants are not available to support the following expenses:

- General operating expenses
- Project or budget surpluses or deficits
- Contingency expenses
- Start-up costs or seed money
- Loan repayments
- [Capital expenses](#) over \$2,500 (for example, construction, renovation, or purchase of property, maintenance expenses)
- Equipment purchases over \$2,500 and any equipment purchases not directly related to the project
- [Subsistence](#) (living costs) paid to artists or arts and culture practitioners.
- Costs of producing commercial recordings or demo reels
- Touring, travel, and other activities eligible within the ACT grant program

Grants are not available to support the following activities:

- Project phases or activities that begin before the application closing date
- Ongoing multi-day festivals, projects embedded within ongoing multi-day festivals, and other activities eligible within the [Project Assistance: Professional Arts Festivals](#) grant program
- Projects and activities eligible within the [Project Assistance: Media Arts Organizations](#) grant program

- Projects or activities that do not involve or benefit artists or arts and culture practitioners
- Feasibility studies
- Projects or activities that are not based on artistic or curatorial decision making, or where arts and culture is not the primary focus
- Activities that require payment from artists to participate
- Acquisitions
- Fundraising activities
- Conferences, art markets, trade fairs 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 established artistic practice or specifically dedicated to the dissemination of artistic works
- Activities where art therapy, health or therapeutic work is the primary focus
- Curriculum-based activities or projects related to continuing education or post-secondary programs at educational institutions; for example, in-school workshops
- Training to support teaching of non-professional artists; for example, teaching community-based programs or teaching children
- Projects or activities that are primarily intended for or focussed within creative industries or the commercial sector (with the exception of book publishers), including architecture, commercial fashion design, commercial film and television, screenwriting, commercial music activities, culinary arts, games, sports, recreation, mass media, journalism, podcasts, graphic design
- Projects or activities already funded through other BC Arts Council grant programs
- Projects or 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

Required artist payment in project activities

Eligible projects must include appropriate payment to the artists, arts and culture practitioners, and other members of the project team engaged in the proposed activities. Payments to artists should be consistent with the recommended rates set by relevant arts service organizations, professional associations (for example, CARFAC), or by 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, honoraria, commission-based sales of artworks, percentage of door sales).

RESOURCE: The [CARFAC-RAAV Minimum Recommended Fee Schedule](#) (Canadian Artists' Representation / Le Front des artistes canadiens) provides guidelines on what visual and media artists should be paid for their copyright and other professional services.

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](#))

Payment to Elders and Knowledge Keepers in project activities

When engaging Elders and Knowledge Keepers in project activities, they should be paid fairly 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.

When and how to apply

Applications – Open: September 2 | **Close:** October 14 | **Results expected:** February 2027

New applicants must register before: October 7

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

Applications will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time) on Wednesday, October 14, 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 is eligible 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 at 250-978-9839 or 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 team.
- Balanced project budget. Be sure to:
 - Use the Project Budget Table provided in the application.
 - Include detailed notes on the budget.
 - Indicate whether revenues are confirmed or pending.
 - Balance in-kind revenues with in-kind expenses.
 - Make sure Amount Requested in the application matches the request amount in the Project Budget Table.
- 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.
- **Name your files** beginning with your Organization Name, Support Material Type, followed by any additional info such as Image Title, Viewing Order, or Project Partner name. For example:

XYZGalleryCalendar.doc
XYZGalleryRefLetter1.pdf
XYZGalleryImage1.jpeg

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 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.**
- Examples of work related to the proposed project, **up to a maximum of:**
 - **5 images**

OR

- **5 minutes total of video or audio**, note timecodes of specific excerpts to be viewed (if applicable)

OR

- **3 pages of critical writing or documentation**. Do not submit testimonials or reference letters.

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 may be submitted). Contact a Program Advisor if you have questions about the maximum amount of support materials.

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.

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.

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, DIVERSITY, 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.

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: Visual Arts Organizations - Application Checklist

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.
- ☐ **Organizations:** Complete all required updates to your Organizational profile:
 - ☐ Update your mailing address and other contact information.
 - ☐ Upload your most recent signed financial statements. See Financial Statements Requirements section of guidelines.
 - ☐ Update your Board list and Staff list.
 - ☐ Upload your organization's certified constitution (for not-for-profits) or statement of purpose (for all other organizations). Do not include by-laws.
 - ☐ Complete the Designated Priority Group section (required for funding prioritization).
 - ☐ Complete the Equity Data Tool (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.
- ☐ **Collectives:** Complete all required updates to your Collectives profile:
 - ☐ Update your mailing address and primary contact information.
 - ☐ Include your shared purpose, creative goal, or mandate of your collective.
 - ☐ Update your Collective Member List.
 - ☐ Complete the Designated Priority Group section (required for funding prioritization).
 - ☐ Complete the Equity Data Tool (required for funding prioritization).

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.

Budget:

- ☐ Review the preamble at the top of the pop-out budget form.
- ☐ Include all expenses and revenues for activities described in the application.
- ☐ Include detailed notes for each expense.
- ☐ Be clear which expenses are covered by the request to this program.
- ☐ Ensure any ineligible expenses are covered by other revenue sources.
- ☐ Be sure your budget is balanced, and balance in-kind revenues with in-kind expenses.
- ☐ Make sure Amount Requested in the application matches the requested amount in the Budget.

Material to upload and tables to complete:

- ❑ Project Team Table with biographies.
- ❑ Upload a detailed project timeline or work plan.
- ❑ Letters from up to two partners or collaborators, if applicable, confirming the nature of their participation (maximum two PDF letters, one page each). Do not include general letters of support.
- ❑ Examples of work related to the proposed project, up to the maximums listed in the guidelines. NOTE: Complete the Inventory Table to provide details about uploaded support material.
- ❑ For applicants that have **not previously received funding through this grant program**: upload two PDF letters of reference from established arts and culture practitioners familiar with the applicant's work.
- ❑ Organizations only; not applicable to collectives: An operating budget for the fiscal year in which your proposed project takes place (PDF format preferred)

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 the 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:

- ❑ Add NoReply@BCArtsCouncil.ca to your safe senders list if you haven't already done so. Notification of results will come from this system email roughly 16 weeks after the submission deadline.
- ❑ Keep your mailing address up to date in your online Organization Profile (or Personal Profile for collectives). Grant payments will be mailed to this address.
- ❑ Once you've received notification of results, contact a Program Advisor for feedback on the assessment of your application.