

Indigenous Arts Program Pilot for Organizations and Collectives

Program Guidelines 2026/27

Grant Program Summary

Grant program purpose: To support Indigenous artists, organizations, and collectives in British Columbia with Indigenous-led arts and culture projects.

Grant amounts:	Microgrants:	up to \$5,000
	Mid-scale grants:	\$5,001 to \$15,000
	Large-scale grants:	\$15,001 to \$25,000

Applications – Open: September 16 | **Close:** November 12 | **Results expected:** mid-March 2027

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

Who can apply: B.C.-based Indigenous Arts Organizations, Indigenous Community Organizations, Indigenous Book Publishers and Literary Periodicals, Indigenous Cultural Centres and Museums, B.C. First Nations governing bodies, collectives of three or more people. Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria listed in the [Who can apply](#) section below.

New applicants: Register in the Grant Management System before November 4 to access the online application. Before you register or begin your application, you are encouraged to talk with a Program Advisor and make sure **you are eligible** and **your proposed project is eligible**.

Contact us. We are here to help.

Before applying, review these program guidelines along with the other resources on our website including the application preview, applicant checklist, and the Frequently Asked Questions to help answer any questions you may have about the program, eligibility, and how to apply. Contact the Program Advisor if you have questions.

Erin Macklem - Program Advisor & Outreach Coordinator, Indigenous Arts Program Pilot
778-698-1416 | Email: Erin.Macklem@gov.bc.ca

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

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

How to use these guidelines

Please read these Guidelines before you apply to the Indigenous Arts Program Pilot. The information contained here will guide you through the application process.

Use these guidelines if you are applying on behalf of a formally established organization such as an Indigenous non-profit society, First Nations governing body, or Indigenous collective of three or more people.

If you are applying as an Indigenous individual, or on behalf of an informal Indigenous group, Indigenous collaboration, Indigenous collective with less than three people, or other unincorporated Indigenous entity without a legal organizational structure, refer to the [Guidelines for Individuals](#) for eligibility criteria and application requirements.

Please save these guidelines in your files. If your application is approved, the policies and information in this document will be a useful resource for next steps and reporting.

Planning for your application:

- Grant applications take time to complete, and we recommend starting as early as possible. Significant reading and writing are required throughout the application process.
- It is recommended to allow yourself up to one month to work through all portions of the application.

Document accessibility

This document is optimized for accessibility purposes. To use the PDF audio reader for a PDF on a PC, open the PDF in Adobe Acrobat Reader, navigate to the “View” menu, and select “Read Out Loud” to activate the text-to-speech feature, allowing the document to be read aloud to you; you can choose to read the entire document or just the current page depending on your preference.

Key steps:

- Open the PDF: Open your PDF file in Adobe Acrobat Reader.
- Access the “Read Out Loud” option: Go to the “View” menu at the top.
- Activate Read Out Loud: Select “Read Out Loud” and choose whether to read the entire document or just the current page.

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

About the Indigenous Arts Program Pilot

The BC Arts Council Indigenous Arts Program Pilot provides funding to Indigenous artists and arts and culture practitioners, Indigenous groups, Indigenous collectives, Indigenous-led organizations, and First Nations governments throughout British Columbia. The program is designed to improve access to funding, reduce barriers for Indigenous applicants to BC Arts Council grant programs, and support Indigenous artistic and cultural practices throughout the province.

Indigenous organizations and collectives: Use these guidelines.

Indigenous individuals and groups: Use the [Guidelines for Individuals](#).

Developed by the Joint Indigenous Arts Advisory Circle — who advise BC Arts Council on Indigenous arts strategy and programmatic responses aligned with Indigenous priorities, perspectives, and cultural practices — the program responds to priorities identified by Indigenous artists, Indigenous-led organizations, Indigenous service organizations, and the broader arts and culture sector.

See [What you can apply for](#) section below for more information about eligible projects, activities and expenses this grant program intends to support.

Grant amounts

Applicants may request funding through the grant category that best aligns with the scale, scope, and objectives of their project. Applicants may apply to **one** funding category only and may submit one application per intake.

- Microgrants: Up to \$5,000 — intended for small-scale, emerging or time-sensitive activities. Examples include:
 - Individual artistic or cultural projects
 - Pilot or exploratory projects
 - Professional development
 - Rapid-response initiatives or projects where funding is needed quickly
- Mid-scale grants: \$5,001–\$15,000 — designed for projects of moderate scope. Examples include:
 - Artistic creation, production or presentation
 - Collaborative projects
 - Community-based artistic and cultural programming

- Cultural knowledge sharing and learning initiatives
 - Capacity-building activities
- Large-scale grants: \$15,001–\$25,000 — intended for complex or multi-phase initiatives. Examples include:
 - Major artistic or cultural productions
 - A series of connected activities or events
 - Long-term community engagement initiatives
 - Projects that strengthen sector vitality, resilience, and sustainability

Applicants may request up to 100% of eligible project costs.

Submit a detailed and realistic budget that shows how much money you need to complete the project.

BC Arts Council aims to fund successful applications at the full amount requested whenever possible. However, grants may be awarded at a lower amount than requested.

BC Arts Council often receives more eligible applications than can be supported within the program budget.

Indigenous identity and community connection

As part of the application process, applicants will be asked to describe their Indigenous identity, or Indigenous representation within their organization, and connection to Indigenous communities to help confirm their eligibility for this program.

Applicants may identify their Indigenous Nation, Indigenous community, Indigenous family, or Indigenous cultural connections and describe their relationship to Indigenous communities, lived experience, or journey of reconnection.

We recognize that Indigenous identities and experiences are diverse and that community connection can take many forms, including urban, rural, remote, diasporic, and reconnecting with Indigenous experiences.

Applicants are encouraged to share only the information they feel comfortable providing.

Misrepresentation

The integrity of this grant program depends on applicants providing accurate and truthful information. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all information included in their application is complete, accurate, and current.

If any information provided in an application is found to be false, misleading, or intentionally misrepresented, including information related to Indigenous identity or eligibility, BC Arts Council may take action, including:

- Determining the application ineligible for funding
- Withdrawing an offer of funding
- Requiring repayment of funds already awarded

- Restricting eligibility for future BC Arts Council funding opportunities

Cultural protocols and community permissions

Make sure your project follows the cultural protocols and permissions that apply to your community and activities. Applicants must make sure their projects:

- Respect relevant Indigenous cultural protocols
- Obtain appropriate permissions, approvals, or consent where required
- Honour community responsibilities related to cultural knowledge, stories, songs, languages, names, designs, teachings, and cultural practices
- Respect the rights and interests of Indigenous communities, knowledge holders, Elders, and cultural authorities connected to the project.

Who can apply

Before you begin your application, make sure **your organization or collective is 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.

Indigenous individuals and groups: [Use Indigenous Arts Program Pilot - Guidelines for Individuals and Groups.](#)

Indigenous organizations and collectives: Use these guidelines.

Organization eligibility

To be eligible for the Indigenous Arts Program Pilot, an organization must be:

- **A First Nations government, band council, or tribal council** in B.C. that offers regular arts and culture activities.

OR

- **An Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, Métis) organization** listed below that demonstrates:
 - A **primary** purpose, mandate, or constitution to serve, support or provide resources and opportunities to First Nations, Inuit or Métis
 - A board of directors, independent advisory structure, or shareholders (book publishers only) made up of at least 60% Indigenous People
 - Leadership and decision-making authority are held by Indigenous People
 - The majority of expenses directly benefit Indigenous People

In addition to the points above, eligible Indigenous organizations must also be one of the following organization types:

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

OR

- An **Indigenous 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 experienced 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 details.

OR

- An **Indigenous 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; or offers ongoing public programming; or publishes work by experienced arts and culture practitioners, the majority of which is not faculty or student works.
 - Has at least one dedicated staff person in an artistic, curatorial, editorial, or administrative leadership position who is responsible for programming and engagement.
 - Has an independent advisory board that sets policies for programs and services offered.
 - Primarily operates with autonomy and outside of curriculum, with creative control and decision making for programming and engagement, and separate financial records for operations. See [Financial Statement Requirements](#) section below for more detail.

OR

- An **Indigenous owned book publisher or Indigenous owned arts periodical publisher** that meets the eligibility requirements for BC Arts Council's [Project Assistance: Literary Arts](#), [Operating Assistance: Literary Arts](#), or [Operating Assistance: Book Publishers](#) grant programs.

OR

- An **Indigenous cultural centre or museum** that meets the eligibility requirements for BC Arts Council's [Project Assistance: Museums and Indigenous Cultural Centres](#) or [Operating Assistance: Museums and Indigenous Cultural Centres](#) grant programs.

All eligible Indigenous organizations and First Nations governments must also:

- Provide arts and culture programming in B.C. on a regular basis and have done so for a minimum of one year before the application closing date.
- Provide programs or publications that benefit the community at-large and not solely the interests of its non-profit society or community service co-op members.
- Engage skilled artistic, curatorial, editorial, or administrative leadership (volunteer or paid) for project or service delivery.
- Fairly compensate artists, arts and culture practitioners, technicians, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers. Compensation must align with project and community contexts or relevant 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. Applicants with overdue reports should contact a Program Advisor for assistance before applying.

Arts or curatorial collective eligibility

Collectives are strongly advised to contact the Program Advisor to confirm the eligibility of their collective and proposed project.

Collectives with only two members, ad hoc collectives, collectives comprised of Indigenous and non-Indigenous members, and collectives who otherwise do not meet the eligibility outlined below may be eligible to apply to [Indigenous Arts Program Pilot – for Individuals](#).

To be eligible for the Indigenous Arts Program Pilot – for Organizations and Collectives, an arts or curatorial collective must be composed of all Indigenous members and:

- Be established and readily identified as a collective of a minimum of 3 independent Indigenous 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 established 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 closing date, and ordinarily reside in B.C. See [Determining B.C. Residency](#) webpage.
- 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 collaborating 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:

- Not be applying on behalf of the activities of a for-profit business.
- Engage skilled artistic, curatorial, or administrative leadership (paid or volunteer) for project or service delivery
- 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 and community contexts and industry standards within the field of practice.
- Follow international intellectual property rights standards and cultural ownership protocols.
- Follow the [Criminal Records Review Act](#) which requires that people who work with or may have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults must undergo a criminal record check by the [Criminal Records Review Program](#).
- Not have any overdue final reports on previous BC Arts Council grants.

Ineligible applicants

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

- Private or for-profit entities (except in the case of for-profit book publishing companies)
- Member-funded societies
- Educational institutions and schools
- Local governments
- Religious organizations
- Corporations
- Organizations dedicated to archives
- Community choirs that are attached to, or affiliated with, educational, religious, or military institutions
- Organizations that solely operate venues or facilities without the primary purpose of artistic production or presentation
- Non-profit societies registered for less than one fiscal year
- Registered Arts Activator Organizations
- Collectives with only two members or ad hoc collectives. These types of collectives may be eligible to apply to Indigenous Arts Program Pilot – for Individuals for a group project

What you can apply for

This grant program provides one-time funding for specific projects or activities. Project grants are not meant to fund operating or ongoing expenses.

Eligible projects and activities

- Are rooted in any artistic, cultural, or creative practice
- Are led by the applicant organization or collective
- Begin after you submit your application (Microgrants) OR after the application deadline (Mid- and large-scale grants)
- Have a clearly stated project end date and a realistic timeline for completion

Eligible activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Creating, developing or presenting new artistic or cultural work
- Artistic knowledge transfer and sharing, including mentorship, apprenticeship, and intergenerational learning
- Community-engaged or participatory arts and culture projects
- Professional development that strengthens artistic or cultural practice
- Artistic and cultural research grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing
- Work that is traditional, contemporary, blended, experimental, interdisciplinary, and/or community-led

Examples of eligible expenses

All expenses must be directly related to the proposed project or activities.

Eligible expenses may include:

- Artist fees (the fees you pay mentors or other artists you are working with)
- Honoraria for Elders, Knowledge Keepers/Holders, Culture Carriers/Practitioners, in accordance with community protocols
- Supplies, materials, and other reasonable project/activity related costs
- Purchase of equipment directly related to the project, up to \$2,500
- Project-related travel and accommodation and meals
- Facility, venue, space or equipment rentals
- Childcare costs linked to project participation
- Administrative costs directly related to the project
- Accessibility costs directly related to the project for applicants that are not eligible through the BC Arts Council's Access Support program

Required artist payment in project activities

Applicants are expected to provide fair compensation for artistic and cultural work. Budgets should include fair payment to all artists, arts and culture practitioners, Elders, Knowledge Keepers/Holders, Culture Carriers, or Cultural Practitioners, and other members of the project team engaged in the proposed activities. At a minimum, payments to artists should be consistent with project and community contexts or recommended rates set by relevant arts service organizations, professional associations, or by established practitioners within the field of practice. Payment structures that are not guaranteed, or that risk low or non-payment to artists and other practitioners, do not meet this compensation requirement (for example, honoraria, commission-based sales of artworks, percentage of door sales).

RESOURCES

Recommended Artist & Crew Fee Schedules (by field of practice)

Visual Art: CARFAC ([Canadian Artists' Representation / Le Front des artistes canadiens](#))

Theatre: CAEA ([Canadian Actors Equity Association](#))

Music: CFM ([Canadian Federation of Musicians](#))

Dance: CADA ([Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists](#))

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

Production and technical: IATSE ([International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees](#))

Film & TV performers: UBCP-ACTRA ([Union of BC Performers](#))

Film & TV directors: DGC-BC ([Directors Guild of Canada – British Columbia](#))

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

Exclusions – What will not be funded

These ACTIVITIES will not be funded:

- For microgrants: Activities or project phases that begin before you submit your application.
- For mid- and large-scale grants: Activities or project phases that begin before the application closing date.
- Projects phases or activities funded through other BC Arts Council grant programs.
- Project phases or activities funded through BC Arts Council funds delivered through third-party partners including First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) Arts Grants, Creative BC's Interactive Fund, BC Live Performance Network's Community Presenters and Into the Act grants.
- Projects where arts, culture or creative practice are not the primary focus (for example community services or social programming without a significant arts or cultural component)
- Projects where arts therapy, health, or therapeutic work is the primary focus
- Projects that do not respect Indigenous cultural protocols or obtain appropriate Indigenous community permissions
- Curriculum-based activities or projects associated with K-12, continuing education or post-secondary programs at educational institution
- Family, religious, anniversary or community celebrations
- Activities that require artists to pay a fee in order to participate
- 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

These EXPENSES will not be funded:

- General organizational or operational expenses
- Operating deficits
- [Capital expenses](#) (for example, construction, renovation, or purchase of property or vehicles)
- Equipment purchases over \$2,500 or any equipment purchases not directly related to the project
- Business development costs, for example: feasibility studies, business start-up costs, loan repayments, point of sale systems/websites, building a brand, business logo design, commercial mass-production of items intended for sale such as t-shirts or vinyl records
- Fundraising activities
- Existing project deficits, budget shortfalls or surpluses
- Contingency expenses

Support for ineligible applications

The BC Arts Council is committed to helping applicants identify the most appropriate funding opportunities. Applicants whose projects are determined to be ineligible may be supported through referrals to alternative programs, funders, or resources that better align with their project goals.

When and how to apply

Application timeline

- **Applications open:** September 16, 2026
- **New applicant registration deadline:** November 4, 2026
- **Application deadline:** November 12, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time)
- **Results expected:** Mid-December 2026 (for Microgrants)
March 2027 (for Mid- and large-scale grants)

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

Applicants may submit only one application to this grant program per intake.

Late applications will not be accepted.

New applicants

- Closely review these guidelines to make sure your organization or collective and proposed project are eligible.
- Before you can begin your application, you must register and create a profile in the BC Arts Council's online Grant Management System (GMS). Instructions are on our website: [How to Apply Online](#).
- 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:
 - If you have not submitted a registration request before 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, you will not be able to apply to this program.
 - Waiting until November 4th to register means you will only have a few days to write and submit your application.
- You will receive an automated email when your registration request is approved and then you will be able to complete your Organization Profile and access the application.
- Add the automated email address **NoReply@BCArtsCouncil.ca** to your safe senders list and check your spam folders.

Returning applicants

- Closely review these guidelines to make sure your organization or collective is eligible and proposed activities are eligible.
- Complete and submit any overdue final reports on previous BC Arts Council grants (if applicable).
- 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 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:

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

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

Indigenous Arts Program Pilot Application support

Program advisors can assist you with questions about eligibility or program requirements, or if you would like to discuss a project idea.

Applicants who experience barriers related to literacy, technology, geography, language, or other circumstances not related to disability are encouraged to seek support from a trusted friend, family member, or community member. If you require additional funding to cover costs associated with this support, you can apply to the Indigenous Arts Program Pilot Application Support program.

This program can support costs associated with:

- Writing or editing assistance
- Translation, interpretation, or transcription services
- Technical assistance with the application system
- Coaching or mentorship
- Other services or assistance required to register in the online system and submit an application

Important Information:

- Applicants may access both Accessibility Support and Indigenous Arts Program Pilot Application Support where eligible.
- BC Arts Council staff cannot recommend service providers; applicants may work with an individual or organization they trust.
- Support is meant to help applicants apply for the grant. Applicants must remain actively involved in the development of their application. Support providers may assist with the process but cannot independently prepare or submit an application on the applicant's behalf.
- **The deadline to apply for Indigenous Arts Program Pilot Application Support is November 4, 2026.**

For more information or to apply to the Indigenous Arts Program Pilot – Application Support program, contact:

Erin Macklem, Program Advisor - 778-698-1416 - Erin.Macklem@gov.bc.ca

What is needed for the application

Applicants are responsible for submitting a complete and accurate application. We will not contact you to follow up regarding missing information, incomplete responses, or errors. 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 **applicant checklist** is included at the end of these guidelines.

See the **application preview** document to review all application questions and requirements.

A complete application must include:

- An opportunity to speak to your organization or collective's **Indigenous identity and community connections**
- A **Project Description** that includes a realistic **Timeline** or **Workplan**, a **Project Team Table** and answers to **Questions** related to the assessment criteria.
- A detailed and realistic **Budget**. Be sure to:
 - Use the **Project Budget Table** provided in the application
 - Include detailed notes for each budget line
 - Indicate whether revenues are confirmed or pending (mid- and large-scale grants only)
 - Balance in-kind revenue with in-kind expenses (mid- and large-scale grants only)
 - Indicate which eligible expenses will be covered by BC Arts Council funds (mid- and large-scale grants only)
 - Confirm that **Amount Requested** in the application matches the request amount in the Project Budget Table

Applying to other BC Arts Council grants

Applicants may:

- Submit one application to this program
- Apply to other BC Arts Council programs during the same fiscal year, provided the proposed projects and activities do not overlap. (See list of other [BC Arts Council programs](#).)

The same project or activity cannot receive funding from more than one BC Arts Council grant program. All confirmed and anticipated funding sources must be disclosed in the project budget.

Support material (Mid- and large-scale grants only)

- **Only submit support material that is described below** and related to your proposed activities.
- **Do not submit any additional material.** Excess support material, including links to multiple materials within a single 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 context 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 or Artist Name, File Order Number, Title of Work. For example:

NameofGallery01Title.jpeg
NameofTheatre02Title.doc
NameofArtsCouncil03Title.pdf

Support material may include:

- Letters of support that help demonstrate support of the project by recognized artists and creatives or cultural or community leaders within Indigenous communities you are connected to. Letters of support can be from a previous collaborator, an industry peer, a community member, an Elder or Knowledge Keeper or anyone else you feel can speak to your creative goals specific to this application.
- Examples of previous or related work (such as images, writing samples, audio recordings, or video content) up to a maximum of:
 - **3 images**
OR
 - **3 minutes total of video or audio**, noting timecodes of specific excerpts to be viewed (if applicable)
OR
 - **3 pages of critical writing or documentation.**

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, 1 image and 2 minutes of video may be submitted).

Online profile updates required from collectives

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

- **Contact information:** Mailing address and primary contact information.
- **Collective member list:** List of current collective members including name, example of previous work, place of residence, and length of time in collective.
- **Shared purpose,** creative goal or mandate of your collective.

- Completed **Designated Priority Groups** information section (required for eligibility and 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 eligibility and 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.

Non-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.
- Signature or name of the preparer and signatures of **two** board members affirming board approval.

For applicants operating under the umbrella of a local government, a First Nations 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

Assessment process

Assessment for the Indigenous Arts Program Pilot is relative to the grant amount and project scope.

Microgrant decisions

Microgrants are determined through a non-peer assessed, streamlined process as outlined below:

- The BC Arts Council reviews applications to confirm that the applicant, project, and proposed expenses meet program eligibility requirements.
- Eligible applications are prioritized for funding based on the available budget with the following considerations:
 - Smaller requests (under \$2,000)
 - First time applicants to the BC Arts Council
 - Applicants that have not previously received funding from the BC Arts Council
 - Intersections with BC Arts Council's designated priority groups.
- The BC Arts Council informs each applicant of the funding results approximately four weeks after the application closing date (mid-December 2026).

Mid- and large-scale grant assessment

Mid- and large-scale grant applications are assessed through an Indigenous-led peer assessment process as outlined below:

- The BC Arts Council reviews each application for eligibility.
- Eligible applications are forwarded to independent, Indigenous-led peer assessment panels representing a diversity of Nations, regions, lived experiences and artistic and cultural practices.
- Peer 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 intersecting with BC Arts Council's [designated priority group](#).
- The BC Arts Council supports the assessment process to help ensure fair, transparent, and consistent decision-making.
- 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 grant management system.
- All results are final.

Additional assessment considerations

Indigenous peer assessors will refer applications to the BC Arts Council's Joint Indigenous Arts Advisory Circle when additional guidance is needed. Referrals may include, but are not limited to:

- Projects or activities that fall outside the program's general eligibility criteria but demonstrate value to Indigenous arts, culture, or communities
- Questions related to Indigenous identity verification or community connections
- Complex, unique, or emerging projects requiring additional cultural or strategic consideration
- Other exceptional circumstances identified during the assessment process

What assessors look for

In addition to the specific assessment criteria points described below, assessors also typically look for the following when reviewing and scoring an application.

- **Eligibility Verification:** Staff and assessors use this section to confirm your organization's eligibility in alignment with the program's purpose of supporting Indigenous organizations and collectives. Please share only the information you feel comfortable providing.
- **Project Description:** Assessors look for a clear explanation of:
 - What you propose to do
 - Why the project is important to your organization, your community, or Indigenous arts and culture at this time
 - How the activities will be carried out
 - Who will be involved or impacted

Your answers do not need to be written formally. Point-form responses are welcome as long as they include enough information for assessors to understand your project.

- **Timeline:** Provide a realistic overview of how the work will progress from start to finish. Timelines should demonstrate that the project can be completed within the proposed period. Activities may be organized by weeks or months, depending on the scope of the project.
- **Budget:** Assessors look for a reasonable and balanced budget that aligns with the scale of the project. Budgets should:
 - Include appropriate artist and practitioner fees
 - Demonstrate fair compensation for contributors
 - Clearly connect expenses to project activities
 - Include explanatory information in the "Notes" column where relevant
- **Impacts:** Assessors look for a clear understanding of how the project will benefit your organization or collective's artistic or cultural practice, and any communities connected to the work. This may include organizational readiness, community engagement, or contributions to your art form. Consider both the immediate outcomes of the project and its broader significance.

- **Support material:** Provide samples that help assessors understand your organization's work and/or the proposed project. This may include previous work, documentation of past activities, or works in progress.

Assessment criteria

The Indigenous peer assessment panels evaluate applications based on the following criteria relative to the applicant's context (including region, capacity, community served, available resources, purpose, mandate).

Each criteria category is assigned a percentage of your application's total score (out of 100). For example, a category weighted at 20% means you can score between 1 and 20 in that area. Clear, detailed answers that show how they meet the assessment criteria will score higher.

Not all criteria or considerations will apply equally to every project. Assessors take into account the nature, scale, and context of each application.

ARTISTIC CONTRIBUTION AND SIGNIFICANCE (40%)

This looks at what the project is about, why it matters, and how it reflects or strengthens your organization or collective's artistic or cultural practice.

Assessors will consider:

- The quality, strength, and significance of the project concept
- The significance of arts and culture within the organization's mandate and programming.
- Why the project is important and timely for the applicant
- The project's contribution to the continuity, revitalization, sharing, or growth of artistic and cultural knowledge

IMPACT ON THE APPLICANT AND COMMUNITY (40%)

This looks at how the project benefits your organization or collective and the communities you are connected to, now and in the future.

Assessors will consider:

- The positive impact the project will have on your organization and/or on Indigenous arts and culture in B.C.
- The depth of impact the project will have on the community or communities you serve. This might include relevant cultural, geographic, artistic, and other communities
- The impact on the people, partners and collaborators who contribute to and participate in your project
- The potential for lasting benefits beyond the project's completion
- The project's respect for relevant cultural protocols, traditions and Indigenous law, and the respectful use of cultural materials and knowledge

FEASIBILITY (20%)

Feasibility considers whether the project is achievable and whether appropriate planning, resources, and supports are in place.

Assessors will consider:

- Whether the plan and timeline are realistic and manageable
- Whether the budget is clear and reasonable, and if people are fairly compensated
- The organization's capacity to realize the project, including the experience, skills, knowledge, or supports available to deliver the project
- Measures in place to support the safety and well-being of people working on or engaging with the project, including physical, emotional and cultural safety

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 informs applicants of the assessment results by email.

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.

Microgrants

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email approximately four weeks after the application deadline. (Mid-December 2026)

Mid- and large-scale grants

Applicants for the mid- and large-scale grant streams will be notified of the outcome of their application approximately 16 weeks after the application deadline. (March 2027)

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 grant payments if the recipient:

- Does not carry out the approved activities described in their application.
- Makes significant changes to the project without approval
- Makes major changes to their organization to the extent it does not align with program eligibility.
- Does not meet grant requirements, including reporting obligations.
- Fails to comply with applicable legal requirements.
- Does not maintain a safe and respectful environment 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](#), in which case payment will be made electronically.

Income tax information

Grant funding is considered taxable income and must be reported on your income tax return.

Individuals receiving a grant, including those applying on behalf of a group or collective, will be issued a **T4A slip** for the year in which the grant payment is made.

Reporting requirements

Reporting is a standard requirement for recipients of public funding. It supports learning, accountability, and transparency, and is not intended to evaluate artistic merit or judge the overall success of a project.

Interim check-ins

For large-scale grants, recipients may be required to complete a brief interim report or project check-in. Any interim reporting requirements will be outlined in the grant notification letter.

Optional check-ins

As part of this pilot program, some grant recipients may be invited to participate in brief, optional check-ins. These conversations are intended to help the BC Arts Council better understand artists' experiences and needs, and to inform future improvements to programs and services that support Indigenous artists.

Final reports

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

The final report will be kept as simple as possible and will invite recipients to reflect on:

- What activities took place
- How grant funds were used
- Any significant changes from the original project plan
- Key learnings, outcomes, or reflections from the process

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.

If you need assistance completing your final report, contact the program advisor for support.

Recognition of grants

In recognition of grant funding, we ask that you acknowledge the BC Arts Council and the Province of British Columbia's support 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.