

COMMUNITY ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Project Assistance Program Guidelines 2022/23

Acknowledgement

The BC Arts Council acknowledges it carries out its work on the land of Indigenous nations throughout British Columbia. We are grateful for the continuing relationships with Indigenous people that develop through our work together. We acknowledge and raise our hands to the ɫəkʷəŋən (Lkwungen) people, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, on whose ancestral lands we operate our main offices.

About the BC Arts Council

For more information about the BC Arts Council's mandate, vision, values, and strategic directions, visit the [About](#) and [Priorities](#) sections on the BC Arts Council website.

In the [Extending Foundations: Action Plan for 2022-2024](#), the BC Arts Council reaffirms its commitment to principles of reconciliation, equity, diversity, inclusion and access in all of its programs and processes. The Council conducts its own operations and funding activities in accordance with legislation 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](#).

In addition to the integration of equity criteria across all funding programs, consideration will be given to [designated priority groups](#) identified by the BC Arts Council. These groups have been identified in order to achieve strategic direction commitments and correct funding gaps illuminated through recent evaluations and consultations. The designated priority groups consist of applicants who are:

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

Organizations whose statement of purpose includes support for and who are led by arts and cultural practitioners rooted in communities as listed above are considered a designated priority group.

About Project Assistance: Community Arts Organizations

Project Assistance: Community Arts Organizations supports the development of community-based arts through the creation or presentation of public programming initiatives that provide engagement between artists, participants, and communities, and reduces or eliminates barriers to public participation in the arts.

Activities may include performances, exhibitions, documentation and dissemination projects, creation of new works, artists' residencies, exploration and presentation of traditional, new or diverse art forms, and artistic or organizational development projects.

When and How to Apply

Applications can be submitted through our online system at any point before **October 17th, 2022, no later than 11:59 p.m.** We are unable to accept any applications after this date. If you have any questions, contact a Program Advisor. The BC Arts Council office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Submit your application through the Grant Management System. Ensure that all information (including address verification) and documentation in your organization's online profile is up to date before submitting an application.

New applicants [must register and create a profile](#) in the online system. **Once the registration request is submitted, it may take up to four business days to process your request.** BC Arts Council will email you once your registration is processed and you are able to access grant applications.

Ensure the email address noreply@bcartscouncil.ca is on your safe senders list and check your spam folders.

Applicants can submit a portion of their application by way of an audio or video recording. See instructions within the application on this option.

Accessibility

Organizations with a primary purpose to serve Deaf or disability arts practices are eligible for the BC Arts Council's Accessibility Programs:

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

[Access Support](#) – additional funding that supports access costs associated with creating, developing, or executing a project funded by a BC Arts Council Project Assistance 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 assessment panels evaluating grant applications. Contact Accessibility Coordinator, Clayton Baraniuk, at 250-978-9839 or clayton.baraniuk@gov.bc.ca to request assistance.

Find out more about accessibility supports at bcartscouncil.ca/accessibility

Who Can Apply

If your organization does not meet the eligibility criteria, your application will not be forwarded for assessment. **To be eligible, an applicant must:**

- Provide public arts and culture programming and engagement, or service to the arts and culture sector in B.C., and have done so for a minimum of one year.
- Engage community-based board leadership and, if applicable, skilled artistic or administrative leadership (paid or volunteer).
- Fairly compensate artists, arts and cultural practitioners, technicians, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers. Compensation must align with project and community contexts and industry

standards within the field of practice, including adhering to 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 currently receive Operating Assistance from the BC Arts Council.
- Have completed and submitted any overdue final reports on previous BC Arts Council grants by the submission deadline for this program.
- Provide programs that benefit the community and not solely its members' interests.

Organizational applicants must also:

- Be a [Community 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 members based in B.C.; and
 - A dedicated arts and culture purpose/mandate; or
 - A purpose/mandate to provide services to the arts and culture sector in B.C.

For the purposes of eligibility for this program, Community Arts Organizations are non-profit:

- Community arts councils;
- Community driven, generally non-professional, volunteer-managed arts and culture organizations; and
- Community-based arts and cultural centres, whose primary purpose is community centered engagement and access to the arts.

They offer a range of programming focused on enriching a specified community through a variety of arts disciplines and experiences, using a grassroots approach to providing wider service to the community beyond their membership. Although generally community-led, community arts organizations may also engage and collaborate with professional artists and arts practitioners, arts administrators and Elders or Traditional Knowledge Keepers.

OR

- Be an Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) community organization or Indigenous government in B.C., offering dedicated arts and culture activities.

Exclusions

Awards are not available to support:

- Community arts festivals (See BC Arts Council [Community Arts Festivals](#) program).
- Operating costs.
- Project phases or activities that have begun prior to the submission deadline.
- Project or budget deficits and contingency funds.
- [Capital expenditures](#) (construction, renovation, or purchase of property or equipment).
- Feasibility studies, start-up costs, or seed money.
- Fundraising activities, conferences, conventions, or projects where arts are secondary to other activities (e.g., competitions, or family, religious, or community celebrations or anniversaries).
- Subsistence to artists or cultural practitioners.
- Costs of producing commercial music recordings or demo reels.

- Community-based, user-pay arts groups focused on engaging members through a single discipline (i.e. community choirs, bands, theatre or dance groups, art and craft clubs, etc.) unless the project supports artistic fees of:
 - commissioning new work from professional B.C. artists or Traditional Knowledge Keepers;
 - a performance or exhibition engaging professional B.C. or Canadian artists or Traditional Knowledge Keepers, with priority on presentations of contemporary work;
 - engaging a guest clinician/artist/Traditional Knowledge Keeper for the development of artistic skills with appropriate analysis of organization's needs and rationale for the selected guest;
- Community choirs that are attached to or affiliated with educational, religious or military institutions;
- Community service non-profit organizations that do not have arts and culture as their primary purpose and the majority of their programming/activities are not arts-centred, even if they offer some arts programming or activities;
- Industrial/archaeological/heritage sites or historic places or organizations dedicated to archives;
- Private or for-profit entities;
- Member-funded societies;
- Projects or activities funded through other BC Arts Council programs including BC Arts Council funds delivered through third-party delivery partners: First Peoples' Cultural Council, BC Touring Council, or Creative BC.

Grant Amounts

The request amount to this program:

- Must be 50% or less of the total eligible project budget; or
- May be up to 65% of the total eligible project budget for projects from applicants that align with the BC Arts Council's designated priority groups.

Applicant contributions to the project budget can be composed of both cash and in-kind contributions. The project budget must balance in-kind revenues with in-kind expenses.

Grants typically range from \$5,000 to \$20,000, with a maximum grant amount of \$25,000.

Applicants are encouraged to submit realistic proposals for the funds required to feasibly carry out the project. Grants may be awarded for less than requested, however the BC Arts Council endeavours to support funding successful applications at 100% of the request when possible.

What is Needed for the Application

The applicant is responsible for submitting a complete application. The BC Arts Council will not contact applicants to address errors or missing requirements. Eligible applications are assessed as submitted.

A complete online application must include:

- Details outlining the proposed project including:
 - a summary of the proposed project, including rationale, objectives, and outcomes.
 - project timeline or work plan.
 - a biography for each member of the project's team (maximum 100 words each).

- A balanced project budget using the budget table provided in the online application. Include notes on the budget and indicate whether revenues are confirmed or pending.
- All required support material as per the list below.

Support Material

Review and adhere to the [Upload Requirements for Support Material](#).

Required support material includes:

- Letters from partners or collaborators, if applicable, confirming the nature of their participation (maximum two letters, one page each). Do not include general letters of support.
- Examples of previous work **relevant to the proposed project, up to a maximum of***:
 - **5 images or 5 minutes total of video or audio**, with identified excerpts to be viewed; OR
 - **3 pages of critical writing or documentation** (do not submit testimonials or reference letters).

***NOTE:** Items in excess of the listed maximums, including multiple links to materials within a single uploaded document, will not be reviewed. Other examples of previous work, such as publications, must be discussed with the program officer prior to submission to determine whether they are appropriate.

For applicants who have not previously received funding through this program:

- Two letters of reference from established arts and cultural practitioners familiar with the applicant's work.

Additional Information Needed from Organizations

To apply, the applicant's online Organizational Profile must be up to date and include:

- A current list of the organization's board of directors, editorial advisory board, trustees, or board of management, including their board position, occupation/expertise and start date.
- A current list of administrative and artistic/editorial staff or significant contractors, including name, position, and employment status (e.g., permanent; part-time).
- A copy of the constitution if the applicant is a not-for-profit organization, OR a statement of the primary purpose of the organization for all other applicants.
- A completed Designated Priority Group Questionnaire and Equity Data Tool to be eligible for strategic funding.
- Signed financial statements for the two most recently completed fiscal years, as per below.

Financial Statements must include:

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

Financial Statements are based on the single largest grant received in the organization's previous two fiscal years, excluding Resilience Supplements, Pivot and Arts Infrastructure Program grants. If

you did not receive any applicable grants in your previous two fiscal years, internally prepared financial statements are acceptable.

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, signed by the umbrella organization's financial officer, and notes indicating if the applicant entity may accrue assets, surpluses or deficits from one year to the next.

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

| Previous BC Arts Council Grant Received (as per above) | Minimum Documentation |
|--|--|
| Up 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 Applications Will Be Assessed

In [Extending Foundations: Action Plan for 2022-2024](#) the BC Arts Council commits to placing reconciliation, equity, diversity, inclusion and access at the centre of its activities, with the intention to rebalance historic funding distribution and modernize peer assessment. Assessment criteria are designed to speak to the diversity of ways organizations across the province can be achieving and contributing. The areas of assessment are described below along with their relative weight. While your submission should address how your activities fulfil each area of assessment, you should expect to be stronger in some areas than in others.

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

The assessment panel will evaluate the project's alignment with the priorities of Extending Foundations by considering:

- The level at which the project will advance opportunities for and service to equity-deserving and under-represented communities;
- The contribution to communities located outside major urban centres, as applicable;
- The project's potential for advancing reconciliation, as applicable; and
- The significance of the project in pursuing equity, diversity, inclusion, and access depending on the applicant's region, capacity, community served, size, and purpose/mandate.

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

The assessment panel will evaluate the project's overall artistic and cultural contribution, engagement, and impact by considering:

- The relevance of the project to the communities the applicant serves, as demonstrated through programming, audience development, outreach, editorial, or curatorial choices;
- How well the applicant can identify the communities it serves;
- How the project will contribute to the development of community-engaged arts, or art form(s)/ cultural practices in B.C.;
- The level of community engagement, risk, and originality achieved in artistic programming, in accordance with the organization's purpose;
- The impact on and contribution to the development of B.C. artists, cultural practitioners, and communities;
- The integrity of the creative and artistic processes; including research, collaborative processes, the ethical treatment of contributors, and source/physical materials;
- The level of accessibility and engagement, including but not limited to physical spaces, cultural safety, affordability, and support for diverse participants or those who experience barriers or disability; and
- The effectiveness of practices that eliminate cultural appropriation and support meaningful representation, using appropriate protocols and practices.

FEASIBILITY (30%)

The assessment panel will evaluate the project's feasibility by considering the:

- Achievability of the proposed activities as determined by sound budgets, planning, resource allocation, and the applicant's overall financial health and capacity.
- Role of artistic leadership, including management and the board, as applicable, in fostering a healthy, sustainable work environment.
- Level of experience in realizing comparable projects at a professional standard.
- Rigour of human resources practices related to providing fair remuneration, equitable employment, cultural competency, cultural safety, and safe and respectful work environment.

Assessment Process

Merit-based, independent peer assessment is the primary method of evaluation for all applications to this program. Assessment panels are comprised of individuals with broad professional knowledge, experience, geographical representation, and diverse aesthetic, institutional, and cultural viewpoints, including those from Indigenous perspectives.

The following process is used to evaluate applications:

- The BC Arts Council receives online applications and reviews each one for eligibility.
 - The assessment panel evaluates the applications using the assessment criteria outlined above and determines the level of funding and conditions on payment of awards.
 - The BC Arts Council informs each applicant of the assessment panel's decision in writing.
- Applicants are encouraged to contact program staff for feedback after results have been released.

Notification of Awards

Decisions will be made within sixteen weeks of the application deadline. Notification will be sent via the online system to the contact linked to the online application, and to the organizational and governance leadership contacts provided in the organizational profile (as applicable). Results cannot be requested in advance.

Ensure the email address noreply@bcartscouncil.ca is on your safe sender list and check your spam folders.

Payment of Awards

All award 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.
- Undergoes 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 are taxable income and must be reported as such. Individuals receiving grants on their own behalf or on behalf of a collective are issued T4As for the year in which the grant payment is processed.

Final Reports

Recipients must submit a final report with the required documentation of the completed project to the BC Arts Council within 30 days of the Project End Date in the application. Final Reports must be submitted through the online system.

Future applications to BC Arts Council programs will be ineligible if reporting requirements are not met.

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 award recipients may be published, along with the amount of the award, in the Annual Report of the BC Arts Council as well as in various communications and promotional vehicles of the BC Arts Council and Government of British Columbia. Social Insurance Numbers are provided to Canada Revenue Agency through the issuance of T4As.

Recognition of Assistance

In recognition of funding, the support of the BC Arts Council and the Government of British Columbia should be acknowledged in all promotional materials, both print and online. The approved BC Arts Council and provincial logo and graphics standards are available [online](#) in a variety of ready-to-use digital formats.

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

Contact Information

If you still have questions after you have completely read these Program Guidelines and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the BC Arts Council web page, please contact a Program Advisor.

Krista Patterson – Community Arts Organizations
(236) 478-2550 | Krista.Patterson@gov.bc.ca

A full list of program staff is available on [our website](#).

For general information or further assistance, please contact:

Telephone: (250) 356-1718

Email: bcartscouncil@gov.bc.ca

Program guidelines are reviewed annually.

Please ensure you are working with the most current program guidelines for each intake.