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FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL



Individual Artists

2025 - 2026 Funding Guide

Application Deadline:
March 19, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. PT

[Apply on our Grant Portal](#)

Please save this Arts Program funding guide in your files. If your application is approved, the policies and information contained in this guide will be an important resource.

The Individual Artists program is made possible through a partnership with BC Arts Council.



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL



BRITISH
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Table of Contents

A Note On Health And Wellness

FPCC General Funding Guidelines

FPCC Arts Program

Individual Artists Program

Planning For Your Application

Program Description And Funding Information:

Program Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Applicants

Ineligible Applicants

Scholarship Exceptions

Expenses

Eligible Expenses

Ineligible Expenses

Application Requirements

Before You Apply

Application Deadline

Program Contact

A Note On Health And Wellness

Tcwemstwallhkálap? (“you folks take care of one another” in Ucwalmícwts):

The health and safety of everyone involved in FPCC programs, especially Elders and those with health concerns, is of the utmost importance to us. As you plan your project, please take extra care during cold and flu season to minimize the spread of illness.

FPCC General Funding Guidelines

Please see the [FPCC General Funding Guidelines](#) for information on the following:

Funding Criteria

- Eligibility
- Misrepresentation
- Ineligible Expenses
- Grant Liability, Insurance & Certification
- Criminal Record Checks

FPCC Grant Applications

- Grant Portal
- General Application Guidelines
- Reporting Requirements

Proposal Review Process, Notification of Awards and Payment of Awards

- Peer Review Committee (PRC)
 - Funding Decisions and Notification
 - Payment of Awards
-

FPCC Arts Program

The mandate of First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) is to assist B.C. First Nations in their efforts to revitalize their languages, arts, cultures and heritage.

The Arts Program supports the creation, development, production, marketing, promotion and distribution across all forms of creative expressions. This includes but is not limited to ceremonial, oral, visual, performance, music, literary, media, sculpture, carving and weaving. The Arts Program is organized into four program offerings:

- **Arts Strengthening**
 - One-on-one arts mentorships and group knowledge transfer work
- **Arts Infrastructure**
 - Art space construction, renovation or capacity building for First Nations arts and culture organizations & communities
- **Individual Artists**
 - Projects and creative development; Scholarships for arts education
- **Music Program**
 - Creation & sharing and industry professional internships, mentorships and training

Each program area provides support for artists and arts organizations to positively impact creative sovereignty in their respective activities, knowledge transfer, training and professional development.

Individual Artists Program

How to apply: Applications submitted on [FPCC's Grant Portal](#)

2025-2026 Application deadline: March 19, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. PT

Funding term: Projects can take place anytime between March 19, 2025, and March 19, 2026

Final report: Due one month after the project end date, no later than April 19, 2026.

If you have any questions while reviewing the guidelines or during the application process, please feel welcome to contact Arts Program Staff via email at individualarts@fpcc.ca

Planning For Your Application

FPCC Arts applications take time to complete, and we recommend starting as early as possible. Significant reading and writing are required throughout the application process along with seeking support letters. It is recommended to allow yourself up to a month to work through all portions of the application.

In addition, applications are completed on FPCC's [Grant Portal](#) which is technology based and functions best when used on a laptop or desktop computer. For applicants that require assistance with technology, we recommend having a friend, family member or someone they trust to assist them with completing and submitting the application.

Please reach out to Arts Program staff if you have any questions about the application process, would like to discuss project planning and/or if you need support in completing your application. **The deadline for one-on-one support is March 5th, 2025.**

Program Description And Funding Information:

The Individual Artists Program supports the artistic development of B.C. First Nations who have demonstrated a commitment to their creative expression. This program also supports artistic production or education scholarships.

Individual Artists and Arts Scholarships fall within this program which is made possible through a partnership with BC Arts Council.

*Note: if you are applying for a full-time one-on-one mentorship, please apply to the [Arts Strengthening Program](#).

**Note: if you are applying for primarily music-based activities, please apply to the [Music Program](#).

The Individual Artists Program offers funding for two types of activities:

1. Individual Artists up to \$20,000
2. Scholarships up to \$15,000

Individual Artists

Objective: The Individual Artists Program supports artists in:

- Increasing their skills and knowledge
 - Pursuing new approaches or techniques in their practice
 - Gaining the recognition of their peers and community
 - Developing a presentation of their artistic journey/history for the public (including but not limited to knowledge sharing events and community gatherings, gallery showings, digital platforms, performance, film)
 - Spending more time with their creative expression
-

Grant Maximum: \$20,000

The following examples illustrate some of the potential applications of this funding:

- Furthering or developing skills within your creative practice(s) through a specific project
- Dedicating time to testing an innovative approach to your work
- Expanding your repertoire and portfolio of works
- Supporting your community with your project
- Preparing for an event, gathering or opportunity where your work will be utilized or displayed

Scholarship

Objective: The funding for post-secondary arts education will support applicants enrolled in an arts program at a post-secondary institution. Applicants must indicate the institution, program, and number of semesters they have enrolled in.

Grant Maximum: \$15,000

The following examples illustrate some of the potential applications of this funding:

- Pursuit of post-secondary education in the arts through a semester-based program
- Pursuit of post-secondary education in the arts through an intensive program
- Pursuit of professional development training in your creative practice

Program Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Applicants

- BC. First Nations individuals with a creative practice of any medium or expression, for example; carvers, storytellers, visual artists, choreographers, dancers, dance groups, performance artists, regalia creatives, weavers, writers, multi-media artists and sculptors
 - Must be 19 years of age or older
 - A resident of British Columbia for at least one year. If there is a question about whether applicant lives in B.C., they may be asked to provide documentation. Proof of residency can include a valid B.C. services card, a valid B.C. driver's license or evidence of income taxes paid in the previous year as a B.C. resident.
 - Project will have a start date on or after the application deadline
 - Have previous experience or a creative mandate that demonstrates a commitment to their creative practice
 - Demonstrate the support of recognized artists, creatives, cultural, or community leaders within B.C. First Nations communities they are connected to, and the project affects
 - Submit only one application as an applicant per deadline to the Arts Program
-

FPCC is a First Nations-led organization with unique expertise in B.C. First Nations languages, arts and heritage. There is an urgent need to support the revitalization of First Nations arts practices in B.C. With the growing number of requests for funding, the FPCC Arts Program is focused on providing support for the artforms that come from this land.

Our work is founded in the fundamental belief that First Nations are the rightful stewards of their cultural knowledge and arts practices, and are best equipped to lead this important work of protecting, sharing and revitalizing B.C. First Nations Arts practices on these lands.

We are supportive of artists being successful no matter where they are from. If you are not eligible for funding from FPCC, there are other funding options available. Here is a link to information on other arts funding sources and organizations: <https://fpcc.ca/resource/arts-funding-sources/>

Ineligible Applicants

- Individuals with an active FPCC Arts Program grant
- Individuals cannot be the project lead for more than one application to the FPCC Arts Program for the same deadline but may be involved in more than one project if they are in a different role.
- For a full list of ineligible applicants, please refer to the [General Funding Guidelines](#).

Scholarship Exceptions

- Applicants may be 17 or 18 with a guardian's signature
- Applicants may apply to both this Scholarship Program and the BC Arts Council Scholarship Program but, if successful in both, funding will not exceed the upper limit on a single program.
- Applicants may attend any institution including those outside of the province but must be registered as a resident of British Columbia for at least one year prior to the application deadline. If there is a question about whether you live in British Columbia, you may be asked to provide documentation. Your proof of residency can include a valid British Columbia services card, a valid British Columbia driver's license or evidence of income taxes paid in the previous year as a British Columbia resident.
- Applicant will be enrolled in a post-secondary institution or courses at time of application and for the duration of the project timeline.

Expenses

Eligible Expenses

- Salaries and wages – must be project specific and explained clearly in the budget description. For all project participants including applicant (remember to pay yourself!), mentor, technicians, contractors, etc.
 - Elder and/or Knowledge Holder consultation fees, include names and explain clearly in budget description
-

- Fees and honoraria for collaboration with other artists, mentors and/or elders – explained clearly in budget description
- Travel, transportation and accommodation
- Project related materials and supplies
- Space rentals
- Research and training
- Childcare expenses for activities directly related to the project
- Equipment required for project (up to 15% of total funded project unless a strong justification for more than 15% is provided)
- Specialized tools required for the project, (up to 20% of total funded project unless a strong justification for more than 20% is provided)
- **For Individual Artists only:** Administrative expenses directly related to project activities (up to 10% of total funded project)
- **For Individual Artists only:** Touring and exhibition expenses
- Scholarships only: Tuition, books, and course materials

NOTE: In the Budget Worksheet description boxes, list the items and amounts that make up large sums to demonstrate how you arrived at the number you are entering. For example, when listing wages, note how many hours or days at how much per hour or day. This kind of detail helps the Peer Review Committee understand the amounts requested.

Ineligible Expenses

- Expenses not directly related to the project you are applying for
 - Expenses that take place before the Individual Artists Program application deadline
 - Business start-up costs, point of sale systems/websites, building a brand, business logo design, production of items intended for sale such as t-shirts or vinyl record
 - Capital purchases (including but not limited to vehicles, or costs associated with building or land improvement)
 - Capital renovation costs
 - Activities that take place in or involve public schools or public institutions
 - For Individual Artists: projects related to satisfying post-secondary education course requirements are ineligible. Please select Scholarships if this is the case.
 - For a full list of ineligible expenses, please refer to the [General Funding Guidelines](#).
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Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted through FPCC's online [Grant Portal](#) and include:

- **A completed application form**
- **The name of the primary contact person.** This individual must meet the eligibility criteria. The primary contact person will be held responsible for the application and subsequent reporting.
- **Your B.C. First Nations identity.** Describe your lived experience, your relationship of belonging to the B.C. First Nations community you have identified with. Describe your history, connection, ancestry and ways that you hope to shift any disconnections that may exist.
- **Information about you as an artist** including a CV, resume, artist statements and/or additional information about yourself and your connection to your creative expression. This is an invitation to share your creative journey, why you create. An artist statement shares your motivation and foundation, communicating about your connection to your creative expression.
- **Project Team Worksheet.** Fill out the FPCC Project Team Worksheet provided in the Grant Portal with details of your project team and outline each person's role in the project. For KEY participants, upload a resumé, bio or description of their creative background. If applicable, provide a list of previous sound recording projects (for KEY participants only).
- **A project description** detailing the objectives, activities, and participants (who, what, when, where, and how). Through your project description, this is a chance to show the peer review committee why this project is important to you, the art form, or your community – why it needs to happen now, the value, the viability, and how it will contribute to your professional, artistic and/or creative development.

Describe the community you have or will engage with, including any First Nations governments, band councils or First Nations not-for-profit organizations. Please share specific First Nations communities that will directly benefit from this project.

A clear description of how the project is respectful of First Nations cultural protocols, traditions and Indigenous law.

- **Workplan.** Please complete the detailed workplan provided, including the key activities of your project, what the outcomes will be, when they happen, who will lead them. You will enter your project start date and end date.
 - **A balanced budget.** Fill in the table provided with details and a breakdown of each planned expense. Please also include information on additional funding sources if your project budget exceeds the maximum grant amount, for example, other grants, personal contributions and in-kind contributions (contributions that are given in the form of goods and services and not money). Please include as much detail as possible. Listing the items and amounts that make up large sums will make the expenses clear.
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- **Samples of previous, related work for you and (if applicable) lead mentor.** Please be selective and include a maximum of 5 images, 5 minutes of select video or 3 audio recordings in mp3, mp4, or mov format: or 3 pages of writing.
- **A numbered list that clearly identifies and describes the samples.** The numbered list should correspond with the numbers or names of your image files and include information such as date, title, materials, size and collaborators. In the case of collaborations and group performances, please identify the roles of participating artists in the work. Example: *1. Eagle, mask, alder wood, 1x2 feet, 2010. Collaborators include John Doe, Amy Doe.*

Two current letters of support for the applicant and proposed project. If the project involves a Mentor, one of the letters must be from the Mentor confirming and describing their participation in the project. Letters of support can be from a mentor, a collaborator, another artist who practices your art form, a community member, a knowledge holder, or anyone else you feel can speak to your creative expression, the project and you as an artist. **All letters of support must be dated and signed. Signatures may be typed, handwritten or scanned.** Please include:

- the name and contact information of the writer, a bit about what they do
- how they know you in the context of your project, in a sentence or two
- description of their support for your proposed project, in a sentence or two

Scholarship proposals include:

- **A completed application form**
 - **Information about you as an artist** including a CV, resume, artist statements and/or additional information about yourself and your connection to your creative expression. This is an invitation to share your creative journey, why you create. An artist statement shares your motivation and foundation, communicating about your connection to your creative expression.
 - **Confirmation of enrollment.** A letter from your program confirming that you will be attending, or your class registration/schedule.
 - **Applicant personal statement** explaining their learning goals
 - **A clear description of how this educational opportunity is respectful of First Nations cultural protocols, traditions and law.** Additionally, describe the community you have or will engage with, including any First Nations governments, band councils or First Nations not-for-profit organizations. What First Nations communities will directly benefit from this project? What is the total population served?
 - **A balanced project budget** with details and a breakdown of each planned expense. Please also include information on additional funding sources if your project budget exceeds the maximum grant amount, for example, other grants, personal contributions and in-kind contributions (contributions that are given in the form of goods and services and not money). Please include as much detail as possible. For example, listing the items and amounts that make up large sums.
 - **Samples of applicant artwork.** Please be selective and include a maximum of 5 images, 5 minutes of video or audio recordings, or 3 pages of writing.
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- **A numbered list that clearly identifies and describes the samples.** The numbered list should correspond with the numbers or names of your image files and include information such as date, title, materials, size and collaborators. In the case of collaborations and group performances, please identify the roles of participating artists in the work. Example: 1. Eagle, mask, alder wood, 1x2 feet, 2010. Collaborators include John Doe, Amy Doe.
- **One current letter of support for the applicant** and their proposed education plan. Letters of support can be from a mentor, a collaborator, another artist who practices your art form, a community member, a knowledge holder, or anyone else you feel can speak to your art practice, the project and you as an artist. **All letters of support must be dated and signed. Signatures may be typed, handwritten or scanned.** Please include:
 - the name and contact information of the writer, a bit about what they do
 - how they know you in the context of your project, in a sentence or two
 - description of their support for your proposed educational plan, in a sentence or two

Before You Apply

- Applicants are advised to first read through the [FPCC General Funding Guidelines](#), program guidelines and application form. Then we encourage you to discuss your project with the Arts Program staff (arrange this by emailing individualarts@fpcc.ca). Applicants are encouraged to reach out well before the deadline, to give plenty of time for support in finessing your proposal before submitting.
 - Project start dates must not fall before the deadline, **March 19, 2025**
 - Project end dates must fall on or before **March 19, 2026**
 - Final Report is due one month after project end date, no later than **April 19, 2026**
 - Please note you are welcome to complete the Final Report earlier than the **April 19** deadline (even if your project is not yet complete). The final instalment will be released upon approval of the Final Report. Please report on the **full amount** of the grant in your Final Report.
 - If approved, for Individual Artist, 80% of funding will be distributed upon application approval and receipt of signed funding agreement. 20% of funding will be distributed upon completion of project and the approval (acceptance) of a final report.
 - If approved, for Scholarship, 100% of funding will be distributed upon application approval and receipt of signed funding agreement.
 - Under normal circumstances, proposals will only be discussed with the person named as the “applicant” or “primary contact person”. Arrangements to speak with another person must be requested in writing.
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Application Deadline

March 19th, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. PT - Late proposals will be ineligible

Program Contact

To discuss your project ideas or seek additional information, please contact:

Arts Program Coordinator, Leah Anthony

Email: individualarts@fpcc.ca

General Office Phone: 250-652-5952

Please note that the Arts Program is run by a team of program staff and the individualarts@fpcc.ca address is monitored by multiple team members.
