



# Arts Infrastructure Program

## 2026-27 Funding Guide

**Application Deadline:**

**Thursday March 5, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. PT**

Late proposals will not be considered.

View the info session recording on the program page to help answer any questions you may have about the program, eligibility and how to apply.

[Apply on Our Grant Portal](#)

Please read this Funding Guide before you apply to the Arts Infrastructure Program. The information contained here will guide you through the application process.

Please save this Funding Guide in your files. If your application is approved, the policies and information in this guide will be a useful resource

## Note:

This document is optimized for accessibility purposes.

# How to Use the PDF Audio Reader?

## Desktop

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Key steps:

- **Open the PDF:** Open your PDF file in Adobe Acrobat Reader.
- **Access the “Read Out Loud” option:** Click the “Menu” at the top left corner and in the drop down select “View” > “Read out loud” > “Activate read out loud.”
- **Activate Read Out Loud:** Select “Read Out Loud” and choose whether to read the entire document or just the current page.

## Mobile phone

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# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
The First Peoples' Cultural Council	4
Fundors	4
<b>A Note on Health and Wellness</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FPCC General Funding Guidelines</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Arts Program Overview</b>	<b>5</b>
Arts Infrastructure Program Description and Objectives	6
<b>General Application Information</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Planning for Your Application</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Application Criteria</b>	<b>9</b>
Eligible Applicants	9
Eligible applicants include	9
Eligibility Documentation	10
Ineligible Applicants	10
Collaboration is Encouraged	11
General Requirements	11
<b>Funding</b>	<b>13</b>
Funding Amounts	13
Funding Term	13
Funding Installments	13
Eligible Expenses	13
Ineligible Expenses	14
<b>Peer Review Process</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Reporting Requirements</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>16</b>
Application Deadline	16
Website Information	16
Program Contact	16
Application Support	16

## Introduction

### The First Peoples' Cultural Council

The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) was established in 1990 through the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act and is mandated to support the revitalization of First Nations languages, arts and cultures in British Columbia. FPCC is a unique Crown Corporation governed by a Board of up to 13 B.C. First Nations representatives. FPCC administers three programs: the Heritage Program, the Language Program and the Arts Program.

The FPCC Arts Program supports B.C. First Nations artists working in both ancestral and contemporary arts, to positively impact creative sovereignty in their respective activities, knowledge transfer, training and professional development. The Arts Program supports the creation, development, production and promotion across all forms of creative expressions. This includes but is not limited to ceremonial, oral, visual, performance, music, literary, media, sculpture, carving and weaving. To learn more about our Arts Program, visit [fpcc.ca/arts](https://fpcc.ca/arts).

For information about funding opportunities, please visit the FPCC website at: <https://fpcc.ca/grants>

For any questions related to your grant application, please contact our Arts Infrastructure Program staff at [aip@fpcc.ca](mailto:aip@fpcc.ca).

### Funders

The Arts Infrastructure program is supported through a partnership with the BC Arts Council, a donation from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, and the Government of British Columbia's Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

## A Note on Health and Wellness

**Tcwemstwal' Ihkál'ap** ("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

## Arts Program Overview

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

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

- **Arts Strengthening**  
One-on-one arts mentorships and arts group knowledge transfer
- **Arts Infrastructure**  
Art space construction or renovation and capacity building for B.C. First Nations arts and culture organizations and 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 B.C. First Nations artists and arts organizations to positively impact creative sovereignty in their respective activities, knowledge transfer, training and professional development.

## Arts Infrastructure Program Description and Objectives

The Arts Infrastructure Program supports B.C. First Nations-led non-profit arts and culture organizations and societies with art space construction, renovations, artistic production projects, administrative capacity building and operational assistance.

Applicants can select **one** priority area out of the two funding options:

- Organizations
- Community Arts Spaces

### 1. Organizations

**Objective:** This priority area supports B.C. First Nations communities and organizations with artistic production and a combination of either administrative capacity building, operational assistance or an arts administrator internship.

**Grant amount: up to \$50,000**

Applicants can choose **one** of the following options:

- Apply for combined artistic production and administrative capacity building
- Apply for combined artistic production and operational assistance
- Apply for combined artistic production and an arts administrator internship

Examples include:

**Artistic production:**

- Hosting arts workshops for the community
- Creation of a mural
- Artist residencies and collaborations

**Administrative capacity building:** (please note that administrative capacity building is typically achieved before operational costs can be considered)

- Adding more staff to respond to growth in the organization
- Hiring a contractor for strategic planning for the growth of the organization
- Staff training, mentoring and/or building a sustainable operational base

**Operational costs:**

- Current wages and salaries
- Building maintenance expenses
- Electricity, gas, space repairs, landscaping
- Rent or mortgage costs

**Arts Administrator internship:**

- Organizing workshops, events and other arts activities
- Community-based research and planning
- Community outreach and network building
- Support, documentation and promotion of local artists
- Community cultural coordination or arts and culture facilitation
- Curatorial practice in a gallery or museum

**What is an Arts Administrator internship?**

Arts Administrator Internships was formerly offered as a separate priority area in the Arts Infrastructure Program. It may now be selected as a combined option with artistic production in the Organizations funding option. The objective of an arts administrator internship is to support the transfer of knowledge to develop skills and increase capacity for arts administrators in a museum or arts setting.

Projects may be structured to support development of an intern in one of two ways:

- An individual can arrange an internship placement with an arts and culture organization that will provide qualified and specific arts administration mentorship, **OR**
- An individual can arrange a structured relationship with a qualified arts administrator mentor(s) who will provide specific **arts administration mentorship**, at a distance and through organized visits, while the intern is working with an existing community-based organization.

For **arts production mentorships**, please apply to the Arts Strengthening Program.

As part of the application process, interns and their mentor must define the structure and content for the internship and develop a learning plan that is relevant to the interests and practical needs of participants. Plans must centre B.C. First Nations voices and describe lasting benefits to the intern, community artists and the infrastructure that supports those artists. Activities related to community-based arts and culture administration are a priority.

**Please note:**

- Applications that include Arts Administrator internships must be collaboratively prepared by interns, their mentor and the supporting host organization.
- Host organizations must contribute to the proposed internship costs (which can include workspace, administrative fees, organizational costs, etc.). The host must cover any mandatory employment related costs associated with the internship. In addition to office space, internship hosts are expected to provide technical facilities and support.

**2. Community Arts Spaces**

**Objective:** This priority area supports B.C. First Nations communities and organizations with the development and enhancement of community arts and culture spaces. This can include renovations to an existing structure or new construction that supports community accessibility to arts spaces. All spaces must be community focused and available for community use.

**Grant amount: up to \$75,000**

Examples include:

- Renovations/improvements to an existing building/structure, such as carving sheds or cultural spaces. Examples: fixing drywall, painting, roof repair, plumbing costs.
- Construction of a rehearsal space (for creative expressions such as singing, drumming, dance, theatre and others).
- Construction of a permanent designated space to create art, such as weaving, drawing, painting and other creative expressions.

## General Application Information

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

**2026–27 Application deadline:** March 5, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. PT

**Funding amount:**

- Organizations – Up to \$50,000
- Community Arts Spaces – Up to \$75,000

**Funding term:** Projects can take place anytime from **March 5 – December 15, 2026**.

**Final report:** Due one month after the project end date, **no later than January 15, 2027**.

*Please note: Completion of final reports is required to be eligible to apply for future funding from all FPCC program areas.*

Contact: If you have any questions while reviewing the guidelines or during the application process, please reach out to Arts Infrastructure Program staff via email at [aip@fpcc.ca](mailto:aip@fpcc.ca)

## Planning for Your Application

FPCC Arts Program 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.

**TIP: It is recommended to allow yourself up to a month to work through all portions of the application.**

In addition, applications are completed on a website that 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 **February 19, 2026**, two weeks before the application deadline.

## Application Criteria

### Eligible Applicants

The FPCC Arts Infrastructure Program supports projects by **B.C. First Nations** and **B.C. First Nations-led organizations** as per our legislated mandate. FPCC requires at least 65% of an organization's board members/directors to include individuals from recognized B.C. First Nations as they are the rightful stewards of their cultural knowledge and arts practices and are best equipped to lead the important work of protecting, sharing and revitalizing B.C. First Nations arts practices on their lands.

### Eligible applicants include:

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.

- Recognized B.C. First Nations bands or Tribal Councils<sup>1</sup>
- B.C.-based First Nations organizations and not-for-profit societies that have a mandate or focus that includes First Nations' arts and culture. Organizations and not-for-profit societies must be registered in B.C. in good standing and governed by B.C. First Nations individuals where at least 65% of directors are from recognized B.C. First Nations.
- B.C. First Nations-led museums and cultural spaces where at least 65% of directors are from recognized B.C. First Nations
- Urban and off-reserve B.C. First Nations-led organizations where at least 65% of directors are from recognized B.C. First Nations
- B.C. First Nations schools or adult education centres operating in B.C. on First Nations lands.<sup>2</sup> Please note that applications from First Nations schools that serve one community must be submitted through their respective Nation or Band Office.

### In addition to the above criteria, eligible applicants must:

- Have been a resident of B.C. for at least one year. If there is a question about whether you live in B.C., you may be asked to provide documentation. Proof of residency can include a valid B.C. services card, a valid B.C. driver's licence, or evidence of income taxes paid in the previous year as a B.C. resident.
- Have previous experience that demonstrates a commitment to their creative practice and ability to fulfil the project
- Demonstrate support of the project by recognized artists and creatives or Cultural or Community Leaders within B.C. First Nations communities you are connected to
- Submit only one application as an applicant to the Arts Program per deadline

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<sup>1</sup> For a list of recognized B.C. First Nations, please see [here](#)

<sup>2</sup> FPCC is unable to fund K-12 classroom activities or post-secondary accredited courses or tuition

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/>

If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact [aip@fpcc.ca](mailto:aip@fpcc.ca)

If you have questions about registering your organization as a society, please see [this resource](#) with information on how to form a society in B.C. (Please note: This document is for reference only, FPCC is not able to provide advice on setting up a society.)

## Eligibility Documentation

FPCC is committed to accountability and transparency in the delivery of funding to B.C. First Nations, as expressed in our mandate and vision.

FPCC Program staff may contact you to request some or all of the following information to accompany your application. This information will help us better understand your organization, its mandate and how it operates, so that we can support you through the funding process. If requested, this information must be provided before a Funding Agreement can be issued. Societies and organizations may be asked to provide:

- Documentation confirming their legal name, and a list of the organization's current Board of Directors and/or governance structure
- Their certificate of good standing, certificate of registration, a copy of the organization's bylaws and constitution
- Proof of support from a B.C. First Nation in the territory where the project is proposed and that shares the same language as the proposed project. This may be in the form of a Band Council Resolution, OR a letter of support from a Chief or Council member, OR a letter of support from an established B.C. First Nations-led organization that is currently an FPCC grant recipient.

The applicant organization is responsible for holding and maintaining all insurance covering risks associated with project activities for the project team and participants.

Please note that first-time applicants will be required to provide the information listed above. Returning applicants may be required to update their eligibility documentation.

## Ineligible Applicants

- Individuals and family groups
- Organizations or societies where less than 65% of Board members are members of a recognized B.C. First Nation

- Collectives or non-registered groups (this grant only accepts registered societies)
- For-profit organizations and businesses, entities, individuals and commercial ventures
- Organizations or previous grant recipients with incomplete or outstanding reporting with FPCC or First Peoples' Cultural Foundation. These applicants are ineligible until all required documentation is complete.
- Individuals or organizations with an active FPCC Arts Program grant
- Government organizations, including municipalities
- Universities, colleges and non-B.C. First Nations schools
- Private clubs, groups and organizations with exclusive memberships
- Religious organizations
- Corporations
- Individuals cannot be the project lead for more than one application to the FPCC Arts Program for the same deadline, but they may be involved in more than one project if they are in a different role.

## Collaboration is Encouraged

FPCC strongly encourages collaboration. Only one program per band office, tribal council or society/organization will be eligible for funding in the Arts Program. If more than one application from the same band office, tribal council or society/organization is submitted to the Arts Program, FPCC Arts staff will contact the applicants to determine which application will move forward for consideration. It is strongly advised that applicants collaborate and submit one unified proposal. This demonstrates support and consensus for the proposed project, as well as being inclusive and designed with long-term goals in mind.

## General 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 responsible for the application and subsequent reporting. This person will be the primary point of contact for FPCC, and will be required to have an account on the FPCC Grant Portal. They should be the person whom FPCC can contact with any questions about this submission, or with information about subsequent applications.
- **Your organization's history, mandate and commitment to the arts.** Describe your organization's history, mandate and philosophy and those activities that demonstrate a commitment to the arts and artists and the ability of your organization to deliver this project.
- **Mentor information.** If there is a mentor involved in your project, include the mentor's resumé, bio or creative background and more information about them and their connection to their creative expression.
- **For organizations applying for an arts administrator internship,** include a statement of learning goals from the intern in their own words. The intern should also describe their demonstrated commitment to arts administration and/or cultural management.

- **Project Team Worksheet.** Who else are you working with in your project? Please provide a thorough description on the FPCC Project Team Worksheet of your project team and outline what their role will be in the project. Please include any collaborators, mentors and contractors who will be involved in your project. If the applicant is the only member of the project team, please indicate this in the worksheet.
- For all KEY participants on the Project Team, upload CVs, resumés, bios or artist statements and/or more information about themselves and their connection to the project. Ensure that the people outlined here are included in the Workplan Worksheet and Budget.
- **Project description.** Describe the project (who, what, when, where and how). Explain why it is important that you undertake your proposed project now. How will this project contribute to your professional, artistic and/or creative development?
- Which B.C. First Nations community (or communities) will be served by the project?
- How is your project 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 will happen and who will lead them. Include your project start and end dates. Ensure that the people and activities outlined here are included in the Project Team Worksheet and Budget.
- **A balanced project budget.** Fill in the table provided with descriptions of your anticipated expenses and, if applicable, funding you will receive from other sources. Please include as much detail as possible. For example, in the description boxes, list the items and amounts that make up large sums and demonstrate how you arrived at the number you are entering. Ensure that the people and activities outlined in the Project Team and Workplan Worksheets are included in the Budget Worksheet.
- **If your project involves art production, samples of previous or related work from the applicant artist(s) and (if applicable) mentor(s).**
  - Upload or link up to five minutes of selected video or audio in MP3, MP4, or MOV format, or three pages of written content
  - Please be selective. The review committee will only listen to a total of 5 minutes of video or audio
- **A numbered list that clearly identifies and describes the samples.**
  - The numbered list should correspond with the numbers or names of your audio, video, or image files and include information such as date, title, medium/materials, time segment and collaborators. In the case of collaborations and group performances, please identify the roles of participating artists in the work.
- **Two current letters of support for the applicant and proposed project.** If a mentor is involved, a letter from the mentor will be required as one of the two letters. Letters of support can help to demonstrate support of the project by recognized artists and creatives or cultural or community leaders within B.C. First Nations communities you are connected to. Letters of support can be from a collaborator, an industry peer, a community member, a Knowledge Holder or anyone else you feel can speak to your creative goals *specific to this application*.

**All letters of support must be signed and dated after January 21, 2026. Signatures may be typed, handwritten or scanned.**

Please include:

- The name and contact information of the writer and 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
- **If applying as an organization**, the most recent annual financial statements
- **If the project involves contractor fees**, a written quote must be provided with the grant application for contractor costs budgeted over \$1,000

## Funding

### Funding Amounts

- Organizations – Up to \$50,000
- Community Arts Spaces – Up to \$75,000

### Funding Term

The funding term for the Arts Infrastructure Program is as follows:

- Project activities to begin on or after **March 5, 2026**
- Projects completed by **December 15, 2026**
- Final report due by **January 15, 2027**

### Funding Installments

- **80% of funding**: upon application approval and receipt of a signed funding agreement
- **20% of funding**: upon FPCC approval of a final report with reconciled budget

### Eligible Expenses

**TIP: For all expenses listed in the Budget Worksheet – especially large sums - show your math in the description boxes provided to make it clear for the Peer Review Committee how each expense is calculated.** For example, when listing wages, note how many hours or days at how much per hour or day.

- **Salaries, wages and honoraria** – must be project specific and explained clearly in budget description. For all project participants, including applicant (remember to pay yourself!)
- **Elder and/or Knowledge Holder consultation fees**, even if unconfirmed, include names and explain clearly in description boxes provided. Please refer to the standard rate in your community.

- **Equipment required for the project.** For Community Arts Spaces: up to 20% of funding request. If more than 20% of total project costs are required for equipment, provide details that support this need in the Project Description.
- **Contractor fees** – up to 30% of funding request. Funding recipients must show they have made best efforts to hire a B.C. First Nations contractor or provide justification for why a non-B.C. First Nations contractor was hired. B.C. First Nations contractors/consultants will be prioritized. **A written quote must be provided with the grant application for contractor costs budgeted over \$1,000.**
- **Materials and supplies**
- **Travel, accommodation and transportation** – make sure to include these activities in the Project Description
- **Administrative expenses** directly related to the project activities – up to 15% of funding request
- **Other Project Costs, such as childcare expenses** for activities directly related to the project

**For Organizations funding option – the following expenses are also eligible:**

- Space rentals for project activities
- Promotion/advertising
- Research – training and this includes operational costs, such as staff training and professional development.

**For Organizations applying for operational costs – the following expenses are also eligible:**

- Rent or mortgage costs
- Utility services
- Building maintenance

**For Community Arts Spaces projects – the following expenses are also eligible:**

- Construction costs, including the cost of materials
- Concept planning, feasibility studies and business plans that will be used for the proposed infrastructure project
- Leasing of equipment related to the construction of the project
- Insurance related to construction
- Utility, electrical and other set-up connection services to the site

## Ineligible Expenses

- Expenses not directly related to the project
- Expenses that take place before the Arts Infrastructure Program application deadline
- Business development costs, for example: 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 records
- Capital purchases, such as vehicles or costs associated with building or land improvement
- For a full list of ineligible expenses, please refer to the [General Funding Guidelines](#)

If you are not sure if an expense is eligible, feel welcome to contact Arts Program staff: [aip@fpcc.ca](mailto:aip@fpcc.ca)

## Peer Review Process

- Submitting a proposal does not guarantee funding
- Applications will be reviewed and evaluated for completeness and clarity
- Funds available to this program are limited
- FPCC strives to distribute funding across all regions of B.C., and equitable distribution is considered during application review and decision-making
- A Peer Review Committee (PRC) of B.C. First Nation experts from across the province will review and assess eligible proposals according to the program objectives, the feasibility of the timeline and the budget presented
- After the submission deadline, please do not contact staff regarding the status of your application. All applicants will be advised of PRC decisions approximately 12 weeks after the application deadline.
- 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.

## Reporting Requirements

If a project is approved, the applicant will receive a **funding agreement** that sets out the terms of the funding and the reporting requirements. This agreement must be signed by the signing authority outlined in the application.

The **final report**, which is due at the conclusion of the grant cycle, includes questions about project activities, deliverables, reflections on what worked well and challenges encountered. The report also requests numerical data about the project team and participants, the location where activities and the number of cultural activities supported through the grant, as well as a final accounting of funds spent throughout the project.

The project final report will be available for applicants to fill out on FPCC's Grant Portal and must be submitted by **January 15, 2027**. The FPCC's Grant Portal can be accessed at [fpcc.ca/login](https://fpcc.ca/login).

Note that if ready, you are welcome to complete the Final Report earlier than the **January 15, 2027** 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.

## Conclusion

### Application Deadline

The deadline to submit an application is **Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. PT** – Late proposals will be ineligible.

### Website Information

For more information about the Arts Infrastructure Program, please visit our website at: [Arts Infrastructure Program - First Peoples Cultural Council](#)

For information about all FPCC funding opportunities, please visit our website at: [fpcc.ca/grants](https://fpcc.ca/grants)

### Program Contact

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

Arts Program Coordinator, Megan Spencer

Email: [aip@fpcc.ca](mailto:aip@fpcc.ca)

General office phone: 250-893-9168

### Application Support

If you wish to receive one-on-one support on your application, please reach out to Arts Program staff two weeks prior to the closing deadline (March 5, 2026). Submit requests for one-on-one support to: [aip@fpcc.ca](mailto:aip@fpcc.ca).