



Music 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 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 Music 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 Adobe PDF Reader?

Desktop

To use an 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:** 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

Please use your mobile settings to convert text to speech for a PDF. Below is a link on how to change the settings in your devices.

iOS devices – [click here](#)

Android/Google devices – [click here](#)

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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.

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 Music Program staff at music@fpcc.ca.

Funders

The Music Program is supported by the Province of British Columbia through Creative BC and the 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

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.

Music Program Description and Objectives

The Music Program supports the development of B.C. First Nations music creatives and professionals residing in B.C. through grants and training programs.

The Music Program supports activities that can lead to professional development opportunities, knowledge transfer and community well-being.

This funding offers support in three priority areas:

1. Creation & Sharing

Objective: Supporting B.C. First Nations artists in music creation, performance, recording, touring and promotion.

Grant amount: up to \$20,000

2. Recording Engineers – Mentorship

Objective: Supporting B.C. First Nations emerging recording engineers who are operating an independent recording studio OR emerging recording engineers who have graduated from a recognized professional recording school or who have a minimum of one year experience in a recording studio. This priority area is to broaden knowledge, skills, networking and business opportunities within the B.C. music industry through mentorships based on direct participation in recording projects. Applicants may apply for up to 50% of their total grant request (to a maximum of \$15,000) for recording equipment and software enhancements.

Grant amount: up to \$30,000

3. Industry Professionals – Mentorship, Internship, Training

Objective: Supporting emerging B.C. First Nations music industry professionals in the roles of administrator, agent, promoter, manager, event organizer or presenter. This priority area includes short-term mentorship, internship and/or training and project support opportunities that will provide applicants with experience, skills and knowledge.

Grant amounts: up to \$20,000

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:

Creation & Sharing – Up to \$20,000
Recording Engineers – Up to \$30,000
Industry Professionals – Up to \$20,000

Funding term: Projects can take place anytime between **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 Program staff via email at music@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 requesting one-on-one support is **February 19, 2026**, two weeks before the application deadline.

Application Criteria

Eligible Applicants

The FPCC Music Program supports projects by **B.C. First Nations individuals** as per our legislated mandate.

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.

Eligible applicants include:

- B.C. First Nations individuals with previous experience or a personal mandate that demonstrates a commitment to your creative practice or profession in the arts
- 19 years of age or older
- 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.
- 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

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 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
- Individuals with an active FPCC Arts Program grant
- For a full list of ineligible applicants, please refer to the [FPCC General Funding Guidelines](#) on page 7

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 questions about this submission, or with information about subsequent applications.

- **Your B.C. First Nations identity.** Describe your relationship of belonging, ancestry, connection and/or lived experience with the B.C. First Nations community you identify.
- **For Creation & Sharing:** Creative story - share your creative journey and why you create
- **For Recording Engineers & Industry Professionals:** Describe your history in the recording arts, arts administration or cultural management and your goals in this project, mentorship or internship
- **Your artist resumé or bio**
- **For Recording Engineers & Industry Professionals:** If applicable, describe the host group, organization or recording studio; their history, those activities that demonstrate a commitment to the arts and artists as well as their commitment to career development and professional training for music industry professionals
- **Mentor information.** If there is a mentor involved in your project, include the mentor's resumé, bio or creative background and, if applicable, a list of previous sound recording projects.
- **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, resumé, 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 this project?
- How is your project respectful of Indigenous 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.
- For Recording Engineers purchasing equipment or software for your studio: Explain what you need and why. Provide details about the studio and its current recording equipment.
- **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, 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.
- **Samples of previous or related work for you and (if applicable) your mentor.**
 - Upload or link to a maximum of 5 minutes of sound or video recordings in mp3, mp4, or mov format
 - Please be selective. The review committee will only listen to a total of 5 minutes of audio.

- **A numbered list that clearly identifies and describes the samples of previous work.**
 - The numbered list should correspond with the numbers or names of your sound or video files and include information such as date, title 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 you and your proposed project.** 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. If the project involves a mentor or host organization, one of the letters must be from the mentor or host organization confirming and describing their participation in the project. 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
- **For Creation & Sharing, if you are applying for funds to support a tour or showcase, you must include:**
 - An official invitation or confirmation from an event, festival or showcase OR at least three confirmations (one from each community) for a contracted performance fee for a tour. All performances must be within Canada.
 - A marketing or outreach plan for the tour or showcase
 1. **Confirmations may include:**
 - Contracts, email confirmations (no text messages, Facebook messages, or similar) or agent-provided itineraries
 2. **Confirmations must clearly indicate the following:**
 - Name and contact information of the booker, date of confirmed performance, set length and a clear description of payment

Funding

Funding Amounts

- Creation & Sharing – Up to \$20,000
- Recording Engineers (Mentorship) – Up to \$30,000
- Industry Professionals (Internship, Mentorship, Training) – Up to \$20,000

Funding Term

The funding term for the Music 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!), Mentor, studio musicians, etc.
- **Elder and/or Knowledge Holder consultation fees**, even if unconfirmed, include names and explain amounts clearly in description boxes provided. Please refer to the standard rate in your community.
- **Equipment required for the project**, 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.
- **For Recording Engineer Mentorships:** Up to 50% of the requested grant amount to enhance or upgrade studio equipment and software to a maximum of \$15,000. All new equipment and software purchased by the applicant belongs to the apprentice applicant (the person receiving the mentorship). Quotes may be requested to support this budget item.

- **Materials and supplies**, such as gear rentals or strings
- **Travel, transportation and accommodation expenses** - make sure to include these activities in Project Description
- **For Creation & Sharing and Industry Professionals:** Space rentals for project activities
- **For Creation & Sharing:** Expenses related to sound recording, such as studio fees, gear rentals, producer fees, mixing and mastering to a maximum of \$10,000
- **For Creation & Sharing:** CD and vinyl manufacturing, up to 10% of funding request – this is a **FIRM** maximum
- **Administrative expenses directly related to the project activities** – up to 10% of funding request
- **Research & Training**, such as voice or instrument lessons, professional development workshops
- **For Creating & Sharing:** Expenses related to Promotion and Advertising, such as photography, digital media, websites, bio writing, publicity, video, promotional copies of a recording, social media marketing or radio promotion to a maximum of \$4,000. If more than \$4000 is required, provide details that support this need in the Project Description.
- **Other Project Costs**, such as childcare expenses for studio days
- **Expenses related directly to project activities**

Ineligible Expenses

- Expenses not directly related to the project
- Expenses that take place before the Music Program application deadline
- Business start-up costs, point of sale systems/websites, building a brand, business logo design and production of items intended for sale such as t-shirts
- Capital purchases, such as vehicles or costs associated with building or land improvement
- For a full list of ineligible expenses, please refer to the [FPCC General Funding Guidelines](#)

Peer Review Process

- Submitting a proposal does not guarantee funding
- Applications will be reviewed and evaluated for completeness and clarity
- 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 twelve 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

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 Music Program, please visit our website at:
[Music Program - First Peoples Cultural Council](#)

For information about all FPCC funding opportunities, please visit our website at: fpcc.ca/grants

Program Contact

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

Arts Program Coordinator, Koralee Tonack
Email: music@fpcc.ca
General office phone: 250-652-5952 ext. 132

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: music@fpcc.ca.