



FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL



Music Program

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 funding request is approved, the policies and information contained in this guide will be a useful resource.

This program is supported by Creative BC and the Province of British Columbia.



Note:

This document is optimized for accessibility purposes

How To Use The PDF Audio Reader?

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:** Go to the “View” menu at the top.
- **Activate Read Out Loud:** Select “Read Out Loud” and choose whether to read the entire document or just the current page.

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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 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 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

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 music@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 Descriptions And Funding Information

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:

Creation & Sharing

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

Grant amount: up to \$20,000

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

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

Program Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Applicants

- B.C. First Nations individuals with previous experience or a 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

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 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](#).

Expenses

Eligible Expenses – Music Program

- Salaries and wages - 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, include names and explain clearly in budget description
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- Honoraria - Fees and honoraria for collaboration with other artists, mentors and/or elders, explained clearly in budget description
- Travel, transportation and accommodation expenses
- Administrative expenses directly related to the project activities (up to 10% of total funded project)
- Equipment required for the project (with strong justification in project description, up to 20% of total funded project)
- Childcare expenses for studio days or other activities directly related to the project
- Rental of space and equipment required for project
- Mentor program costs
- Expenses related directly to project activities
- **For Creation & Sharing:** Expenses related to sound recording, such as studio rentals, gear rentals, producer fees, mixing and mastering to a maximum of \$10,000
- **For Creating & Sharing:** Expenses related to marketing and promotion, such as photography, digital media, websites, bio writing, publicity, video, social media marketing or radio promotion to a maximum of \$4,000
- **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.
- **For Music Industry Professionals:** Salaries & Wages, applicant stipend to a maximum of \$2,500 per month for a full-time program
- **For Music Industry Professionals:** Equipment purchase (camera, video camera, laptop, etc.) to a maximum of 25% of total funded project

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 formula used for the total amount requested.

Ineligible Expenses

- Expenses not directly related to the project
 - Expenses that take place before the Music 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 [FPCC 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 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.
- **For Creation & Sharing:** Tell us your creative story and journey (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/internship.
- **Your artist résumé or bio**
- **For Recording Engineers & Industry Professionals:** If applicable, describe the host group, organization or recording studio; their history (activities that demonstrate a commitment to the arts and artists) and 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 résumé, bio or creative background and, if applicable, a list of previous sound recording projects.
- **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 résumé, bio or description of their creative background. If applicable, provide a list of previous sound recording projects (for KEY participants only). 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?

Describe the community you have engaged 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?

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.
 - **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.
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- **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 support material.**
 - 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.** 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.

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

Confirmations may include:

- Contracts, email confirmations (no text messages, Facebook messages, or similar) or agent-provided itineraries

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
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Before You Apply

- Applicants are advised to first read through the [FPCC General Funding Guidelines](#), Music Program Guidelines and application form. We encourage you to discuss your project with Arts Program staff (arrange this discussion by emailing music@fpcc.ca). Applicants are encouraged to reach out well before the deadline and submitting your proposal.
- Project start dates must not fall before the deadline: **March 19, 2025**
- Project end dates must fall on or before **March 19, 2026**
- A Final Report is due one month after the project end date, no later than **April 19, 2026**
- If approved, payments will be made in two instalments: 80% of funding upon approval and receipt of a signed funding agreement and 20% of funding upon completion of the project and the approval of a final report with budget.
- If ready, you are welcome to complete the Final Report earlier than the April 19, 2026 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.
- 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.

Application Deadline

March 19, 2025 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, Koralee Tonack

Email: music@fpcc.ca

General office phone: 250-652-5952

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