



**FIRST PEOPLES'**  
CULTURAL COUNCIL



# Arts Strengthening 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 Strengthening 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.

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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](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 Strengthening Program staff at [asp@fpcc.ca](mailto:asp@fpcc.ca).

### Funders

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

## 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

## 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 Strengthening Program Description and Objectives

The FPCC Arts Strengthening Program supports B.C. First Nations arts revitalization opportunities for one-on-one arts mentorships or arts group knowledge transfer. Projects in this funding stream dedicate attention to the transfer of essential artistic and cultural knowledge to new generations of B.C. First Nations artists to support the continuation of significant cultural practices. There are two priority options when applying:

### 1. One-on-One Arts Mentorships

**Objective:** This option supports B.C. First Nations artist apprentices to pursue a **one-on-one mentorship** with an established artist mentor in their desired creative expression. The following are just some examples of the variety of eligible arts mentorship projects:

- A mentorship in ancestral tattooing methods
- An experienced mentor transferring knowledge, skills and teachings to a group of apprentices wanting to revitalize the practice of canoe carving and designing in their community
- A mentorship for further artistic development in acrylic painting
- A mentorship in creating regalia

**Grant amount: up to \$30,000**

### 2. Arts Group Knowledge Transfer

**Objective:** This option supports B.C. First Nations artists and B.C. First Nations-led arts and culture organizations in their arts revitalization efforts through **group workshops with an established mentor**. This option supports cultural creative expressions such as weaving, carving, beading, dancing, storytelling, regalia making and drumming. The following are examples of eligible knowledge transfer workshops:

- An experienced wood carving artist teaching 10 beginner wood carvers
- Reclaiming teachings through workshops that transfer braided cultural knowledge, weaving and language
- A mentor and Knowledge Holder sharing skills in drum making with eight participants
- Hosting workshops to create dance regalia

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

## 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:**

- One-on-One Mentorships – Up to \$30,000
- Group Knowledge Transfer – Up to \$50,000

**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 Strengthening Program staff via email at [asp@fpcc.ca](mailto:asp@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 the 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 Strengthening Program supports projects by **B.C. First Nations individuals** and **B.C. First Nations-led organizations** as per our legislated mandate. For organization applicants applying to the Arts Group Knowledge Transfer option, 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.

### 1. One-on-one arts mentorships:

- B.C. First Nations individuals. Applicants must be **17 years of age (with a guardian's signature)** or older.

### 2. Arts group knowledge transfer:

- B.C. First Nations individuals. Applicants must be **19 years of age** or older.
- 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

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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

- 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 by the deadline

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 [asp@fpcc.ca](mailto:asp@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 – For Organizations Only

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.

**If applying as an organization**, 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

- 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. If applying as an individual for a one-on-one mentorship, it is strongly advised that both the mentor and apprentice collaborate and submit one unified proposal. This demonstrates support and consensus for the proposed project and is designed with long-term inclusive goals in mind.

In addition, if applying as an organization for Arts Group Knowledge Transfer, only one application per band office, tribal council, or society/organization will be eligible for funding. 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, so it is strongly advised that applicants collaborate.

## 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.

- **If applying as an individual:**
  - Describe your relationship of belonging, ancestry, connection and/or lived experience with the B.C. First Nations community you identify with. We respect your privacy, therefore only share what you feel comfortable expressing to FPCC
  - Information about you as an artist, including a biography, CV, resumé, artist statement and/or additional information about you and your connection to your art form
  - Mentor information, including a biography, CV, resumé, artist statement and/or additional information about them and their connection to their art form
- **If applying as an organization to Group Knowledge Transfer:**
  - 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, including a biography, CV, resumé, artist statement and/or additional information about them and their connection to their art form
- **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/or 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 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, 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 from applicant artist(s) and mentor(s).**
  - Upload or link up to five minutes of selected video or audio in MP3, MP4, or MOV format, or three pages of writing
  - 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.
- **Letters of support.** Letters of support can help to demonstrate support of the project by recognized artists and creatives or cultural or community leaders within the B.C. First Nations communities you are connected to

**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 one-on-one arts mentorships, include **three** current letters of support:

- Letter from the applicant (apprentice) expressing their interest in pursuing this mentorship and detailing their commitment to the project
- Letter from the mentor expressing their interest in pursuing this mentorship and detailing their commitment to the project
- Letter of support for this mentorship from community, indicating the apprentice and the mentor have the support of the community

For arts group knowledge transfer, include **two** current letters of support:

- Letter from the mentor expressing their interest in and detailing their commitment to the project.
  - Letter of support for this project from a collaborator, industry peer, community member, or Knowledge Holder or anyone else you feel can speak to the project's creative goals.
- **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

- One-on-One Arts Mentorships – Up to \$30,000
- Arts Group Knowledge Transfer – Up to \$50,000

### Funding Term

The funding term for the Arts Strengthening 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 the budget description. For all project participants, including applicant (remember to pay yourself!), mentor, etc.
- **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**, 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.
- **Materials and supplies**
- **Travel, accommodation and transportation** – make sure to include these activities in the Project Description
- **Space rentals for project activities**
- **Administrative expenses directly related to the project activities** – up to 15% of funding request
- **Research and training**
- **Other project costs**, such as childcare expenses for activities directly related to the project

### For Group Knowledge Transfer – the following expenses are also eligible:

- 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.**
- Specialized tools required for the project (with strong justification in project description, up to 20% of funding request).

## Ineligible Expenses

- Expenses not directly related to the project
- Expenses that take place before the Arts Strengthening 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: [asp@fpcc.ca](mailto:asp@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 Nations 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 took place 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 Strengthening Program, please visit our website at: [Arts Strengthening 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: [asp@fpcc.ca](mailto:asp@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: [asp@fpcc.ca](mailto:asp@fpcc.ca).