



FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL



Arts Strengthening Program

2025 - 2026 Funding Guide

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

[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 retain 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 through a partnership with the BC Arts Council and a donation from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies.



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Supported by 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.

Table of Contents

A Note On Health And Wellness

FPCC General Funding Guidelines

FPCC Arts Program

Arts Strengthening Program

Planning for your Application

Program Description And Funding Information

One-on-One Arts Mentorships

Arts Group Knowledge Transfer

Program Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Applicants

Eligibility Documentation – for Organizations only

Ineligible Applicants

Collaboration Is Encouraged

Expenses

Eligible Expenses

Ineligible Expenses

Application Requirements

Before You Apply

Application Deadline

Program Contact

A Note On Health And Wellness

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

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

Following these guidelines will help us take care of one another and keep each other safe.

Please note:

- Please ensure your project proposal meets the requirements listed in this document.
- FPCC staff are here to assist program participants with unexpected and unplanned changes as a result of COVID-19 impacts on programs.
- We will do our best to share information and respond to changes together. If you have any questions, please contact program staff.

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 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

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

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

Planning for your Application

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

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

Please reach out to Arts Program staff if you have any questions about the application process, would like to discuss project planning and/or if you need support in completing your application.

The deadline for one-on-one support is March 5th, 2025.

Program Description And Funding Information

The 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:

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

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

Program Eligibility Criteria

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.

FPCC respects the rights of all First Nations to deliver services to their communities. To align with this, FPCC funding guidelines require that at least 75% of an organization's board members/directors be individuals who are members of or have ancestral connections to a B.C. First Nation.

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.

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.)

Eligible Applicants

Who is eligible to apply?

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 75% 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:

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 Councils¹
- Not-for-profit societies registered in B.C. in good standing and governed by B.C. First Nations individuals where at least 75% of directors are from recognized B.C. First Nations

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

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- B.C. First Nations–led museums and cultural spaces where at least 75% of directors are from recognized B.C. First Nations
 - Urban and off-reserve B.C. First Nations-led organizations where at least 75% 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.² 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 or a creative mandate that demonstrates a commitment to their practice
- Demonstrate the support of recognized artists, creatives and cultural or community leaders within B.C. First Nations communities they are connected to and that the project affects
- Submit only one application as an applicant to the Arts Program per deadline

Eligibility Documentation – for Organizations only

What kind of documentation is needed to confirm eligibility?

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 insurance
- 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

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.

²FPCC is unable to fund K-12 classroom activities or post-secondary accredited courses or tuition.

Ineligible Applicants

Who is not eligible to apply for this grant?

- Organizations or societies where less than 75% 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 FPCF. 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 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.

Expenses

Eligible Expenses

- Salaries and wages – must be project specific and explained clearly in budget description
 - Elder and/or Knowledge Holder consultation fees, include names and explain clearly in budget description
 - Fees and honoraria for collaboration with other artists, mentors and/or elders – explained clearly in budget description
 - Equipment required for the project (with strong justification in project description, up to 20% of funding request)
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- Childcare expenses for activities directly related to the project
- Materials and supplies
- Specialized tools required for the project (with strong justification in project description, up to 20% of funding request)
- Travel, accommodation and transportation
- Space rentals
- Administration costs (up to 15% of funding request)
- Research and training

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

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

Application Requirements

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

- A completed application form.
- The name of the key contact person. This individual must meet the eligibility criteria. The key contact person will be held responsible for the application and subsequent reporting.
- Your B.C. First Nations identity. Describe your lived experience, your relationship of belonging to the B.C. First Nations community you have identified with. Describe your history, connection, ancestry and ways that you hope to shift any disconnections that may exist.
- Applicant history.

For one-on-one arts mentorships, include the following:

- 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.
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For arts group knowledge transfer, include the following:

- A description of the applicant, organization, artistic mandate and plans. Include key participants' resumés, biographies or creative background, including artistic, educational and career accomplishments.
 - **Project Team Worksheet.** Fill out the FPCC Project Team Worksheet provided in the Grant Portal with details of your project team and outline each person's role in the project. For KEY participants, upload a resumé, bio or description of their creative background. If applicable, provide a list of previous sound recording projects (for KEY participants only).
 - **Project description.** Describe the project for which funds are being requested. Explain your project (who, what, when, where and how). Describe why it is important that you undertake your proposed project now. Include the following in your description:
 - A community engagement plan describing the community you have engaged or will engage with, including any B.C. First Nations governments, band councils or B.C. First Nations not-for-profit organizations.
 - A clear description of how this project is respectful of B.C. First Nations cultural protocols, traditions and Indigenous law.
 - **Workplan.** Please complete the detailed workplan provided in the Grant Portal, 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.
 - **A balanced 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, list the items and amounts that make up large sums.
 - **Samples of previous or related work from applicant artist(s) and mentor(s).**
 - Be selective with samples of work and include a maximum of 5 images; 5 minutes of select video or audio recordings in mp3, mp4, or mov format; or 3 pages of writing.
 - **A numbered list that clearly identifies and describes the samples.**
 - The numbered list should correspond with the numbers or names of your image files and include information such as date, title, materials, size and collaborators. In the case of collaborations and group performances, please identify the roles of participating artists in the work.
 - **Letters of support. All letters of support must be signed and dated. Signatures may be typed, handwritten or scanned.**
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For one-on-one arts mentorships, include **three** current letters of support:

- Letter from the applicant 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 a previous teacher or mentor who can speak to the applicant's character, goals, artistic potential and commitment to their creative expression.

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, community member, 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.

Before You Apply

- Applicants are advised to first read through the [FPCC General Funding Guidelines](#), Arts Strengthening Program Guidelines and application form. We encourage you to discuss your project with Arts Program staff (arrange this discussion by emailing asp@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 installments: 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.
 - **Please note:** You are welcome to complete the Final Report earlier than the April 19th 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.
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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, Nikki Rohani

Email: asp@fpcc.ca

General office phone: (250) 652-5952

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