



**FIRST PEOPLES'**  
CULTURAL COUNCIL



# Individual Artists 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 Individual Artists 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

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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 Individual Artists Program staff at [individualarts@fpcc.ca](mailto:individualarts@fpcc.ca).

### Funders

The Individual Artists program is supported by the Government of British Columbia through partnerships with the BC Arts Council and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. Arts scholarships offered within this program are made possible with the support of the BC Arts Council.

## 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

## Program Overview

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.

## Individual Artists Program Description and Objectives

The Individual Artists Program supports the artistic development of B.C. First Nations individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to their creative expression. This program supports artists to further develop their creative practice, present their work and/or explore new approaches or techniques. This program also supports arts education scholarships.

**\*Note:** if you are applying for a full-time one-on-one mentorship or for workshops, please apply to the [Arts Strengthening Program](#)

**\*\*Note:** if you are applying for primarily music-based activities, please apply to the [Music Program](#)

The Individual Artists Program offers funding for two types of activities:

- Individual Artists – Up to \$20,000
- Scholarships – Up to \$15,000

### Individual Artists

**Objective:** The Individual Artists Program supports artists in:

- Increasing their skills and knowledge
- Pursuing new approaches or techniques in their practice
- Gaining the recognition of their peers and community
- Developing a presentation of their artistic journey/history for their community (including but not limited to knowledge sharing events, community gatherings, gallery showings, digital platforms, performance, film)
- Spending more time with their creative expression

### Grant Maximum: \$20,000

The following examples illustrate some of the potential applications of this funding:

- Furthering or developing skills within your creative practice(s) through a specific project
- Dedicating time to testing an innovative approach to your work
- Expanding your repertoire and portfolio of works
- Supporting your community with your project
- Preparing for an event, gathering or opportunity where your work will be utilized or displayed

## Scholarship

**Objective:** The funding for post-secondary arts education will support applicants enrolled in an arts program at a post-secondary institution. Applicants must indicate the institution, program and number of semesters they have enrolled in.

The following examples illustrate some of the potential applications of this funding:

- Pursuit of post-secondary education in the arts through a semester-based program
- Pursuit of post-secondary education in the arts through an intensive program
- Pursuit of professional development training in your creative practice

**Grant Maximum: \$15,000**

## 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:**

Individual Artists – Up to \$20,000

Arts Scholarship – Up to \$15,000

**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 [individualarts@fpcc.ca](mailto:individualarts@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.

**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 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 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 requesting one-on-one support is February 19, 2026, two weeks before the application deadline.**

## Application Criteria

### Eligible Applicants

- BC. First Nations individuals with previous experience or a personal mandate that demonstrates a commitment to their creative expression. For example, carvers, storytellers, visual artists, choreographers, dancers, dance groups, performance artists, regalia creatives, weavers, writers, multi-media artists and sculptors.
- Must be 19 years of age or older
- Have been a resident of British Columbia for at least one year. If there is a question about whether an applicant lives in B.C., they may be asked to provide documentation. Proof of residency can include a valid B.C. services card, a valid B.C. driver's license or evidence of income taxes paid in the previous year as a B.C. resident.
- Have a project start date that is on or after the application deadline
- Have previous experience that demonstrates a commitment to their creative practice and ability to fulfil the project
- Demonstrate the support of recognized artists, creatives or cultural or community leaders within B.C. First Nations communities you are connected to, and the project affects
- Submit only one application as an applicant per deadline to the Arts Program

The FPCC Individual Artists 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.

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

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

## Scholarship Exceptions

- Applicants may be 17 or 18 with a guardian's signature
- Applicants may apply to both this Scholarship Program and the BC Arts Council Scholarship Program but, if successful in both, funding will not exceed the upper limit on a single program
- Applicants may attend any institution including those outside of the province but must be registered as a resident of British Columbia for at least one year prior to the application deadline. If there is a question about whether you live in British Columbia, you may be asked to provide documentation. Your proof of residency can include a valid British Columbia services card, a valid British Columbia driver's license or evidence of income taxes paid in the previous year as a British Columbia resident.
- Applicant will be enrolled in a post-secondary institution or courses at time of application and for the duration of the project timeline

## General Requirements

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

### Individual Artists:

- **A completed application form**
- **The name of the primary contact person.** This individual must meet the eligibility criteria. The primary contact person will be held 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. We respect your privacy, therefore only share what you feel comfortable expressing to FPCC.
- **Information about you as an artist** including a CV, resume, artist statements and/or additional information about yourself and your connection to your creative expression. This is an invitation to share your creative journey, why you create. An artist statement shares your motivation and

foundation, communicating about your connection to your creative expression.

- **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, contractors who will be involved in your project. If the applicant is the only member of the project team, please indicate this in the worksheet.
- For all KEY participants on the Project Team, upload CVs, resumés, bios or artist statements and/or more information about them and their connection to the project. Ensure that the people outlined here are included in the Workplan worksheet and Budget.
- **A project description detailing the objectives,** activities and participants (who, what, when, where and how). Your project description is a chance to show the peer review committee why this project is important to you, the art form, or your community – why it needs to happen now, the value, the viability and how it will 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.
- **A balanced project budget.** Fill in the table provided with details and a breakdown of anticipated expenses and, if applicable, funding you will receive from other sources. Please include as much detail as possible. For example, in the description boxes, list the items and amounts that make up large sums and demonstrate how you arrived at the number you are entering. Ensure that the people and activities outlined in the Project Team and Workplan worksheets are included in the Budget worksheet.
- **Samples of previous, related work for you and (if applicable) lead mentor.**
  - Upload or link a maximum of 5 images, 5 minutes of selected video or audio in MP3, MP4, or MOV format, or 3 pages of writing
  - Please be selective. The Peer Review Committee will only review up to the maximum amount.
- **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 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. Example: 1. Eagle, mask, alder wood, 1x2 feet, 2010. Collaborators include John Doe, Amy Doe.
- **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, one of the letters must be from the mentor confirming and describing their participation in the project. Letters of support can be from a mentor, a collaborator, another artist who practices your art form, a community member, a Knowledge Holder, or anyone else you feel can speak to your creative expression, the project and you as an artist.

**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, 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

### **Scholarship:**

- **A completed application form**
- **The name of the primary contact person.** This individual must meet the eligibility criteria. The primary contact person will be held 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. We respect your privacy, therefore only share what you feel comfortable expressing to FPCC.
- **Confirmation of enrollment.** A letter from your program confirming that you will be attending, or your class registration/schedule
- **Information about you as an artist** including a CV, resume, artist statements and/or additional information about yourself and your connection to your creative expression. This is an invitation to share your creative journey, why you create. An artist statement shares your motivation and foundation, communicating about your connection to your creative expression.
- Applicant **personal statement** explaining your learning goals
- 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?
- **A balanced project budget.** Fill in the table provided with details and a breakdown of 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.
- **Samples of applicant previous or related work**
  - Upload or link a maximum of 5 images, 5 minutes of selected video or audio in MP3, MP4, or MOV format, or 3 pages of writing
  - Please be selective. The Peer Review Committee will only review up to the maximum amount.
- **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. Example: *1. Eagle, mask, alder wood, 1x2 feet, 2010. Collaborators include John Doe, Amy Doe.*

- **One current letter of support for the applicant** and their proposed education plan. Letters of support can help to demonstrate support of the project by recognized artists and creatives or cultural or community leaders within B.C. First Nations communities you are connected to. Letters of support can be from a mentor, a collaborator, another artist who practices your art form, a community member, a Knowledge Holder, or anyone else you feel can speak to your art practice, the project and you as an artist.

**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, 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 educational plan, in a sentence or two

## Funding

### Funding Amounts

- Individual Artists – Up to \$20,000
- Arts Scholarship – Up to \$15,000

### Funding Term

The funding term for the Individual Artists 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

#### Individual Artists

- **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

#### Scholarship

If approved for Scholarship, 100% of funding will be distributed upon application approval and receipt of signed funding agreement.

## Eligible Expenses

**TIP:** 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 amounts requested.

- **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, technicians, contractors, other artists, etc.
- **Elder and/or Knowledge Holder consultation fees**, even if unconfirmed, include names and explain amounts clearly in budget description boxes provided. Please refer to the standard rate in your community
- **Travel**, transportation and accommodation
- **Project related materials** and supplies
- **Space rentals**
- **Research and training**
- **Childcare expenses** for activities directly related to the project
- **Equipment required for project** (up to 15% of total funded project unless a strong justification for more than 15% is provided in Project Description)
- **Specialized tools** required for the project, (up to 20% of total funded project unless a strong justification for more than 20% is provided in Project Description)
- **For Individual Artists only:** Administrative expenses directly related to project activities (up to 10% of total funded project)
- **For Individual Artists only:** Artist exhibition, presentation and/or touring expenses
- **Scholarships only:** Tuition, books and course materials

## Ineligible Expenses

- Expenses not directly related to the project you are applying for
- Expenses that take place before the Individual Artists Program application deadline (March 5, 2026)
- 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 record
- Capital purchases (including but not limited to vehicles, or costs associated with building or land improvement)
- Capital renovation costs
- Activities that take place in or involve public schools or public institutions

- **For Individual Artists only:** projects related to satisfying post-secondary education course requirements are ineligible. Please select Scholarships if this is the case.
- For a full list of ineligible expenses, please refer to the [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 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 Individual Artists Program, please visit our website at:  
[Individual Artists 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, Leah Anthony

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

General Office Phone: 250-652-5952

### 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:  
[individualarts@fpcc.ca](mailto:individualarts@fpcc.ca).