

Community Arts Fund 2026 Guidelines

The [Community Arts Fund](#) grant supports the planning, creation, and execution of projects that focus on building community through arts-related engagement. Individuals may apply to create projects that will help to build bridges of understanding, community confidence, and support in the City of Vancouver. Projects that serve the Downtown Eastside (DTES) community will receive special consideration as the fund was originally founded on supporting the DTES and has since expanded to reach the wider City of Vancouver community.

Deadline to apply: April 15, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. PST

Notification of Results: July 31, 2026

Grant Amount: Individuals can request up to **\$2,000**.

Depending on how funding is allocated to other projects, you may receive more or less funding than you originally applied for.

Application Limits: Individuals may apply to **1** project annually.

Who Can Apply?

Proposals are invited from individuals who meet all three of the following criteria:

1. Individuals who live in an address within Metro Vancouver.
2. Projects must serve communities within the City of Vancouver's geographic boundaries. *Projects that serve the DTES community will receive special consideration.*
3. Individuals must be 19 or older at the time of application.

What can I apply for?

The aim of the **Community Arts Fund** grant program is to facilitate and build bridges of understanding, community confidence, and support through

community arts. The grant supports projects that are focused on **at least two of the following priorities**:

- Improved confidence and pride of individuals and community members who participate in/view the project.
- Opportunities for artists or community members to learn and discover new skills and abilities.
- Increased youth and/or community collaboration and interactions via events and activities.
- A project that encourages reflections on self, culture, and community and/or highlights the strengths that different experiences and backgrounds provide to a community.

Examples of projects the Community Arts Fund has funded in the past:
<https://www.cacv.ca/community-arts-fund/community-arts-fund-projects/>

More eligibility information to keep in mind:

- Projects must occur between **September 1, 2026** and **September 1, 2027**.
- Projects should demonstrate primary impact within the City of Vancouver's geographic boundaries, although 50% of the fund is guaranteed to be distributed to projects that specifically serve the DTES community.
- It is encouraged that projects have diverse revenue sources, including volunteer time, in-kind donations, other funding, etc.
- Projects that are free to the public, accessible for people with disabilities, and/or available for an affordable price are prioritized.

Ineligible Activities:

- Projects submitted by someone under 18 years of age.
- Projects that satisfy a course requirement of an educational institution.
- On-going projects are not eligible unless there is a new component requiring funding.
- Capital expenditures, fundraising projects, and organizational operating expenses are not eligible.
- Projects that serve communities outside the geographic boundaries of the City of Vancouver.
- Projects submitted by organizations who have not or do not intend to pay fees to artists according to the standards of the arts sector.

Assessment Criteria

A committee will assess your application to the Community Arts Fund. No committee member will participate in the decision-making process for any applications from individuals with whom they have a personal relationship.

The Advisory Committee will consider each application on the weighted criteria listed below. It will recommend the allocation of funds to the Board of Directors of the Community Arts Council of Vancouver. The Committee will assess the following:

1) Community arts involvement (50%)

- A clear description of how the artistic component of the project will be facilitated.
- Demonstrated experience in community arts.
- Clear statements about compensation to project participants/collaborating artists, including professional fees.
- Demonstrated collaboration with one or more artists, community members, or community organizations.
- Commitment to and demonstrated ability to engage with diverse communities, neighbourhoods, groups, and people from diverse socio-economic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

2) Impact (25%)

The potential project has to impact the community by:

- Building community interest and knowledge of local arts.
- Aiding the community's artistic development, skills, and abilities.
- helping to build bridges of understanding and support within the City of Vancouver.
- Improving participating individuals' and community confidence and pride.

3) Project feasibility (25%)

- Ability and willingness to undertake and complete the project
- Demonstrated capacity to realize the project, including presentation of realistic budget assumptions and projections.

Payment & Final Report

If your application is accepted, we will be in contact to notify you of your grant's status

and the amount to be allocated to your project. 100% of the grant payment will be issued via e-transfer or cheque within 60 days of your written acceptance of the funding amount.

Photo and Video Documentation

Photo and video documentation of Community Arts Fund-supported projects ensures the future viability of the program by allowing us to demonstrate successes to donors and funders. The CACV requests the cooperation of successful projects in sharing promotional materials, photo and/or video documentation, and written testimonials from participants, where appropriate and with permission. In addition, lead artists, individuals, organizations, and participants of projects may be invited to be video-interviewed about their experiences for promotional videos created by the CACV, who will provide a professional videographer.

Recognition of Assistance

In recognition of funding, the support of the Community Arts Council of Vancouver (CACV) should be acknowledged in all promotional materials, both hard copy and online. The CACV logo or text-based equivalent must be used on posters, brochures, print ads and programs and used where possible on media releases and signs related to the funded project. As well, funded organizations with a website are encouraged to add a link to the [Community Arts Council of Vancouver's](#) website.

Contact information

All applicants are eligible for application assistance. If you are experiencing difficulty with your application, please contact us, and we will arrange for someone to help you.

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