SUPPORTING ARTISTIC PRACTICE:

Sector Innovation and Development

The **Sector Innovation and Development** component of *Supporting Artistic Practice* funds projects by Canadian and First Nations, Inuit and Métis arts professionals, cultural connectors, groups and organizations. These projects must grow and improve the arts sector. Grants encourage initiatives that strengthen and develop support for artists in Canada.

You can apply for:

* a project grant for a single project
* a composite grant for a 1-3 year grant for multiple projects.

You may be eligible for [Application Assistance](https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/application-assistance) to pay someone to help you with the application process if you are experiencing difficulty and self-identify as:

* an individual who is Deaf, hard of hearing, has a disability or is living with a mental illness
* a First Nations, Inuit or Métis individual facing language, geographic and/or cultural barriers.

**Grant type** –[project](http://canadacouncil.ca/glossary/project) or [composite](http://canadacouncil.ca/glossary/composite-grant)

**Deadline(s) and notification of results** – Consult the [Deadlines and Notifications of Results](https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/deadlines) page

**Grant amount**

* project requests – normally up to $50,000 (for higher amounts, see below)
* composite requests – normally up to $50,000 per year (for higher amounts, see below)

Higher amounts may be considered (up to $100 000 for project grants/up to $100 000 per year for composite grants) for activities that have elevated costs due to the duration of the project, increased access costs, number of people involved, and/or technical or other requirements related to the project. If you are requesting more than the normal maximum amount, you must justify the need for this level of support. If not adequately justified, the awarded amount may be reduced if the application is successful.

**Application limits**

* You can apply to this component twice per year (1 January to 31 December), but only 1 request can be for a composite grant. (Please see the [Deadlines and Notifications of Results](https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/deadlines) page for the Sector Innovation and Development composite deadline).
* Subject to the above, you can submit more than one application per deadline (either two projects or one project and one composite) as long as each one proposes a different, independent project.
* For project requests in this component: Each year (1 January to 31 December), you can receive grants totaling a maximum of $100 000.

# I want to apply – What else do I need to know?

If you have not already done so, you must register in the [portal](https://apply.canadacouncil.ca/Default2.aspx) at least 30 days before you want to apply.

# Applicants - Who can apply?

Types of potential applicants to this component include:

* Arts professionals and cultural connectors
* First Nations, Inuit or Métis arts/cultural professionals
* Artistic groups and collectives
* First Nations, Inuit or Métis groups or collectives
* Architectural groups and collectives
* Artistic organizations
* First Nations, Inuit or Métis organizations
* National arts service organizations
* Support groups, organizations and shared platforms
* Festivals, presenters and touring networks
* Book and magazine publishers
* Agencies and management service organizations

Your eligibility to apply to this component is determined by the approved profile created in the portal.

Targeted funding will be in place to ensure equitable support for applicants who have self-identified using the checkboxes in the Council’s portal as belonging to one of the Council’s designated priority groups, which include applicants from culturally diverse, Deaf and disability, official language minority, and Indigenous communities.

To be eligible for a composite grant, you must have received at least 1 composite or 2 project grants from the Canada Council in the last 5 years. This excludes grants from the following components: Professional Development, Small-Scale Activities, Travel, Representation and Promotion, Translation, Creation Accelerator, Frankfurt initiatives, Digital Originals, Digital Now, Digital Generator, COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund, Grow Stage 1 and the Canada-Korea Connections Fund. (Only Agents and Managers can include the Representation and Promotion component in their calculations of 2 grants in 5 years).

Organizations presently receiving core grants can submit applications for project grants that fall outside of the type or scope of activities usually undertaken by the organization. You are responsible for demonstrating how this project is outside of your regular activities and responds to the intended objectives of the component. Organizations presently receiving core grants are not eligible for composite grants.

# Activities - What can I apply for?

Projects in this component must fall within one of the following categories:

* **Advancing or developing practices in the arts sector:** adapting or exploring structures or systems, platform development (including digital), business or support models
* **Nurturing learning and continuous improvement:** mentoring or professional development for artists and arts workers, network building.
* **Gathering, collaborating and exchanging:** researching,sharing or publishing knowledge, networking.

Eligible activities: The planning, development and/or implementation of projects that support, strengthen, and/or improve the arts sector, including but not limited to:

* activities related to representation or management services for Canadian artists, groups or organizations
* production, management and platform (including digital) services for a number of Canadian artists, groups or organizations
* critical and/or interpretive publishing that supports the arts sector
* organizational development activities such as exploring new approaches to business models and management practices (see below)
* opportunities for shared learning and networking, resource exchange or other forms of collaboration (including mentorship programs)
* organizing conferences, symposia and workshops
* sector research
* implementing and adapting to new technologies

Organizations presently receiving core funding cannot apply for organizational development activities.

Organizations not presently receiving core funding and that have been validated as belonging to a designated priority group are welcome to apply for activities designed to build their organizational capacity. The designated priority groups include applicants from culturally diverse, Deaf and disability, official language minority, and Indigenous communities.

All proposed activities must have an impact in the arts community or sector beyond a personal gain or benefit to you, your group or organization.

**You can’t apply for** creation and presentation activities, activities that occur before the deadline date, those that receive funding from another Canada Council grant or those on the [general list of ineligible activities](http://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/guide/apply-to-programs/general-list-of-ineligible-activities).

# Expenses - What is eligible?

* Direct costs related to the activities
* Limited expenses for artistic creation in support of a larger sector development project (cannot exceed 10% of the total requested grant amount to a maximum of $5,000).
* Costs related to gifts or payment to Indigenous Elders and/or traditional knowledge keepers, ceremonies, etc.

**Ineligible activities and expenses:**

* ongoing core/operational support including regular permanent staff salaries/activities
* capital construction or renovation costs
* creating or updating personal, corporate, or institutional websites
* projects whose costs primarily focus on researching, creating, producing, or presenting artistic work or creations

For projects where the primary goal is artistic creation, production, or presentation, see the following programs: [Explore and Create](https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/explore-and-create) and/or [Creating, Knowing and Sharing: The Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples](https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/creating-knowing-sharing).

For projects that aim to increase connections with or build audiences through artistic presentations, see the [Arts Across Canada](https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/arts-across-canada) or [Creating, Knowing and Sharing: The Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples](https://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/creating-knowing-sharing) programs.

# Assessment - How are decisions made?

Your application to the **Sector Innovation and Development** component of *Supporting Artistic Practice* will be assessed by a [peer assessment committee](http://canadacouncil.ca/glossary/peer-assessment-committee) on the following weighted criteria, and must receive a minimum score **in each category** to be considered for a grant:

**Relevance 50%** (minimum score of 35 out of 50)

* The project rationale, including the context and need for your proposed activities or services
* The potential for innovation and/or increased sectoral support or collaboration in your proposed activities or services

**Impact 30%** (minimum score of 15 out of 30)

* The potential of the project to strengthen and develop the arts sector
* Accessibility of project activities or services to a broad and inclusive representation of your artistic community, particularly with regards to the engagement and inclusion of [Indigenous communities](https://canadacouncil.ca/glossary/indigenous), [culturally diverse groups](http://canadacouncil.ca/glossary/culturally-diverse-groups), people who are [Deaf or have disabilities](http://canadacouncil.ca/glossary/deaf-and-disability), and [official language minority communities](http://canadacouncil.ca/glossary/official-language-minority-communities)

**Feasibility 20%** (minimum score of 10 out of 20)

* The capacity and experience you and/or your partners have to undertake the project
* A reasonable budget, including other revenue sources and efficient use of resources

**Accessibility, equity, diversity, social justice, and decolonization (if applicable to the project)**

If your proposed project addresses challenges and gaps related to accessibility, equity, diversity, social justice, and decolonization, you must demonstrate that:

* appropriate cultural protocols for the community/communities involved are being observed
* you have the active participation, collaboration, involvement, and empowerment of the specific community/communities impacted by the project

**If your response to this criterion is not satisfactory, your application may be deemed unsuccessful.**

# Required information and support material - What you need to apply

Once registered in the portal, you will need to provide information about:

* the objectives, goals and justification of the need for your project
* current knowledge or practices within or outside of the sector, that relate to your project
* your project description (including its relevance to the sector, its intended outcomes, potential for impact/scalability/adaptability, and beneficiaries or audience)
* project plan, method, and plan for sharing results with the arts sector

You will also need to include:

* one-page project schedule (see required documents below)
* a detailed budget, including other sources of revenues and whether those have been confirmed or pending
* biographies of any consultants, workshop leaders or other key people leading the project
* confirmation of support or involvement from any project partners or other contributors (financial or in-kind support and letters confirming the role of each partner in the project)
* bibliographies, executive summaries or recommendations from relevant reports (feasibility studies, needs analysis, survey results, etc.), if applicable
* for projects that involve groups identified in the assessment criteria, you may include a maximum of 3 additional letters of support that demonstrate community collaboration, and engagement, and that appropriate cultural protocols are being observed

# Grant payment and final reports

If your application is successful, the first step in receiving your grant payment is to complete the Grant Acceptance Form. Click [here](http://canadacouncil.ca/funding/grants/guide/if-you-receive-a-grant) for more information on the responsibilities of grant recipients.

A final report will be due 3 months after you complete the project. Please note that further funding cannot be released until all overdue final reports have been received and approved.

# Contact information

You are encouraged to speak with a [Canada Council program officer](mailto:supportingartisticpractice@canadacouncil.ca) at least 2 weeks prior to the deadline before submitting an application to this component for the first time.

PREVIEW: Application Form

This is not an official application form. You must use the portal to apply.

Use simple text formatting if you prepare your application outside of the portal. Formatted text uses additional characters, and some formatting may be lost when copied over.

**\*** = required

## GRANT DESCRIPTION

1. **Give your application a name.** (approximately 10 words) **\***

The name you provide is for your reference and will identify this grant application in your dashboard.

1. **For groups and organizations, provide the name of the contact person responsible for this application.**
2. **Provide a one-sentence summary of your proposed project.** If possible, use the format ACTIVITY and DATES. (approximately 25 words) **\***

For example, “To offer a mentorship program to emerging artists from day/month to day/month.”

This summary will be used in the Canada Council’s official reporting.

1. **Start date \***

This date must be after the deadline date.

1. **End date \***
2. **Grant type \***

🞆 **Project** 🞆 **Composite**

To be eligible for a composite grant, you must have received at least 1 composite or 2 project grants from the Canada Council in the last 5 years. This excludes grants from the following components: Professional Development, Small-Scale Activities, Travel, Representation and Promotion, Translation, Creation Accelerator, Frankfurt initiatives, Digital Originals, Digital Now, Digital Generator COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund, Grow Stage 1 and the Canada-Korea Connections Fund. (Only Agents and Managers can include the Representation and Promotion component in their calculations of 2 grants in 5 years).

1. **Select the option that best describes the type of project you are proposing: \***  
   ☐ **Advancing or developing practices in the arts sector:** adapting or exploring structures or systems, platform development (including digital), business or support models

☐ **Nurturing learning and continuous improvement:** mentoring or professional development for artists and arts workers, network building

☐ **Gathering, collaborating and exchanging:** researching, sharing or publishing knowledge, networking

☐ **Other**

1. **If you have selected Other, provide an identifier that best describes your project type.** (approximately 10 words)

This information helps the Canada Council collect data on the types of projects submitted in this component.

1. **Referring to the Overview section, describe your proposed activities or services and explain why you wish to undertake them, including the project’s goals and expected outcomes. What needs or gaps are being filled and how are these being addressed in a way that is either innovative or that fosters increased sectoral support and collaboration? Who will be the primary beneficiaries? Refer to any research, reports, or prior experience that support undertaking these activities or services.** (Project – approximately 750 words; Composite – approximately 1000 words). **\***
2. **For organizations currently receiving core grants, explain how the proposed activities or services fall outside of the type or scope of your regular activities.** (approximately 250 words).
3. **How does your project propose to strengthen and develop practices in the arts sector? For projects proposing organizational development activities, how does your project propose to strengthen and develop the organization itself and how will this be shared with the arts sector?** (approximately 250 words) **\***
4. **How does your project propose to benefit a broad and inclusive representation of your artistic community, particularly with regards to the engagement and inclusion of Indigenous communities, culturally diverse groups, people who are Deaf or have disabilities, and official language minority communities?** (approximately 250 words) **\***
5. **Briefly describe the capacity and experience you and/or your partners have, or how you feel you are ready to undertake these activities.** (approximately 250 words) **\***
6. **If your proposed activity addresses challenges or opportunities related to accessibility, equity, diversity, social justice, or decolonization, describe your relationship to these communities.  How will you ensure that appropriate cultural protocols are being observed? How will you ensure that you have the active participation, collaboration, involvement, and empowerment of the specific community/communities impacted by the project?** (approximately 250 words)
7. **If your proposed activity touches upon Indigenous traditional knowledge, linguistic or cultural intellectual property, describe your relationship to this content and how appropriate protocols are/will be observed or addressed.** (approximately 100 words)
8. **If there is anything that has not been asked that is essential to understanding your application, provide it here.** (approximately 250 words)

Do not use this space to provide additional information related to earlier questions.

1. **You are responsible for complying with any regional and/or national public health and travel measures when carrying out activities funded by the Canada Council. If there are currently public health or travel measures that impact your project, describe what precautions you are taking to comply with these measures.** (approximately 250 words)

## BUDGET AND APPENDICES

1. **Complete the Budget and Appendices document. \***
2. **Grant amount requested \***

Normally, up to $50 000 (or $50 000 **per year** for composite grants).

Higher amounts may be considered (up to $100 000 for project grants/up to $100 000 per year for composite grants) for activities that have elevated costs due to the duration of the project, increased access costs, number of people involved, and/or technical or other requirements related to the project. If you are requesting more than the normal maximum amount, you must justify the need for this level of support. If not adequately justified, the awarded amount may be reduced if the application is successful.

This amount must match the requested amount in your completed budget. Do not include expenses that are not eligible in this component.

If your application is successful, you might not be awarded the full amount requested.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. **Attach a single PDF document (maximum 4 pages) with biographies of consultants, Indigenous Elders, workshop leaders, or other key people leading the project. \***
2. **Attach a single PDF document (maximum 4 pages, either text or table) with information about the partners or other project collaborators, along with confirmation of their support or involvement, if applicable.**
3. **Attach bibliographies, executive summaries or recommendations from relevant reports (feasibility studies, needs analysis, survey results, etc.), if applicable**. Do not include the full report.
4. **For projects that involve groups identified in the assessment criteria, you may attach a maximum of 3 letters of support that demonstrate community collaboration and engagement** **and that appropriate cultural protocols are being observed.** (maximum one page per letter).
5. **Attach a 1-page project schedule demonstrating the steps that you will go through to complete your project. \***