



# Guidelines 2026-2027

Community Presenters Assistance (CPA) is a partnership program of the BC Live Performance Network, the Province of BC, and the BC Arts Council.

CPA supports professional fees for artists who tour the performing arts across British Columbia. Support is provided through grants to BC-based non-profit arts organizations that host a series or season of performing arts events in their communities to create a vibrant touring network throughout the province.

## Guidelines & Application

Guidelines are reviewed and updated annually. Be sure you are working with the most current version.

<https://bclive.ca/programs/community-presenters-assistance/>

**Deadline to apply: Monday, June 15, 2026 by 5:00 pm (PT)**

BC Live supports the BC Arts Council's New Foundations & Extending Foundations: Action Plan and is committed to the principles of equity, diversity, accessibility, and truth and reconciliation in all of our programs.

[Read about their designated priority groups here.](#)

The BC Arts Council prioritizes these groups through strategic measures, dedicated programs, funding prioritization, and other equity support initiatives.

## QUESTIONS?

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We acknowledge that our office is situated on land sacred to these four nations: The Sinixt, the Secwepemc, the Syilx Okanagan, and the Ktunaxa and is home to many diverse Indigenous people. We are grateful for our relationships with Indigenous peoples, which continue to develop through our work together.



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ARTS COUNCIL



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

Supported by the Province of British Columbia

## Eligible applicants can apply for up \$20,000

### General Criteria: Applicants must

- Be a community-based arts organization (i.e. arts must be the primary objective described in your organization's incorporation documents).
- Be a current registered not-for-profit society in BC.
- Present an artistically diverse program of **no less than three eligible performing arts events on an annual basis.**
- Compensate artists at professional rates.
- Apply for programming between **June 15, 2026, and June 14, 2027.**
- Demonstrate through recent previous activity the ability to successfully realize a program of comparable scale and complexity.
- Provide financial statements for your most recent year-end.
- Have submitted final reports for any previous funding.
- Provide safe and respectful working conditions and foster a workplace free from discrimination, harassment and misconduct.

### Exclusions - Applicants

The following are not eligible:

- Applicants or activities based in the municipalities of Vancouver and Victoria.
- Organizations whose primary purpose is to produce/present their own work.
- Programming that is focused on creating or commissioning work.
- Festival programming is not eligible. To be eligible, festivals must present at least three eligible performing arts events annually as part of a series or season.
- Programming presented outside of the eligible activity period.
- Applicants who have previously received funding but did not complete their proposed activity, and/or those who have not submitted a final report, are not eligible to apply.
- **Applicants should also review Exclusions: Artists/Performances (page 3).**

#### First Time Applying?

Applicants should consult with the Program Manager to confirm eligibility before submitting an application. Applications that do not meet eligibility criteria will not be forwarded to the panel for assessment.

## EXCLUSIONS - Artists & Performances

The following may be listed as part of your series/season but are not eligible for funding:

- Programming already supported by the BC Arts Council or the Into the Act program.
- Non-Canadian artists.
- Non-professional artists/groups that do not pay artists at professional rates, e.g. community choirs or dance groups.
- Highly commercial artists who have achieved significant financial success in their careers. They may be well known to audiences and in high demand to perform.
- Any/all non-performing presentations (e.g. films, readings, lectures, fashion shows).
- Cover or tribute bands that lack originality, are not unique or creative.
- Splits of the door where no guaranteed professional fee is contracted.
- Artists appearing in a series for more than two consecutive years.
- Performances in which staff from the applicant organization are paid to perform.
- Performances that are part of a competition, conference, gala, fundraising event, or family celebrations or religious celebrations (note family does not refer to Family Day programming).

## Maximum Assistance

**Applicants are eligible to apply for up to \$20,000.**

Artists must reside, work, and create in BC or Canada to be eligible. If a company or band includes a combination of BC/Canadian and international members, the majority must reside, work, and create in BC or Canada to be eligible.

The eligible amount is based on the following formula for professional artists' fees:

- **50% of fees for BC artists, to a maximum of \$5,000 per event.**
- **50% of fees for Canadian artists, to a maximum of \$5,000 per event.**
- **Non-Canadian artists or non-professional artists are not eligible.**

Demand for funding significantly exceeds the available resources. Applicants should review funding priorities. Receiving funding in previous years, even for multiple consecutive years, does not guarantee funding.

Please note that successful applicants may not receive the full amount requested. The assessment panel will determine the award level based on the criteria.

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### Confidentiality of Information

The collection, use, and disclosure of personal information are subject to the privacy provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Your organization's application and information will be shared in confidence with assessment panel members.

### Recognition of Assistance

In recognition of support, the BC Live, BC Arts Council, and the Province of BC must be acknowledged in all promotional materials. Logos should be used on posters, programs, media releases, signage, websites and social media. Logos are available at [bclive.ca](http://bclive.ca) and [bcartscouncil.ca](http://bcartscouncil.ca). Links will be provided to successful applicants.

## Assessment Criteria and Scoring Guidelines

This is the most critical section of the application. A peer assessment panel evaluates and scores applications based on the following:

### Contribution and Significance (33.3% of your score)

- What is your artistic vision for your programming, and what methods and approaches do you use to realize that vision?
- What efforts do you make to program boundary-pushing, new, and inspiring work that supports the development of the performing arts and artists?
- Please provide examples of how your programming reflects a commitment to equity, diversity, accessibility, and building respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

### Engagement and Impact (33.3% of your score)

- Describe how your programming creates meaningful opportunities for engagement with artists, including those from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented communities.
- Describe how your programming creates opportunities for engagement with your audiences and community. This can include a range of interactive and educational activities that enhance the impact of your work, such as reaching underserved or new audiences.
- How do you measure the effectiveness of your engagement initiatives throughout the season, and how is this used to improve future programming?

### Capacity & Feasibility (33.3% of your score)

- Please describe the resources you have available, including financial, operational, staff or volunteers, to support your presenting activity, and explain how your series/season is positioned for long-term sustainability.
- Describe how your organization addresses diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Describe the quality of working conditions for artists and cultural workers, including fair remuneration, equitable employment, safety, and respectful work environments.

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## Process & Timeline

- Applications will be acknowledged upon receipt. They are then reviewed for completeness and accuracy.
- Applicants may be contacted for clarification as needed. Applicants are responsible for submitting a completed application with the required supporting materials.
- A panel of peers from the arts community reviews and evaluates applications and allocates funding. BC Live staff do not participate in the assessment or funding decisions.
- Applicants will be informed of the results within 14 weeks of applying and will receive the award after notification. Performances may be funded retroactively, i.e. after they have occurred.

## Application Requirements

### Financial Statements must include:

- Balance Sheet, Income Statement and notes from the most recent year-end.
- Artists' fees should be a separate line item and identifiable in your statements.
- Breakdown of operating net assets, distinguishing between unrestricted net assets and capital assets.
- Signatures of two board members of the organization, demonstrating board approval.
- Samples of a Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expense Statement (Income Statement) are available through [Community Gaming Grants application resources](#), under Example Documents.

## What to Submit

**Applications must be submitted by June 15 at 5 pm PT with financial statements.**

- Completed application using the online application. Note that NO signatures are required.
- Please list all presentations, including the artists' and show names (if applicable). All proposed performance dates must be within the eligible activity period of June 15, 2026 and June 14, 2027.
- Attach your most recent Financial Statements (see above). Do not submit any additional material as it will not be reviewed.
- Submit a Final Report regarding funding previously awarded in this program. This report must be submitted prior to or with your application. Submissions without will be considered incomplete and will not be forwarded to the panel for assessment. As part of your report, you are required to submit images and/or video, as well as testimonials from participating artists and audiences.

**WHERE TO SUBMIT - [CLICK HERE FOR THE APPLICATION](#)**

**Submit your application with attachments by Monday, June 15 at 5:00 pm (PT).**

Applications received are acknowledged. Please note that applications must include support materials and final reports (if applicable) to be eligible.