

Into^{the}Act

Guidelines 2026-2027

Into the Act is a partnership program of the BC Live Performance Network, The Province of BC and the BC Arts Council.

The program provides support to presenters and arts festivals in BC to engage early-career artists across all disciplines and genres.

Guidelines & Application

Guidelines are reviewed and updated before every intake. Be sure you are working with the most current version.

<https://bclive.ca/programs/into-the-act/>

Deadline to Apply: Friday, May 29, 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 more 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.



Supported by the Province of British Columbia

Into the Act invites applications from BC non-profit performing arts presenters, including arts and culture festivals.

Into the Act provides **up to \$10,000 in financial assistance** to BC-based presenters to create opportunities for early-career artists from all disciplines and genres. The program offers early-career artists who live, work, and practice in Canada opportunities to work with presenters and other artists, reach new audiences, and gain practical experience and knowledge about touring and presenting in BC.

Awards are based on the above, as well as:

- A qualitative assessment of the applicant's presenting history.
- 100% of your request must be used to pay early-career artists' fees and expenses associated with touring (only travel and accommodation are eligible expenses).
- Proposed activity must occur between **May 30, 2026 and May 28, 2027**.
- There is only one intake per year.
- Applicants or activities based in the municipalities of Vancouver and Victoria are *not* eligible to apply. Additional exclusions can be found under Exclusions.

Program Activity

- ▶ Eligible applicants can apply to engage early-career artists for the following.
To open for mainstage artists as part of a series, season, or arts & cultural festival, OR engage early career artists as part of a showcase, special event, or tour of BC.

Eligible Activity

- Provides opportunities for early-career Canadian artists, with an emphasis on those who present artistically and culturally diverse artists, including Indigenous artists.
- A definition of early-career artists is on page 3.
- Applications may include venues such as lobbies or public spaces.
- Applicants should identify all proposed artists in the application, including early-career and main-stage artists (if applicable).

First Time Applying?

Applicants are encouraged to 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.

General Criteria

Applicants must

- Be a community-based arts organization (i.e. arts must be the primary objective described in an organization’s incorporation documents);
- Be a registered not-for-profit society in BC with a minimum of one year of presenting activity;
- Demonstrate, through previous activity, an ability to 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.

► Presenters must be

- A BC-based non-profit performing arts presenter that presents a series or season of live performing arts events with artists who are paid professional rates.
- Organizations whose primary purpose is to produce/present their own work are not eligible.

► Arts & Cultural Festivals must

- Engage professional artists who are paid at standard industry rates.
- Arts & cultural festivals being presented for the first time are not eligible.

Definition of early-career artists

- **To be eligible, early-career artists must live and work in Canada.**
- **They must demonstrate competency in the basic techniques of their artistic practice and are in the early stages of launching a professional career.**
- **They may have reached a critical moment in their career, and they will use this opportunity to expand their audience and propel themselves into the next phase.**
- **Where an artistic company/band is proposed, the majority must be early-career artists.**

Exclusions: Not eligible

- Programming already supported by the BC Arts Council or the Community Presenter Assistance program.
- Applicants or activities based in the municipalities of Vancouver and Victoria.
- Non-Canadian artists.
- Non-professional artists/groups that do not pay artists at professional rates, e.g. community choirs or dance groups.
- Programming that is primarily focused on creating or commissioning work.
- Any/all non-performing presentations (e.g. films, readings, 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, family celebration, or religious celebration (note that family does not refer to Family Day programming).

Maximum Assistance - up to \$10,000 per applicant

- 100% of your request must be used to pay artists' fees and expenses associated with touring (only travel and accommodation are eligible expenses).
- Proposed fees for early-career artists must be at a professional rate.

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.

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 application will be shared with assessment panel members in confidence.

Recognition of Assistance

In recognition of funding support, BC Live, BC Arts Council, and the Province of BC must be acknowledged in all promotional materials. Logos and graphics standards are available online at bclive.ca and bcartscouncil.ca. Links will be provided to successful applicants.

Assessment Criteria and Scoring Guidelines

Applications are evaluated by a peer assessment panel. Address each section below in the narrative of your application (500 words each). The panel scores applications based on the following:

Engagement of early-career Artists (25% of score)

- Your application should provide details of your proposed presentation(s).

Benefits to Early-Career Artists (50% of score)

- Applicants should clearly outline the opportunities available to early-career artists, such as collaborating with presenters, engaging with other artists, and gaining practical experience and knowledge related to touring and presenting.

Approach to Programming & Anticipated Outcomes (25% of score)

- Outline your artistic vision for programming early-career artists and what methods and approaches you use to realize that vision. Applicants should include the expected outcomes and how this opportunity would expand or diversify audiences for early-career artists.

Process & Timeline

- Applications are acknowledged and reviewed for completeness and accuracy.
- Applicants may be contacted for clarification as needed. The applicant is responsible for submitting a completed application with support materials.
- We convene a panel of peers from the performing arts community to review applications, evaluate, and allocate funding. BC Live staff do not assess or allocate funding.
- Applicants will be informed of the result within 12 weeks of applying and, if successful, will receive the award upon notification. Events may be funded retroactively, i.e. after they have occurred.

Resources are available at:

bclive.ca/programs/into-the-act/

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 the deadline with support materials.

- Completed application with fees listed for early-career artists.
- A biography or description for all proposed early-career artists (maximum of 200 words per artist). You may submit as a separate document (Word/Pages file or PDF).
- Attach your most recent Financial Statements. Do not submit any additional material that is not requested as part of your application e.g. images, posters, new articles, etc.
- Submit a Final Report regarding funding previously awarded. This report must be submitted prior to or with your application. As part of your report, you are required to submit images and/or videos, as well as testimonials from artists and audiences. Submissions without a final report will be considered incomplete and will not be forwarded to the panel for assessment.

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

Submit your application with attachments by **Friday, May 29, 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.