

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 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 for funding support. Additional exclusions can be found under Exclusions.

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.

Eligibility

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.

Program Activity

Eligible applicants can apply to engage early-career artists for the following.

To open for mainstage acts as part of a series, season, or 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.
- 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).

Exclusions: Not eligible for funding support

- 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, or family celebrations or religious celebrations (note family does not refer to Family Day programming).

Questions/Contact: Sheryl McGraw, Program Manager
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