



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada

# Funding Opportunities for Media Artists

Bringing the arts to life  
L'art au cœur de nos vies

## Land Acknowledgement

---

The Canada Council for the Arts acknowledges that our offices, located in Ottawa, are on the unceded, unsurrendered Territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation whose presence here reaches back to time immemorial.



**Getting Started**  
*Creating an Account*

# How and where to apply

The screenshot shows the top navigation and main content area of the Canada Council for the Arts website. The browser's address bar at the top left shows the URL <https://canadacouncil.ca>. The website logo, featuring a stylized tree and the text "Canada Council for the Arts" and "Conseil des arts du Canada", is positioned on the left. A horizontal menu on the right includes links for "ACCESSIBILITY", "PRESS", "CAREERS", "CONTACT", and "FRANÇAIS". Below the logo, a secondary menu lists "FUNDING", "INITIATIVES", "COMMITMENTS", "SPOTLIGHT", "RESEARCH", and "ABOUT". A search bar with a magnifying glass icon is located to the right of the secondary menu, and a "PORTAL" button with a right-pointing arrow is highlighted with a red box. The main content area has a light blue background and features the heading "Bringing the arts to life" in large blue text. Below the heading is a paragraph: "We're proud to be Canada's public arts funder. We champion and invest in artistic excellence through our grants, services, prizes and payments to Canadian artists and arts organizations." At the bottom, there are three white boxes, each with a title and a button with a right-pointing arrow: "Register on the portal" with "Create your account", "Discover your options" with "Explore our grant programs", and "What you need to know" with "Consult the FAQ".

<https://canadacouncil.ca>

Canada Council for the Arts / Conseil des arts du Canada

ACCESSIBILITY PRESS CAREERS CONTACT FRANÇAIS

FUNDING INITIATIVES COMMITMENTS SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH ABOUT

Search [→ PORTAL](#)

## Bringing the arts to life

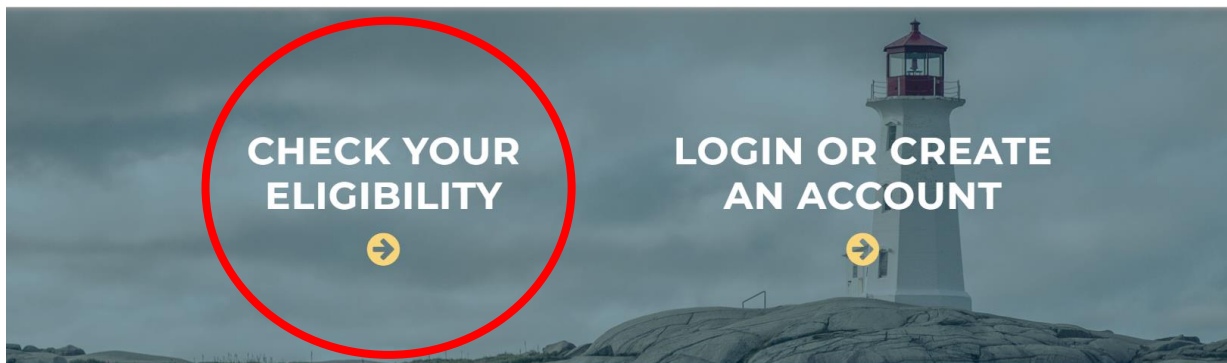
We're proud to be Canada's public arts funder. We champion and invest in artistic excellence through our grants, services, prizes and payments to Canadian artists and arts organizations.

Register on the portal  
Create your account [→](#)

Discover your options  
Explore our grant programs [→](#)

What you need to know  
Consult the FAQ [→](#)

# How and where to apply



The Path of an Application  
Click through to learn more about the granting process



<https://apply.canadacouncil.ca/>

For the Canada Council, media arts are understood as new media and moving images (film and video) practices. These practices are considered broadly; for example, moving image works may be single or multi-channel, expanded cinema, or installation based. New media art includes practices that involve digital art, social media art, interactive installation, immersive and interactive environment, web-based art, database art, bio art, and robotics. For any artwork to be considered a media artwork, the work must have a significant portion that is media arts.

The Canada Council funds works where the artist (in the case of moving images, the director) initiates and drives the project while maintaining complete creative and editorial control at all times. The Council does not support work intended for the creative industries of film, television and video games.

Artists may seek funding from other sources, provided that funding does not compromise the independence of the project.

# Who can apply

---

Individuals, Groups and organizations can apply to Canada Council.

As an individual you must be:

- **Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada**, as defined by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- **18 years old +**
- **Professional artist** OR en route to becoming one (**New/Early Career Artists!**)

# Profiles

---

## Media Arts

- New and Early Career Artist
- Independent Media Artist
- Group or collective

## Indigenous Arts

- Aspiring Artist
- First Nation, Inuit, or Métis Artist



## Independent Media Artist

Independent media artists maintain a professional media arts practice (as defined by the Council).

To be eligible as an independent media artist, you must:

- be a professional artist
- have maintained a professional artistic practice for a minimum of 2 years (but not necessarily in consecutive months)
- have created a minimum of 1 independent media artwork presented professionally by a curator, programmer or programming committee made up of media arts professionals

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BEFORE APPLYING

- The artist, group or collective must maintain complete creative and editorial control over the work, ownership of the final work and receive a significant part of the revenues generated by the work
- Producers are not eligible; only the director of the artwork may apply
- Artists working with a production company must be the sole owner or full partner in the company
- Animators must be the principal animator of the project
- Works must be independent of the commercial industries of film, video and gaming and cannot be commissioned from other entities

### Do you self-identify with any of the following groups? (optional)

Based on your Applicant Type (Individual, Group, Organization), do you self-identify as culturally diverse, Deaf and/or disabled or belonging to an official language minority community?

The Canada Council has strategic measures for individuals, groups and organizations from these specific designated groups that have been underserved or experience barriers within the Canadian arts sector.

*If you would like to be considered for strategic measures, including special funding, you must self-identify by choosing one of the boxes below. This information is also collected for statistical and reporting purposes.*

Important note: For groups and organizations, this means your mandate and the majority (i.e. 51% or more) of your activities, artistic content, and financial and human resources are dedicated to one or more of these groups. Please complete and submit the [Diversity Tool](#) when you submit your Applicant Profile.

**Culturally Diverse**

People of African, Asian, Latin American, Middle Eastern and mixed racial heritage who have been historically disadvantaged as a group and may experience discrimination based on colour, culture and race.

**Deaf and/or have a disability**

Deaf: People with hearing loss, hard-of-hearing, oral-deaf, deaf-blind and late-deafened, many of whom identify as Culturally Deaf - sharing distinct sign languages, traditions, histories, and values.

Disability: People, with actual or perceived impairments, that experience discrimination and disadvantage, as a direct result of that impairment, or due to social, policy or environmental barriers. Impairments are physical, mental or learning conditions that have long-term, temporary or fluctuating effects.

Individuals who are Deaf or who have disabilities, including those living with mental illness, and require accommodation at any stage of the application process may be eligible for [additional assistance](#).

**Official Language Minority Community**

Groups of people whose maternal or chosen official language is not the majority language in their province or territory – in other words, Anglophones in Quebec and Francophones outside of Quebec.



# Available Grants

# Granting Program Components

## Grants

### Explore and Create

- Professional Development for Artists \*
- Research and Creation \*
- Concept to Realization \*

### Arts Across Canada

- Travel

### Arts Abroad

- Travel
- Residencies

*\*Available to New and Early career Artists*

### Creating, Knowing and Sharing: The Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples

- Travel
- Small-Scale Activities \*\*
- Short-Term Projects
- Long-Term Projects

*\*\*Available to Aspiring Artists*

## Strategic Funds and Initiatives

# Explore and Create

---

## Professional Development for Artists

The *Professional Development for Artists* component of Explore and Create supports the career growth of Canadian artists and artistic groups by encouraging participation in a wide range of development opportunities.

Grants fund activities that contribute to the professional advancement of Canadian artists working in all artistic disciplines.

Support for professional development activities and career advancement, including but not limited to: mentorships, internships, apprenticeships, specialized training, workshops.

*Grants up to \$10,000*

# Explore and Create

---

## Research and Creation

The *Research and Creation* component supports the initial stages of the creative process. Canadian artists, artistic groups and arts organizations can apply to develop and make creative works.

Grants provide support for creative research, creation and project development. *Research and Creation* grants can also be used for artistic residencies.

*Grants up to \$25,000, exceptionally up to \$50,000*

# Explore and Create

---

## Concept to Realization

The *Concept to Realization* component supports the full creative cycle – from the initial idea through to presentation, at any stage of the creative continuum. (NOTE: *Concept to Realization* grants must include the production and/or presentation of the work as part of the proposed activity.)

Canadian artists, groups and organizations can apply to create projects intended for presentation. Grants provide support for artistic research, creation, project development, remounts, production, post-production and presentation.

*Grants up to \$60,000, exceptionally up to \$100,000*

# Explore and Create

---

Artistic Merit 50% (minimum score of 35 out of 50)

- The artistic quality of your work
- The artistic rationale for your project
- The potential artistic outcomes

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

- The potential of the project to:
  - contribute to your or your group's artistic development
  - advance artistic practice
  - build public interest in and knowledge of the artistic practice

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

- Your capacity and experience to undertake the project
- A reasonable budget, including other revenue sources, efficient use of resources and the ability to provide adequate working conditions



# Arts Across Canada & Arts Abroad

---

## Travel

The Travel component funds travel for presentation, exhibition, artistic collaboration, networking and building market opportunities for Canadian artists.

Arts Abroad: Grants provide support to attend significant events outside of Canada and build international presence.

An invitation or meeting confirmation is required.

*Grants based on fixed amounts based on destination*

# Arts Abroad

---

## Residencies

The Residencies component funds activities linked to international artistic and cultural exchanges for Canadian artists. Grants support creative research, creation and networking activities within the context of an international residency.

You must be invited or selected by an international organization to participate in a residency of at least 1 week. *If you do not have an invitation or confirmation, you can apply to the [Explore and Create: Research and Creation](#) component.*

*Grants up to \$20,000*

# Application Cut-Off Dates

---

- For all discussed components you can submit at any time
- Funded activities must start after you submit your application
- Competition results are based on when you submit your application and the corresponding cut-off date
- Application limits: there a limits to how many applications you can submit each component per year, and to Council overall per year.



# Process and Tips

# ASSESSMENT

---

Most of Council's funding decisions are based on the recommendations of **peer assessment committees**, while some components are assessed by **internal committees** and assessed by Council staff. Both evaluate files based on our published assessment criteria.

Peer assessment committees:

- are composed of artists and arts professionals from across Canada who have the expertise required to assess applications
- are composed of diverse people with unique experience and insight. And who are knowledgeable of the milieu

# CRITERIA, CRITERIA, CRITERIA

---



ASSESSMENT  
CRITERIA?

- Each component has its own set of criteria
- Be aware of the scoring of weighted criteria
- Know what criteria each question is meant to address, and make sure that your answer responds to those criteria

# DON'T ASSUME THAT THE COMMITTEE...

---

...knows you, your work, your community,  
or your scene: context is key!

...can 'read between the lines': they can't  
assess what you don't tell them

...is cynical, or aloof, or looking for you to  
impress them with your fancy words.  
They want you to succeed, and they want  
you to write in your own authentic voice.

# GRANT APPLICATION – SUPPORT MATERIAL

---

Support material serves two purposes: it helps to reassure the jury about your abilities to do the project, and it helps the jury get a better artistic sense of your work and/or your current project.

For the first purpose, this can include resumes of collaborators, letters of support, partnership agreements and producer agreements.

For the second purpose, this means examples of your creative or cultural work. It can include written, visual or audio documentation, depending on the type of work that you do.

- Include current work/activities with a **relationship or relevance** to the grant application
- You may choose to include earlier work/ activities to provide **context** for your application
- You may choose samples of the work-in-progress/work being produced



# GRANT APPLICATION – SUPPORT MATERIAL

---

Be selective about the support materials you include. Peers will spend 10 – 15 minutes reviewing your material, and so you need to be strategic.

- Upload your materials in their order of importance, and the order you want them seen, since the peers might not review all of your material if there's too much
- If you upload full-length scripts or videos, be very clear which segments/pages you want the peers to see; better yet, just submit excerpts or edited clips
- If you're sending links, especially password-protected links, make sure the links and passwords work

# Contact us

---

- Council staff is here to help you!
- If you are uncertain about your application, criteria, eligibility, etc. please contact us
- Contact us as early as possible

## **Explore and Create**

[exploreandcreate@canadacouncil.ca](mailto:exploreandcreate@canadacouncil.ca)

1-800-263-5588, ext. 4031

## **Creating, Knowing and Sharing: The Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis People**

[creatingknowingandsharing@canadacouncil.ca](mailto:creatingknowingandsharing@canadacouncil.ca)

1-800-263-5588, ext. 4038

## **Arts Across Canada**

[artsacrosscanada@canadacouncil.ca](mailto:artsacrosscanada@canadacouncil.ca)

1-800-263-5588, ext. 4039

## **Arts Abroad**

[artsabroad@canadacouncil.ca](mailto:artsabroad@canadacouncil.ca)

1-800-263-5588, ext. 4074



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada

# Thank you!

Contact our staff at  
[canadacouncil.ca/contact](https://canadacouncil.ca/contact)

Megan Leduc & Michael Peterson

Program Officers – Explore and Create

[megan.leduc@canadacouncil.ca](mailto:megan.leduc@canadacouncil.ca) | [michael.peterson@canadacouncil.ca](mailto:michael.peterson@canadacouncil.ca)

[canadacouncil.ca](https://canadacouncil.ca) | [conseildesarts.ca](https://conseildesarts.ca)

