

Guidelines for Arts and Culture Grants

These guidelines explain what kinds of projects are considered within the field of Arts and Culture. Reading these guidelines will help you make an informed decision about your application.

These guidelines were revised 10 Aug 2017 – previous versions no longer apply.

What is the Arts and Culture field of interest?

The Arts and Culture field of interest supports projects that use social innovation to build healthy, vibrant, and livable communities across British Columbia. In this field of interest, we look for projects that seek to influence or change systemic behaviours that inhibit the growth of artistic, cultural and heritage activities among diverse cultural communities. See more about social innovation in the [What we fund](#) section of our website, and in our funding guidelines.

We offer three types of grants – Develop, Test, and Grow – for new and existing social innovations that have the potential to enrich, educate and inspire artistic, cultural and heritage appreciation in communities across British Columbia. See more about the [types of grants](#) we offer on our website, and in our funding guidelines.

What outcomes should we work towards?

Although your project will have its own unique outcomes, we are well-positioned to support projects that address underlying systemic root causes in at least one of the following broad outcome areas:

1. Increase the number of people who attend and participate in artistic and cultural offerings
 - Remove barriers to, and increase experiences of, diverse artistic, cultural and heritage practices and offerings
 - Encourage communities to participate in the preservation and animation of cultural heritage
 - Create interdisciplinary collaboration, including different cultures, experiences, practices, incomes, abilities and worldviews
2. Increase the employability and livelihoods of artists
 - Increase conditions for employment opportunities within the arts and culture sector
 - Inspire professional and aspiring artists to take risks, embrace new ideas and explore their artistic visions
 - Create artistic and cultural opportunities, including those that involve creative writing, architecture, music, ballet, painting and sculpture
 - Encourage an intergenerational transfer of skills and knowledge between artists of all ages

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What are the focus areas of this field?

We are especially interested in projects working towards either of the outcomes listed above that also have a focus on:

Artistic Excellence

We are looking for arts organizations with a proven track record in BC and with the organizational capacity to support their staff to strive for excellence. These organizations will also have a history of working with other sectors in the creation and production of artistic works. Their projects may span a broad range of artistic and cultural expressions and may include substantial interpretation or adaptation of an existing work.

Does dedicated funding support any specific areas?

A portion of the granting budget for the Arts and Culture field of interest is governed by the specific requests of donors. Priority funding is available to the following types of projects:

Community Poverty Reduction Fund

This fund is designated to address the root causes of poverty by supporting community-inspired social innovations. Supported projects will seek to understand better the underlying root causes of poverty, or will test the ability to influence the systemic behaviours that are creating or holding poverty in place, or will work to scale a proven innovation.

Employment and Training for People with Disabilities

Projects that focus on people living with a broad range of disabilities to:

- increase meaningful employment opportunities and raise the overall employment rate
- maintain or enhance career or entrepreneurship paths
- allow organizations supporting people with disabilities to build capacity, to learn and explore, and/or to transfer knowledge and learning to others

How is grant size determined?

Vancouver Foundation funds no more than 50% of the budget for a project, due to funding limitations. Both cash contributions and in-kind donations of services or goods for incurred expenses are considered valid matching funds. In most cases, Vancouver Foundation does not expect to be the sole external Funder connected to the project, nor the largest source of funding listed. Generally, grant sizes are based upon:

- grant amounts for past proposals of a similar nature
- the size of the total project budget
- the availability of funds during the current granting cycle

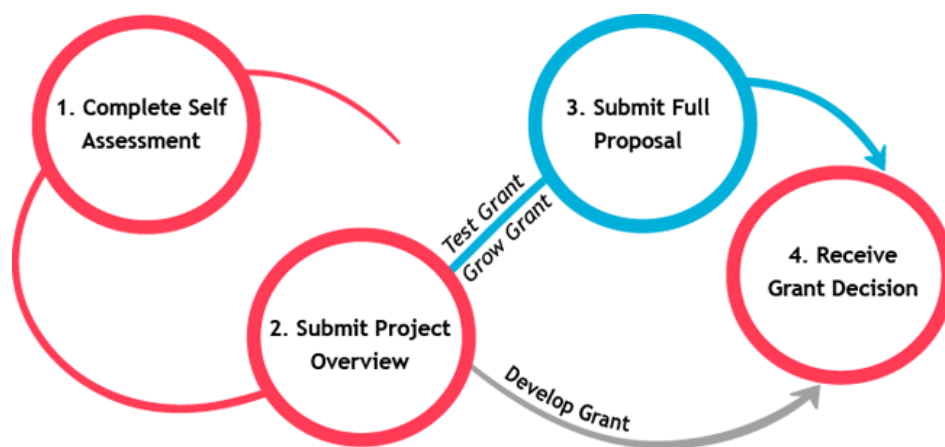
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Is my organization eligible?

Please check the [eligibility](#) section of our website and then take our eligibility quiz.

How do I apply?

You can apply for a Field of Interest Grant via a simple one or two stage online application process, depending on the type of grant you choose. Completing a self-assessment prior to submitting your application is the best way to increase your chance of receiving a grant.



1. Complete your Self-Assessment
 - ✓ Find out [what we fund](#)
 - ✓ Learn about the [fields of interest](#)
 - ✓ Choose a [type of grant](#) (Develop, Test, Grow)
 - ✓ Take the [eligibility quiz](#)
2. Submit your Project Overview (Online Application Form)
 - ✓ Select your Field of Interest and Type of Grant
 - ✓ Review the [submission deadlines](#)
 - ✓ Read the [application guide](#), to help prepare you to submit a proposal
 - ✓ Answer the online questions and estimate your project budget

If you submit a Test or Grow grant request and are invited forward to the next stage, you will then,

3. Submit a Full Proposal (Online Application Form + Support Documents)
 - ✓ Answer additional questions that build upon the information you provided in the project overview
 - ✓ Submit various supporting documents as requested by Vancouver Foundation
4. Receive a grant decision

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What is the role of Advisory Committees?

We review applications in partnership with our Advisory Committees - experts in this field of interest. Our advisory committee members help us to evaluate proposals and make funding recommendations.

Our advisory committee members generously volunteer their time and energy to help shape our work. These advisors also ensure that we remain in touch with the communities we serve. You can view a current [list of our Advisory Committee members](#) to find out more.

What about Copyright and Intellectual Property?

All submitted materials become the property of Vancouver Foundation, and may be shared with community advisors and/or other Funders at our sole discretion. A [list of approved grants](#) is made public on our website.

How do I find out more about Field of Interest Grants?

You can find out more about Vancouver Foundation's Field of Interest Grants by visiting our website at <http://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/field-interest-grants>.

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