

Community Investment Program MicroGrant Program

Sometimes timing is everything.

Edmonton's artists find and make opportunities to engage in valuable projects all the time. We also know projects have energy of their own, and don't always wait around for the next grant deadline. The MicroGrant Program gives the Edmonton Arts Council a way to invest in Edmonton artists and their timely projects.

With no set deadlines and grants up to \$1,000, a MicroGrant enables you to respond to opportunities quickly and provide an essential boost to a current project.

(Please note that this is a pilot program that will be reviewed regularly and may change without notice.)

Purpose

The MicroGrant Program, through the Edmonton Arts Council (EAC), invests in the success of Edmonton artists* (artist collectives/groups) by providing financial support for an existing, short-term project. The intent is to support specific hard-costs, providing momentum to projects that might otherwise fail for want of a small investment, and reducing some of the financial risk for the artist.

Funds can be invested in:

- projects that impact Edmonton audiences or strengthen connections with the Edmonton community
- a project that has commitments and is clearly in progress
- a short-term project
- specific hard costs to improve the viability or quality of the project, or its reach; examples might include: promotional material, photography, venue rental, or other costs associated with preparing or presenting work

Funds will not be invested in:

- the development of new artistic creation
- tuition, subsistence (e.g. per diems, wages), or travel
- equipment purchases or other capital costs
- a project that primarily benefits to an organization, presenter, or festival rather than the applicant
- a project submitted to any other EAC grant program within the past six (6) months

Funding priority will be given to:

- artists that are early in their artistic career
- artists that have not been previously funded by the EAC
- artists who have faced cultural, linguistic or historical barriers to accessing support

* the Edmonton Arts Council defines an "artist" as an individual who has completed training, an apprenticeship, or a recognized body of work in an arts discipline, and meets the requirements of one or more of the following:

- is dedicated to the professional practice of the art, as evidenced by a significant investment of time and resources;
- receives payment for artistic work (i.e. artist fees);
- has received public exposure, through professional showings, screenings, publication, or performances where selection was carried out by an objective, arm's length body such as a jury or publisher;
- enjoys peer recognition through critical reviews, participation in community activities, and membership in professional associations.

Eligibility

Applicants (and members of a collective/group) must:

1. Be an adult who has been a resident of the City of Edmonton for at least one year.
2. Not be in arrears (have overdue debts) with the City of Edmonton at the time of application.
3. Have no overdue Edmonton Arts Council final reports.

Level of Support

Funds are limited and grants are not guaranteed. Proposals will be accepted as long as the Edmonton Arts Council deems funds available.

Grants will be awarded:

- normally to a maximum of \$1,000
- to an individual or collective/group once per calendar year

Assessment

Microgrant applications are assessed within the Edmonton Arts Council by a team of staff members. On occasion, outside assessment by knowledgeable artists or appropriate community members may occur.

Evaluation Criteria

In making MicroGrant decisions, the staff is guided by the text in the guidelines and will take into account the following criteria:

- The merit of the applicant. This means the degree to which the applicant's previous record of activity and achievement demonstrates that they warrant public support.
- The potential impact of the grant on the quality or viability of the project.
- The merits of the project and its relevance to Edmonton audiences or the Edmonton arts community.
- The degree to which the project has planning and commitments in place.
- The project's potential benefit to the applicant's practice or career.

Application Process and Format

We encourage you to contact the Edmonton Arts Council staff for guidance before you submit your proposal.

Applications must be submitted at least 45 days before the project's completion.

Your application package must include the following:

1. The completed and physically signed application form, or Electronic equivalent via our online application process.
2. A brief (2-3 page) proposal that provides a summary of the project and describes how you plan to use the grant, and what you anticipate the impact of the grant might be. Please refer to the evaluation criteria.
3. A clear budget for the project, including expenses and revenues.
4. Some background about yourself as an artist. This could be a formal resume or a simple narrative overview of your past artistic activities. You may reference web-based resources to show prior work.

If required, EAC staff may contact applicants for further detail or support materials.

Reporting

Successful grant recipients must submit a short summary report indicating the outcome of the project and how the funds were spent when the project is complete.

For more information about the MicroGrant program, please contact EAC grants staff at 780-424-2787 or edmontonarts.ca.