

FAQ – Connections & Exchanges Initiative Grants

Last updated July 11, 2019

This information is supplemental. In case of any differences with the published guidelines, the guidelines will be considered correct.

What kind of work does the EAC want to fund through this investment?

This funding is intended to support organizations to pursue their own goals, aspirations, and strategic plans. The work must also be relevant to the Ambitions, Aims and Actions in the *Connections & Exchanges* plan.

The grant guidelines are intentionally broad to accommodate the wide variety of initiatives that each organization might prioritise in pursuit of those outcomes.

This funding is not intended to support capital expenditures, including new buildings and major renovations.

What are the Ambitions, Aims, and Actions in Connections and Exchanges?

Connections & Exchanges includes 3 Ambitions, 8 Aims, and 55 Actions.

- 3 Ambitions paint a long-term view of the population, system, and sector-wide changes that should occur as a result of the plan's success.
- 8 Aims describe medium-to-long-term measurable changes in status, condition, or behaviour as a result of the successful implementation of the plan's actions.
- 55 Actions are the interventions, initiatives, programs or activities that the Edmonton Arts Council, Edmonton Heritage Council, and ArtsHab plan to undertake in pursuit of those Aims.

The full text of *Connections & Exchanges* can be found [here](#).

How do I define what my organization's goals, aspirations and strategic plans are?

Each organization will have existing ways of defining their work and direction. Examples might include your incorporation documents that outline the mandates and visions of the organization, your annual reports, or Annual General Meeting minutes that define goals for the coming years, or an existing



strategic planning document developed by the organization's Board to guide its work.

Ideally, your goals and strategies have been in place for some time before you have considered applying for this funding.

How long can the project be? Do I have to be finished by a specific date?

There is no pre-set date the work needs to be completed by. Specific timelines will be submitted by each applicant, and if the work is funded, then these timelines will inform final reporting deadlines.

The review criteria do look at "how effective, researched, thoughtful, and feasible the plan and timeline for the propose work is." As such, assessors will consider whether the timelines provided support the proposed outcomes when reviewing each application.

What does it mean that I can define and ask for overhead costs associated with the work?

We will consider all reasonable requests for a portion of these funds to support ongoing costs that directly relate to the planned work and outcomes. Requests that include these costs (e.g. salaries or administrative expenses) must provide a rationale that connects these costs to the proposed project.

How does the two-stage process work?

This type of multi-stage process has been used widely by many funders, in particular Community Foundations. Applicants submit preliminary information at the first stage, and if assessed positively are invited to submit a full proposal. Sometimes that invitation includes questions or directions around what information or decisions would strengthen the final submission. This allows both the applicant and the funder to efficiently respond without the work of creating and reading a detailed proposal.

The assessment at each stage is appropriate to the type and amount of information requested. The first stage assessment looks at the merits of the idea, and the potential of the applicant to execute it. The second stage is more in-depth, in response to the detail that is provided in the full proposal.



How each stage is managed internally by the EAC will be dependent on the number of applications received.

Notifications of Stage 1 results will be delivered on or around September 1.

Notifications of Stage 2 results & funding decisions will be announced by the end of 2019.

What do you mean by Artistic Experimentation, Organizational Development, Audience Development and Engagement, Partnerships and/or Sector-based Initiatives?

These are provided as examples only, and organizations are by no means limited to them when proposing projects:

- Artistic Experimentation
 - Artistic experimentation might describe an organization exploring the boundaries of an artform or the usual composition of its arts season – an opportunity to take a risk in artistic development, without diverting budget away from its normal season’s activities
- Organizational Development
 - An organization’s highest priority might be inward looking and structural. Funds from this program could support capacity building projects including (as examples) strategic planning, or staff professional development.
- Audience Development and Engagement
 - Audience Development projects are outward looking, to help an organization expand or deepen its community of stakeholders. Grants might support work that identifies and reaches new audiences, connecting existing audiences to new opportunities, or building strategies to reach communities that the organization would like to engage.
- Partnerships and/or Sector-based Initiatives.
 - Partnerships and Sector-based initiatives could include any of the above, with the clear and committed involvement of a number of organizations. This work might also focus on building capacity, connections and resiliency within the broader arts sector to address shared challenges.



How do I connect my initiative to the Connections & Exchanges plan?

This will be different for each organization and each initiative. The specifics of how the work reflects Connections & Exchanges will be a significant part of the work of our assessors and board committee to reflect on as we review applications.

You should read the [Connections & Exchanges plan](#), and consider how your organizational priorities reflect and mesh with the Ambitions, Aims, and Actions outlined.

Some examples might include:

- An artistic experimentation initiative might be relevant to the Aims found under the Ambition outlined in Book 3: “A Hub for Extraordinary Creation and Reputation.”
- Audience development work might be relevant to the Aim found on page 8 of Book 2: “Edmonton’s neighbourhoods come alive with meaningful and relevant opportunities for participation and engagement.”
- Organizational development work might be relevant to the Aim found on page 12 of Book 4, which references “organizational capacity enables innovation and builds resilience in the sector.”
- Many potential initiatives might have relevance to the Aim found on page 14 of Book 2: “Conditions are in place to remove barriers for all Edmontonians to participate in cultural experiences.”

What does it mean that the EAC will work with Indigenous advisors to facilitate Indigenous applicants?

The *Connections & Exchanges* plan aligns with the City of Edmonton’s commitment to support Indigenous communities in their self-determination. This principle guides the work of the EAC, and we recognize that Indigenous artists and organizations do not always have the pre-existing relationships with the EAC that other arts and festival organizations do.

Therefore, we have committed to working together, in collaboration with those communities to determine ways that this program might support Indigenous organizations that focus on cultural practices or festival and celebration programming.

We welcome inquiries from Indigenous organizations that wish to discuss and explore. Email us at grants@edmontonarts.ca or call 780-424-2787.