

# SUPPORT FOR ORGANIZATIONS CONNECTIONS & EXCHANGES INITIATIVES 2022

DEADLINE:  
JUNE 15, 2022

Through the **2022 Connections & Exchanges Initiatives program**, the Edmonton Arts Council will invest in activity and work that productively connects organizations with Edmonton's artists and arts professionals. This will foster the work of those organizations and individuals, in pursuit of cascading, long-term impacts for the cultural ecosystem.

Examples of eligible activities include skills development in any arts practice or arts administration field, advancement of ensemble development, community and audience engagement, or creation and revision of artistic work.

Initiatives must have clear shared benefits for the organization(s) and individuals involved, and must deliver fair, professional compensation to the practitioners engaged.

*Edmonton (...) fosters a productive connectedness between practitioners; and lifts artists, practitioners and organizations to a level that best meets their abilities. It is an exciting ecology of creation, expression, reflection and disruption that is unique amongst cultural landscapes.*

~ Connections & Exchanges



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## ELIGIBILITY

### Eligible applicants must (all apply):

- Be a non-profit organization with a primary arts or festival mandate
- Have an up-to-date profile in the EAC's Online Portal
- Have an existing support or investment relationship in good standing with the Edmonton Arts Council
- Not be in arrears with the City of Edmonton

### Eligible initiatives must be:

- Relevant to the applicant organization's mandate and goals, aspirations or strategic plans.
- Based on the engagement of Edmonton artists and arts professionals, paid to pursue relevant activities and work such as:
  - Skills development in any aspect of creation, production, or administration, including ensemble development when relevant
  - Creation, or revision of artistic work
  - Artist and community collaborations
  - Community and audience development
- Time specific, with a defined start and end date.
- An expansion, or change of the work of the organization even if it overlaps or augments the existing core activity.

*Edmonton is a city that supports its cultural ecosystem with purpose, vision and flexibility. Funding models and strategies focus on fostering, attracting and retaining artists and heritage practitioners, and creating cascading, long-term impacts for the cultural ecosystem, and therefore Edmonton as a whole.*

~ Connections & Exchanges

## LEVEL OF SUPPORT

These funds must be used to support costs associated with payment of Edmonton artists at a professional rate for an extended period of relevant activity and work.

Applicant organizations may also define and request up to 25% of the total grant for itemized overhead costs in support of the initiative.

The maximum investment is \$25,000 to any one organization.

There is the potential to support more than 25 initiatives.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicant organizations will provide brief responses to questions in the EAC's Online Portal: [eac.smartsimple.ca](http://eac.smartsimple.ca). Accommodations will be provided if there are barriers to access.

The organization's profile in the EAC's Online Portal must be up-to-date, and that information will be relevant to the assessment of these initiatives.

The specific information requested includes:

- A summary of the proposed initiative (500 words).
- A list of the arts professionals to be engaged, or details about how they will be recruited and selected.
- A budget, with notes if needed.
- Timeline and execution plan (500 words).
- An open-ended space for more information if the applicant wishes to provide it (500 words).

If more information is required, the EAC will make targeted requests for more detail from applicants. That detail will be provided via revision of the existing application, with separate questions in the Online Portal.

## ASSESSMENT AND DECISION MAKING

The assessment will be guided by the four principles that underpin the [Connections & Exchanges](#) plan:

- Inclusivity that reflects the diverse values of the communities in Edmonton;
- Leadership, excellence and innovation in the arts and heritage communities;
- A collective civic responsibility for arts and heritage; and
- Strengthened economic security for arts and heritage.

[Connections & Exchanges](#) guides the EAC's commitment to supporting Indigenous artists and artists from equity-seeking groups. This commitment will inform the assessment, decision, and approval processes. Proposed initiatives will be assessed by a knowledgeable group of peers, guided by all the text in these guidelines.

The following criteria will be highlighted:

- The merits of the proposed work, and its potential impact on:
  - the organization, relative to its own mandates and goals.
  - the artists and practitioners in terms of their development.
  - the arts ecosystem and Edmonton as a whole (when appropriate to the scope of the project).
- The skills, knowledge, ability, and merits of the Edmonton artists and/or arts professionals who will be paid for their work.
- Administrative and planning factors such as budgets and timeline.

Peers will provide assessment, context, and recommendations to the EAC Board and its various committees.

Investment decisions will be primarily informed by peer assessment, subject to the review and final approval by the EAC Board and its various committees.

Decisions by the EAC Board through this process are final.

## REPORTING

All successful recipients of EAC funds will be required to provide adequate reporting commensurate with the size and scope of the project.

## CONTACT

If you have any questions regarding the content of the application or the process, please contact EAC Grants staff at [grants@edmontonarts.ca](mailto:grants@edmontonarts.ca) or (780) 424-2787.