



Equity and Access in the Arts Grants for Individuals and Collectives

Deadline: 11:59 PM MDT on June 1, 2021

The Edmonton Arts Council is committed to supporting a wide range of artforms and communities. This commitment is guided by *Connections & Exchanges: A 10-Year Plan To Transform Arts & Heritage in Edmonton (C&E)*. The C&E plan includes commitments to increasing support for artists and arts professionals from Indigenous and equity-seeking communities.

Artists can apply to any Edmonton Arts Council program, but many also face systemic, historical, cultural and/or language barriers to accessing support. This program invests in these artists so they may pursue their artistic work, advance their skills, develop and strengthen connections to the broader Edmonton arts community.

This program is one way the Edmonton Arts Council pursues our commitments in *Connections & Exchanges*. It replaces and expands on the previous Cultural Diversity in the Arts program that had been in place since 2008.

Purpose

To invest in a thriving and diverse arts community in Edmonton by supporting Edmonton based artists and collectives from communities that face barriers to access. This includes, but is not limited to, groups whose members are treated differently because of systemic barriers that disadvantage people based on their Indigenous heritage, the colour of their skin, their disabilities, sexual orientation and identity, and/or immigration status.

This program has three distinct streams, each with its own evaluation criteria and assessment process. Artists may only submit to one stream.

Stream 1: Exploration and Experimentation

These \$5,000 grants support an artist to work on solo creation, experimentation, or research.

Stream 2: Skills and Career Development

These grants of up to \$10,000 support professional development projects for individual artists and collectives.

Stream 3: Major Artist-Driven Projects

These grants of up to \$25,000 support artist-initiated projects created by individual artists and collectives.

A combined total of \$500,000 will be allocated to the three Streams in this program.

Eligibility

Individuals and collectives who identify as members of groups facing systemic barriers to access may apply, with limitations in each stream. Applicants must:

- Have a history of work in any arts discipline (including customary and contemporary Indigenous artistic and cultural work);

- Be 18 years of age or older;
- Be a resident of the City of Edmonton;
- Be a Canadian Citizen, Permanent Resident, or have a valid open work permit; and
- Have no overdue Edmonton Arts Council final reports.

Collectives must have a majority of members who are eligible applicants as above.

Not eligible:

- Advanced education, such as would lead to a degree or diploma;
- Projects that primarily benefit an organization rather than an individual or collective;
- Costs already supported by the EAC through other programs; and
- Activity or costs that occurred prior to the application deadline.

Limitations

An individual may submit a maximum of one application to the Equity & Access in the Arts Grants (for themselves or representing a collective) and must choose the appropriate stream for that application.

An individual may be represented in more than one application, particularly if they are part of a collective.

Application Assistance

Applicants who, due to a variety of factors, are not able to complete the online application may request assistance in the preparation of their application. This could include:

- Assistance from EAC Grants Staff to use the online systems successfully;
- Assistance from EAC Grants Staff to review and provide feedback on draft applications;
- Ability to submit alternate formats, such as video, instead of a written application; and
- Financial support for translation or other support services.

This list describes some possible supports. Please contact the EAC Grants Team at grants@edmontonarts.ca or 780-424-2787 to discuss your specific needs.

Access Support

Artists facing linguistic or cultural barriers to completing their application, or artists who face barriers because they are deaf or have a disability, may be eligible for access support. This new initiative provides funding for specialized assistance in conveying the artists' ideas. Such assistance will normally be up to \$500. For more information, contact grants@edmontonarts.ca.

Assessment

Applications are assessed primarily on the basis of the merit of the project or idea, and the merit of the artist's body of work.

Assessment is also be guided by the commitments in *Connections & Exchanges* to increase support for Indigenous and equity-seeking communities. This commitment informs the peer assessment process and the EAC Board approval processes.

Each of the three streams of this program will be assessed by peers, facilitated by EAC staff. Peer assessors will include artists and arts professionals selected for their skills, knowledge, abilities, and experience. Assessors may review applications in phases and/or in groups organized by discipline, by stage of artistic career, and/or cultural contexts including those of Indigenous and equity-seeking groups of artists.

The Edmonton Arts Council charges assessors to respect and consider the specific cultural context of applications from all cultural communities and, in the case of equivalent merits based on the published guidelines, to incorporate the Edmonton Arts Council's policy of reflecting the full demographic diversity of Edmonton before making grant recommendations.

Application Format

Your application will be submitted through our online system at eacawards.fluidreview.com. The EAC supports applicants as much as possible to overcome barriers that prevent them from submitting an application, including language, ability, and access a computer or an internet connection.

Please contact us at grants@edmontonarts.ca or 780-424-2787 if you require assistance in completing your application.

Please ensure that files are labelled and organized for ease of access (for example, PDFs, digital images, video, or MP3 files). Support materials should demonstrate the merits of the applicant or help to describe the proposed artistic goals.

Reporting

Artists who receive support will be required to submit a report on the work that they undertook. For applications connected to a specific project, the applicant will be expected to assess the outcomes of the initiative with respect to the goals that they articulated in their application.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding the content of the application or the process, please contact EAC Grants Team at grants@edmontonarts.ca or 780-424-2787.

Stream 1: Exploration and Experimentation

This stream is intended to support the individual artist in the creation, research, development, and revision of work. The applicant must present a short description of the work they will do and how it relates to their artistic goals. There should not be a commitment to a specific production, or presentation of the resulting work.

An application to this stream does not need to be for new work. It can also be for enhancement or extension of existing or ongoing artistic work.

Examples of Exploration and Experimentation initiatives:

- A dancer wants to independently integrate Alexander theory and practice into their movement vocabulary, to shape their future work.
- An author and poet wants to dedicate time to write a draft of their first novel.
- A musician wants to write new songs that may one day be included in an EP or full-length album.
- A visual artist wants to experiment with new materials or techniques.
- A playwright wishes to spend creative time on the second draft of their current play.

The value of this grant is fixed at \$5,000 to support the artist's living costs while they pursue their creative work.

Ineligible

This stream is not intended to support production or presentation costs of any kind, such as the rental of a theatre, streaming a performance, shipping work to a gallery, or hiring other artists/workers to participate in a collective artistic endeavour.

Applicants with proposals that include more than solo creative work should consider submitting to another stream.

Assessment Criteria – Stream 1: Exploration and Experimentation

Assessment will be based on all the text in these guidelines, and:

- The artistic merit of the applicant's existing body of work.
- The artistic merit of the plans and goals being proposed.

Please note that neither a budget nor detailed timeline are required for this stream and will not be reviewed if submitted.

Application Format – Stream 1: Exploration and Experimentation

	Maximum	Format
Application Information	N/A	Form in FluidReview
Description of Goals and Activities	2 pages	PDF
Artist CV and Self-description	2 pages	PDF
Support Materials (any of the following):		
Pictures	10 images	JPG, PDF
Text	10 pages	PDF
Audio	10 minutes	MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC
Video	10 minutes	AVI, MOV, MP4, WMV
Links to other sites	Equal to above	
Do NOT submit a budget or timeline		

Stream 2: Skills and Career Development

This stream is intended to support an individual artist or arts professional, or a collective ensemble of artists and arts professionals, in the development of skills, knowledge, or capabilities.

Examples of Skills and Career Development initiatives:

- A costume designer seeks out a mentorship with a designer well-known primarily for their work in kathak dance, with the relationship carried out online over the course of a year.
- An Indigenous improvisation trio plans to learn how to record and shape their own web-series while observing distancing restrictions, and they propose working with a named expert to share the appropriate skills, including the purchase of some necessary equipment.
- A literary agent and manager wishes to enrol in an online conference focusing on methods of maximizing sales on online platforms.
- A paraplegic sculptor seeking to incorporate arc welding into their practice wants to take a beginner's course at NAIT, including the purchase of some necessary equipment.
- An existing collective of dancers plans to engage a specific mentor to lead a series of virtual and distanced movement classes to learn Crump.

Applicants may request up to \$10,000 based on the projected costs of the project, including subsistence costs.

It is not necessary for an application to this stream to be connected to a specific artwork, but the development of skills and knowledge may be directed towards potential work.

Ineligible

This stream is not intended to support presentation and dissemination activities.

Assessment Criteria – Stream 2: Skills and Career Development

Assessment will be based on all the text in these guidelines, and:

- The merit of the applicant or collective's history of work;
- The merit of the proposed initiative, including the plan and stated goals;
- The ability of the applicant(s) to complete the initiative;
- The feasibility of the timeline and budget for the project
 - This may include existing and potential restrictions relating to COVID-19. Applications must clearly articulate risk management, safety measures, and contingency planning commensurate with the scale of the project.

Allowable Expenses

Expenses eligible in this stream may include:

- Living expenses for the primary applicant(s) during the process;
- Fees for mentors and educators;
- Registration fees for specific educational opportunities (please note that the EAC does not support advanced education, such as would lead to a degree or diploma);
- Online education, tools, software, materials, mentorship, training or collaboration; and
- Equipment required for work proposed.

Living expenses may include housing costs, food, local transportation, childcare, and other expenses specific to your circumstances. It may be helpful to you to provide detail for assessors to understand the applicant's specific needs.

Application Format – Stream 2: Skills and Career Development

Your application will include:

	Maximum	Format
Application information	N/A	Form in FluidReview
Project Description*	3 pages	PDF
Artist CV and self-description	2 pages per artist	PDF
Balanced budget	2 pages	PDF
Timeline	2 pages	PDF
Support Materials (any of the following):		
Pictures	10 images	JPG, PDF
Text	10 pages	PDF
Audio	10 minutes	MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC
Video	10 minutes	AVI, MOV, MP4, WMV
Testimonials, Reviews, Support Letters	3 pages	PDF
Links to other sites	Equal to above	

*Project Description should include:

- A summary of the initiative to be undertaken;
- The applicant's goals and motivations, and how the applicant will measure their success in reaching those goals;
- A project plan, including a list of other artists, collaborators, and/or mentors confirmed for the initiative;
- The expected impact of the initiative on the career of the artist(s);
- The expected impact of the initiative on the Edmonton community.

Stream 3: Major Artist-Driven Projects

This stream is intended to support work that does not fit in the other two streams, such as collective creation or work that is materially ready to enter production and presentation (Applicants should only consider production or presentation once the major artistic and logistical decisions relating to a project have been made).

Examples of Major Artist-Driven Projects:

- A visual artist plans to 3D print a thousand magpies, each in a slightly different pose, and has permission to install them along the railing of the High Level Bridge for a summer.
- An ensemble of capoeira dance artists seek to develop and present their new work designed to be performed outside of classroom windows for junior high school audiences, with the intent of maintaining physical distancing requirements.
- An illustrator and writer team collaborate on completing and self-publishing a graphic novel telling the story of a family new to Canada learning to integrate into their Terwilliger neighborhood.

Assessment Criteria – Stream 3: Major Arts-Driven Projects

Assessment will be based on all the text in these guidelines, and:

- The merit of the applicant or collective’s history of work;
- The artistic merit of the project proposed;
- The merit of the project plan and how the applicant(s) will measure success;
- The demonstrated ability of the applicant(s) and any co-creators to complete the project;
- The feasibility of the timeline and budget for the project
 - This may include existing and potential restrictions relating to COVID-19. Applications must clearly articulate risk management, safety measures, and contingency planning commensurate with the scale of the project.

Allowable Expenses

Expenses acceptable for this stream include:

- Living expenses or fees for the primary artist(s) during the project,
- Fees and wages for additional project participants;
- Equipment and venue costs relevant to the project, (rental or purchase);
- Project materials, which might include personal protective equipment for participants; and
- Expenses related to marketing, communications, and dissemination.

Living expenses may include housing costs, food, local transportation, childcare, and other expenses specific to the applicant’s circumstances. It may be helpful for you to provide detail for assessors to understand the applicant’s specific needs.

Application Format – Stream 3: Major Arts-Driven Projects

Your application will include:

	Maximum	Format
Application information	N/A	Form in FluidReview
Project Description**	3 pages	PDF
Artist CV and self-description	2 pages per artist	PDF
Balanced budget	2 pages	PDF
Timeline	2 pages	PDF
Support Materials (any of the following):		
Pictures	10 images	JPG, PDF
Text	10 pages	PDF

Audio	10 minutes	MP3, MP4, WMA, WAV, ACC
Video	10 minutes	AVI, MOV, MP4, WMV
Testimonials, Reviews, Support Letters	3 pages	PDF
Links to other sites	Equal to above	

**A project description should include:

- A summary of the project to be undertaken;
- The applicant's goals and motivations, and how the applicant will measure their success in reaching those goals;
- A project plan, including a list of other artists, collaborators and mentors confirmed for the project;
- The expected impact of the initiative on the work of the artist;
- Other information as relevant.