

Grants for Individuals and Collectives

Deadline: 11:59 PM MDT on February 15, 2022 and October 1, 2022

Individual artists and their work are the foundation of our arts community. Working alone or in groups they pursue work that develops their practice, advances creative thought, contributes to an art form and provides our community with a reflection of itself.

Through *Connections & Exchanges: A Ten-Year Plan To Transform Arts & Heritage in Edmonton*, the Edmonton Arts Council has committed to supporting a wide range of art forms and practices to foster experimentation, creative collaborations with community, and public presentations, as well as activities to advance individual skills, including mentorships and professional development.

Purpose

Grants for Individual and Collectives has three distinct streams, each with its own evaluation criteria and assessment process. An individual or Collective may only apply to one stream at each deadline and may only receive one grant from this program in 2022.

Stream 1: Exploration and Experimentation

To support an artist to work on current solo creation, experimentation or research activities. Grant amounts are fixed at \$5,000 to support subsistence while the artist takes the time to pursue creative work.

Stream 2: Skills and Career Development

To support professional development and mentorship-based projects for artists and arts professionals. Projects may be solo or collective, and grants are available up to \$10,000 based on projected project expenses, including artist subsistence.

Stream 3: Major Artist-Driven Projects

To support artist-initiated projects, including production/presentation that is clearly considered in light of public health advice and restrictions. Projects may be solo or collective, and grants will be available up to \$25,000 based on projected project expenses, including artist subsistence.

Approximately \$2.4 Million is budgeted for this program in 2022.

Eligibility

Individuals and collectives may apply, with limitations in each stream. Applicants must:

- Have an existing and committed practice in any arts discipline (including but not limited to customary and contemporary Indigenous and cultural work) or have a history of other professional activity in the arts sector;
- Be 18 years of age or older;
- Be a resident of the City of Edmonton at the time of application, and for the duration of the project. For collectives, the majority of participating artists must meet this criteria (applicant may be asked to provide proof of residency);
- Be a Canadian Citizen, Permanent Resident, or have a valid work permit; and
- Have no overdue Edmonton Arts Council final reports.

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

Not eligible through this program:

- 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 per deadline (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. An individual or collective may only receive one grant per year, but can apply to the October deadline if unsuccessful in February.

Level of Support

- Grants in Stream 1: **Exploration and Experimentation** are fixed at \$5,000
- Applicants to Stream 2: **Skills and Career Development** may request up to \$10,000
- Applicants to Stream 3: **Major Artist-Driven Projects** may request up to \$25,000

Selecting a Stream

The Edmonton Arts Council will accept only one submission per applicant, per deadline.

Please review the eligibility criteria. Look carefully at all three streams to evaluate which one best matches your goals and current work. If you have questions or doubts, we encourage you to contact us at grants@edmontonarts.ca or 780-424-2787 to discuss your options.

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.

If you would like have your draft reviewed by staff before submitting please email your draft project description (and budget for Stream 2 & 3) to grants@edmontonarts.ca at least two weeks before the deadline.

Assessment

Each of the three streams of this program will be assessed by peers, facilitated by EAC staff. Assessment typically take 12 weeks from the deadline to the announcement of grants.

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.

Grant recommendations will be received and reviewed by the Grants Review and Transitions Committee and the EAC Board of Directors before final approvals.

Connections & Exchanges guides the EAC's commitment to Indigenous artists and artists from Equity-seeking groups. This commitment informs the peer assessment process and the EAC Board approval processes.

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 eac.smartsimple.ca. The EAC supports applicants as much as possible, particularly if there are barriers to accessing a computer or an internet connection. Please contact us to discuss 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 staff at grants@edmontonarts.ca or 780-424-2787.

Stream 1: Exploration and Experimentation

What is it?

This stream is intended to support the individual artist in the creation, research, development, and revision of work, by financially supporting the artist to dedicate time to their solo work.

The applicant must present an overall direction for what artistic goals they intend to pursue. There should not be a commitment to a specific production, presentation, or dissemination of any resulting work.

While an application to this stream does not need to be for new work, it must meaningfully expand the process or goals of the work proposed. This investment can respond to requests for enhancement, extension, or amplification of existing artistic initiatives that are in line with the intent outlined.

Here are a few examples of work that might fit within the Exploration and Experimentation stream:

- An Indigenous musician wishes to research and document their community's traditions and protocols as they consider how to integrate them into future composition and performance work.
- A documentary filmmaker is considering the evolving use of land expropriation in western Canada. They are researching the nature of existing laws, and shaping their understanding of the issues surrounding this law to inform a future film project.
- A dancer wants to independently integrate Alexander theory and practice into their movement vocabulary, to shape their future work.
- A visual artist whose existing practice is focused on encaustic painting wants to experiment with the addition of mud and other found materials into their work.
- A playwright wishes to spend creative time on the second draft of their current play based on a Middle Ages myth.

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

What is it not?

This stream is not intended to support live production or presentation costs of any kind, such as the rental of a theatre, or the shipping of work to a gallery, nor to support the cost of hiring other artists/workers to participate in a collective artistic endeavour.

Applicants with proposals that include more than independent creative work (such as working with collaborators, mentors or hired artists) or the presentation/dissemination of work should submit to either Stream 2 or 3. If you are unsure which stream to select, please contact us at grants@edmontonarts.ca or 780-424-2787.

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 (50% weight);
- The artistic merit and clarity of the idea(s) and process(es) proposed for exploration (50% weight).

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

Application Format – Stream 1: Exploration and Experimentation

Information requested includes:

- An artistic resume or CV in pdf form.
- A statement of artistic goals, including:
 - o A brief description of your artistic practice, including your major influences, disciplines and cultural

- o practices, as relevant to you (250 words maximum);
- o An outline of the goal or goals being pursued – what you seek to achieve with this work (250 words maximum);
- o Specific activities that support those goals – for instance, work in studio, research, exploration in the field, etc. (250 words maximum).
- Artistic Support Material (one or more of the following):
 - o Up to 10 images of your work (JPEG);
 - o Up to 10 minutes of video or audio recording of your work (multiple formats accepted);
 - o Up to 10 pages of text (such as poetry) or prose that demonstrates your work (PDF);
 - o Links to an equivalent body of support materials available on other platforms (for example, Vimeo or YouTube), or host sites for images, text or MP3 files. Please ensure that the links are functional and direct – that is, that they go directly to the support material, rather than to a landing page or home page that require further navigation by the assessors.
- Because this stream is focused on an artistic process rather than a specific product, please do not submit a budget or timeline.

Stream 2: Skills and Career Development

What is it?

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.

Here are a few examples of work that might fit within the Skills and Career Development stream:

- A costume designer seeks out a mentorship with a well-known designer known primarily for their work in kathak dance, with the relationship carried out online over the course of a year.
- An Indigenous improv 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 who will teach them 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 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 based in a particular style of 20th Century dance.

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 future work.

What is it not?

Projects with a primary objective to research, create, present or disseminate work may be better suited to Streams 1 or 3. If you are uncertain which stream to select, please contact us at grants@edmontonarts.ca or 780-424-2787. Projects submitted to this stream that do not fit the criteria may be assessed with a different stream.

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's existing body of work (33% weight);
- How the initiative will expand the individual or collective's abilities, including goals for the initiative and how progress towards these goals will be articulated (33% weight);
- The capacity for the applicant to carry out the proposed initiative, and the clarity and feasibility of the budget and timeline (33% weight).

Allowable Expenses

Expenses eligible in this stream may include:

- Subsistence (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.

* The EAC fixes subsistence requests at \$500 per week to cover living expenses while the primary applicant(s) pursues the project.

Application Format – Stream 2: Skills and Career Development

Your application will include:

- A project description including the following:
 - o A description of the initiative to be undertaken (250 words maximum);
 - o The applicant's goals and motivations for the initiative, including processes to measure their success in reaching those goals (250 words maximum);
 - o A project plan, including a timeline for the work proposed (250 words maximum);
 - o Other information as relevant (250 words maximum).
- A list of any collaborators and mentors associated with the project, with contact information;
- A resume, work history or CV for the individual applicant and/or collective members (PDF form, recommended maximum of 2 pages per individual);
- A resume, work history or CV for an individual mentor, if applicable (PDF form, recommended maximum of 2 pages);
- A balanced budget that shows the revenues (including the amount requested in this grant application) and expenses to pursue the work proposed.
 - o Please enter the information directly into the online form, using the notes section of each line to identify the nature of each revenue and expense.
 - o If you incorporate in-kind expenses and revenues, they should be labelled as such and in-kind revenues and expenses must balance each other in your budget.
- Artistic Support Material (one or more of the following):
 - o Up to 10 images of your work (JPEG);
 - o Up to 10 minutes of video or audio recording of your work (multiple formats accepted);
 - o Up to 10 pages of text (such as poetry) or prose that demonstrates your work (PDF);
 - o Links to an equivalent body of support materials available on other platforms (for example, Vimeo or YouTube, etc.) hosting video, image or audio files.
 - o Please ensure that the links are functional and direct – that is, that they go directly to the support material, rather than to a landing page or home page that require further navigation by assessors.
 - o Links to file sharing sites (Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.) are not permitted.

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, and 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 might include:

- 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 experience of an immigrant family learning to integrate into a Terwilliger neighborhood.

Allowable Expenses

Expenses acceptable for this stream include:

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

* The EAC fixes subsistence requests at \$500 per week to cover living expenses while the primary applicant(s) pursues the project.

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's existing body of work in the field (33% weight);
- The artistic merit and clarity of the project proposed (33% weight);
- The capacity of the applicant to complete the initiative, and the clarity and feasibility of a timeline and budget for the project (33% weight).

Application Format – Stream 3: Major Arts-Driven Projects

Your application will include:

- A project description that includes:
 - A summary of the project to be undertaken (maximum 500 words);
 - The applicant's goals and motivations, and how the applicant will measure their success in reaching those goals (maximum 250 words);
 - A project plan, including a clear timeline (identifying which phases of a longer project would be funded through the proposed grant) (maximum 250 words);
- A list of any collaborators and mentors associated with the project, with contact information;
- A resume, work history or CV for the individual applicant and/or collective members (PDF form, recommended maximum of 2 pages per individual);
- A resume, work history or CV for an individual mentor, if applicable (PDF form, recommended maximum of 2 pages);
- A balanced budget that shows the revenues (including the amount requested in this grant application) and expenses to pursue the work proposed.
 - Please enter the information directly into the online form, using the notes section of each line to identify the nature of each revenue and expense.

- o If you incorporate in-kind expenses and revenues, they should be labelled as such and must appear as both revenues and expenses, and balance each other in your budget. (e.g. If your venue is providing rehearsal space at no cost, then the retail value of renting the space would be recorded as an in-kind donation on the revenue side of your budget, and as a venue expense on the expense side.)
- Artistic Support Material (one or more of the following):
 - o Up to 10 images of your work (JPEG);
 - o Up to 10 minutes of video or audio recording of your work (multiple formats accepted);
 - o Up to 10 pages of text (such as poetry) or prose that demonstrates your work (PDF);
 - o Links to an equivalent body of support materials available on other platforms (for example, Vimeo or YouTube), or host sites for images, text or MP3 files.
 - o Please ensure that the links are functional and direct – that is, that they go directly to the support material, rather than to a landing page or home page that require further navigation by assessors.
 - o Links to file sharing sites (Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.) are not permitted.

Data Collection

Stream 3 applicants are required to include projected artists and audience engagement statistics, such as number of Edmonton artists paid and number of audience members. This information is for Edmonton Arts Council research and reporting only, and does not form part of the assessment. Applicants awarded grants will provide actual numbers relating to the project in their final reports. This information is required, but is for the Edmonton Arts Council's data gathering only, and will not normally be part of the assessment process.