

ArtStarts Showcase 2020

Application Guidelines

ArtStarts acknowledges that it carries out its work on the land of Indigenous nations throughout British Columbia. Our offices and the ArtStarts Showcase are on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territory of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliiwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

About Showcase

The ArtStarts Showcase highlights new opportunities for school and community arts programmers invested in booking performing artists for young audiences. Showcase will take place April 8 – 9, 2020 in Vancouver BC. Approximately 30 artists across disciplines will present a sample of their touring performance or workshop followed by a Q&A. The deadline to apply is October 28, 2019.

Artists who present at Showcase, will be part of a marketing platform through the [Artists on Tour Directory](#) to share their work suited for young audiences. They will receive an integrated booking service to facilitate school tours. Artists will also have professional development opportunities to continue to expand their practice and connect with peers and mentors.

Applying Social Justice values to Showcase

As a 21st century arts organization, ArtStarts is committed to advancing and strengthening the values of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI). Since early 2018 we have been working towards being more intentional about applying these lenses to our core programs and also taking a bird's-eye view of ArtStarts as a whole to address systemic oppression and colonial practices, especially those that we perpetuate.¹

Applying a JEDI lens to Showcase is necessary in response to the world we live in today. The social justice movement in education is growing and adapting in response to the evolving needs of students in schools across BC. Looking at the 2016 Census data, we see that 36% of BC residents have racialized identities². We also support the work of educators, families, and community advocates in making schools safer for students of marginalized sexual orientations and gender identities, in particular the work of [SOGI 1 2 3](#). As a country, we have made commitments through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which has specific calls to action related to Education, Language and Culture.

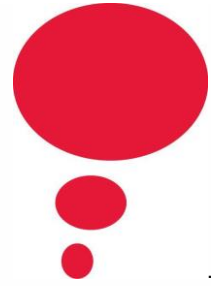
These examples are part of the rationale for why we must respond. Social justice through the arts is a powerful approach and now an integrated part of our work towards mission impact:

“The aesthetic experience of stories told through the arts can help us think more creatively, intimately and deeply about challenging social justice issues. The arts provide a realm where charged topics can be encountered and engaged on an embodied level and thus stimulate deeper learning.”

- Storytelling for Social Justice by Lee Ann Bell

¹ This work is led by our mission, vision, and guiding principles which can be found here: <https://artstarts.com/about>. This work is also in line with the values and priorities of our major funder BC Arts Council. Read more about BC Arts Council's priorities here: <https://www.bcartscouncil.ca/bcartscouncil/priorities/>.

² 2016 Census Data: 30.3% of BC residents are visible minorities and 5.9% are Indigenous



Prioritizing Under-represented Artists

We are committed to providing students with relevant and impactful arts-based experiences in their schools and consider intentional representation of marginalized artists an important part of this commitment. When we look at our Artists on Tour Directory, we see opportunities to increase representation of artists with marginalized identities in order to more fully reflect the student population in schools across BC today.

“When we don’t see ourselves reflected in the world around us, we make judgements about that absence. Invisibility is a statement. It says something about the world and our place in it.”

- Sonya Renee Taylor

In order to increase representation, we are seeking to prioritize Showcase applications from these under-represented groups:

- Artists of colour, especially Indigenous and Black women
- Artists who identify as LGBT2QIA*, especially LGBT2QIA artists of colour
- Artists living with a visible or invisible disability, especially disabled artists of colour

*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two-Spirit, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual

We encourage artists to self-identify on the Showcase application form. Collecting this data is critical to our commitment to increase representation of under-represented groups. Since we can’t make assumptions about people’s complex identities, we ask applicants to self-identify. We will use this information as part of the decision making process under Identity and Representation in the Assessment Criteria (details below) as well as adding to the aggregated data of our work as a whole.

In order to reduce barriers for under-represented artists who wish to apply, we can offer a sliding scale application fee of \$25 – \$75. If this is still a barrier, please reach out as no under-represented artist will be turned away for lack of funds.

Eligibility

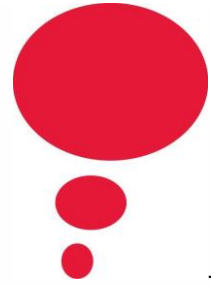
In order to be considered for Showcase, the show you are applying with cannot have showcased before. We are only accepting applications from new artists or new shows.

Applicants must be:

- Residents of Canada
- Available to present a 10 minute excerpt of their school performance or workshop on one of the Showcase dates: April 8 & 9, 2020 in Vancouver, BC.
- Available to tour BC schools for at least three weeks (including at least two weeks outside the Lower Mainland) between September 2020 – June 2021.
- Able to perform for an average school audience of 100 – 1000 students. (Exceptions: storytellers, workshopping artists and groups offering two shows to smaller audiences for the same fee as one for a larger audience).
- Able to complete the Criminal Record Check process via ArtStarts
- Aligned with [ArtStarts Anti-Oppression Guidelines](#)

ArtStarts staff will review all applications for eligibility. Applications not meeting the above eligibility criteria will not be brought forward to the jury for assessment.

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Assessment Criteria

We have updated our Showcase assessment criteria this year to explicitly align with our commitment to providing students with relevant and impactful arts-based experiences. The updates also centre our commitment to prioritizing under-represented artists. All applications will be assessed by a jury of educators and artists. The jury will consider each application against the following assessment criteria:

Concept and Execution (33%)

Articulation of the concept of the work and how it is being delivered through the art form(s).

- Is the main purpose of the concept clear?
- Is the concept expressed effectively through the art form(s)?
- Is the concept being delivered in a way that engages the hearts and minds of young people?
- Does the experience activate excitement and inspire passion for the arts?
- Are different worldviews considered in the execution and delivery?

Relevance and Impact (33%)

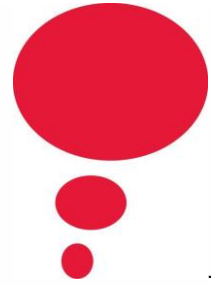
Connections made that are relevant to students and curriculum today.

- Does the arts experience make implicit or explicit links to core competencies, or big ideas in the redesigned BC curriculum?
- Does the work invite opportunities for deeper discussion and dialogue that can happen before or after the performance/workshop to extend the impact of the experience?
- Are there opportunities for all students to see themselves reflected, particularly those with marginalized identities?
- Does the work respond to any big issues of our time? (eg. truth and reconciliation, rising hate crimes, capitalism, racism, colonialism, climate change, poverty, homelessness, mental health, etc.)
- Is there risk of any impact of harm for people with marginalized identities regardless of what was intended?

Identity and Representation (33%)

Reflection of marginalized voices and perspectives through creation and presentation of the work:

- Do the majority of the members of the creative team identify with one or more of the under-represented groups that are prioritized?
- How has the creation and presentation of the work considered the perspectives of people with marginalized identities? How are marginalized identities represented positively and beyond their stereotypes?
- Have cultural protocols and permissions been addressed where required, including appropriate community consent, support, advice and/or collaboration evident?
- Is there evidence of reciprocal artistic, cultural, and community relationships?
- Does the artist/group have strong alignment to ArtStarts' Anti-Oppression guidelines?



Other Considerations

- Is the artist/group ready to tour BC schools?
- When curating the ArtStarts Showcase, we are looking for innovative content and delivery, a variety in artistic disciplines, French-language shows, and balance between primary and secondary level content.

For more information about working appropriately with culture-specific context, particularly as it pertains to Indigenous land and people, read the [United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(the Declaration\)](#) and the [Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#). The [revised BC curriculum](#) offers an approach that we support:

“It is particularly helpful to co-operate and engage with experts from the community when learning about culture-specific contexts to avoid offence or misrepresentation or appropriation of culture. Cultural appropriation includes use of cultural motifs, themes, “voices,” images, knowledge, stories, songs, drama, and so on without permission or without appropriate context or in a way that may misrepresent the real experience of the people from whose culture they are drawn.”

How to Apply

Deadline: October 28, 2019

Application Fee: \$75

1) Gather all required support materials:

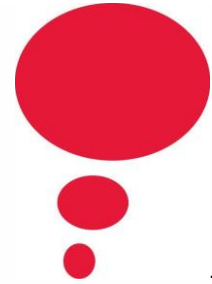
- a) Video: This is the most important piece of your application. All artists must submit one or two links to online videos.

Video requirements:

- Max 5 – 10 minutes long.
- Must be an online video (e.g. YouTube or Vimeo). DVDs will NOT be accepted.
- Must showcase the performance you hope to present in schools.³
- Performances held in front of school audiences are preferred.
- Must be a live recording.
- Pre-recorded music over video footage will not be accepted.

- b) Artist CVs or Bios: Please submit a CV or bio for each member of the creative team that has contributed to the show thus far which describes their training, artistic experience, and commitment to their art. New groups should also submit a description of their collective work and history working with young people.

³ In the event that your performance or workshop is in the early stages of production and you do not have a video link available, please provide a link to a previous show so the jury is able to see an example of similar work. You must also include a script and/or any materials that outline the content of the piece you would like to Showcase.



- c) References: Applicants must submit one or two letters of support from schools, community presenters or peers. References do not need to be submitted by current members of ArtStarts' Artists on Tour Directory. Reference letters should answer the following questions:
 - (i) *In what context have you worked with the Showcase applicant?*
 - (ii) *Why do you think this artist/group and their performance/workshop is relevant for young people today?*
- 2) Complete the application form. The form will ask for the following:
 - a) General artist/group information
 - b) Overview of the performance/workshop and who it is suitable for
 - c) Description of the performance/workshop (keeping the assessment criteria in mind)
 - d) Support materials (video links, artist bio and references)
 - e) Payment of \$75 application fee

Confidentiality of Information

All documents submitted to ArtStarts in Schools become the property of ArtStarts. Personal information is collected in accordance with the British Columbia Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA) for the purpose of evaluation and assessment to meet program objectives. Your application information along with support materials will be shared in confidence with members of the adjudication jury. ArtStarts will make every effort to maintain the confidentiality of personal information in each application. Successful applicants will be required to submit material for publication in the Artists on Tour Directory that may also be used in general communications and promotional efforts.

Applicant Notification

Applicants will receive notification via email indicating whether they were successful or not in December 2019. Communication will be directed to the email address provided on the application form.

Next Steps for Successful Artists

December 2019:

- Confirm your acceptance to Showcase within one week of receiving your acceptance email.
- Confirmed artists will then receive an emailing next steps in detail.

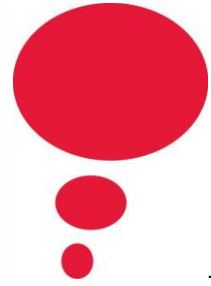
December 2019 to February 2020:

- Prepare and gather your Artist on Tour Directory Listing content to submit by February 10, 2020. This includes setting your artist fees per region, finalizing your performance/workshop synopsis, sharing availability for the upcoming school year etc.
- Complete Criminal Record Check through [BC Ministry of Justice Criminal Record Review Program](#) (\$28 fee). The Criminal Record Check **MUST** be completed through the Criminal Record Review Program. **Police checks will NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- Pay for Artist on Tour Directory listing(s). Cost of first listing is \$300, any additional listings (up to 3, total of 4) are \$150 each

February – March 2020:

- Engage in new artist onboarding opportunities
- Connect with production team to confirm technical requirements for Showcase day

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**April 2020:**

- April 8 – 9, 2020 ArtStarts Showcase: present a 10 minute excerpt of your performance/workshop
- Engage in opportunities to network with peer artists and school and community arts programmers

April to July 2020

- Schools and districts submit their booking requests for the upcoming school year.
- Artists will be given a unique login to access an personalized online portal to help track booking requests coming your way.

Questions and Feedback

We hope that as part of our shared commitment to create positive impact with young people that you will join us in the learning journey to grapple with important social justice issues. We invite feedback on how we can continue to strengthen our commitment to creating space for under-represented artists and embedding the values of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion to create meaningful artistic experiences for all students.

Check out our website for more information about the [ArtStarts Showcase](#).

- Read our [recap of what took place at our 2019 event](#)
- Watch our [video of highlights](#) from a past Showcase

If you have specific questions about your fit for Showcase or the application process, please contact:

Pavan Thind

Program Manager

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Toll-free: 1-855-292-7826

Email: pavan@artstarts.com