



Grants to Districts and Province-Wide School Associations

Funded by the BC Arts Council and the Province of British Columbia, Artists in Education grants support artistic programming including performances, workshops and residencies in schools across the province. This district level grant is allocated to all B.C. School Districts, the Federation of Independent School Associations and the First Nations Schools Association. Each allocation considers the number of schools, number of students and geographic location of each district or association.

Program Goals + Objectives

- Expose young people to workshops, performances, and residencies that have artistic quality and educational merit
- Balance exposure of the arts to young people in remote, rural and urban environments
- Establish professional standards for arts practices and presentations in schools and expose B.C.'s children and youth to professional quality arts programming
- Develop, maintain and expand the market for professional artists working with children and youth
- Facilitate communication between the arts and education communities by developing mutual awareness, respect and appreciation
- Promote the arts as an area of study and professional employment

Program Guidelines

All applicants must use grant funds towards professional artist fees for a range of quality performances and workshops in schools. All arts activities must consider cultural context, have educational merit and be offered by professional arts organizations and/or artists. Arts activities may encompass the performing, visual, media and literary arts.

Additional guidelines include:

- Applying organization must be a B.C. School District, the Federation of Independent School Associations or the First Nations Schools Association (individual schools, daycares, colleges and universities are not eligible to apply)
- Applicant funds must be equitably distributed throughout their district or association
- Grant funds should only be for arts activities for the benefit of young people in Grades K – 12
- Grant funds should be used to present professional arts activities that take place in schools
- All AIE funds should be spent in the year granted
- Applicants must meet all reporting requirements to receive their maximum funding allocation



Eligible Expenses

- Professional Artist Fees – **70%** for B.C. based artists; **40%** for out-of-province artists within Canada
- Transportation Expenses for Remote Areas – up to 50% of transportation expenses for students attending qualifying events in remote areas and for artists travelling to schools in remote areas (note: transportation expenses cannot exceed more than 25% of the total AIE grant allocation)
- Costs to Attend any BC Based Showcase– **up to 100%** of Showcase fee, conference fee, travel and accommodation

Ineligible Expenses

- Fees for artists residing outside of Canada
- Non-professional artists (including established youth companies)
- Events for which tickets are purchased, or for which admission is charged
- School assemblies with motivational speakers or novelty acts
- Administrative/staff time required to manage the program
- GST/PST

Considering Cultural Context and Safety

All applicants should consider the issues around cultural appropriation if artists they are selecting are using the cultural forms, aesthetics or iconography of cultural communities removed from their social, political and cultural roots. Cultural appropriation can also occur when there is insufficient credit given to the sources of artistic and cultural work. Cultural appropriation can cause harm to Indigenous and diverse communities through misrepresentation and stereotyping. It diminishes access and reduces the opportunity for artists from Indigenous and diverse cultural communities to tell their own stories.

If artists are working with Indigenous peoples, communities, culture or intellectual property (including but not limited to stories, songs, dance, designs, art, traditional knowledge or other cultural expressions), applicants should consider the principles outlined in the [United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (the Declaration). The Declaration affirms that Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination and the right to practice and revive their culture and traditions. As stated in Article 11 of the Declaration,

“This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.”

Article 31 of the Declaration affirms the rights of Indigenous peoples to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and cultural expressions and their manifestations and intellectual property. If you are working with traditional knowledge, you will need to explain how you have addressed cultural protocols and/or received permissions where required.



When considering which artists and arts experiences to submit with this application, please take cultural safety and appropriation seriously to ensure that students are thoughtfully engaging with traditional knowledge and stories in context. 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."

If you are seeking further clarification on cultural context and safety, we encourage you to reference ArtStarts in Schools' [Anti-Oppression Guidelines](#). We are grateful for the learnings from our friends at [Inner Activist](#), [PeerNet](#), [SOGI 123](#) and [Tierra Negra](#).

Definition of Professional Artist or Arts Organization

Artists engaged in all funded activities must qualify as **practicing, professional artists**. A professional artist is defined as someone who has specialized training in the arts (not necessarily in academic institutions); is recognized as a professional by their peers (artists working in the same artistic tradition); is committed to devoting more time to their artistic activity, if financially possible; and has a history of public presentation or publication. (Definition from Canada Council for the Arts)

Submission Deadlines

- [AIE Application](#) for 2020 - 2021 activities by **September 25, 2020**
- [AIE Final Report](#) for 2019 - 2020 activities by **May 15, 2020**



BC Arts Council and **the Province of British Columbia** are committed to ensuring that all British Columbians are able to participate in a healthy arts and cultural community recognized for its excellence. Through this provincial financial support, the arts and cultural community will continue to achieve its creative, social and economic success.

ArtStarts in Schools is a catalyst in promoting arts and creativity among B.C.'s young people. Working with a dynamic province-wide network of educators, artists, parents, students, schools and communities, ArtStarts provides innovative arts programs for young people, practical resources for teachers and artists, and leadership in advocacy for arts in education.