



ArtStarts Showcase 2022

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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱ wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

About Showcase

The ArtStarts Showcase is a 2 day conference style event that highlights new opportunities for school and community arts programmers invested in booking artist performances, workshops and residencies for young audiences.

The 2022 Showcase will take place April 7 – 8, 2022 in Vancouver BC. The deadline to apply is October 24, 2021.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to COVID-19, our 2020 Showcase event had to be cancelled. We are inviting back the artists that were meant to perform at this event to be a part of our 2022 Showcase. We will not be opening applications for performing artists to be added to this line up. Instead, we have limited slots for artists who offer Classroom Residencies or Workshops and are interested in leading an hour-long workshop for our delegates.

NEW - Application and Event Format Updates

Since we are changing the structure of our Artist Directory, we are also altering our Artist onboarding process. For touring artists it will no longer be a requirement to be selected for our annual Showcase in order to join the ArtStarts roster. Artists can apply to be on the ArtStarts Artist Directory without showcasing. The purpose of this change is to make it easier for new artists to join our ArtStarts community as well as leave more opportunity for our current artists to participate in Showcase.

In the past Showcase has been solely reserved as an opportunity for performing artists to highlight their touring performance. ArtStarts not only works with artists from various disciplines but also those who share their artistic practices via modalities outside of performances. For Showcase 2022 we are piloting workshop slots specifically for artists who are offering Classroom Residencies and/or Workshops to share their work with delegates. Our hope is that all future showcases will follow a similar format of sharing both performances and workshops.

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



Applying Social Justice values to Showcase (cont'd)

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 an anti-oppressive lens through the principles of justice, equity, diversity, and education 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

Prioritizing Underrepresented 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 Artist 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 judgments 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 underrepresented groups:

- Artists of colour, especially Indigenous and Black women

¹This 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/>.



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Prioritizing Underrepresented Artists (cont'd)

● 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 underrepresented 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 underrepresented 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 underrepresented artist will be turned away for lack of funds.

Eligibility

- Residents of Canada
- Available to present Showcase dates in Vancouver, BC.
- Available to work in BC schools in the 2022-23 school year
- 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.

Assessment Criteria and Rubric

Our Showcase rubric explicitly aligns with our commitment to providing students with relevant and impactful arts-based experiences. It also centers our continued commitment to prioritizing underrepresented artists. All applications will be peer assessed by a jury of educators and artists, using the rubric available on page 6 and 7 of this document.

How to Apply

Deadline: October 24, 2021

Application Fee: \$25-\$75 sliding scale

- 1) Gather all required support materials:

- a) Your portfolio demonstrates your work as a [professional artist](#) and helps the jury/assessment panel understand the expression/process of your art form and assess your work based on artistic impact, representation, experience and engagement.

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- b) Portfolios can include:

- **Photos:** Up to 5 photos of your work including but not limited to process photos, final works, you working, documentation of events/performances/showings/readings

Videos: Up to 2 videos of your work including but not limited to process video, final pieces, documentation of events/performances/showings/readings etc. No more than 10 min of video total. All submissions must link to a website (Vimeo/YouTube etc.) - no uploaded material allowed. *We highly encourage artists to include a video in their portfolio outlining your listing offering as it can provide the assessment panel a clearer understanding of your art practice.*

- **Sound:** Up to 2 sound files of your work including but not limited to process clips, final pieces, documentation of events/performances/showings/readings etc. No more than 10 min of video total. All submissions must link to a website (Soundcloud/Bandcamp/Spotify etc.) - no uploaded material allowed.

- **Written:** 1 file upload with written material including work in progress, final pieces, poetry, fiction, song lyrics, script etc.

- c) 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. Groups are also welcome to submit a description of their collective work and history working with young people.

- d) 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
- d) Support materials (video links, artist bio and references)
- e) Payment of application fee through PayPal

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 ArtStarts Artist Directory that may also be used in general communications and promotional efforts.

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Applicant Notification

Applicants will receive notification via email indicating whether they were successful or not in December 2021. Communication will be directed to the email address provided on the Showcase application form

Next Steps for Successful Artists

December 2021:

- 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 2021 – February 2022:

- Prepare and gather your ArtStarts Artist Directory Listing content to submit by February 2022. 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 ArtStarts Artist Directory listing(s).

February – March 2022:

- Connect with production team to confirm technical requirements for Showcase day

April 2022:

- April 7 – 8, 2022 ArtStarts Showcase
- Engage in opportunities to network with peer artists and school and community arts programmers

Questions and Feedback

We hope that as part of our shared commitment to create a 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 underrepresented 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](#).

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

Pavan Thind

Program Manager

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