



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

**Grant Writing for BIPOC Arts
Professionals
April 6, 2021**

About the Ontario Arts Council (OAC)

- In existence for over 50 years, OAC is an arm's-length agency of the **Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries**
- **What we do:** Foster the creation and production of art for the benefit of all Ontarians.
- **How we do it:** Support professional artists, ad hoc groups/collectives, and arts organizations through a variety of project and operating granting programs –there are approximately 55 programs
- **Who we fund:** OAC is committed to ensuring equitable access for all Ontarians, with particular emphasis on the following six priority groups: **artists, artists of colour, francophone, new generation artists (ages 18-30), artists and organizations located in regions outside Toronto, and Deaf Artists and artists with disabilities.**
- In **2019-20**, OAC invested **\$51.9 million** in **197** communities across Ontario through **1,965** grants to individual artists and **1,152** grants to organizations.



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Where to find information/resources

- **Website** www.arts.on.ca
- Grant program pages –program purpose, eligibility, deadline
- OAC Project Grant Guide –general eligibility, terms and conditions
- New to OAC–overview of grant application process
- **Nova–OAC grant application system** <https://grants.arts.on.ca>
- Applications open/appear in Nova two months before a deadline
- Create a profile
- Nova User Guide
- **Accessibility Fund for Deaf Artists and Artists with Disabilities**
- Application support and project support



Who can apply/Professional artists

What we mean by professional artist:

- Someone who has developed skills through training and/or practice, and
- is recognized by artists working in the same artistic tradition, and
- has history of public presentation or exhibition, and
- seeks payment for their work, and
- actively practises their art.
- Applicants must be an Ontario resident, and not currently registered full time as a undergraduate or graduate student.



Skills and Career Development:

Indigenous Arts Professionals & Arts Professionals of Colour

- **Arts professionals** are artists, arts administrators, community animators, curators, programmers, technicians and arts educators who are engaged in creating, promoting, and presenting, distributing and programming artistic work.
- **Indigenous arts professionals** include Métis, Inuit, and Status and Non-Status individuals.
- **Arts professionals of colour** include people of Chinese, South Asian, African, Filipino, Latin American, Southeast Asian, Arabic, West Asian, Japanese, Korean and Pacific Islander descent. It also includes New Canadians of colour.
- **One deadline – May 5, 2021 at 1 p.m.**



What Does Skills and Career Development Fund?

Skills and Career Development supports study/training that:

- Broadens your knowledge.
- Helps you refine your artistic approach.
- Allows you to acquire greater mastery of your art or professional practice above the level of basic training.

Examples:

- Take a performance and songwriting workshop.
- Enroll in a business course.
- Attend a conference or networking event for arts administrators.
- Learn techniques in a range of arts practices.
- Study Indigenous languages.
- Engage in traditional Indigenous land-based activities/teachings.

Mentorship

What is Mentorship?

- Work with a more experienced artist or Elder to share information, skills, knowledge, standards or best practices that will advance your career, enhance your education and build your networks.

Examples:

- Mentor with a choreographer.
- Work with a media artist to study editing and production or story treatment.
- Learn the fundamentals of sound recording, music production and stage-show creation by shadowing artists or by working in recording studios.
- Receive instruction in Indigenous cultural traditions.

Internship & Apprenticeship

What is Internship & Apprenticeship?

Sharpen your skills through arts-based work experience.

Examples:

- Apprentice with an organization to learn hands-on skills about running an organization: marketing, promotion, fundraising, financial planning, etc.
- Undertake an internship with a theatre company to develop skills in playwriting, administration, artistic direction or self-producing.
- Mentor with an arts administrator to expand your knowledge of curatorial practices.

Documentation of Artwork

What is Documentation of Artwork?

The preparation of materials that document an artist's skills, training and abilities.

Examples:

- Professional preparation of demo recordings for musicians.
- Archival recording of works in performance for dance artists.
- Demo reels for theatre artists.
- Documentation of visual arts work.
- Documentation of learner's support material for arts educators.
- Websites as a presentation tool.

How Much and What For?

Receive up to \$10,000 toward your project.

Eligible Expenses:

- Payment of artist fees (e.g. payment of a mentor or oneself).
- Travel – out of town transportation accommodation, meals.
- Tuition, registration or study fees.
- Workspace/equipment rental.
- Educational materials.

Ineligible Activities

- Enrollment in an ongoing course of study.
- Business ventures.
- Operating costs (salaries, office rent, equipment, etc.).
- Competitions, contests or fundraisers.
- Accredited college or university.
- Creation projects.
- Marketing / Promotion.
- Hiring of agents or business professional.
- Business planning.



Your Application Includes

- Answers to a set of questions about your project proposal
- Budget
- Artistic support material
- Letters of support
- Letters of reference (optional)



Assessment

Merit

- Artistic Statement
- Resume
- Suitability of mentor/training institution
- Artistic Examples

Impact

- Stated need for artistic or career development
- How activity will advance career
- Commitment to develop/implement the proposed learning

Viability

- Details of the project
- Budget



Grant Writing Tips

- Call the Program staff well before the deadline.
- Consider your audience, i.e. other artists.
- Write with the passion you have for the project and edit with objectivity.
- Ask someone to read your grant before submitting.
- Ask the Program Officer if they look at drafts of applications.
- Use a clean, simple font and layout.



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Grant Writing Tips (Cont'd)

- Be detailed but concise. Don't repeat. Stay within the word limits!
- When working on a budget, start with expenses.
- Give yourself lots of time to develop your project and to fill out the application.
- **Spell chcek!**
- Don't underestimate support material.
- Get it in on time – Funders are strict about deadlines!



Contact Us

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