

Guidelines

The Indigenous Cultural Initiatives Program provides non-profit organizations that are Indigenous service providers with project grants towards activities that foster the transmission of Indigenous cultural knowledge, engage youth in traditional practices or teachings, and promote understanding, awareness, appreciation, and preservation of Indigenous culture, language, and heritage. This program offers two components:

- **Arts Education** supports initiatives providing instruction or mentorship in traditional or contemporary arts education.
- **Traditional Dance** supports the cultural component of traditional annual arts presentations or powwow celebrations.

Priority will be given to mentor-based initiatives and activities that demonstrate the highest degree of community interaction, cultural impact, and youth participation.

Deadline

Applications **must be received 8 weeks** prior to the event. Late or incomplete applications **will not be accepted**.

Objectives

- Engage youth in traditional Indigenous practices and teachings.
- Support culture-based arts education, training, and mentorship initiatives in traditional or contemporary practices in all disciplines.
- Support the development and display of creative works that reflect the Indigenous context.

Level of Assistance

Grants are awarded based on eligible revenues of the project up to a maximum of \$5,000. Actual grants may be less than the amount requested and are subject to availability of funds.

Eligibility Criteria

Arts Education

- Applicants must be Indigenous service providers (organizations serving Indigenous individuals, groups, or communities). They may partner with community arts organizations, community service organizations, schools, training centres, and professional arts organizations in offering the project.
- Projects may support curriculum but may not be used to develop curriculum or replace regular art instructors/teachers.
- Artists/mentors include but are not limited to musicians, dancers, crafts persons, writers, storytellers, visual artists, media artists, and theatre artists.
- The artist/mentor must demonstrate a commitment to working with learners and the Indigenous community to foster arts and cultural development.
- Qualified instructors/mentors must have proficiency in their discipline and an understanding of their role in fostering arts skills, arts appreciation, and creativity.
- Qualified instructors/mentors must demonstrate an understanding of the value of the mentorship approach in teaching traditional and contemporary arts skills, career development, and advancement.
- In order to preserve and promote Indigenous culture and heritage, the creative works produced must reflect the Indigenous context.
- Priority will be given to initiatives that provide an opportunity for learners to highlight their creative works.
- Instructional activities should foster the transmission of Indigenous cultural knowledge and practices by exploring possibilities for linking the past and present.

Traditional Dance

The event must:

- Have been in operation for a minimum of two years and all activities must be open and accessible to the general public.
- Be an annual event that is recognized by the community as a traditional arts presentation or powwow celebration (reflecting, celebrating, and profiling the unique character of the local community – its heritage, culture, and identity).
- Provide opportunities for all citizens to participate as spectators or volunteers in the event's programming (particularly providing opportunities for youth leadership).

Both Components

- The project must be undertaken by or in partnership with an incorporated, non-profit organization/jurisdiction or under the jurisdiction of an organizing committee.
- The application must demonstrate tangible financial and in-kind support from local government, business, and the community.

Eligible Expenses:

- Tobacco for ceremonial purposes
- Gifts given to honour guests and elders
- Honoraria for elders
- Special powwow guests/performers
- Artist instructor/mentor fees
- Artist materials for the purpose of instruction

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible costs are any costs not listed above and include:

- Costs incurred before the start of the project
- Prizes or prize money
- Travel
- Accommodation
- Food or beverage costs
- Equipment purchases
- Printing
- Long-distance/fax charges
- Expenses not specific to the project
- Non-cultural powwow components
- Capital expenses

Note: You cannot request support for the same expenses in more than one MAC application.

Assessment and Notification

Funding decisions are based on an assessment of how well the project reflects the program objectives, the capacity of the applicant to complete the project, and the general merits of the proposal.

Applicants will be notified by email within six weeks of the application deadline. MAC is unable to consider appeals because of the limited funds available and the short turn-around time for disbursing funds. Meeting the general and eligibility criteria does not guarantee funding, nor does failure to receive financial support reflect a negative assessment of an application. It is not the intent of this program to duplicate assistance provided by MAC or other provincial departments and agencies. Previous funding does not guarantee funding in future years. Results will not be released over the telephone.

Grant Disbursement

Grants will be paid by cheque in two instalments. The first instalment (80% of the awarded amount) will be conveyed following the notification of the awarded grant. The second instalment (up to 20% of the awarded amount) will be released subject to receipt of a satisfactory narrative and financial report. **This final instalment will not be paid until all required information has been received.**

Reporting Requirements

Approved applicants will receive a report form by email. The report is due to MAC within **60 days** of the project's completion. Late or incomplete reports can result in the suspension or forfeiture of the second grant instalment. Consideration for future grants is dependent upon the satisfactory completion of all outstanding reporting obligations.

Reports for funds awarded in 2020 are to be submitted to MAC by email (helpdesk@artscouncil.mb.ca) or regular mail (525 - 93 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R3B 3B1).

Note: If you are reporting on funds awarded prior to 2020 through the Arts Branch of the Department of Sports, Culture, and Heritage, communicate with

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the Arts Branch (artsbranch@gov.mb.ca or 204-945-3847) to submit your report and receive your second instalment.

Application Procedure

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact MAC's helpdesk before filling out an application. The helpdesk can be reached by email (helpdesk@artscouncil.mb.ca) or phone (204-945-2237 or toll-free at 1-866-994-2787). MAC may request additional information beyond that included in the project proposal.

Please send completed applications and all required supporting materials to the Manitoba Arts Council by email (helpdesk@artscouncil.mb.ca) or regular mail (525 - 93 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R3B 3B1). All applications must be received on or before the application deadline in order to be considered for support.