

The **Artists in Schools** program supports arts-enriched learning experiences through Manitoban artists working in the classroom with students from Nursery to Grade 12 in Manitoba schools. The intent of the program is to motivate and excite students to realize their full potential, acknowledge their role in the community, and value the importance of the arts.

Deadlines

June 5: for projects in the following school year (September to the end of June)

October 5: for projects in the same school year (January to the end of June)

Notification of results

June 5 deadline – mid-August

October 5 deadline – mid-December

Grant type

Through the Learn – Artists in Schools program, MAC funds projects that immerse students in the arts and engage them in creative exploration of meaningful issues. Two types of projects can be funded:

- Short-term projects, which must be completed in a single school year
- Three-year projects*, intended to be long-term collaborative projects between teachers and artists with a track record in arts-based inquiry. Schools that host three-year projects are required to provide opportunities for participating teachers to attend planning sessions.

***Note: The review of applications for three-year projects has been suspended due to the outbreak of COVID-19. For the current intake (deadline: June 5, 2021), MAC is only accepting applications for short-term projects.**

Application limits

- You may submit multiple applications to each deadline
- An application may only include one school. All schools are eligible as long as they are listed in either the [First Nations Operated School Directory](#) or the [Manitoba Education and Training Schools in Manitoba Directory](#).
- A school may only be part of one application per deadline
- A school may only participate in one project per school year
- Applicants may receive MAC grants up to a maximum of \$30,000 per year

Grant amount

- One artist: up to a maximum of \$7,500 per application
- Two or more artists: up to a maximum of \$15,000 per application
- Three-year projects: a three-year renewable commitment of funding up to a maximum of \$15,000 per year

Applicants – who can apply

- Professional artists
- Arts/cultural professionals
- Indigenous Knowledge Keepers
- Professional arts groups
- Professional arts organizations

Note: Organizations receiving operating funding from the Manitoba Arts Council are not eligible to apply to this program.

Partnerships

A [School Commitment Form](#) signed by the principal must be submitted as part of each application. This form is the basis of the partnership between the artist and the school, and it represents the school's commitment to the project. This may include a financial contribution – MAC emphasizes the importance of a partnership between schools and artists and asks schools to support this partnership financially. MAC recommends a minimum contribution of 20% of the overall project budget.

The School Commitment Form must also indicate that all artists and collaborators listed in the application have been approved by the school to work with students. Schools may ask for recent Police Record/Vulnerable Sector and Child Abuse Registry checks as part of this process.

Note: Refer to the [School Guide](#) for further information.

Applications will be deemed ineligible if the School Commitment Form is incomplete, including if any artists, arts/cultural professionals, Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, and collaborators listed in the application form are not also listed and approved by the school.

Activities – what you can apply for

- Activity within class hours
- Project and classroom planning

- Professional development sessions for teachers

Expenses – what is eligible

Direct costs related to the current project

Northern and remote incentive

Working in an isolated area of the province can be both rewarding and challenging. Each individual participating in Artists in Schools projects funded by the Manitoba Arts Council may receive a \$1,500 incentive for each northern or remote community they travel to work in.

Note: This incentive is separate from the award, it should not be included in the project budget, and it does not count towards the annual \$30,000 cap on grant commitments from the Manitoba Arts Council.

Whether an individual can receive the incentive will be decided after an application has been awarded funding. This decision will be based on the following criteria:

- must be working away from their community of residence in a northern or remote school
- amount of time spent working in the school must be a minimum of five consecutive days
- the incentive has not been received for another school in the same community in the same school year

Assessment - how decisions are made

Your application to the Artists in Schools program will be assessed by a peer assessment jury of artists and educators on the following weighted criteria:

- Artistic merit: 30%
- Educational merit: 30%
- Impact: 30%
- Feasibility: 10%

Note: Refer to the [Peer Assessment Handbook](#) for further information.

Application content

MAC now receives grant applications through our Online Application System. In order to apply, you will need to have a valid profile in the Online Application System.

1. Project information

You will be asked to provide details on the type of grant that you are applying for, your project title, the artistic discipline(s) most relevant to this application and the project start date and end date.

In addition, you will be asked to address the following:

- Background, experience working with young people, and previous activities relevant to this application (300 words)
- Project description (300 words)
- Description of how the project will enrich student learning (250 words)
- Description of the project's potential impact on the students and their community (250 words)
- Description of the impact of your project on students and schools from underserved communities that face barriers to access and equity (250 words, if applicable)
- Your workplan and timeline (200 words, short-term projects only)
- What is your relationship to the culture(s) and/or communities represented in your project? (200 words) If your project involves communities, cultures, or cultural practices outside your own community or culture, demonstrate how you are approaching the subject matter with cultural integrity. (200 words, if applicable)
- Additional information that has not been asked that is essential to understanding your application (250 words, optional)

Note: if applying for a three-year project, you will need to address the need for three-year support and key goals, steps and the project's timeline over three years. (500 words, if applicable)

2. Collaborator information

You will be asked to describe who will be involved and/or participating in the project. Explain why you chose to work with them and what they bring to the project. You will also be asked to include bios for the collaborators.

3. School information

You will be asked to provide details and contact information for the school as well as the School Commitment Form

4. Budget

You will be asked to complete the budget sheet provided. Skip any fields that do not apply to your project. Include brief clarifications of individual budget lines in the description fields, if necessary. You will need to include the financial contributions indicated in the School Commitment Form.

5. Support materials

Support material should be samples of current work/activities relevant to your grant application; it may include the work/activities of other key artists or partners. You may choose to include earlier work/activities to provide a context for your application.

You will be asked to submit a minimum of one, and up to a maximum of three items of support material.

The following count as **one item**:

- up to 5 digital images **OR**
- up to 15 pages of text **OR**
- up to 4 minutes of audio or video

For instance, your three items can be a total of 15 images, or 45 pages of text, or 12 minutes of audio/video. But you can also submit a combination of images, text, and recordings, as long as it falls within the limits.

You will be asked to describe how the support material relates to this application (500 words).

Assessor review questions

Your application will be assessed by a committee composed of fellow artists and arts professionals. They will use the following statements established for this program to make their decisions. Assessors will only consider those statements that apply directly to your project. Every effort is made to ensure that applications are assessed fairly. MAC accepts the decisions of the jury as final.

Artistic Merit

1. The applicant proposes innovative and promising experimentation. Consider, for instance:
 - Does the project take an original approach to arts and learning?
 - Does it bring the arts into the classroom in a novel way?
2. A clear artistic, thematic, and conceptual vision underlies this application. Consider, for instance:
 - Does the application make clear how it will explore a contemporary and/or traditional artistic practice?
 - Does the applicant explain their choices?
 - Is there a clear logic behind the project?
3. The applicant has the technical skills and artistic rigour to complete this project.
4. The proposed project develops the students' artistic sensibilities. Consider, for instance:
 - Will the project deepen understanding in the classroom of artistic tools, skills, techniques, creative process, and artistic practice?
5. The applicant has given adequate consideration to questions of cultural integrity.
 - Consult the resource page to learn more about [MAC's understanding of cultural integrity](#).

Educational Merit

1. The project provides students with tools for critical and creative thinking about themselves and their place in the world.
2. The project empowers the students. Consider, for instance:
 - Will the project develop student agency, identity, and access to voice?
3. The project involves students in all stages of its development. Consider, for instance:
 - Does the project place the student at the centre of co-learning and co-creation?
4. The project has clear pedagogical underpinnings. Consider, for instance:
 - Is there evidence of the teacher's involvement in the development of this project?
 - Has careful thought been given to learning goals and connections to the curriculum?

Impact

MAC encourages arts and learning projects whose impacts extend beyond the classroom in which they take place. MAC prioritizes projects that occur in underserved communities, particularly those that face barriers due to their geographic location and/or because they are marginalized. The following questions reflect that priority.

1. The project supports sustained impact on student and teacher learning. Consider, for instance:
 - Will there be professional development opportunities for artists, educators, and administrators?
2. The project benefits the broader community in which the school is embedded. Consider, for instance:
 - Will the project have a positive impact on the students' extended network?
 - Will it develop creative connections in the community?
3. The project will benefit a marginalized and/or underserved community that faces barriers to accessing the arts.

4. The project will take place in a community whose geographic location makes it difficult to access the arts. Consider, for instance:
 - Is the project located in northern Manitoba?
 - Is it planned in a remote community that may not be accessible by road throughout the year and/or does not have reliable access to the internet?

Feasibility

1. The proposal reflects thorough research and planning. Consider, for instance:
 - Does the workplan accurately identify and address all key stages of the project?
2. The budget accurately acknowledges the likely costs and revenues of the project. Consider, for instance:
 - Has the applicant given adequate consideration to artist payment and working conditions?
3. The applicant has the resources to complete the proposed project. Consider, for instance:
 - Does the application reflect the resourcefulness of the applicant and the applicant's ability to find practical and creative ways to overcome obstacles?
 - Does the applicant have the support of presenters, partners, and host organizations?