

# SUPPORT - Strengthen



## Grant application guidelines

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The **Strengthen** grant supports projects aimed at strengthening arts and cultural organizations.

### Important Dates

**Application deadline:** May 10

**Notification of results:** Within three months after the deadline

### Grant type

- Organizational development
- Capital and equipment purchases only

Note: Organizational development grants can also include capital and equipment purchases.

### Grant amount

- Up to \$5,000

### Applicants – who can apply

- Professional not-for-profit arts organizations
- Professional for-profit arts organizations (book and periodical publishers)
- Professional arts service organizations
- Community not-for-profit organizations (that have a mandate to support arts and culture)

Note: Organizations with annual revenues greater than \$1 million are ineligible to apply (based on the organization's last completed fiscal year).

### Activities – what you can apply for

- Organizational capacity building projects
- Safety, access, health, and well-being initiatives
- Developing new organizational models and management practices
- Implementing, adapting, or updating technology, and equipment
- Opportunities for shared learning and networking
- Professional development and mentorship to support new leadership

### Expenses – what is eligible

Direct costs related to the current project

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### **Assessment** – how decisions are made

Your Support-Strengthen grant application will be evaluated by a peer assessment panel based on the following criteria:

- Project merit
- Impact
- Feasibility

**Note:** Refer to [MAC's Granting Decision Process](#) for more information.

### **Resources**

#### Accessibility

If you are D/deaf or living with a disability, you can request extra funding to cover the costs of accessibility-related supports and services. Visit our [Accessibility webpage](#) for an application form or contact MAC's Help Desk to learn more.

#### Offline applications

MAC provides offline application forms (PDF or hard copy) for applicants who have limited internet access and/or do not have reasonable access to a public internet source, such as a public library.

#### Program consultants

If you have any questions about the grant, a Program Consultant can speak with you about your project idea and review a draft of your application. Consultations are in high demand closer to the application deadline, so we suggest you contact us as soon as possible.

#### Help Desk

To get in touch with the appropriate program consultant, to get technical assistance with Manipogo (MAC's online application system), or to request [an offline application or accessibility assistance form](#), contact our Help Desk during our regular business hours (8:30-4:30, Monday to Friday).

### **Help Desk**

Phone: 204-945-2237

Toll-Free: 1-866-994-2787

Email: [helpdesk@artscouncil.mb.ca](mailto:helpdesk@artscouncil.mb.ca)

### Application content

MAC receives grant applications through Manipogo, our online application system. To apply for this grant, [create a profile in our 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 project start date and end date, and an up-to-date history of your organization.

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

- Project description (maximum of 750 words)
- Capital or equipment description (if applicable, maximum of 500 words)
- Vendor and service provider information, with quotes for service (maximum of 300 words)
- Describe your timeline (maximum of 250 words)
- Payment and working conditions (maximum of 100 words)
- What is your relationship to the culture(s) and/or communities represented in your project? (maximum of 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 (maximum of 200 words, if applicable) (For organizational development grants only)
- Additional information that has not been asked that is essential to understanding your application (maximum of 250 words)

#### 2. Budget

You will be asked to complete the budget form provided. The standard budget form is used across most MAC grant applications and some sections may not apply to your project. Enter whole dollar amounts only; do not include cents. Include brief clarifications of individual budget lines in the description fields, if necessary.

### Assessor review questions

Your application will be assessed by an assessment panel composed of fellow artists and arts professionals. They will use the following statements established for this grant 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 panel as final.

1. A solid rationale underlies this project.
2. The participating consultant, mentor, service provider or institution is a good match for the applicant.
3. The applicant has given adequate consideration to questions of cultural integrity. (Does not apply to capital or equipment projects)
  - Consult the resource page to learn more about [MAC's understanding of cultural integrity](#)
4. The proposed project will contribute to the applicant's artistic development or (if the applicant is an organization) will strengthen the organization's ability to fulfill its mandate.
5. The proposed project will benefit the artistic community in Manitoba.
6. The proposal reflects thorough research and planning.
7. 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?
8. The applicant has the resources to complete the proposed project. Consider, for instance:
  - Does the organization have the internal resources to complete the project?
  - Is the project appropriate for the size and scope of the organization?