



**Canada Council
for the Arts**

**Conseil des Arts
du Canada**

INTER-ARTS OFFICE

Integrated Arts and Contemporary Circus Art Program: Artists and Community Collaboration

Artists and community collaboration is an arts process that brings together professional artists and the broader community in diverse creative and collaborative relationships. It is recognized as an eligible arts practice in all programs of the Inter-Arts Office. (The dates shown below are the application deadlines.)

Project Funding

The Artists and Community Collaboration Program (ACCP) offers project funding for artists and community collaboration activities in all project grants components of the Integrated Arts and Contemporary Circus Art Program:

ACCP project funding **for artists:**

- Integrated Arts Program for Artists: 1 May
- Integrated Arts and Contemporary Circus Art Program: Touring Grants: 15 November and 1 May
- Integrated Arts Program for Arts Professionals: Travel Grants: no deadline

ACCP project funding **for organizations:**

- Integrated Arts and Contemporary Circus Art Program for Organizations: Creation/Production Project Grants: 15 November
- Integrated Arts and Contemporary Circus Art Program for Organizations: Dissemination, Support and Development Project Grants: 15 November
- Integrated Arts and Contemporary Circus Art Program for Organizations: Touring Grants: 15 November, and 1 May

For these programs, you apply to the ACCP by completing the regular application form, checking off this box in Part B: “ This request is being submitted to the Artists and Community Collaboration Program.” Please make sure that your application meets the ACCP assessment criteria.



Other Project Funding

Support for artist and community collaboration in these two programs is handled through the regular application process, not through the ACCP:

- Visiting Foreign Artists Program: 1 June
- Flying Squad Organizational Assistance Program in Visual Arts, Media Arts and Inter-Arts: 15 April and 15 October

Annual Programming and Operating Funding

To apply for annual programming and operating funds, please include your ACCP activities in your overall request:

- Integrated Arts and Contemporary Circus Art Program for Organizations: Operating Grants: 15 November
- Integrated Arts and Contemporary Circus Art Program for Organizations: Dissemination, Support and Development Annual Programming Grants: 15 November

Further Information

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For more information on artists and community collaboration, please read *IMAGINE: An External Review of the Canada Council for the Arts' Artists and Community Collaboration Fund*, on the Canada Council website.

IA ACCP E 10-10

Integrated Arts and Contemporary Circus Art Program: Artists and Community Collaboration

Frequently Asked Questions

What makes a project likely to be funded by the Artists and Community Collaboration program?

Community arts projects can take many forms. Activities involve groups of people coming together—either individually or through a community partner organization—to create artistic activities or works with the help and guidance of integrated arts or contemporary circus art professional artists. These projects can involve a large or small number of people, more than one community partner or group, and other sectors (such as health, justice, education or social causes).

Participants must be committed to cooperation, engagement, flexibility and mutual benefit. Well-founded community collaboration activities have the following features:

- The artists who will lead the projects have confirmed the communities’ interest through discussion and consultation and include a letter confirming this engagement in the application form.
- The participants have mutually agreed on the process of collaboration (how they will work together). Everyone involved understands and accepts that the collaboration is more important than the product.
- Decision-making is shared, and input is encouraged from all participants throughout the collaboration.
- Both the artists and the communities share ownership and responsibility for the process and result.
- The artists working on the activities work to high artistic standards.
- All participants accept that their activity may not result in what they originally thought it would. In other words, neither the artists nor the communities are interested only in achieving one particular result, such as the completion of a specific number of works or the creation of a work for public presentation. Participants agree to be open to possibilities that arise from the process of collaboration.
- The working style, knowledge and skills of the artists involved are suited to the interests, capacities and goals of the communities. They are a good match for each other.

What is meant by “community”?

For this program, “community” is defined by the activity itself.

It can refer to a geographical community, such as a city, town or neighbourhood. Or it can refer to a group of people who have a common interest, such as a hobby or social cause, or a common bond, such as membership in the same organization. A community may also share a common experience, such as being veterans, survivors or victims of an event,

However, this is not the only way of defining a community. An activity can involve communities of more than one kind, including virtual or digital communities, if they can be identified as a distinct group.

How do I know that a community is interested in working with me? And how do I prove this?

Typically, you must do research and consult with a community before applying for funding for a community collaboration project. This may include identifying and approaching a “community” you wish to work with, meeting with community partners who share similar interests, researching issues of interest to particular communities, or presenting ideas for collaboration to community members to see if they are interested. You can demonstrate proof of the community’s interest by detailing this consultation in the activity description part of your application. You will also demonstrate this with the letter(s) of intent from community partners.

Who receives the grants?

Applicants to the program will receive the grants on behalf of the project. In the description of the project explain how decisions are made and identify who is doing what.

Who controls the projects? And if we collectively create material, who owns it?

Participants must make these decisions collectively. You must describe the process for decision-making and credit for authorship in the activity description or in the letters of intent.

The guidelines require letters of intent between the artists and community partners involved in the activity. What should the letters say? If I am an artist working with a large group of people that aren’t represented by a community organization, do I have to get letters from everyone?

The letters of intent are vital to the assessment process. They verify what the participants have agreed to. They should outline the expectations, roles and responsibilities, as well as the expected benefits for everyone involved. Both the artists and community partners should sign these letters. Your application should include letters from the artist or artists and community partners outlining their expectations, their reasons for participating, and their point of view on the proposed activity.

If it is not possible to get letters, you could convey community members’ interest by including petitions, sign-up sheets, or images or minutes from meetings.

Do activities have to create new works, or can they re-workshop an existing integrated arts or contemporary circus art work?

An activity can involve re-mounting an existing work if the community is actively involved in a creative process.

I am a professional artist who would like to collaborate with another professional artist from my community. Is this eligible?

No. Artists and community collaboration activities are intended for collaborations between professional artists and community members. Your activity may be eligible as a collaboration between professional artists in the Integrated Arts Program for Artists.

My activity involves a group of amateur artists, some of whom are students or pre-professionals. Are these amateurs viewed as the “broader community,” or does the program require that I work only with non-artists?

The activity can involve amateur artists and emerging practitioners if they are part of a community group and if they do not meet the Canada Council’s definition of a professional artist (see www.canadacouncil.ca/grants/interarts/wi128333901660854927.htm).

Instead of working with community members to collectively create a new work, I plan to interview and consult community members on a particular subject, and use their knowledge and experiences as a source to make new material on my own. Is this eligible?

In general, artists and community collaboration involves community art work that is created collaboratively with community members. Research that is informed by the community, even if it is about their experiences, is not considered artists and community collaboration work.

However, this type of activity could be eligible if you could demonstrate that community members would have substantial direct involvement in the creative process. Your application should make it clear that the community understands this. The activity description should detail how community members will be engaged, how they will be credited for their contributions, and how you would resolve any cultural copyright or professional fees issues.

I am a presenter. Am I eligible to apply?

Presenters and festivals can apply for artists and community collaboration activities, but they should not rely on the results of a collaborative project as definite programming. Because community engagement and collaboration are more important than the product, the result of an activity might not be suitable for presentation.

My proposed activity involves collaboration with community members, where they are involved as part of a production or administrative team but not involved in the creative work. Is this type of collaboration eligible?

No. To be eligible for funding, activities must actively involve community members in a creative collaboration. However, community members can participate in a production or administrative capacity **in addition to** the creative collaboration.

Are artists and community collaboration activities eligible in annual programming or operating grant applications?

Yes. Artists and community collaboration is recognized as an eligible arts practice in all Inter-Arts Office programs. Applications to the Integrated Arts and Contemporary Circus Art Program for Organizations: Operating Grants and to the Integrated Arts and Contemporary Circus Art Program for Organizations: Dissemination, Support and Development Annual Programming Grants can include artists and community collaboration activities along with other eligible activities.

IA ACCP Q&A 10-10