

## The Culture Innovation Fund

The fund supports initiatives using creativity and our diverse culture to address social issues and opportunities within communities. Applicants can apply for a specific project or group of related activities that will provide the most significant impact to their organization and enhance access to arts and culture activities in their community.

The intention and objective of the program is to:

- Support new arts and cultural activities that promote healthy communities by focusing on artistic and social outcomes.
- Support projects that use creativity, arts, and culture to develop and implement initiatives that bring people together and promote equity, diversity and inclusion.
- Support an organization in planning for inclusive and sustainable growth
- Enhance an organization's social impact, or their ability to better monitor, assess and report positive impact in their communities.

## Who Can Apply?

- An applicant must be a non-profit society or non-profit co-operative with an arts and culture mandate, registered with the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stock Companies. (Arts and culture organizations support, present, or produce work by professional or established artists, and/or employ qualified paid staff to administer on-going arts and culture programs and services).

### **Organizations that are ineligible for this program include:**

- public and private schools or colleges
- organizations located outside of Nova Scotia
- businesses and sole proprietorships
- individuals
- non-profits and community organizations that are not registered with Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stock Companies

### **Ineligible Activities:**

- Recurring or ongoing operational activities
- Employee wages not related to the project
- Production costs/content creation costs

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- Website maintenance and hosting fees /monthly subscriptions
  - Capital purchases (e.g., buildings, property, construction, software)
  - Projects or project components already funded through the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage or Arts NS.
  - GST/HST/PST/QST
  - Projects in which the main goal is employment
  - Contingency costs
  - Costs incurred prior to the receipt of an application.
  - Fundraising events
  - Creative Industries (commercial film and video production, music videos, recording, publishing, commercial design, architecture, or production/line crafts, travel)

This is not a comprehensive list of ineligible expenses/activities. If you are unsure about an expense that is not listed, please contact Culture Innovation Fund [cultureinnovation@novascotia.ca](mailto:cultureinnovation@novascotia.ca)

### **In -kind Policy**

- Costs not considered eligible to the program cannot be included as an in-kind contribution to the project or program.
- The donation of in-kind goods, equipment, services must be logged, with detailed records kept by the applicant and a paid invoice/receipt may be required in the report to sufficiently prove the contribution.
- Goods and services must be of fair market value. "Fair market value" is defined as the agreed-upon price in an open and unrestricted market which reflects a reasonable evaluation by the contributor.
- Salaried employees of an organization do not count towards in-kind contributions unless it can be shown what percentage of their over-all work based on logged hours has been contributed to the specific project. (e.g.: An employee preparing an application for funding is not an in-kind contribution as that would be part of their regular duties).

### **Start and End date**

- Project must start before ***March 31, 2024***

### **Application Deadline**

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- **Deadline:** Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until fully distributed or by December 1, 2023.

### **Funding Amount**

The Initiative has two funding tiers.

Tier 1 projects may fund up to \$15,000 of eligible costs, no matching funds needed.

Tier 2 projects may fund up to \$50,000 with applicants contributing a minimum of 25% of total eligible costs.

Applicants can apply for funding from only one funding stream.

- **Tier 1:** Applicants can apply for up to a maximum of \$15,000 of eligible costs; matching funding may not be needed.
- **Tier 2:** Applicants can apply for up to \$50,000. Applicants must provide a minimum of 25% cash contribution of total eligible costs. Combined public sector contributions cannot exceed 75%.

### **Application Procedure**

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to speak with the Program Officer before their submission to discuss their proposed activity and the requirements for application.
- All projects must have defined start and end dates. If dates change after funding is awarded, the program officer must be informed.
- Application submissions must include the completed application form and budget with project details given on separate pages as detailed in the application.
- Completed application forms must be signed, preferably by the organization's chair, and dated.
- Incomplete applications will be considered ineligible.