

Burlington Arts and Culture Grant

The Burlington Arts and Culture Grant (BACG) provides grants to local artists, multicultural groups and arts and cultural organizations, to foster creativity and enrich how Burlington residents experience and engage with arts and culture. The program recognizes and supports diverse identities, perspectives, languages, cultures and artistic practices.

The BACG is facilitated to nurture the quality and capacity of the arts and culture sector in Burlington. City funding provided under the program must be used to further an applicant's non-profit activities. Project grants are intended to support a specific project or activity taking place between April 2026 and March 2027 and must take place in Burlington.

Eligibility Criteria

In order to apply for BACG funding, applicants must be Burlington-based and one of the following:

- An individual artist, or arts and cultural collective (defined as two or more artists, performers or cultural professionals that exhibit high achievement in arts and culture programming);
- An incorporated not-for-profit arts and culture organization or a charitable arts and culture organization;
- A multicultural group that fulfills a significant role in the Burlington community through arts and culture.

Exclusions from Eligibility

- Academic units of educational institutions,
- Applicants that have received any form of City funding within the same calendar year,
- Churches and other religious institutions,
- City of Burlington employees,
- Schools, conservatories and other organizations, the primary mission of which is training or education.

Exclusions from Eligible Costs

BACG project funding may not be used for major capital expenses including:

- Equipment and fixtures,
- Furthering a for-profit venture or creating an advantage for a for-profit partner,
- Land,
- Operating costs,
- Physical facilities, and,
- Public art projects through the public art program.

The BACG program will not support:

- Any cost or reimbursement associated with ongoing or annual operating or administration costs;
- Any expenses or financial commitments made prior to receiving official written grant approval;

- Retroactive funding for projects/events that have already occurred;
- Infrastructure, construction, renovation, major purchases and equipment such as capital, property, etc.;
- Alcohol, tobacco and cannabis related products or gambling expenses;
- Contingency or unexplained miscellaneous costs;
- Any other expenditure that does not directly relate to the project.

Application Process

1. Read the BACG 2026 Criteria and Guidelines document;
2. Email adam.belovari@burlington.ca to receive an application package which includes a project work plan template and program budget worksheet. Please include both documents with your application, they can be uploaded as attachments within the online application;
3. Complete and submit the online application by noon on February 2, 2026. A complete grant application including all required appendices must be submitted. No exceptions will be allowed, extensions will not be granted, and incomplete applications will not be accepted.

*To be considered for BACG funding, applicants must submit an online application through the [Arts and Culture section of the city's website](#) by noon on February 2, 2026.

Objective and Overview:

Objective: To nurture the capacity of the arts and cultural sector in Burlington, while fostering creativity, encouraging social cohesion, enhancing quality of life, and stimulating cultural and economic development through direct investment.

Project Grants Overview

The BACG is intended to support the creation and presentation of arts and cultural projects that reflect BACG objectives. Project grants are awarded for a term of one year and each applicant may apply for one project grant per year.

BACG applicants are responsible for all aspects of their project including insurance and securing an appropriate venue. The City is not responsible for any aspect of the project. BACG projects must adhere to Provincial, Regional and Municipal health and safety guidelines at the time of the application and during the implementation of the project. Projects must also adhere to Federal, Provincial and Municipal regulatory compliance standards such as building codes, City by-laws, Fire Regulations, etc.

For organizations, groups or individuals that receive BACG funding in any year and reapply to the grant program the following year, a final project report must be integrated as part of the subsequent application form. Applications for projects that recur must be submitted annually and will be adjudicated based on assessment criteria as outlined in this document and on the following:

- Success of the project in the previous year;
- Innovation within the project;
- Availability of funds in the context of funding priorities.

Grants

- The maximum amount awarded for each project grant is \$7,000. The City has discretion with regard to the amount awarded and funding decisions are final.
- Depending on an application's score, partial funding may be awarded.
- Project grants are intended to support a specific activity or event taking place between April 2026 and March 2027 and must take place in Burlington.
- In order to remain eligible for BACG funding support, applicants may not apply to or receive funding from another City grant program in the same calendar year.
- Awarded applicants are required to sign a letter of agreement recognizing their obligations regarding the use of the funds and reporting requirements.
- Once the agreement has been signed by City staff and the awarded applicant, the City will issue 80% of the grant funding.
- The remaining 20% will be issued upon receipt of the final project report, invoices and other required documentation as outlined in the BACG letter of agreement.
- Applicants will not be eligible to receive further BACG funding until all required reports have been submitted to and accepted by the City of Burlington.
- A grant recipient in default of their grant agreement may be required to return funds to the City of Burlington and may be judged as ineligible for future grant programs.

Adjudication

For project grants the following assessment criteria will be considered:

There are three key areas of evaluation including: Project and Artistic Merit, Inclusion and Community Impact, and Project Delivery.

Project and Artistic Merit (40%) as determined by:

1. The project offers original, high-quality arts/cultural experiences for Burlington artists, arts and cultural organizations, and the public.
2. The project is distinct in its artistic approach, presentation or engagement when compared to existing arts and cultural activities in Burlington.
3. The project demonstrates evidence of community interest, growth, or ongoing demand.
4. The project team demonstrates artistic and/or professional expertise appropriate to the project's scope.
5. The work plan is supported by realistic timelines and deliverables.

Peer assessment jury members evaluate the Project and Artistic Merit criteria of BACG applications. Jury members include arts and cultural professionals that are knowledgeable about the City of Burlington context, the broader arts and culture environment, and reflect the cultural diversity of Burlington.

Inclusion and Community Impact (30%) as determined by:

1. Inclusion: The project prioritizes inclusion, accessibility, and representation of diverse communities such as newcomers, Black, Indigenous, and racialized people, 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, people with disabilities, and other unrepresented groups.
2. Community Engagement and Collaboration: The project demonstrates community support through collaborations, sponsorships, in-kind contributions, or volunteer participation.
3. Strategic Alignment: The project aligns with one or more of the strategic priorities outlined in Burlington's Strategic Plan.
4. Capacity Building and Development: The project provides employment opportunities (professional artist fees), mentorship, and/or training to Burlington artists, cultural workers and creative professionals.

Project Delivery (30%) as determined by:

1. Budget and Funding: The application clearly demonstrates how BACG funding will directly support the project and includes a complete project budget.
2. Promotion and Outreach: The project includes clear strategies to promote public awareness, encourage participation, and broaden audience reach.
3. Financial Sustainability: The applicant shows initiative and success in securing additional funding and/or in-kind support beyond BACG funding.
4. Project Team: The project team possesses the skills, experience and capacity necessary to successfully deliver the project.
5. Work Plan: The work plan is supported by realistic timelines and deliverables.

City staff evaluate Inclusion and Community Impact, and Project Delivery criteria. Final decisions on funding allocation are determined by the City.

Glossary of Terms

Arts and Culture Collective: Two or more artists, performers, or cultural professionals that exhibit high achievement in arts and culture programming.

Charitable Arts and Culture Organization: A charitable organization whose mandate or mission is focused on artistic/cultural creation and presentation.

Charitable Organization: To be considered charitable, an organization's purpose must be exclusively and legally charitable and it must be established for the benefit of the public or a sufficient segment of the public. It must also be registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as having charitable status under the Income Tax Act. Organizations so registered are able to issue tax receipts for charitable donations.

Community Arts and Culture Project: Broadly defined, a community arts and culture project involves a collaborative creative process between a professional practicing artist and the community. It is a collective method of art-making, engaging professional artists and self-defined communities through collaborative, artistic expression. It is as much about process as it is about the artistic product or outcome. A community arts and culture project provides a unique way for communities to express themselves and enables artists, through financial and other support, to engage in creative activity with communities.

Not-for-Profit Arts and Culture Organization: A not-for-profit organization whose mandate or mission is focused primarily on artistic/cultural creation and presentation.

Not-for-Profit Organization: An organization not conducted or maintained for the purpose of making a profit. Instead, it operates to serve a public good. Not-for-profit organizations are specifically incorporated as such. Any surplus generated by a not-for-profit organization is used by the organization for the purposes for which it was established.

Peer Assessment Jury: BACG jury members are arts and culture professionals, practitioners and/or individuals who are knowledgeable in the arts and culture with high standing in the arts and culture community. Jurors evaluate applications based on the artistic merit component of the application and provide feedback to city staff. Peer assessment ensures that the arts and culture community have a voice in how funds are distributed and that applications are evaluated by artists and other cultural experts with knowledge and experience of the specific art forms, art practices and communities involved.

Professional Artist: Someone who has developed skills through training and/or practice, is recognized as such by artists working in the same artistic tradition, has a history of public presentation or publication and seeks payment for their work and actively practices their art. Short breaks in artistic history are allowed. The source of this definition is the Ontario Arts Council.

External Arts and Culture Grant Opportunities

- [Arts Access Fund](#)
- [Building Communities through Arts and Heritage Program](#)
- [Business for the Arts](#)
- [Canada Arts Training Fund](#)
- [Canada Council for the Arts](#)
- [Canada Cultural Spaces Fund](#)
- [Canada Cultural Investment Fund](#)
- [Canada History Fund](#)
- [Canada Music Fund](#)
- [Canada Post Community Foundation](#)
- [Canadian Heritage Funding and Assistance Programs](#)
- [Charles H. Ivey Foundation](#)
- [Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program](#)
- [FACTOR \(Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent on Recordings\)](#)
- [McLean Foundation](#)
- [National Gallery of Canada Fellowship](#)
- [Ontario Arts Council](#)
- [Ontario Clay and Glass Association Fusion Awards](#)
- [Ontario Creates](#)
- [Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund](#)
- [Ontario Trillium Foundation](#)
- [RBC Community Investment Funding and Sponsorships](#)
- [R. Howard Webster Foundation](#)
- [Scotiabank Photography Award](#)
- [Telefilm Canada Feature Film Fund](#)
- [Writer's Trust of Canada Awards](#)