

# City of Vancouver

## ARTIST STUDIO AWARD PROGRAM (2022–2025) INFORMATION GUIDE

### Land acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the City of Vancouver is located on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam) Indian Band, and the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations. We thank the Host Nations for having cared for this land and are grateful for their partnership as we continue to build this city together.

As a City of Reconciliation, the City of Vancouver is committed to the ongoing process of decolonization and Reconciliation with the local First Nations and Urban Indigenous communities.

### About this program

The City of Vancouver Artist Studio Award Program awards seven studios at below-market rates to low-income Vancouver-based artists working in any artistic discipline for terms of approximately three years. Removing financial barriers for the awarded artists supports the development of their cultural and art practice at a critical point in their career.

The 2022-2025 program will dedicate all seven studios to low-income Vancouver-based artists who are Indigenous and/or racialized. Subject to eligibility a minimum of three studios will be dedicated to xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations artists.

### Key Dates\*

Applications open	June 30 2021
Images and details about the Studios available	July 7 – Aug 4, 2021
Deadline for accommodation requests	July 21, 2021
<b>Application deadline</b>	<b>August 4, 2021, 4pm</b>
Artist Selection	Fall 2021
Council approval and artist notification	November 2021
Move-in date	April 1, 2022

\*Dates subject to change without notice.

### Contact information

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Contents

Context ..... 3

Who can apply? ..... 3

About the studios ..... 4

How to apply ..... 5

Application ..... 6

Assessment ..... 7

Recommendations and report to City Council ..... 7

Terms and conditions ..... 8

Confidentiality ..... 8

Definitions ..... 8

## Context

This guide provides information about the application and selection process for the City of Vancouver's Artist Studio Award Program. The Artist Studio Award Program is one of many programs, awards and services that the Cultural Services department offers to advance the vision and goals of [Making Space for Arts and Culture](#), Vancouver's 10 year cultural infrastructure plan, and [Culture|Shift: Blanketing the City in Arts & Culture](#), the City's 2020-2029 culture plan. Three of the strategic directions of [Culture|Shift](#) are to advance and support Reconciliation and decolonization, cultural equity and accessibility, and affordable, accessible and safe cultural spaces.

To that end, Cultural Services is committed to providing dedicated opportunities for professional artists from historically underrepresented communities. The Artist Studio Award Program aims to support low-income professional artists working in any artistic discipline. There are seven below market rate studios in the program: five are live-work studios and two are work-only studios. Removing financial barriers for the awarded artists supports the development of their cultural and art practice at a critical point in their career. **In recognition of systemic barriers facing racialized artists, the 2022-2025 program will dedicate all seven studios to low-income Vancouver-based artists who are Indigenous and/or racialized. A minimum of three studios will be dedicated to xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) artists.**

Six of the seven successful artists will be awarded studios for terms of three years less two weeks starting April 1, 2022. One live-work studio (Studio 2) is available for a term of less than two years (April 1, 2022-January 1, 2024).

## Who can apply?

The Artist Studio Award Program is open to applicants who:

- Currently work and practice as an artist
- Currently reside in Vancouver and for a minimum of two years before the application deadline, OR are a community member of one of the Host First Nations: xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh);
- Demonstrate financial need (maximum average household annual income of \$55,500\* from all sources in the last three years); and
- Are Black, Indigenous and/or people of colour.

In this program, an "artist" is defined as a person who produces art, in any cultural form, including but not limited to studio and visual arts; performing arts, including theatre and dance; Indigenous arts; craft arts; community and/or social practice; Deaf, MAD and disability arts; literature and literary arts; music and sound; film and media arts; multidisciplinary practice.

To qualify as an eligible artist for this program, applicants must:

- Have an active and established artistic practice for five years or more;
- Be recognized by their peers as an artist (peers can include knowledge keepers, Elders, or other recognized artists in their community);
- Have specialized training in their practice, not necessarily in academic settings;
- Seek compensation for their work; and
- Have a history of public presentation or production.

\* See Housing Income Limits in glossary for further details.

The studios will only be available to artists who can demonstrate financial need. Applicants are asked to submit financial documentation for the past three years (2018, 2019 and 2020) which will then be used to determine the average household annual gross income, which must not exceed \$55,500.

*People of colour* is an umbrella term for a diverse spectrum of racialized peoples who have experienced vastly different historical disadvantages and barriers to participation in Canadian society and the arts sector. People of colour may include individuals of African, Asian, Latin American, Middle Eastern, and mixed racial descent.

*Indigenous* refers to individuals who have a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies and consider themselves distinct from the dominant societies in which they live. Indigenous people in Canada include First Nations (Status or Non-status), Métis or Inuit. Canadian arts institutions have historically and continue to support artists who falsely claim Indigenous identity and ancestry to access funds dedicated for Indigenous people. These incidents are damaging and harmful to Indigenous artists and communities. This process is committed to serving equity-seeking communities. Accordingly, Cultural Services reserves the right to ask applicants to validate their identity claims.

## About the studios

- Occupancy in the live-work bachelor studios is for one to two adults.
- Occupancy in the one bedroom live-work artist studios is limited to two persons, one of whom may be a child\*
- All of the studios are approved for the production of low impact practice including dance, music, creative writing, painting, drawing, pottery, sculpture, video, and moving or still photography.
- High-impact activities, which can have impacts for neighbouring residents, such as welding, glassblowing, and amplified music, are not permitted within the studios.
- Studios are provided at below-market rates, but artists are responsible for associated occupancy costs, including utilities, phone, insurance (liability and contents), moving expenses and charges, basic maintenance and small repairs.

\* The City is working towards securing future live-work artist studios that are suitable for families. These will be available through future Cultural Spaces programs.

### Studio 1) Live-Work Studio

272 East 4th Avenue (528 sq ft)

**Rent:** \$215/month

This third-floor studio is a single-level strata unit with a large northeast-facing window and concrete floors. The studio is equipped with a bed loft, fridge, stove, and in-suite washer/dryer. There is no associated parking stall in the building. There is a common roof deck area and amenity room. Pets are allowed (2 dogs, 2 cats, or 1 of each.)

### Studio 2) Live-Work Studio

485 West 8th Avenue (911 sq ft)

**Rent:** \$375/month

The studio provided for lease to the City by the developer is a split-level, one-bedroom unit with approximately 235 square feet of deck and balcony space as well as the use of one parking stall. It is equipped with a fridge, stove and in-suite washer/dryer. Amenities include an exercise room and green roof. No pets allowed.

*This is the only one-bedroom unit in the Studio Award program; priority will be given to an artist with a child. **This studio is only available April 1, 2022-January 1, 2024.***

### Studio 3) Live-Work Studio

1202 East Pender Street (1,075 sq ft)

**Rent:** \$440/month

This split-level unit includes a 300-square-foot loft area, and includes the use of one parking stall. It is equipped with a fridge, dishwasher, stove, in-suite washer/dryer and security alarm. Pets are allowed (1 dog or 1 cat.)

### Studio 4) Live-Work Studio

#102 - 8031 Nunavut Ln (1,150 sq ft)

**Rent:** \$470/month

This large studio includes a 410-square-foot loft. Close to major transit lines, it is equipped with a fridge, stove and in-suite washer and dryer. It has a west-facing garden patio. It also includes self-contained storage and a parking stall. Pets are allowed (2 dogs, 2 cats, or 1 of each. Dogs must be under 60 cm in height.)

### Studio 5) Live-Work Studio

#101 - 8031 Nunavut Ln (910 sq ft)

**Rent:** \$375/month

This studio is a smaller version of Studio 4 above. It includes a 295-square-foot loft.

### Studio 6) Work-Only Studio

1571 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (400 sq ft)

**Rent:** \$165/month

This work-only studio has windows on three sides and is equipped with a washroom, and a slop sink and counter. It has one parking stall.

### Studio 7) Work-Only Studio

1573 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (400 sq ft)

**Rent:** \$165/month

Same as Studio 6 above, except it has windows on two sides.

Photos, 360° virtual tours, and detailed information about the studios – including location, size, floorplans, rent, parking, and amenities – are available at: [vancouver.ca/people-programs/about-the-artist-studios.aspx](http://vancouver.ca/people-programs/about-the-artist-studios.aspx)

## How to apply

**Applicants must read this program information guide in its entirety before submitting an application. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 4pm.**

Due to the expected volume of applications, the first part of the application will screen applicants for eligibility. Only those who meet the eligibility requirements will be able to proceed and complete an application.

We endeavour to work with eligible applicants who experience barriers to access our programs by creating or providing accommodations, including but not limited to:

- Translation
- Braille transcription
- Application writing assistance

In order to receive support for these requests, or if you have any questions please contact staff at [cultural.spaces@vancouver.ca](mailto:cultural.spaces@vancouver.ca) **before July 21, 2021**. Staff will get back to you as quickly as possible.

# Application

## Step 1

Applicants are screened for eligibility online. Due to the high demand for limited studios, only artists that meet the eligibility requirements will proceed to Step 2. This is to avoid ineligible artists having to provide more information than required.

## Step 2

Eligible artists will be asked to submit further information including:

1. Résumé/CV (PDF, maximum 3 pages)
2. Detailed contact information
3. Household annual gross income from years 2018, 2019, and 2020
4. Statement describing your artistic practice (250 words)
5. Statement on your planned artistic work for 2022-2025 (250 words)
6. Statement on how a studio award will support your practice (250 words)
7. Statement sharing your social location (see glossary for definition), including your identity as an IBPOC artist and relationship to the unceded territories known as Vancouver (250 words)
8. Peer or community references (up to 3 references; maximum 1 page each)
9. Rental reference
10. Declaration

## Step 3

Artists who are shortlisted will be asked to validate their eligibility by providing documentation and speaking with Cultural Services staff. Shortlisted artists will be contacted in early fall 2021. Due to high demand and a limited number of spaces many deserving artists will unfortunately not be shortlisted. Unsuccessful applicants will not be notified.

Details about the documentation required for each of the eligibility requirements are below:

### **A. Vancouver residency, or Membership of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliiwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations**

If you are a resident of Vancouver, you may submit a photocopy or scan of your most recent phone or hydro bill, or your driver's license.

This program commits to awarding a studio to an artist from each of the Host Nations. Accordingly, to protect the integrity of this process, artists who identify as xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliiwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) are required to submit proof of their membership, regardless of where they live, to be eligible for one of the dedicated Host First Nations studios. xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliiwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) artists will be asked to submit a copy of a formal document, such as a status card, or other documentation that affirms enrolment, citizenship, family connections, kinship, or family history via community memory. Alternatively, applicants may submit a letter from the Host Nation to affirm membership.

### **B. Financial Eligibility**

Applicants are asked to submit financial documentation for the past three years, which will then be used to determine the average annual gross income. Acceptable documentation includes either copies of Income Tax returns (or Notice of Assessment) for the past three (3) years, or a

copy of a recent statement from the Ministry of Social Development showing shelter allowance. **Please ensure to file your taxes for the past three years in time to provide documentation by the end of August 2021.**

### **C. References**

Applicants will be asked to provide residential tenant as well as peer and community references. Residential tenant references can be from current or previous landlords. If you are unable to acquire this, please reach out to staff to discuss. Peer and community references are intended to demonstrate support and recognition from your community, including but not limited to fellow artists, collaborators, partners, mentors, Elders, knowledge keepers, participants, and/or audiences.

This process is committed to serving equity-seeking communities. Accordingly, Cultural Services reserves the right to ask any applicant to validate their identity claims.

All supporting confidential documentation will be destroyed after the assessment process is complete.

### **Assessment**

Applications will be assessed by Cultural Services staff and feedback may be sought from local arts and culture professionals who represent the diversity of disciplines, genders, sexualities, ages, religions, nations, physical and neurological identities, races and ethnicities represented in Vancouver's artistic communities.

Considerations within this assessment process will include:

- The applicant's artistic and cultural practice.
- The applicant's demonstrated social location including their identity as a IBPOC artist, and their relationship to the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations, known as Vancouver.
- Demonstration that the financial requirement is met.
- Demonstration of support and recognition from the applicant's peers and community/communities.
- Demonstration of how a studio space will allow the applicant to develop their artistic and/or cultural practice and career.
- Understanding of what is required to achieve plans as demonstrated by a clear, well-researched, and achievable timeline.

### **Recommendations and report to City Council**

Staff will provide their recommendation in a report to City Council for consideration and approval. Recommendations include names of artists selected for each studio. Names and addresses will be published online in the Council report. Prior to the report going to Council, selected artists will be notified directly by staff. The report is made public on the City's website approximately one week before the Council date.

## Terms and conditions

Recipients of an Artist Studio Award are required to sign a standard City lease and pay a security deposit. All award recipients are also required to pay all associated occupancy costs such as utilities, phone, insurance (liability and contents), moving expenses and charges, basic maintenance and small repairs.

The City will prepare the studios for the new occupants (i.e. cleaned and made suitable for occupancy) and all studios will be rented in “as is” condition.

Awarded artists must also agree to terms and conditions including:

- Enter into a lease agreement that shall include but not be limited to the following conditions:
  - To not sublet or assign the studio.
  - To be responsible for all occupancy costs (e.g. utilities, cable, phone, insurance, etc.).
  - To abide by all strata council by-laws, and be responsible for any fines levied by the strata council for by-law violations.
  - To leave the premises in good condition at the conclusion of the term, including repairs to damage incurred during the term (reasonable wear and tear excepted).
  - To make no structural changes, or cause damage to the unit.
  - To pay the fees and nominal rent in a timely manner.
- Appropriately acknowledge the City’s support through the Cultural Services Department in all information materials, including online, publications, programs and any other collateral produced related to funded and supported activities. Such recognition must be commensurate with that given to other funding agencies.
- To support City staff with information that will support planning of future iterations of this program, along with access to the units for promotional basis such as hosting an open house or taking photography and videography.
- To participate in an exit survey and interview with City staff prior to the conclusion of the term lease.

## Confidentiality

All documents submitted by Applicants to the City become the property of the City. The City will make every effort to maintain the confidentiality of each application and the information contained therein except to the extent necessary to communicate information to selection committee members for the purposes of evaluation and analysis. The City will not release any of this information to the public except as required under the Province of British Columbia *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* or other legal disclosure process.

## Definitions

A **glossary** of terms drawn from *Culture|Shift* can be found here:

[vanculture.smapply.ca/protected/resource/eyJ0ZnJlljogNjkzODQyODcsICJ2cSI6IDE2MTg5OH0/](http://vanculture.smapply.ca/protected/resource/eyJ0ZnJlljogNjkzODQyODcsICJ2cSI6IDE2MTg5OH0/)



We recognize that language is fluid, and offer the glossary with the hope that we can develop shared language amongst the arts and culture community to advance the work of equity.

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**Artist** is a person who produces art, in any cultural form, including but not limited to studio and visual arts; performing arts, including theatre and dance; Indigenous arts; craft arts; community and/or social practice; Deaf, MAD and disability arts; literature and literary arts; music and sound; film and media arts; multidisciplinary practice.

**Housing Income Limits** or **HILs** is the maximum annual gross income below which the provincial government considers a household (including single person households) to be eligible to occupy a particular type of unit. BC Housing produces annual Housing Income Limit tables for each community. In Vancouver 2021, the HIL for studio and 1-bedroom apartments is \$55,500. To view the 2021 HILs, please visit: <https://www.bchousing.org/publications/2021-Housing-Income-Limits-HILs.pdf>

**Indigenous** refers to individuals who have a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies and consider themselves distinct from the dominant societies in which they live. Indigenous people in Canada include First Nations (Status or Non-status), Métis or Inuit.

**Gross Annual Income** means the total income or payments in your household from all sources received at any time during the previous calendar year including wages, salary, self-employment net income, rents, fees, interest, dividends, pension payments, annuity payments, awards and payments in compensation for lost income, capital gains, bequests, and lottery winnings and winnings from gambling and wagering.

**People of colour** is an umbrella term for a diverse spectrum of **racialized** peoples who have experienced vastly different historical disadvantages and barriers to participation in Canadian society and the arts sector. People of colour may include individuals of African, Asian, Latin American, Middle Eastern, and mixed racial descent.

**Social location** is defined as the combination of factors including gender, race, social class, age, ability, religion, sexual orientation, and geographical location among other qualities that make up an individual's identity and positionality in society.

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***If this guide does not answer your questions about the program or application process, please contact staff at least two weeks in advance of the application deadline.***