

2026 COMMUNITIES AND ARTISTS SHIFTING CULTURE (CASC)

Information for Non-Incorporated Collectives and Individual Artists on Sponsored Applications

Non-incorporated collectives and individual artists from equity-denied communities may apply via an eligible sponsor organization. Because systemic discrimination prevents some groups of people from having the same access to the resources and opportunities that are available to other members of society, sponsoring aims to dismantle barriers that prevent just outcomes and flourishing societies. These barriers are historic and contemporary and can be transformed for the benefit and dignity of all communities.

This sponsoring opportunity is in line with Culture|Shift, and in support of the City of Vancouver's Equity Framework to level the playing field for more artists.

The Equity Framework is a conceptual, foundational document that describes what is meant by the word equity, why doing work on equity is essential, what key concepts orient the City's internal processes and decision making in this area, and how these concepts can be embedded into the City's work through individual and organizational commitments. Crucially, it defines the City's equity work to be centered on four notions: Indigenous Rights, racial justice, intersectionality, and systems approach to change.

Equity-deserving Artists, Organizations and Communities that will be prioritized during the assessment process include but are not limited to people who identify as:

- Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, Urban Indigenous
- Black or of African descent
- People of Colour
- Deaf/deaf, Hard of Hearing people
- People living with a disability(ies)/disabled people
- 2SLGBTQ+ and gender diverse people

Responsibilities of the Sponsoring Organization

1. Eligibility & Mandate Alignment

The sponsor must:

- Be registered non-profit society, charity, co-op, or First Nations Band Council.
- Be in good standing with BC Registries or CRA.
- Have a **mandate to serve / demonstrated history of serving the same equity-deserving community(ies)** as the artist or collective they are sponsoring

2. Administrative Oversight

- Host the application in the organization's VanApply account (including submitting the application as an authorized signatory on behalf of the artist or collective).
- Ensure the project is **distinct from their own core funded activities** (if they receive other City operating grants).
- Manage the grant funds responsibly and in alignment with the project plan.

3. Support & Relationship

- Maintain a **clear working relationship** with the artist or collective.
- Provide mentorship, infrastructure, and/or administrative support as needed.
- Ensure the artist's creative autonomy and leadership are respected.

4. Compliance & Reporting

- Ensure the project complies with all applicable laws, permits, and cultural protocols.
- Submit **interim and final reports** on behalf of the project.
- Provide financial accountability for the use of grant funds.

The sponsored artist/collective should lead on most aspects of the application, especially the Creative Vision and Project Plan and Budget sections. Other sections may be completed in collaboration with the sponsor organization.

The sponsor organization needs to prepare or provide the following:

1. Organizational Documents

- Certificate of Incorporation or CRA registration.
- Most recent **Board-signed financial statements** (Balance Sheet and Income/Expense Statement).
- **Board of Directors list** with names, roles, and experience.

2. Project Details

- Name of the sponsored artist or collective.
- A **250-word description** of the working relationship and alignment with equity-deserving communities.
- Project plan, budget, and key activities.

3. Policies & Practices

- Accessibility and inclusion policies.
- Commitment to **fair compensation** for artists and contributors (industry standard rates).
- Safe and respectful working conditions.

4. Reporting History

If previously funded, ensure all past CASC reports are completed or submit an interim report before new funds are released

Contact Information

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