



Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership (AACL)

Application deadline: April 15, 2024

*****NOTE: APRIL 15 IS THE ONLY AACL DEADLINE FOR 2024.
THERE WILL NOT BE A FALL DEADLINE.*****

Please read the Guidelines carefully before starting the grant application. Applicants should consult with SaskCulture prior to submitting an application to discuss the eligibility of their proposal and to determine if this grant program is the best fit.

Purpose

The AACL grant program aims to advance the course of culture in Saskatchewan by supporting:

- the sharing of cultural skills and knowledge to young peoples through mentorship opportunities that promote the world views, cultural practices and activities of First Nations and Métis peoples in Saskatchewan;
- the development of cultural organizations in their ability to deliver and sustain cultural programming with First Nations and Métis peoples and communities, as well as to respond to emerging needs and changing demographics of the province;
- increased employment opportunities for First Nations and Métis arts and culture resource peoples who offer cultural programming unique to Saskatchewan;
- cultural awareness, cultural activity, skill development, personal growth and positive lifestyles at the individual, group and community level; and
- the building of capacity for communities and cultural organizations to assess community needs and to effectively plan and implement cultural programs for, and by, First Nations and Métis peoples.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- provide significant opportunities to meet the purpose of the AACL grant program;
- deliver relevant cultural activities based on cultural impact, accessibility and service to communities;
- contribute significantly to participation in intergenerational cultural activity;
- support Indigenous peoples' cultural revitalization and integrating Indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, laws, protocols, and relationships to the land;
- take constructive action on addressing the ongoing legacies of colonialism that have had destructive impacts on Indigenous peoples' cultures and languages;
- demonstrate strong partnerships and community support;
- take place in the province's northern and/or rural or otherwise underserved communities; and
- are from communities and organizations new to the AACL grant program.

If you are unsure whether your project fits the Purpose of this grant, please contact the AACL Consultant, or see a [list of successful applicants and project descriptions](#).

NOTE: Previously funded organizations that receive AACL project grants yearly will be prioritized based on the evidence of past impact provided in the application. Organizations already significantly funded by other grant programs supported by Sask Lotteries may be a lower priority.

Contact

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Applicant Eligibility

Eligible Applicants are:

- **Registered Non-Profit** organizations in Saskatchewan. These organizations must:
 - have a primarily cultural mandate in Arts, Heritage, Multiculturalism or Cultural Industries as defined by [SaskCulture's Cultural Policy](#), or otherwise demonstrate significant engagement in cultural activity;
 - be in existence as a registered non-profit for at least one full fiscal year. If your organization has been incorporated for less than a year, please contact the SaskCulture consultant to discuss options.
 - be in good standing with Information Services Corporation (ISC);
 - have no outstanding grant follow-ups due to SaskCulture; and,
 - provide a signed copy of the organization's annual financial statement that was most recently submitted to the ISC to show evidence of good standing as a non-profit organization in Saskatchewan

OR

- **be a First Nation, Tribal Council, Métis Local or Municipality.** The applicant must:
 - be in good standing with the Sask Lotteries Community Grant Program; and
 - have no outstanding grant follow-ups due to SaskCulture.

Ineligible Applicants:

If your organization does not meet the eligibility requirements you may consider the following options:

- Unincorporated community groups may consider forming a partnership with an eligible organization to meet the eligibility requirements for this grant program. Please consult with SaskCulture to discuss options;
- Schools and post-secondary institutions are ineligible for this grant program. Interested schools should inquire about:
 - [Artists in Schools program](#) at SK Arts as an alternative to this grant program;
 - [Multicultural Education Initiatives](#) through the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan.

- Eligible Cultural Organizations (ECOs) are ineligible to apply. ECOs should include project ideas in their next Annual Global Funding application.
- Contact the SaskCulture Outreach Consultant to discuss your project and your eligibility to be advised on what alternate project funds might be available to you; or
- Use SaskCulture’s “[Find a Grant](#)” tool to explore other options.

Submitted applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be reviewed.

Project Eligibility

- Projects must directly address the Purpose and Priorities of the AACL funding program.
- Applicants can access only one AACL grant at a time.
 - If the applicant already has an outstanding/overdue SaskCulture grant, a second proposal will not be considered until the current one is reconciled.
 - If the applicant’s current AACL grant is wrapping up during the time of application for another deadline, contact SaskCulture for options.
- Applicants may not apply to multiple SaskCulture funding programs to support the same activity for the same time frame:
 - *Priority will be given to projects and organizations not already funded by other Lottery-supported grant programs*
 - *Priority will be given to projects that have not received an AACL grant in the previous year.*
- **START DATE:** Eligible start dates for this round must be eight (8) weeks after the grant deadline.
- **END DATE:** All projects must be completed within one year of the start date; however please contact the Consultant as soon as possible if your plans need to change.
- Projects that commence sooner than 8 weeks after the deadline will not be considered.

Eligible Expenses

The AACL grant can cover direct costs to the development and delivery of a cultural project. Please ensure that only Eligible Expenses are included and that they are clearly explained. All project income and expenses should be included in budget form and the budget should balance (revenue = expenses).

Upon approval, funds may only be used for the eligible activities outlined in your application. Significant changes to the use of funds must be approved by SaskCulture. Funds may not be transferred to other activities or organizations and unused funds must be returned to SaskCulture.

Eligible Project expenses include:

- Wages, honorarium and contract agreements for cultural resource people who are offering their skills and expertise for the term of the project. This does not replace wages for the core job responsibilities of existing staff;
- Honourarium for program participants who are directly contributing their knowledge and/or lived experience to community engagement projects;

- Travel expenses for program participants. This includes gas, rental of vehicles, bus transit and airfare. While the primary cultural activities must take place in Saskatchewan, travel outside of the province is eligible if it is to bring resource peoples in locally to conduct work that cannot otherwise be conducted by someone in Saskatchewan;
- Material expenses related to the cultural activity, including gifts related to First Nations cultural protocols;
- Facility costs would only be considered eligible in situations where additional space is required for the project to move ahead. The existing space/facility of an applicant organization is not eligible and would be considered as an in-kind contribution- i.e. rent, utilities and office overhead.
- A recommended maximum of 20% of the total grant award can support food expenses that are a part of the cultural experience that is being offered for participants. A strong rationale would need to be provided to exceed this amount.
- A recommended maximum of 10% of the total grant request can be utilized for advertising and promotion cost for the project. A strong rationale would need to be provided to exceed this amount.

All expenses must fall within the indicated start and end date of the grant. All expenses **must be verifiable by receipts or transaction record**. Expenses incurred before or after the grant period will not be eligible.

Ineligible Expenses ---

The following items are not eligible for AACL funds:

- Capital expenses such as construction, renovations or repairs;
- Cash prizes, gifts, or the purchase of alcohol;
- Activity that exclusively promotes definable religious or political viewpoints;
- Allowances, wages or personal expenses for program registrants and participants;
- Salaries and expenses of existing staff of the applicant organization;
- Office and administration fees including utilities, rent and/or rental of an applicant organization's own facilities; and
- In-kind contributions (such as volunteer hours, donations for food, goods, services, equipment, waiving rental fee, etc.) do not replace eligible expenses and should not be included in the budget.

Funding Levels ---

The AACL grant can support a variety of project sizes and community needs throughout the province based on the funds that are available.

The recommended request amount to this program is up to \$15,000. This is the average range of funding that is allocated to successful applicants.

The absolute maximum request amount for activity is \$30,000. Larger grant awards (above \$15,000) are typically awarded to projects that present a significant opportunity to broadly impact numerous priorities and purposes of the AACL grant program. Additional considerations will be applied in reviewing applications requesting between \$15,000 and \$30,000, including:

- the extent of commitment to the project including other self-generated income, in-kind support of staff and volunteers, and evidence of community support;
- the extent that the project will be accessible to underserved communities;
- the uniqueness of the activity; and
- the potential for long-term impact.

For returning or otherwise annually funded projects that have been supported before, SaskCulture may include the previous year's follow-up report as part of the assessment, including funding amounts previously received.

Application Process

Applications are due April 15, 2024. Late applications will not be considered for funding. Applications must be submitted via the Online Grant Platform (OGP).

- Applicants are encouraged to consult with SaskCulture prior to submitting an application. There are opportunities for early submissions to get feedback to help improve aspects of a submission that are unclear or ineligible in advance of a deadline, but this is not a guarantee of either feedback or funding.
- SaskCulture will review applications to confirm basic eligibility requirements have been met prior to submitting all grants to the funding assessors. **If a submission is ineligible, the applicant will be notified.**
- Only complete, signed and submitted applications will be considered. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that their application is successfully submitted. Two different people must sign the application.
- Eligible applications are evaluated by volunteer community members with knowledge and experience that relates to the purpose and priority of this grant program.
- Applicants can expect to be informed of funding results within eight (8) weeks of the application deadline.
- Funding decisions are final and will not be revisited or appealed.
- Successful applicants receive 75% of their total grant allocation upon grant approval and the remaining 25% upon SaskCulture's acceptance of a recipient's properly filed Follow-Up Report (FUR).

Application Assessment

The funding assessors will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- The extent of impact on the purpose and priorities of the AACL grant program;

- The quality and merit of the proposed activity;
- The extent of participation, accessibility and leadership opportunities for First Nations and Métis peoples;
- The extent of resourcefulness, collaboration, partnerships and community engagement;
- Evidence of the ability of the applicant organization to carry out the project and deliver quality programs and/or services;
- Extent of potential for ongoing impact and legacy; and
- Realistic and responsible use of resources (funds, volunteers, etc.);

Note: Returning or otherwise annual projects funded by SaskCulture may have their most recent project Follow-Up Report provided to assessors as part of the assessment process.

The quality of writing and attention to detail in a grant application will definitely benefit an applicant's chances of success. However, we understand not everyone who is applying for funding is a professional grant writer or that English may not be the primary language of the person applying. If an applicant is struggling with the application, please remember, SaskCulture consultants are available to assist.

SaskCulture strives to be accessible and supportive to applicants throughout the granting process. If an applicant is experiencing barriers, struggling with a grant submission or just needs clarity on this program and its objectives, please contact the AACL grant contact who is available to advise you. Our role is to help you navigate the criteria, ensure eligibility and help put your best proposal forward to the AACL assessment committee. Please reach out and contact us before a grant deadline and we will be happy to advise and support you in this effort.

Funding Obligations

Please review the [Funding Obligations for Grant Recipients Guidelines](#) on SaskCulture's website for details about what to expect as an approved grant recipient.