*Application deadline: **April 15, 2022***

Please read the Guidelines carefully before starting the grant application. There have been a few changes to note that can be found on our website, under 'COVID-19 Notice', by clicking here.

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
- originate from communities and organizations that are new to the AACL grant.

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

If you are unsure whether your project fits the purpose of this grant, please contact the consultant, or see a list of successful applicants and project descriptions.

Contact

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Applicant Eligibility

Eligible Applicants are:

- **Registered Non-Profit** organizations in Saskatchewan. These organizations must:
    o 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;
    o 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.
    o be in good standing with Information Services Corporation (ISC) and have no outstanding grant follow-ups due to SaskCulture; and
    o provide a copy of the organization's signed annual financial statement that was most recently submitted to the Information Services Corporation (ISC) to show evidence of good standing as a non-profit organization in Saskatchewan.
        • Note: Organizations receiving Annual Global Funding are not eligible to apply.

Or

- **be a First Nation band or Municipality.** The applicant must:
    o be in good standing with the Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program; and
    o 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:

- 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;
- 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;
- Use SaskCulture's "Find a Grant" tool to connect with other options.

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Project Eligibility

- Projects must directly address the purpose and priorities of this funding program.
- All funds are to be used for the benefit of cultural development in Saskatchewan and for residents in Saskatchewan.
- 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.
- Eligible projects must start no sooner than eight (8) weeks after the application deadline, and must end within twelve (12) months of the project start date. Projects that commence sooner than 8 weeks after the deadline will not be considered.

Applicants should consult with SaskCulture prior to submitting an application to discuss the eligibility of their proposal and to determine which funding program would be the best fit.

Eligible Expenses

The AACL grant can cover direct costs to the development and delivery of a cultural project. When submitting a proposal, 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;
- 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;
- Material expenses related to the cultural activity;
- 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.

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- 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;
- Office and administration fees including utilities, rent and/or rental of an applicant organization's facilities; and
- In-kind contributions (contributions of 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 submissions requesting between $15,000 and $30,000 that include:
- The extent of commitment to the project including other self-generated income, in-kind support of staff and volunteers;
- the extent that the project will be accessible to underserved communities;
- the uniqueness of the activity: and
- the potential for long-term impact.

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For returning or otherwise annually funded projects that have been supported before, SaskCulture will 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, 2022. Late applications will not be considered for funding.

- 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.
- 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.**
- 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.

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;
- The quality and clarity of the application;*
- The extent of accessibility for First Nations and Métis populations;
- The resourcefulness of the applicant, including strong partnerships (when applicable) and leveraging other resources; and
- The quality of the budget and a realistic and responsible use of resources.
- Returning or otherwise annual projects funded by SaskCulture will have their most recent project follow-up report provided to assessors as part of the assessment process.

*_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._

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