

Arts Fund 2026



Program Guidelines

The objective of the [Creative Industries North Bay](#) Arts Fund is to bolster the arts, artists and the creative sector in North Bay, Nipissing while fostering creativity, enhancing quality of life and stimulating economic development through direct creative sector investment. The Arts Fund is a direct investment from the [City of North Bay](#) that seeks to support and grow the local creative sector through the following objectives:

- Promote creativity within the North Bay community at all levels;
- Enrich how all North Bay, Nipissing residents experience and engage with the arts to encourage awareness, understanding, appreciation, participation, inclusion, diversity, and access;
- Leverage the creative sector to assert North Bay, Nipissing's uniqueness and to stimulate economic development and growth;
- Ensure that local arts funding aligns with that of comparable municipalities; and
- Bring recognition to North Bay, Nipissing as a centre for arts and culture.

The Arts Fund aligns with Creative Industries North Bay Inc. (C.I) mandate to support, connect and promote the creative sector to foster a progressive, prosperous community and our vision where every community member sees the creative sector as a vital part of North Bay, Nipissing's identity and prosperity.

Project & Applicant Location

In order to be eligible to apply for this Arts Fund grant, applicants must be located in the City of North Bay/Nipissing First Nation and their projects must take place within the City of North Bay limits or Nipissing First Nation.

Project Eligibility

The project must include the involvement of one or more creative/artistic disciplines, and be open to the general public for participation. More information about funding priorities below.

Funding Amount

Applicants may apply for up to \$4,000 per project and may only apply for up to one Arts Fund grant per year.

Timeframe Requirements

The project must take place between the eligible window of September 25, 2026 - September 25, 2027. Results are expected within 2 months of the deadline date. We recommend that if your event requires this funding, that you plan to host it after the notification period.

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be based in North Bay or Nipissing First Nation and be:

1. A provincial or federal registered non-profit/charitable organization whose mandate/mission focuses on the creative and arts sector, presenting, advancing and/or servicing the arts, artists & community.

Or

2. A group or a cooperative enterprise of people acting/functioning together as a group towards a mandate/mission that focuses on the creative and arts sector, presenting, advancing and/or servicing the arts, artists & community (ie. arts collectives or groups)

NOTE: Are you an individual artist or artistic business with a community facing project and not sure if you are eligible? Email us at hello@creativeindustriesnorth.ca! We want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to apply.

Ineligible Applicants

- Educational institutions or their academic units
- Individual artists working alone
- Private businesses* (*exception made for businesses in the creative sector working with community artists*)
- Organizations or projects already receiving [Event Hosting Program funding from the City of North Bay](#).
- Projects with the sole purpose of fundraising

Eligible Costs

- Administrative/overhead costs applicable to the project (this includes administrative salaries and fees)
- Artist fees
- Artistic production, presentation and dissemination cost, and project administration cost
- Marketing promotion, audience development, community engagement activities
- Venues or studio rentals
- Costs related to accessibility for artists and/or audiences/patrons with disabilities
- Minor equipment or software purchases to upgrade technology and items required to carry out mandate

Ineligible Costs

- Major capital purchases
- Programs/services that are delivered by an organization aligned with any political party
- Expenses incurred outside of the eligible program window
- Expenses outside of which is necessary to complete the project or program

Reporting Requirements

- You will be required to submit a final report on your application project.
- The final report outline, questions and deadline will be provided by C.I. with the funding agreement paperwork upon approval.
- If the recipient of a C.I. Arts Grant has an overdue final report, they will not be eligible to apply for further C.I. funding until such time as those reports are submitted to and accepted by C.I.

Funding Priorities

The Arts Fund will support the creative sector through prioritizing projects that:

- Foster innovation and collaboration;
- Prioritize inclusion, equity, diversity and access within the arts;
- Have the ability to show community impact and measurables with data; and
- Encourage and emphasize partnership building with other sectors

Selection Process

A panel of jurors selected from the creative sector in North Bay will review, discuss and score applications based on the above priorities. Jurors will be vetted for conflict of interest and represent various sectors of the arts and culture community.

Application Deadline

Applications are due no later than **September 18th, 2026 at 11:59PM**.