

Cultural Operating Funding (COF) – Expression of Interest

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1: Is my organization eligible for COF?

Please see the **Eligibility Table** below:

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| Previous Funding | Received 3 grants from the City of Vancouver through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) • Cultural Indigenous Funding (CIF) • Cultural Equity and Accessibility Funding (CEAF) |
| Mandate | Has an arts and culture mandate |
| Annual Budget | Minimum: \$150,000 Annual budgets generally over \$200,000 |
| Programming | Have a clear mission and consistent delivery of arts and cultural programs or services for 2+ years |
| Staff | Paid professional and experienced leadership (full-time or part-time) in artistic or administrative roles |
| Financial Statements | Financial statements must be independently prepared, in the form of a compilation engagement, review engagement, or audited statements. |
| Location | Organization is based in Vancouver with regular activities taking place in Vancouver. |
| Structure | Be a non-profit society, community co-op, or registered charity. |
| Pay Artists | Compensates artists and cultural workers at minimum standard industry rates. |
| Policies | Have an equity policy or plan, accessibility plan, and respectful workplace policies, procedures and practices in place. |

Program highlights:

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| Program Timelines | EOI applicants contacted with results: August 2026 Applications open: Sept 23, 2026 Applications close: Nov 4, 2026 Funding recommendations: April 2027 |
| Grant Amounts | Grants awarded to new organizations will generally be between \$15,000 - \$20,000. Grants will not exceed 50% of previous year's actual expenses. |

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| Reporting | Recipients are required to report through CADAC (Canadian Arts Database) once invited into the program. |
| Available Funds | Potentially 2 or more groups depending on financial resources. |

Q2: Do we need to fill out the EOI if we already submitted an EOI in 2025?

You do not need to re-submit unless your information has changed (eg contact info, operating budget level, amount of CASC grants). We have kept all previously submitted EOIs on file, even if your organization selected the Cultural Equity and Accessibility Funding (CEAF) program, and will be reviewing these again along with new submissions.

Q3: Do we need to fill out the EOI if we are already receiving COF or COFM?

No, you do not. You should only submit an EOI if you are not currently receiving core support, or if you are currently receiving CEAF or CIF and wish to express interest in applying for COF.

Q4: What if my organization does not get invited to COF, after submitting an EOI?

Your organization can continue to apply to the CASC program (next intake in September for projects taking place January-June 2027).

Q5: If my organization guaranteed a COF grant if we are invited to apply?

Unfortunately, your organization is not guaranteed a COF grant. We recommend that you still apply for CASC in September.

Q6: How is the EOI reviewed?

Staff will review the EOIs for eligibility and consider the demonstrated track record of organizations in meeting program priorities according to peer assessments and previous CASC projects.

Q7: What is the assessment process for COF applications?

COF applications will be reviewed by a peer assessment committee comprised of two community assessors and one staff member, as outlined in the COF Info Guide.

Q8: What is an Expression of Interest? What is the purpose?

An Expression of Interest (EOI) is a formal way of showing interest in a particular opportunity, in this case, cultural operating funding. The Grants & Awards team is using this process to identify potential applicants prior to a more detailed selection process.

As funding is limited, and core funding applications require a lot of labour, the EOI process is intended to reduce time and resources by focusing on eligible applicants that strongly demonstrate the funding program criteria.

The EOI process also enables us to implement a clear and transparent process to identify applicants and gives a clear indication of program demand in order to plan and allocate future resources.

Q9: Who can I contact if I have VanApply issues or questions?

Please contact the Grant & Awards team's VanApply technical lead, Anthony Hoang (Anthony.hoang@vancouver.ca).

Q10: Who can I contact if I have questions about the EOI, COF, or the process?

Please contact Cultura Planner Miko Hoffman (miko.hoffman@vancouver.ca).