

# Winnipeg Arts Council

## Grant Application Tips



There are many reasons why a grant application might be successful or not. While it's impossible to know in advance whether or not a particular jury will recommend a grant for your project, there are a number of steps that you can take to ensure you submit the best possible application.

**Read the guidelines carefully.** Before making an application, please make sure you have the most up-to-date guidelines, which include all of the application requirements, program goals, and eligibility and evaluation criteria.

**Contact the Program Manager** well in advance of the deadline. Since WAC staff do not make the decision about awarding grants, they can assist you by clarifying the information required, and assessing if you and your project are eligible and if you are applying to the appropriate program.

**Tell the panel what they need to know.** Your grant information should be properly organized (as detailed in the program guidelines) and easy to understand. We fund artists at all stages of their careers but whether you are a senior artist with a long list of credits, or an emerging artist with little experience, you shouldn't assume the panel is familiar with your artistic practice. Follow the guidelines and be sure to provide the following information: Who are you? What kind of art do you create? Have you done work like this before? What is your history of exhibition or presentation? What is the project? How will the project be completed? When will it start and finish? Why is this project important? Giving the assessors context for your application allows them to focus on your project.

**If your work contains cultural content,** be sure to let the jury know how you will deal authentically with those elements. This might relate to Indigenous knowledge or stories, or representations of cultures other than your own. Examples of rationale can include descriptions of lived experience or self-identification information, or through the participation of Knowledge Keepers, Elders or cultural advisors from the communities represented in the work you're proposing. Letters of support for can be a valuable addition to your application.

**Choose your Support Material strategically.** Pick material that best reflects your project. Ask people you trust: Which of these samples has the fastest/best/greatest impact? Which shows off my abilities in this genre? Which sample best reflects the project I am applying for? If you are supplying references, make sure they are from people/organizations that can speak to both the merit of your artistic practice and your ability to carry out the project.

**Be confident, but never count on a grant.** The process is competitive and no single piece of advice will guarantee success on a grant application. The number of successful applications varies from deadline to deadline and from program to program. Assessors come from varied backgrounds, reflecting different cultural traditions, forms of expression and art practices. They have to make difficult decisions based on the information you provide them.