

BCMF SIGNATURE ARTIST PROGRAM / GUIDELINES 2017-2018

WHAT IS THE BCMF SIGNATURE ARTIST PROGRAM?

The BCMF Signature Artist Program is one of the funding programs of the \$15 million BC Music Fund supported by the Province of BC. This program is designed to support the growth of BC's music industry by attracting internationally renowned artists from Canada and abroad to implement large scale projects in BC that make a significant economic impact on the provincial economy.

Signature Artist Program Budget: \$500,000

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES OF THE BCMF SIGNATURE ARTIST PROGRAM?

- Create economic impact for the provincial economy;
- Attract direct investment in B.C.'s music industry;
- Stimulate the creation and retention of jobs within B.C.'s music industry; and
- Support a diverse range of artists and music industry professionals.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Applicants may apply for funding for large scale projects occurring in BC in support of an artist with significant international profile and track record of success. This program is intended for artists who have achieved the following:

- International sales, including at least one album in their release history that achieved 80,000 units (physical and/or digital) sold in Canada, or the streaming equivalent (1,500 streams = 1 album);
- International touring history;
- Charting on a recognized commercial radio chart (example Billboard, BDS, Mediabase); and
- Radio and media coverage.

Funding will support activities that include, but are not limited to:

- Sound recording production at an eligible recording facility intended for commercial release; and
- Tour pre-production, including rehearsal and show preparation activity, that occurs in BC.

Live music presentation is not an eligible activity through this program.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants must meet all of the following minimum criteria in order to be considered eligible:

- The applicant company's primary business activities must be in the music industry (e.g. record labels, tour presenters, artist-entrepreneurs);
- Applicants from outside BC must be incorporated;

- Applicants from BC must be a registered business in British Columbia; and
- The owners, principals, directors, officers, and shareholders of the applicant company must be in good standing (i.e. not in default) with Creative BC.

This program is intended to fund the company or artist-entrepreneur that is paying for the project. If the applicant is not the artist, a contract must be provided between the applicant and artist that meets the following criteria:

- In the case of a sound recording, a signed recording contract must be provided outlining the:
 - Ownership or license of the master recordings;
 - Party responsible for financing the project; and
 - Intention of the company to bring the project to market.
- In the case of tour pre-production or any other large scale project, a signed agreement must be provided outlining the business relationship between the artist and the applicant relating to the project being funded.

Creative BC encourages applications from Indigenous and diverse groups.

ELIGIBLE RECORDING FACILITIES

Recording facilities must meet the following minimum criteria in order to be considered an eligible expense.

- The facility must have been incorporated or registered as a business in BC or Canada for a minimum period of one (1) year prior to application. The company or registered business must have its head office in BC, and have filed income tax returns in BC in the taxation year prior to the date of application;
- The facility must be located in BC;
- The facility must be a commercial studio that cannot be a “private” or “project” studio primarily for the benefit of one artist or producer; and
- The owners, principals, directors, officers and shareholders of the recording facility company must be in good standing (i.e. not in default) with Creative BC.

FUNDING

Applicants can receive a minimum grant of \$50,000 and a maximum grant of \$100,000 per artist. Applicants may apply to Creative BC for a grant of **up to 50%** of budgeted cash expenditures. Eligible expenses must be BC expenditures. In-kind expenses are not eligible. This program will fund activities and related expenses incurred after the launch of this program on May 1, 2017.

Applicants are expected to contribute to the financing of the project and seek other sources of financing where appropriate. The combined total of public funding from any source, including the BC Arts Council, FACTOR, Creative BC, and any other public agency, cannot equal more than 75% of the project budget.

Eligible Expenditures:

- Examples of eligible sound recording expenses include, but are not limited to: recording studio time, equipment rental, audio engineering, mixing and mastering, producer fees, hired musicians’ fees, and album art, as long as these activities occur in BC. Travel to BC, hotels and per diems for producers or musicians recording in BC are also eligible expenses.
- Examples of eligible tour pre-production expenses include, but are not limited to: venue rentals, per diems, accommodation, transportation within BC, and other costs related directly to rehearsal or show preparation. Costs related to ongoing tour activities are not eligible.

Limitations/Restrictions:

- Eligible costs must be bona fide third party costs. Artist fees are not considered third party costs. Session fees or hired musicians are eligible costs.
- Travel, accommodations, and per diem costs must follow the [BC Government Travel Expenses](#) policy.
- Sound recordings must not contain any elements of serious or gratuitous sexual violence or exploitation, obscene, indecent or pornographic content within the meaning of the Criminal Code, or elements which are libelous or in any other way unlawful.

Funding will be released after the completion of the eligible project. To recuperate funds, applicants must submit the following documents to Creative BC for final completion:

- Final report (form provided by Creative BC); and
- Detailed cost report (template provided by Creative BC) in addition to copies of all receipts.

Cheques will be issued to the applicant company. Creative BC reserves the right to reduce the award based on the applicant's final report and cost report for the initiative or event.

Successful recipients are required to publicly acknowledge Creative BC and The Province of British Columbia in all promotional materials associated with the initiative or event.

APPLICATION EVALUATION

Applications will be scored on the impact of their project, as well as their capacity to deliver the project.

Impact Assessment – Applications will be scored on the impact of the project according to the following evaluation criteria:

- Economic impact in BC as demonstrated by BC expenditures;
- Employment for BC artists, industry professionals, vendors, session musicians, orchestras and/or choirs;
- Diversity of artists and music industry professionals; and
- Community benefit to BC's music industry, provided by artists or industry professionals involved in the project (managers, event producers, sound engineers, etc.). Examples of community benefit provided include, but are not limited to
 - o Mentorship, shadowing or coaching opportunities;
 - o Participation in industry panels/workshops;
 - o Rehearsals open to emerging artists or industry professionals;
 - o Co-writing opportunities with BC artists; and
 - o Tour dates in regional areas of BC, if applicable.

Capacity Assessment – Applications will be scored on the capacity of the applicant to deliver the project according to the following evaluation criteria:

- **Project Plan:** Has the applicant presented a clear plan with achievable activities and timelines, clear indicators for success, and a process for evaluation?
- **Capacity to Deliver:** What is the capacity of the applicant to successfully deliver the project? Do the individuals, companies, and vendors involved have the knowledge and expertise to achieve the project?
- **Financial Viability:** Does the project have a feasible budget that includes no more than 75% of funds from public sources? What is the track record and financial health of the applicant?

Applications will be scored by Creative BC staff and an advisory panel of industry representatives.

HOW TO APPLY

The first intake for applications opened May 1, 2017, with a deadline for applications of August 4, 2017.

A second intake of the program will open on February 22, 2018, at 10:00 am, with a deadline of applications of March 2, 2018, at 11:59 PST. Funds remaining in this program total \$16,000.

Processing time for a complete application is approximately 10 weeks. Incomplete applications may not be processed. Successful applicants will subsequently be forwarded a Funding Agreement that, upon execution, shall be binding between the eligible applicant and Creative BC.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email.

Projects must be completed by October 1, 2018, with final reports submitted by November 1, 2018.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To apply, applicants must complete and submit the following items to Creative BC:

- Online Application Form (available at www.creativebc.com)
- A Certificate of Incorporation or Business Statement of Registration
- Copy of the contract between the applicant and artist(s) outlining their business relationship, unless the artist is the applicant
- Project Budget & Schedule of Activities
- Supporting documents for related activities such as:
 - o Tour dates
 - o Proof of sales

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Additional BC Music Fund programs support artist development, live music, music companies, industry development and touring and export to stimulate the economy and serve BC's diverse music sector.

For more information about this program and upcoming opportunities, please contact:

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