

Grants for Individual Artists 2024

Summary Report



Introduction

Introduction

*“We know now, more than ever, how much the arts contribute to the quality of life in our community and the larger world. The arts lift our spirits, tell our stories, connect us, inspire us, and help us to better understand ourselves and this complex planet we live on. The arts entertain us, bring us together, enable us to think in new and different ways, see the world from various points of view, imagine alternative ways of living and being, and contribute incalculably to our economic, social, mental, and physical well-being, no matter what our ages or backgrounds.... As a city, we have to remember that **the arts come from the hard work of individual artists.**”*

History

- **2021:** At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, EC3 launched **Artsweek SHIFT²**, a grants program for local professional artists, with two streams to support professional development activities and a ‘pocket festival’ of events. It served as the model for the Grants for Individual Artists program.
- **2022:** The City of Peterborough provided a one-time grant of \$40,000 to support a **pilot program** for the Grants for Individual Artists program.

History (continued)

- **2023:** Following a successful pilot, the City of Peterborough made a **three-year commitment** to support the Grants for Individual Artists program at \$50,000 per year.
- With an additional contribution of \$7,425 by EC3, in 2023 **24 grants** were awarded, totaling **\$57,425**.

Program Description

- The **2024 Grants for Individual Artists program** is an Electric City Culture Council (EC3) program, supported by the City of Peterborough, strategically designed to provide financial support to local professional artists so they can bring their imagination, dreams and visions to life and share them with audiences.
- It provides essential funding for the development, production, and presentation of projects, and works to assist artists in acquiring additional funding from other sources as they advance their practice and their careers.
- It is divided into two **Components**.

Component One

Mini Development Grants for Individual Professional Artists

Grants
for
individual
artists

- Provides up to **\$1,500** for local professional artists to undertake a program of activities that aid their creative research and development, fuel innovation and imagination, and support the sustainability and/or advancement of their practice.
- While projects may include public presentation of a completed work or works, this is not a requirement of Component One of the program.

Component One

Mini Development Grants for Individual Professional Artists

Activities in **Component One** may include:

- Development of new projects or ideas, research, experimentation
- Advancing works in progress
- Transitioning to new disciplines or mediums
- Advancing skills and knowledge to build or strengthen their work
- Adapting existing works or developing new approaches to creating and producing their work, or distribution/presentation of their work including, but not limited to, the use of new technologies or digital opportunities

Component Two

Project Production & Presentation Grants for Individual Artists

Grants
for
individual
artists

- Provides up to **\$3,500** to individual professional artists for the creation, production and presentation of innovative new projects or works in progress in any artistic discipline, taking place virtually or live in Peterborough, **in the next two years**.
- Projects may include works in any artistic discipline or combination of disciplines, in any form, for any location within the city or county, including new or established indoor venues, outdoor spaces, mobile activities, broadcast, banners, billboards, publications, and/or for virtual projects including: social media, live streaming, websites, etc.
- This is a program of grants to individual artists; however, artists may work as part of collectives, ad hoc groups, or with established arts organizations, as long as the individual artist retains creative control over the project.

Component Two

Project Production & Presentation Grants for Individual Artists

Grants
for
individual
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- Project proposals may include the work(s) of one artist or several. Partnerships and collaborations with other community organizations are welcome and encouraged.
- Live/in-person projects may take place anywhere in the City or County of Peterborough. Pop-ups, one-time, short-run, series, or continuous project proposals are all eligible.
- Artist fees must be paid.
- This program strives to support proposals that reflect and promote the cultural diversity of Peterborough and Canada today and welcomes applications from artists in equity-seeking communities.

2024 Timeline

- **May 31:** The 2024 Grants for Individual Artists program is announced.
- **June 13:** EC3 hosts a virtual application workshop for interested applicants.
- **July 11:** Deadline for applications.
- **September 21-22:** A two-day assessment process with a five-member peer jury.
- **September 26:** Applicants are contacted with results.
- **Early October:** Public announcement of results.

2024 Program Results

2024 Program Results

In total:

- 68 applications submitted
- 2 applications deemed ineligible
- 28 grants awarded
- \$57,142.70 awarded

In comparison to 2023's 49 submitted applications, this represents a **35% increase in engagement with the program.**

Program Results

Component One

- **38 applications** submitted
- **1 application** deemed ineligible
- **19 grants** awarded
- **\$28,492.70** awarded

Component Two

- **30 applications** submitted
- **1 application** deemed ineligible
- **9 grants** awarded
- **\$28,650.00** awarded

2024 Disciplinary Breakdown

- Film: 2
- Literary arts: 6
- Music: 7
- Performing arts: 1
- Circus arts: 5
- Visual arts: 5
- Inter/multi-disciplinary: 2

Program impacts

Across the four years of the program so far (*Artsweek SHIFT² + GFIA 2022, 2023, 2024*):

- **97 grants** awarded
- **\$208,487.13** in total funding

In 2023-24 alone, **150 additional artists** (in addition to the grant recipients) were paid artist fees for projects funded via Grants for Individual Artists.

Program Results

“Very honoured to be awarded funding through this local granting program, administered by Electric City Culture Council on behalf of the City of Peterborough.

As a mother and a community radio administrator - it is hard to find time and space to focus on my music. I am so often in a position where work and family comes first. I'm sincerely grateful that the jury believes in my artistry and the value of my work - and I can't wait to engage with other musicians and my songs and share them with you! Thank you for this opportunity.”

--Jill Staveley, 2023 recipient

- Clarify what a ‘public presentation’ means for self-published books projects.
- Provider clearer, more specific guidelines about support material length (e.g. word limits, max video lengths).
- Separate category for emerging/‘deserving’ artists?
- Evaluation rubric?
- DEI group identification?
- Research organizational impacts, disciplinary impacts

Policy Notes (*continued*)

- EC3 Board member eligibility
- Quality of support materials (especially video)
- Implement public call for jurors



THANK YOU to the **City of Peterborough, City Council,**
and the Mayor for their three-year commitment to
support the Grants for Individual Artists program.



Any questions?