



SaskFestivals Program Development Stream APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Application deadline: April 15, 2025

SaskFestivals is a SK Arts program supported by funding from Sask Lotteries through the partnership between SK Arts and SaskCulture Inc.

CONTACT

Contact a SK Arts Program Consultant before submitting an application to discuss program application and reporting requirements. Please refer to the [SaskFestivals page of our website](#).

SUBMISSION

Applications are now accepted online only at: <https://saskarts.smartsimple.ca>

**Note: The Applicant must be in good standing with SK Arts prior to submitting an application.
Please contact SK Arts to verify your standing.**

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Program Purpose

SaskFestivals provides support to professional festivals, series and community groups to achieve outcomes that:

- encourage community engagement, tourism and economic activity;
- enhance the positive impact of festivals in the community and province;
- contribute to the professional practice of Saskatchewan arts and artists and heighten public awareness and appreciation;
- build strong, flexible leadership organizations within the festival community;
- reflect the diversity of the local community and the arts sector through authentic relationships with Indigenous peoples and other traditionally marginalized communities; and
- align with the mandate and strategic priorities of SK Arts and SaskCulture.

Funding

Development Stream recipients:

- have a two-year funding cycle,
- have a minimum grant request of \$10,000 per year,
- receive funding that contributes to the organization's artistic programs and services; and governance, management, administrative and operational functions, and
- are subject to Concerned Status Policy.

The demand for *SaskFestivals Program – Development Stream* funding generally exceeds available resources. SK Arts may not be able to provide grants to all the recommended applicants or provide grants in the amounts requested.

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

- have work and a mandate that align with *SaskFestivals* program purpose
- have a core mandate to present an arts festival or series
- have a minimum of **three years** of operation (with appropriate history of public presentation) prior to first application
- engage the advice and expertise of professionals in their programming and administration
- have financial and decision-making processes controlled by Saskatchewan residents
- have operations and primary programming centred in Saskatchewan
- have a clearly articulated management structure
- have sound financial accounting systems in place
- maintain a bank account in the name of the organization or group
- have financial statements as follows:
 - for organizations with budgets under \$100,000, a Balance Sheet and Income Statement, at minimum, signed by two Board members;
 - for organizations with budgets of \$100,000 to \$499,999, a review engagement, reviewed and signed by an independent third party; or
 - for organizations with budgets of over \$500,000, a fully independent audit.
- must be in good standing with SK Arts with no overdue reports on prior grants

Eligibility **(continued)**

Ineligible Applicants

- Organizations that receive operational funding from SaskCulture, Sask Lotteries, or Creative Saskatchewan
- Organizations that receive operational funding from a Provincial Cultural Organization
- Organizations that receive funding from SK Arts' *Professional Arts Organizations Program (PAOP)*
- Organizations that do not compensate artists for their work
- Organizations with outstanding reports for any previous grant received from SK Arts

Ineligible Activities

- Festivals and events that are competitive in nature and that charge participants an entry fee to compete
- Festivals and events with programs that support definable political, religious or spiritual viewpoints and/or seek to attract their membership and audience from that special interest group
- Festivals and events that are primarily fundraisers or charity events
- Activities that use or present Indigenous cultural material, traditional knowledge or stories without consultation and permission from the community

Ineligible Applications

- Applications that fail to provide all the required information and support material
- Applications submitted after the specified deadline

Artists' **Contracts**

The Arts Professions Act, now in effect in Saskatchewan, requires that written contracts be used in all transactions between professional artists and those who hire them, engage their services or use their creative work. SK Arts expects that artists and contributors will be fairly compensated in accordance with a negotiated contract as a requirement of this program.

Assessment **and Criteria**

Applicants are to consider the Assessment Criteria when developing their applications. For information about SK Arts' peer review process and how funds are allocated, visit our website.

An independent panel of reviewers with appropriate knowledge and experience assesses applications through a competitive process based on the following:

Assessment and Criteria continued...

DEVELOPMENT STREAM CRITERIA	
A. Program Impact and Engagement	
<u>Programming</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects a clearly articulated artistic vision and curatorial decision-making process • Shows evidence of a high level of artistic merit and professionalism, and embraces freedom of artistic expression • Demonstrates a willingness to innovate and take risks in program choices • Demonstrates satisfaction amongst stakeholders and the public • Is based on your organization's engagement in effective program planning, monitoring and evaluation processes, and responsive program revision and development • Is cost-effective and within the organization's ability to deliver 	/5
<u>Development of the Arts in Saskatchewan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your programming aims to develop an appreciation and understanding of the arts and artists in Saskatchewan, including a commitment through best practices to support, encourage and respect Saskatchewan artists and arts professionals of diverse backgrounds. • Your organization provides opportunities that engage professional Saskatchewan artists in ways that contribute to their artistic and/or career development. • Your organization reflects an awareness of, and responsiveness to current practices, emerging trends and changes within its arts discipline(s) and the festivals communities. • Your organization works to initiate partnerships with other organizations, sectors and/or individuals as applicable. • Your organization actively pursues opportunities through its programs, partnerships and relationships that assist in overcoming barriers to participation and attendance. • Your organization follows a communications plan that effectively connects with stakeholders and the public, and promotes the organization, its programs, and Saskatchewan artists and their work. 	/5
<u>Community Engagement</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your programming considers and maximizes your organization's potential for economic activity and/or tourism in the community. • Your organization actively encourages community engagement through volunteerism, partnerships, sponsorships, etc. • Your organization provides meaningful opportunities for the public to engage and interact with professional artists and their work. • Your organization removes barriers to accessibility (including financial, physical and cultural) that prevent artists and audiences from interacting with your organization and its programming. 	/5
B. Relationship with Priority Groups <p>The organization seeks to cultivate authentic ongoing relationships with the Indigenous community, other People of Colour, LGBTQ2S+ people, the Deaf and disability communities, and/or other equity-deserving communities. As appropriate and feasible, the organization's board, staff, artists, programming and audiences reflect the diversity of its local community and the arts sector.</p>	/5
C. Organizational Effectiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your organization is developing or can demonstrate governance and organizational structures, policies and procedures that facilitate effective and responsible operations and program delivery. • Your organization or group has clearly defined roles for Board and staff members and provides financial information and plans that are clear, feasible and accurate. • Your organization has a plan for communicating with its stakeholders in the event of a crisis (including the media, if appropriate and required). 	/5
TOTAL	/25

Notification

SK Arts' Board of Directors will review the panel's recommendations after it receives notice of SK Arts' allocation from government sources and after it has approved its budget for the year. Applicants will be notified of the Board's decision on the April 2025 review no later than July 15, 2025.

Confidentiality of Information

The personal and confidential information that the applicant provides in the application is collected, used and disclosed in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act. This information is required to process the application. Personal and confidential information disclosed by the applicant will only be shared, as necessary, with employees of SK Arts, the reviewers, and other public funders. If awarded a grant, the name of the recipient, community, project description and grant amount will be made known publicly. SK Arts will respond appropriately to any inquiries regarding the privacy policies and procedures, including requests to access the applicant's personal information.

Release of Funds and Reporting Requirements

SK Arts strives to release 70% of approved annual funds to an organization approximately 30 days before the beginning of the organization's fiscal year and no sooner than April 1st during SK Arts' fiscal year, providing all reporting on previous funding is up to date, and the organization is in compliance with any concerned status requirements, and subject to:

- approval by SK Arts' Board of Directors of the grant recommendation,
- approval of SK Arts' budget for the relevant fiscal year,
- confirmation of SaskCulture Inc. and Sask Lotteries funding, and
- any organizational and/or funding conditions communicated to the recipient.

In addition to the above-mentioned conditions, release of the remaining 30% of annual funding requires a year-end report due no later than **six months** after the end of the organization's past fiscal year, if applicable.

Organizations in the Development funding stream are required to:

- **Provide SK Arts with a revised budget if the approved grant amount is less than 60% of the requested amount.**
- **Meet all conditions for the release of the funds, claim their funds and begin their operations and programs, as approved, within 12 months of the start date of the approved fiscal year.** If the conditions are not met and the grant funds are not claimed within this 12-month period, SK Arts reserves the right to rescind the grant.
- **Notify and consult with SK Arts about any major changes to the organization, its programs, its fiscal year and/or its financial status.** If major changes are made without notification and consultation, SK Arts reserves the right to rescind the grant, or to reduce or discontinue future funding.

Concerned Status

Concerned Status is a mechanism to allow SK Arts to monitor organizational effectiveness and ensure that program requirements and obligations are being met by currently funded organizations and groups in all program streams.

Concerned Status may be issued to an organization or group exhibiting one or more of the following conditions:

- not meeting program or stream eligibility requirements
- not meeting the obligations of the grant
- instability in governance and administration or operational management
- marked decline in nature and scope of the work, programming and/or mandate
- marked decline in audience, participation or market numbers
- marked decline in financial viability (including increased deficit, decreased financial support, inability to build capacity)

SK Arts will inform an organization in writing if it has been moved to Concerned Status, explain what conditions apply, how it will be monitored, and the time period provided to satisfy the conditions to remain competitive in its stream and in the program. If the conditions have not been satisfied within the identified time period, the organization may be moved into a different stream or removed from the program. For Concerned Status, the monitoring process and the identified time periods will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Recognition of Funders

Recipients of *SaskFestivals Program – Development Stream* funding are required to acknowledge the support of SK Arts and Sask Lotteries wherever possible and appropriate. SK Arts will provide grant recipients with access to the funding partners' logos through SK Arts' website. SK Arts can also provide banners by request to acknowledge the support of SK Arts and Sask Lotteries at funded events.



SASKFESTIVALS PROGRAM
Development Stream
APPENDIX 1:
Application Instructions

APPLY ONLINE

Applications are only accepted online at <https://saskarts.smartsimple.ca>. The following is provided to help you prepare for your online application.

ORGANIZATION PROFILE (Maximum 1,000 words)

Include descriptions of the following in the Organizational Profile text field. **Do not attach documents instead of filling in the text field**; however, you may upload documents with supplementary information pertaining to this section.

- Mandate or purpose of the organization
- *Brief* history of the organization
- *Brief* overview of past festival/series programming highlights
- *Brief* description of the structure of the organization
- *Brief* description of the main facilities and physical space used by the organization, or upload a site plan, digital images or video
- Overview of the organization's human resources include individuals' roles and responsibilities
- Description of the organization's plans for communicating with its stakeholders in the event of a crisis

APPLICATION NARRATIVE (maximum 3,000 words)

With a focus on the program criteria, include descriptions of the following in application text field. **Do not attach documents instead of filling in the text field**; however, you may upload documents with supplementary information pertaining to this section.

- Overview of current work or programming
- Work or programming proposed for the first funding request year (your upcoming fiscal year, *not current* fiscal year)
- Artistic direction or rationale that guides programming choices
- The organization's audience development, communications and marketing strategies
- The organization's plans for encouraging community engagement
- The organization's efforts to address diversity, access and inclusion

Application Instructions continued...

BUDGET

- If you would like to have your budget reviewed before the deadline or need advice on preparing it, the Program Consultants who oversee the SaskFestivals Program will be happy to assist you.
- Complete the budget in the online application or, if using CADAC (<https://www.cadac.ca/>), upload CADAC financial form that shows the request year.
- The budget for your group's programming must not project or incur a deficit, meaning your Total Revenue must equal or be greater than your Total Expenses. A balanced budget shows the need for the grant but also indicates that you can operate with the grant and your other available financial resources. If there is a projected surplus in excess of 10%, please provide a justification for it.
- If your organization has financial statements, you may upload them in addition to completing the online budget or uploading a CADAC financial form.

Notes on the Budget Sections

Revenues

- Earned Revenue: Revenue generated through activities such as ticket sales, workshop fees, facility rental, etc., as well as your percentage of revenue generated through co-productions.
- Investment Income: Interest from savings or investments
- Private Sector Revenue: Any revenue generated through donations, sponsorships, grants from foundations, or fundraising events. Also, include private sector in-kind contributions.
- Public Sector Revenue: All of your organization's government grants such as SK Arts, your local municipal grant or in-kind support.
- Other Revenue: Contributions from your parent organization, if applicable, or other sources not represented in the above sections.

Expenses

- **In-kind support listed in Revenue must be accounted for in expenses.**
- Artistic Salaries and Fees: Includes fees your organization pays related to (1) artists fees to artists that are part of your programming, (2) salaries or contract fees to personnel responsible for the artistic program, such as a contract artistic director, and (3) copyright or royalties.
- Production / technical salaries and fees: Salaries or fees related to the production of your event – for example, contracted lighting, staging, streaming platforms, etc. – from a company. If a sound tech is hired but they use your organization's equipment, include their fees here.
- Programming: Includes costs related to touring, production, documentation and any professional memberships.
- Facility Operating: Includes costs related to facilities rented or maintained for the presentation of your festival or event. This does not include office rent, if that is separate from your presentation facility; office rent is included in the Administration Expenses section.
- Marketing and Communications: Advertising and printing costs, and salaries or fees related to Marketing and Communications.
- Fundraising: Any costs related to fundraising, including contracting fees to fundraisers.
- Administration: Accounting fees, office rent, and any costs related to running of the administrative side of the group's activities.

Provide detailed notes on entries that are made up of multiple items such as artists fees (e.g. five artists @ \$400 = \$2,000) and production costs (e.g.: lighting \$2,000, staging \$1,500, sound \$3,000).



SASKFESTIVALS PROGRAM

Development Stream

APPENDIX 2:

Support Material Instructions

Support material should relate to points made in your application. You may include items such as:

- Reviews of previous projects
- Photos of prior productions
- An example of marketing materials, catalogues, and publications (maximum **five** examples)
- Virtual tours of facilities
- Schedule of artist fees
- Letters of support

In the *Support Material Index* text field, list the support materials you've included with your application, and provide a brief description including size and materials of artworks, length of videos, specific timecodes to watch, publication dates of articles, etc.

Technical Requirements

Applicants may submit any of the following **if applicable**. Do not use punctuation, special characters or more than 45 characters in your digital file names.

- Weblinks (maximum five). Social media links for which an account is required to access material (e.g., Spotify, Facebook, Instagram) limits access for those assessing your application. While you may include these as your website in your SmartSimple profile, you should not include them as links to support material. Note that there is no guarantee that reviewers will look at the website in your profile.
- Documents (maximum ten): docx (i.e., Word document), pdf or txt files.
- Still images, digital only (maximum 20 images, maximum 2 MB each): bmp, jpeg, jpg, png, or WebP files.
- Audio recordings (maximum 10 minutes, **2 GB**): mp3 or wav files
- Video (maximum 10 minutes, **2 GB**): avi, mov, mp4, or WebM files. *Links to streaming video are preferred to electronic files.*