



PROFESSIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS PROGRAM
***Extension Update for Core Support and
Sector Development Streams***
GUIDELINES
Application Closing Date: February 17, 2026

**CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE SK ARTS PROGRAM CONSULTANT BEFORE THE
CLOSING DATE TO DISCUSS APPLICATION AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:**

Applications and support material must be submitted online on or before the closing date.

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Purpose

SK Arts recognizes, encourages and supports the arts to enrich community well-being, creativity, diversity and artistic prosperity. SK Arts advances this mission through support of Saskatchewan professional artists, collectives, groups and arts organizations in the areas of research, creation, production, presentation, exhibition, publishing, artistic development and community engagement.

Support to professional arts organizations is directed through the *Professional Arts Organizations Program (PAOP)*. This program contributes to an eligible organization's arts programs and services, governance, management, administration and operational function and provides multi-year support. Gallery and Media Arts Grants under the *Professional Arts Organizations Program* are supported by funding from Sask Lotteries through the partnership between SK Arts and SaskCulture.

Outcomes

The program provides support to professional arts organizations to achieve outcomes that:

- advance the professional arts and artistic practices in Saskatchewan;
- create meaningful opportunities for broad and diverse public engagement with the professional arts;
- contribute to professional practice and strengthen the artistic life of Saskatchewan communities;
- advance, strengthen and sustain the arts ecology in Saskatchewan;
- reflect the diversity of the local community and the arts sector through authentic relationships with Indigenous peoples and other traditionally marginalized communities; and
- have program objectives that are aligned with the mandate and strategic priorities of SK Arts.

Funding

This Extension Update will extend each organization's current levels of PAOP funding for the next two years while the PAOP review is completed.

Current PAOP requirements are as follows:

PAOP Core Support Stream recipients:

- have a four-year funding cycle,
- have a minimum grant request of \$20,000 per year, and
- are subject to Fair Notice Policy.

PAOP Core Support Stream may support eligible arts organizations that:

- are in good standing at SK Arts, i.e. in compliance with any SK Arts reporting, grant conditions and Concerned Status requirements; and
- have previously received funding through the *PAOP Organizational Lite Stream*, or currently receive funding through *PAOP*.

PAOP Sector Development Stream recipients:

- have a four-year grant cycle,
- receive a minimum grant of \$150,000 per year*, and
- are subject to Fair Notice Policy.

PAOP Sector Development Stream may support eligible arts organizations that:

- are designated by SK Arts as being eligible for this stream and
- are in good standing at SK Arts, i.e. in compliance with any SK Arts reporting, grant conditions and Concerned Status requirements.

Eligibility

Eligible Arts Organizations

- Currently receive funding through the Professional Arts Organizations Program in the Core Support or Sector Development stream

Ineligible Organizations

- Applicants who are not in good standing at SK Arts (ie. have overdue reports)
- Organizations that submit incomplete applications

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 Overview

SK Arts program staff will assess applications for completeness and recommend continued funding to SK Arts after reviewing the submitted extension updates for factors such as operational viability, alignment with program requirements and purpose.

SELF-ASSESSMENT BASELINE

Note that this data will not be used as part of any future assessment for funding levels and has no bearing on the success of your extension application. Its purpose is two-fold:

1. to be used for your own internal purposes in future reports or check-ins with Program Consultants as comparative values to understand where you are at, where you hope to get to, and how well you are achieving your goals;
2. to be used as indicators for SK Arts as to the health of the arts ecology, to understand and identify common issues.

You will be asked to select on a scale of 1 to 5 where your organization is at with the indicators shown in the **Application Instructions** on page 7.

Notification

The Board will review the staff recommendations after it receives notice of SK Arts' allocation from government sources and after it has approved its budget for the 2026-27 year. Applicants will be notified of the Board's decision on the February 2026 submissions by email no later than April 2026.

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 per cent of approved annual funds to an organization approximately 30 days before the beginning of the organization's fiscal year, providing all reporting on previous funding is up to date and the organization complies 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 Sask Lotteries funding (*if applicable*), and
- any organizational and/or funding conditions communicated to the recipient.

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

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 as demonstrated by CADAC and other reporting
- 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.

Fair Notice

SK Arts is committed to fair and transparent processes and to not destabilizing currently funded organizations, while holding organizations and groups accountable to the competitive nature of the program, the program requirements, and the obligations of the grant.

For the Core Support and Sector Development streams, at assessment, any grant reduction *in excess of 25 per cent* requires advance notice. Fair Notice is issued to an organization that is assessed as underperforming against the *PAOP* program purpose and assessment criteria, and/or its work or programming has changed to the extent that it is no longer consistent with the program purpose.

SK Arts will inform an organization in writing of its Fair Notice status, explain what deficiencies were identified during the assessment process, how it will be monitored, and the time period provided to address the deficiencies. If the deficiencies are not addressed within the identified time period, the additional reduction will be implemented. The reduction to the grant amount in excess of 25 per cent will be held for an identified time period for potential restoration at a future assessment closing date. If the grant reduction puts the organization below the stream minimum, then it will automatically move to Concerned Status.

For both Fair Notice and Concerned Status, the monitoring process and the identified time periods will be determined on a case-by-case basis.



PROFESSIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS PROGRAM

Extension Update

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.

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

- Confirmation of contact and personnel information
- Describe any recent challenges or achievements that weren't mentioned in your last year-end report. (Maximum 1,000 words)
- Upload your current strategic plan.

PROGRAMMING

Include descriptions of the following in application text field

- Overview of current work or programming (maximum 2,000 words)
- Description of work or programming proposed for the first funding request year (maximum 2,000 words)

FINANCIAL PROFILE

- Applicants currently funded through the Core Support or Sector Development Stream with an accumulated deficit that represents more than 10 per cent of revenues for the most recently completed year must include a board-approved deficit reduction plan.
- Applicants with an unrestricted accumulated surplus that represents more than 10 per cent of revenues for the most recently completed year must include a board-approved plan for the use of unrestricted funds.

For all organizations except book and periodical publishers, upload:

- CADAC Financial Form that includes two years of financial data, including:
 - current year to date (approved budget) for funding already approved in SK Arts' 2025-26 fiscal year
 - projected budget for the first funding request year

For book and periodical publishers only, upload:

- Budget that includes:
 - current year to date (approved budget) for funding already approved in SK Arts' 2025-26 fiscal year
 - projected budget for the first funding request year

SELF-ASSESSMENT BASELINE

Please select on a scale of 1 to 5 where your organization is at with the indicators that follow, using this rating scale:

1 = This urgently needs attention.

2 = This is a strategic priority and needs attention in the next 1-2 years.

3 = This is a lower priority but requires attention when time permits.

4 = We are doing well in this area and reassessment is not a priority.

5 = We are doing very well in this area, have strategic initiatives underway, and are right where we need to be for the foreseeable future.

INDICATORS

- **Artistic Vision:** clear artistic vision that informs programming; high standards of artistic presentation and programming relevant to the community
- **Communications:** effective tools for board, staff, and membership/audience retention and engagement
- **Financial Sustainability:** adequate financial tracking systems and oversight, as well as diverse, reliable sources of revenue
- **Organizational capacity:** appropriate staffing, resources, and policies to deliver programs effectively
- **Policy and Planning:** up-to-date strategic plan, bylaws, succession plans and suitable board and HR policies