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COVID-19 Update | August, 2020: CRD Arts & Culture Support Service

The CRD Arts & Culture Support Service recognizes how incredibly challenging the current situation is for the arts and culture sector. We are witnessing the enormous impact COVID-19 is having on an industry that relies on audience attendance, convening artists and traveling in order to fulfill their mandates and make an income. We are also seeing a rise in creative responses that make bold steps towards resiliency with through alternative presentation formats that follow the directives of the Provincial Health Officer.

Event Planning for Grant Recipients and Grant Applicants

We recognize that the directive from the Provincial Health Officer to maintain social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic creates uncertainty for organizations planning arts initiatives, preparing funding applications and managing grants. We are requesting that:

- Organizations preparing applications program their events well in advance using presentation formats that follow directives from the Provincial Health Officer.
- Organizations with successful grant proposals that have significant changes or are planning to reschedule, are required to [inform our office](#).

Operating Grants

We want to provide assurance that the Arts Commission and the Arts & Culture Support Service continue to support the sector and that Operating Grant funding will be released on the usual schedule.

Tracking COVID-19 Impact on arts in the region.

The CRD Arts & Culture Support Service has collected preliminary data on the effect of health directives due to COVID-19 on funded organizations in the areas of staffing, programming and finances. The survey shows a significant change in the arts sector since March in comparison to 2019 progress report data.

- [View a summary of early COVID-19 impacts on CRD-funded organizations](#) (PDF)

Key survey findings from arts organizations receiving CRD Project and Operating funding:

- 82% anticipate financial losses in the year ending 2020
- 28% of organizations report that they will lay off staff
- 46% of organizations have had to cancel programming in the year ending 2021
- 78% of organizations have developed alternative formats to replace cancelled events.



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Other Survey Findings

- **Business / Arts, the National Arts Centre and Nanos Research Arts Response Tracking survey** gauges Canadians' attitudes on returning to indoor and outdoor arts and culture events across Canada. [Download the report.](#)

Take Other Arts & Culture Impact Surveys

- **Creative BC – COVID Impacts Assessment Survey** BC-based creative and cultural industries and workers. [Take the survey](#)
- **Indigenous Arts & Culture Impacts Survey** Indigenous artists and cultural practitioners. [Take the survey.](#)
- **I Lost My Gig / CARFAC - COVID-19 Impact Survey** Arts, culture, and tourism workers survey of economic impacts on arts, culture, tourism, heritage, and creative industries workers in Canada. [Take the survey](#)

Resources for Artists and Culture Workers

- **Aboriginal Curatorial Collective, Community Cares** Emergency Response Fund for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Individuals working in the arts - a community-based and led funding program. [Learn more here.](#)
- **BC Alliance for Arts + Culture** has prepared a list of resources related to COVID-19 for artists and arts and culture workers. The list continues to be updated. [Find it here.](#)
- **BC Arts Council:** The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture and the BC Arts Council list updates to policies and programs help address the impacts of COVID-19 that support sustainability of arts and culture organizations and to support the continuation of projects and activities. [Learn more.](#)
- **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)** The Government of Canada has introduced the CERB. This taxable benefit would provide \$2,000 a month for up to four months for workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Canada Council for the Arts** Current information and FAQs on the Council's approach to supporting artists and arts organizations. [Learn more here.](#)
- **CBC:** List for Canadian artists and freelancers needing help during COVID-19 closures. [Find it here.](#)
- **City of Victoria:** Arts & Culture 'Everyday Creativity' grant program. [Learn more here.](#)
- **City of Victoria:** Business COVID-19 page has additional funding programs. [Learn more here.](#)

Other Sources of Funding A list of other arts funding opportunities [can be found here.](#)



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Additional Resources

Protocols for arts and cultural facilities returning to operation. WorkSafeBC has issued Phase 2 guidelines with specific protocols for museums, galleries, and libraries. Access the guidelines [here](#).

Explore Art From a Distance

Local Arts & Culture Initiatives Find ways to experience art from a distance offered by organizations funded by the CRD. [Get the list](#) (PDF). **Find arts activities for families, youth & children** while maintaining physical distancing. [Get the list](#) (PDF)

LandMarks Public Art Take a tour of public art in the capital region with the LandMarks public art map. Discover over 170 public artworks online by searching for art by location, artist or discipline. [Discover public art here](#).

YYJ Arts United Sharing online and livestream content from greater Victoria's diverse arts community with the general public. Created by UVic's Faculty of Fine Arts. [Find art here](#).

Culture Online Visit museums, view live music, watch dance and explore science centres, from across British Columbia, all from the comfort of your home. Created by Arts BC and the BC Museums Association. [Visit culture online here](#).

CRD Arts Operations

We continue to administer grant programs, however convening events and in-person information sessions are on hold. The Arts & Culture Support Service is currently open by appointment only. Although some staff are working remotely, we are available to answer questions by phone or email Monday to Friday between 8:30am and 4:30pm. If you have any further questions please contact us:

James Lam

Manager

T: 250.360.3205

C: 250.216.5539

[Email](#)

Heather Heywood

Administrative Assistant

T: 250.360.3215

[Email](#)



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Public updates

You are encouraged to follow our social media channels @FeedTheArtsYYJ on Twitter and Feed the Arts in the CRD on Facebook as well as visiting our website www.crd.bc.ca/arts and www.crd.bc.ca/covid to remain up to date on accurate information.