



Bill McLennan Masterpiece Study Program Travel Grants

Travel Grant Application Deadline: September 21, 2025 at 11:59pm PDT

GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

General

In December 2020 the YVR Art Foundation (YVRAF) Masterpiece Study Program was renamed the Bill McLennan Masterpiece Study Program (BMMSP) in memory of long-time YVRAF board member Bill McLennan.

Travel grants are for BC or Yukon First Nations artists and community researchers who wish to further their art or community practice through the research/study of BC and Yukon Indigenous art collections at a YVRAF museum partner. Travel grants of up to \$4,500 are available to support the grant recipient's travel from their home community to a specific YVRAF museum partner for an in-person collections visit.

For applicants who would like to conduct a virtual or one-day collections visit at a participating museum partner, please review the [YVRAF BMMSP Microgrant stream](#) program page.

YVR Art Foundation is also pleased to offer a Community Researcher grant again this year! The **Community Researcher** grant will be awarded to a First Nations artist or community member of BC or Yukon First Nations ancestry to support their research and/or the assembly and sharing of community archives. The Community Researcher travel grant will support travel to a YVRAF international museum partner to study art, archival documents and other cultural heritage. A separate application for the Community Researcher travel grant is not required, however this grant must be indicated under Part 1 of the BMMSP application form.

Who May Apply

To be eligible for a YVR Art Foundation Bill McLennan Masterpiece Study Program travel grant applicants must:

- Be a practicing artist of BC or Yukon First Nation ancestry (or for the Community Researcher grant, be a community member of BC or Yukon First Nation ancestry)
- Be a group of practicing artists or a collective of BC or Yukon First Nation ancestry.
 - If you choose to apply as a group or collective, a maximum of two representatives are eligible for funding (*pending approval from participating museums that they have the capacity to support a collective visit*).
- Presently live in BC or the Yukon
- **For visual artists:** wish to further their art practice through the study/research of BC or Yukon Indigenous artwork currently held in the collection of one of YVRAF's museum partners.
- **For Community Researchers:** wish to further their research and/or the assembly and sharing of community archives through the study/research of art, archival documents and other cultural heritage currently held in the collection of one of YVRAF's international museum partners.

If your application is successful and you are approved for a travel grant, recipients will:

- Be able to travel to the proposed museum for the collection visit no earlier than **January 2026 and no later than June 2026**.
- Identify a category or specific pieces in the museum collection that they wish to view and will confirm this with the museum's contact person (collections visits should be arranged at least six weeks in advance of their proposed collections visit date).
- Provide YVRAF with a confirmation letter/email from the museum confirming their collections visit has been booked.
- Organize and book their own travel arrangements to the museum (transportation, accommodations etc.) from the recipient's home community.
- Provide proof of travel insurance within one month of travel (if applicable).
- Hold a valid Canadian passport at time of travel if travelling outside of Canada

- Be able to provide proof of full Covid-19 vaccination, and any testing or other requirements, as required when travelling and by the destination country and/or museum and follow any Covid-19 related policies in the country the museum partner is located in, as well as any general policies the museum partner may have in place.
- Submit a written report within one month of concluding their travel/research project.

Eligibility Notes

- **Applicants who have received YVR Art Foundation Scholarships may not apply for a BMMSP travel grant in the same year in which they have received an Emerging Artist Scholarship or Mid-Career Artist Scholarship.** ie. A 2025 Scholarship Recipient may not apply for a 2025 BMMSP Travel Grant
- Artists may receive a maximum of two BMMSP travel grants (not including microgrants).
- If you have questions about your First Nation eligibility, please contact the Program Manager at programs@yvraf.com or by phone at 604.276.6261.

Grant Selection Process, Assessment Criteria & Notification of Results

- Applications will be adjudicated by an independent Selection Committee appointed by the Foundation. The Selection Committee will select the successful recipients and decide the grant amounts to be awarded.
- **Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:**
 - Rationale for the research/study project proposed
 - Feasibility of research/study project
 - Impact and outcomes of research/study project on art or community practice
 - Strength of the application and portfolio submitted
- Upon review of the applications received, the Selection Committee may make alternative museum recommendations to the selected applicants.
- All applicants will receive notification of the 2025 BMMSP Travel Grant results by December 2025.

Grant Amounts (all figures in Canadian dollars)

For travel to museums in British Columbia:

- Applicants may apply for a maximum of \$1,500
- For stays of up to 4 days (3 nights)

If submitting a Group/Collective application, you may apply for up to \$1,800

For travel to museums outside of BC but in Canada:

- Applicants may apply for a maximum of \$2,500
- For stays of up to 4 days (3 nights)

For travel to museums in the United States:

- Applicants may apply for a maximum of \$2,800
- For stays of up to 4 days (3 nights)

For travel to museums outside of North America:

- Applicants may apply for a maximum of \$4,000
- For stays of up to 8 days (7 nights)

Please note: Travel grants will be awarded in installments and may include a flight voucher plus a cash disbursement, depending on the proposed museum location. Further details will be provided to the selected grant recipients.

2025-2026 Museum Partners

Grant applicants are encouraged to research the museum and review the specific categories or pieces in the collection they wish to see on the museum's online collection database (if applicable). If you have any questions or would like more information, you may contact the collections staff below.

Please note that applicants are **not** required to obtain confirmation of the proposed visit at the time of application. Only those selected for grants are required to obtain confirmation of a collections visit from the museum.

American Museum of Natural History – New York, NY, USA

- Website: www.amnh.org
- Collections database: <https://anthro.amnh.org/collections>

- Contact: Peter M. Whiteley, Curator of North American Ethnology, Division of Anthropology
- T. 212-496-3496, whiteley@amnh.org
- Contact: Karina Ceron, Research Assistant, North American Ethnology
- Email: kceron@amnh.org
- T. 212 496-3504, ceron@amnh.org

Field Museum – Chicago, ILL, USA

- Website: www.fieldmuseum.org
- Collections database: Email for inquiries.
- Contact: Michelle Brownlee, Collections Manager
- mbrownlee@fieldmuseum.org

Bill Holm Center for the Study of Northwest Native Art at the Burke Museum – Seattle, WA, USA

- Website: <https://www.burkemuseum.org>
- Collections database: <https://www.burkemuseum.org/collectionsand-research/culture/bill-holm-center>
- Bridget Johnson, Associate Director, Bill Holm Centre
T: 206.543.5344, bkj86@uw.edu
- Kathryn Bunn-Marcuse, Curator of Northwest Native Art
T: 206.543.5595, kbunn@uw.edu

Canadian Museum of History – Gatineau, QC

- Website: www.historymuseum.ca
- Collections database: www.historymuseum.ca/collections
- Contact: Bianca Gendreau, Senior Director, Research, and Chief Curator
- T. 819-776-8483, Bianca.Gendreau@museedelhistoire.ca
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McCord Stewart Museum – Montreal, QC

- Website: www.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/
- Collections database: <https://www.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/collections/>
- Contact: Martine Couillard, Head of Government and Institutional Relations
- MUSÉE McCORD STEWART MUSEUM
- T: 514-861-6701 / ext. 1226

Museum of Vancouver – Vancouver, BC

- Website: www.museumofvancouver.ca
- Collections database: <http://openmov.museumofvancouver.ca/collections>
- Contact: Wendy Nichols, Curator of Collections

- T: 604-730-5312, wnichols@museumofvancouver.ca

Museum of Anthropology – Vancouver, BC

- Website: www.moa.ubc.ca
- Collections database: <http://collection-online.moa.ubc.ca>
- Contact: Cait Pilon, Collections Registrar
- T: 604-827-4409, cait.pilon@ubc.ca

Ethnologisches Museum Berlin - Berlin, Germany

- Website: <https://www.smb.museum/en/museumsinstitutions/ethnologisches-museum/home.html>
- Collection database: <https://www.smb-digital.de> Items from the online collection database may be listed in German and not English.
- Contact: Monika Zessnik, Curator, North American Collection
- T: +49 3083 01309 or m.zessnik@smb.spk-berlin.de

Pitt Rivers Museum – Oxford, UK

- Website: www.prm.ox.ac.uk
- Collections database: <https://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/databases>
- Contact: Faye Belsey, Senior Assistant Curator
- T: +44 01865 613002

Application Assistance

Please contact the YVR Art Foundation Program Manager if you require any assistance in completing this application form, or if you have questions regarding your proposed collections visit.



**Bill McLennan Masterpiece Study Program
Travel Grants**

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GUIDE TO APPLICATION FORM QUESTIONS

Part 1: Personal Information

Include your most up-to-date personal information. Please ensure your address is current and your telephone and email are active. If you will be moving or your information changes after you submit your application, email the YVR Art Foundation Program Manager at programs@yvraf.com. Indicate whether you are applying for yourself or on behalf of your collective/group in this section.

In this section we will also ask you to confirm that you are aware of the Covid-19 travel or visitation policies in place by the country, city and museum you intend to visit, and to confirm your valid passport information.

For collectives/groups travelling to BC museums:

If you are applying on behalf of your collective/group, please indicate the additional group member(s) who you are applying with and confirm who the primary contact is for your collective/group. Your application responses should include responses from each artist or collective member and the reasons you would like to apply together for a grant. Please include your collective/group statement as well.

Please note: Applicants can apply for a Bill McLennan Masterpiece Study Program travel grant as either **an artist** conducting research to further their art practice, or as a **community researcher** with intention to develop or contribute to a community archive.

Part 2: Art Practice or Community Research

Up to 250 words

For Artists:

This section asks you to describe your art practice and to include information on your art background, education and/or mentorship history, exhibition history and any other information relevant to your grant application.

If you have completed any similar travel/research projects, please include information on the museums you have visited and the items you researched.

For Community Researchers:

This section asks you to describe your community work and the research experience you have. You may briefly discuss how the grant will impact the work that you do (you will be required to further expand on this in Part 5: Research/Study Project outcomes on this application form).

Part 3: Artist or Personal Statement

Up to 250 words

Artist Statement:

Your artist statement describes and expands on the artwork that you do and your art practice, and is an opportunity to provide any information that is not covered elsewhere and that you think is relevant to your application and you would like the Selection Committee to consider.

Personal Statement:

Your personal statement is an opportunity to provide any information about the work and/or research that you do that is not covered elsewhere, that you think is relevant to your application and you would like the Selection Committee to consider.

Part 4: Proposed Research/Study Project

Up to 500 words

Describe your proposed research project and include information on why you would like to visit the proposed museum partner and the items held in their collections that you would like to study.

Important information to include:

- The museum partner you wish to visit.

- Why do you wish to travel to this museum?
- Have you visited this museum before? If so, when? Have you conducted research at any other museums? If so, please describe.
- What will you research at the museum and why these items?
 - If you choose, you may list specific pieces or categories of the museum collection you wish to see and include their reference/collection number (this information is typically found online within the collections information tab if the museum partner has an online collections database).

Part 5: Research/Study Project Outcomes

Up to 500 words

Describe what you would like to do with the information you've gathered during your research/study project and how it will impact your art or your community research practice. Describe how you would share your experiences and what you will have learned with other artists and/or community members.

Part 6: Proposed Research/Study Project Timeline

Please note a timeline for your research/study project and indicate when you would travel to the selected museum partner and how you intend to carry out your collections visit. Travel to a museum partner must take place **between January and June 2026**.

Please consider the following when establishing your timeline and proposing a collections visit:

- **For museums located in British Columbia, Canada and the United States:**
 - YVR Art Foundation will provide funding for a maximum of 3 nights/4 days for North American Museum collections visits.
- **For Museums located outside of North America:**
 - YVR Art Foundation will provide funding for a maximum of 7 nights/8 days for International Museum collections visits.

Part 7: Research/Study Project Budget and Guidelines

Please provide a budget that outlines how your travel grant will be used. Your budget may include travel and transportation costs (including mileage), accommodation, meals, and other expenses you may incur during your collections visit or while travelling to

conduct your research/study trip. Please note that all amounts listed below are in Canadian dollars. A budget table is included in the application form.

Travel/Transportation to Museum

Include an estimate of flight, ferry, or driving expenses if driving to the proposed museum partner (up to \$0.55/km) from your home community to the museum you are proposing to visit.

Hotel/Accommodation

- For museums located in Canada, estimate up to \$175/night.
- For museums located in the United States, estimate up to \$200/night.
- For museums located outside of North America, estimate up to \$200/night.

Food/Meals

- For museums located in Canada, estimate up to \$75/day.
- For museums located in the United States, estimate up to \$75/day.
- For museums located outside of North America, estimate up to \$75/day.

Local Transportation

Include an estimate of taxi fares, bus fares and public transit while visiting the proposed museum partner.

Other

Please detail any other costs that may relate to your research/study project (if applicable) including any costs related to travel insurance or miscellaneous.

Part 8: Resume/CV (Optional)

Up to two pages maximum

You can include this as an attachment with your application. If you are applying online, please include this as part of your PDF document. Including your resume or CV is optional and not required as part of the grant application.

Part 9: Portfolio Requirements

Please submit **up to five** photographs of your artwork or documentation of your community practice that best convey the work that you currently do. If possible, please include clear, high resolution images and try to avoid submitting screenshots.

Contact YVRAF if you have questions or require assistance when completing the portfolio section of your application.

Portfolio Guidelines:

- You may include up to five photographs of your artwork or documentation of your community practice.
- If you submit work that was created with another artist or collaborator, please name the other contributor(s) and identify that the work is a collaboration or that you were an assistant on the project (if applicable).
- Please label each photo and include the number that corresponds to the portfolio description sheet and your last name so they match (if submitting a hard copy).
- A completed portfolio description sheet must accompany the images you submit.
- **For digital submissions:** please format your portfolio as a single PDF document.

Hard-copy portfolio submissions:

- Photos or photocopies of work must be **no larger than 8 1/2 x 11 inches**; if the photos or photocopies are smaller than 8 1/2 x 11 inches, please attach them to an 8 1/2 x 11 inch sheet of paper, in order to keep the application format consistent.
- The portfolio you submit will not be returned to you, so please do not include any original artwork.
- Do not staple or bind pages together.

Please mail any hard copy submissions and/or supplementary material to:

YVR Art Foundation

PO Box 44638

YVR Domestic Terminal RPO

Richmond, BC V7B 1W2

If you would like to drop off a copy of your application in person, please contact the Program Manager at programs@yvraf.com to arrange a time and address.

Film/video portfolio submissions:

- If you wish to include an example of your film or video work in your portfolio, please provide a link to Vimeo, Dropbox, or other online video streaming platform.
- If you are submitting film/video work, contact us to confirm which method you will be submitting film/video work in advance of your application submission.
- If you are submitting your film or video work for your entire portfolio you may submit no more than two videos at a maximum of five minutes each.
- If you are submitting your film or video work as part of your portfolio, each video submitted is the equivalent of submitting two photos. For example, if you submit two videos you may only include one additional photo in your portfolio submission.

Part 10: Portfolio/Image Description Sheet

Complete the portfolio description sheet included as part of the application package. If you have collaborated with another practitioner, please include/credit them properly under the credit column.

If you're applying online, this is not necessary. You can just label each image on the PDF.

Part 11: Signed Declaration

Please sign the application form acknowledging your role and responsibilities of receiving a travel grant if selected.

Application Resources

The following webpages may be useful to reference when proposing your research/study trip. If selected to receive a BMMSPP travel grant, a brief overview of resources and amenities at your proposed location will be provided.

Please note, this is not an exhaustive list and additional research may be required by the applicant to ensure they are following the correct and most up-to-date travel guidelines.

Travel Resources (procedures, requirements, Covid-19 updates, currency)

Canada:

<https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>

USA:

<https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/united-states>

United Kingdom:

<https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control>

Germany:

<https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/germany>

Currency Converter:

<https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

For reference only, rates change daily.

Bill McLennan Masterpiece Study Program Travel Grants - Frequently Asked Questions:

<https://www.yvraf.com/our-program-resources/bill-mclennan-masterpiece-study-program-travel-grants/>

How to Submit Your Grant Application

Application Deadline – September 21, 2025 at 11:59pm PDT

Applications may be submitted:

1. **Through the online application form on the YVR Art Foundation website:**
<https://www.yvraf.com/application-bill-mclennan-masterpiece-study-program-travel-grants/>

Applications submitted **online** through the YVR Art Foundation website must be received by the deadline. If you have difficulty submitting your application through the online application portal, please contact YVRAF before the application deadline.

2. **By mailing hard copies of the application**

Applications submitted via **Canada Post** must be postmarked no later than midnight on the deadline date.

Please mail completed applications to:

YVR Art Foundation
PO Box 44638
YVR Domestic Terminal RPO
Richmond, BC V7B 1W2

3. **By courier or hand delivery**

Please contact YVRAF to arrange delivery of your application personally or by courier.

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If you have any questions about the application process or require assistance, please contact the Program Manager at programs@yvraf.com or by phone at 604-276-6261.