



Emerging Artist Scholarship Program

Application Deadline
Sunday, March 1st 2026 11:59pm PST

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

General Information and Timeline

YVR Art Foundation offers Emerging Artist Scholarships of \$5000 each to British Columbia and Yukon First Nation artists who presently reside in BC or the Yukon.

Scholarships are awarded on an annual basis to Emerging Artists who create visual art that reflects BC or Yukon First Nation culture and who wish to further their artistic career by expanding their work or practice into a new area, by study or work with a Master Artist/Mentor, attend a school of art, or create a visual art project that is of cultural significance to their community. Visual Art can include (but is not limited to) drawing, painting, digital art + design, illustration, carving, sculpture, printmaking, textiles, animation, photography, video and film.

The scholarship recipients will also have the option to display their artwork at the YVR Vancouver International Airport in 2027.

Up to seven Emerging Artist Scholarship recipients will be selected per scholarship year by a Jury composed of established Indigenous artists and/or curators. All applicants will receive notification of the Emerging Artist Scholarship results by April 2026. Scholarship recipients will then be awarded and invited to attend a Scholarship Awards Reception in Vancouver on May 21st 2026.

Scholarship recipients will be invited back to Vancouver in 2027 to display their finished artwork at the awards reception, followed by an exhibition of their work at YVR. *(Travel and accommodation will be provided as part of the scholarship)*

Who May Apply

To be eligible for a YVR Art Foundation Emerging Artist Scholarship, applicants must:

- Be of BC or Yukon First Nations ancestry
- Reside in BC or Yukon
- Meet one or more of the following:
 - ☐ Is in the early stages of their career; in the first few (1–4) years of pursuing a career in their field
 - ☐ Has goal of becoming professional artist
 - ☐ Has not yet had a solo exhibit of their work
 - ☐ Is not yet recognized as established by their peers and community
 - ☐ Is typically between the ages of 17 - 29
- Create visual* art that engages with BC or Yukon First Nation culture, and/or significant to the artist's ancestry, research practice, or community.
*We encourage artists practicing outside of traditional visual arts mediums, or engaging in multidisciplinary art practices to still apply
- Have the goal of becoming a professional artist
- Have been accepted to study with a Master Artist/Mentor, attend a school of art
- Commit to attending the Scholarship Awards Ceremony/Reception in Vancouver on May 21, 2026 (travel and accommodation will be provided as part of the scholarship)
- Commit to attending the Scholarship Opening Reception of their completed artwork, one year later, by May 31, 2027 (travel and accommodation will be provided as part of the scholarship)
- The scholarship recipient must arrange and deliver their completed artwork to YVR no later than April 30, 2027

Note: An Emerging Artist Scholarship can be awarded to an individual a **maximum of two times**.

Eligible use of Scholarship Award

Artists can apply for an Emerging Artist Scholarship to work with a Master Artist/Mentor in a specific medium, or to attend a school of art or training program.

Please contact the Program Manager if you have any questions about your proposed mentorship arrangement or the school of art you propose to attend.

Scholarship Artwork

Applicants for the Emerging Artist Scholarship award propose to create an artwork during their Scholarship year that is representative of the skills developed through the proposed mentorship or educational opportunity. Emerging Artist Scholarship award recipients then have the option to display their final artwork at the YVR Vancouver International Airport, and the potential opportunity to showcase their work with YVRAF's other community partners

If any additional exhibition opportunities arise during the Scholarship year, award recipients will be informed and invited to participate.

Note: If applicants indicate on their application that they will create an artwork for exhibition at YVR, the completed work must fit within the YVR display case dimensions (43" W × 29" D × 66" H) and be delivered to YVR no later than April 30, 2026.

Scoring Criteria

Your application will be adjudicated by a Jury composed of established Indigenous artists and/or curators and will be evaluated on the following components:

- Artistic ability as demonstrated in your art portfolio
- Learning experience with the proposed use of Scholarship Award
- Description and rationale for the proposed artwork that would be created with the Scholarship Award
- Overall quality of the application

Application Assistance

Please contact the YVR Art Foundation Program Manager if you require accommodations or assistance when completing this Scholarship Application form, or if you have questions regarding your eligibility including your First Nation ancestry and the medium you work in.

The Program Manager can be contacted by email at programs@yvraf.com or by phone at 604.276.6261.



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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.

Part 2: Education and/or Art Training

Describe and/or list your education and/or art training history. You may also include here any information regarding art related classes, programs and/or workshops you have attended.

Part 3: Work/Volunteer History

Up to 500 words

Describe your work and volunteer experience in or outside of your community. This includes paid and/or unpaid work and does not have to be directly related to your art practice.

Part 4: Art Experience

Up to 500 words

Describe your art background and experience including the medium you work in and if or how your art practice connects to your First Nations ancestry, community, and culture. List any art displays or exhibitions you have participated in.

For example, what type of art do you do? What materials do you work with? Have you worked with a mentor or taken any art classes or training? Do you do artwork on your own, at school or with other artists? Have you exhibited or shown your art anywhere? How does your artwork reflect your culture?

Part 5: Personal Statement

Up to 500 words

Your personal statement is an opportunity for you to include any information about yourself that is not covered elsewhere in the application and that you feel is important for the Jury to know.

Part 6: Proposed Use of Scholarship Award

Up to 500 words

Applicants to the Emerging Artist Scholarship Program may propose to do one of the following:

1) Work with a Master Artist or Mentor

If you are proposing to work/study with a Master Artist/Mentor, please describe what your mentor will be teaching you and what the proposed schedule would be. (ie. Three hours once a week for six months, two hours every day for six months, etc.) Also indicate here how you will be interacting with your mentor – whether this will be in person, online etc.

If you choose to apply under this category, include a letter from your Mentor stating that they have agreed to mentor you. Their letter should also include a brief description of their artistic background and how their knowledge and

experience will assist you in your art practice. *Please include this letter with other supporting documentation in Part 8 of the application form.*

OR

2) Attend a school of art or art training program

Please describe the school of art or art training program you will be attending, your proposed program of study, a timeline, and description of what you hope to learn in this program.

If you choose to apply under this category, include a confirmation of acceptance letter from the school or training program you will be attending.

Please include this with other supporting documentation in Part 8 of the application form.

Proposed Scholarship Artwork

Up to 500 words

Describe in detail the type of artwork that you are proposing to create with your Scholarship award. The proposed artwork will illustrate the skills and techniques you hope to learn in your proposed mentorship or educational opportunity.

Optional: If you choose to display your artwork at the Vancouver International Airport, the proposed artwork must fit within the airport display case dimensions of 43" wide x 29" deep x 66" high.

Part 7: Scholarship Award Budget

Please provide a budget that outlines how your Scholarship funds will be used. Your budget may include any tuition fees, art supplies, honorarium*, living expenses* and travel, among others. A budget template is provided for you in Part 7 of the application form.

If you are working with a Master Artist/Mentor and intend to compensate them for their time, it is recommended that you discuss and confirm this arrangement with them in advance of submitting this application.

The Emerging Artist Scholarship will be awarded in installments throughout the Scholarship year.

Note: Important budgeting criteria:

* *Living Expenses in your budget may not exceed \$1,000 total.*

* *Honorarium to Master Artist in your budget must not exceed \$1,000 total.*

Part 8: Supporting Documents

1) Letter of Support

This can be from an art teacher, mentor or individual with an art background who can speak to your artistic potential.

Note: Your Letter of Support should include the following information:

- *The full name of the applicant*
- *The full names, address, and phone number of the person writing the letter of support*
- *The length of time the person writing the letter of support has known the applicant*
- *The reasons why the applicant should receive this scholarship*

2) Confirmation Letters

Depending on your proposed use of the Scholarship Award, please submit the following:

If you propose to work with Master Artist/Mentor:

Include a *Mentor Artist Letter of Confirmation*. This letter should be from the Mentor you intend to work with confirming that they have agreed to work with you and including a brief description of their artistic background and how their knowledge and experience will assist you in your art practice.

OR

If you propose to attend a school of art or training program:

Include a *Letter of Confirmation or Acceptance Letter*. This letter will be a confirmation of acceptance letter from the art school or training program you will be attending confirming your proposed program of study and enrollment dates.

Part 9 & 10: Portfolio & Portfolio Description Sheet

Your portfolio sample is an important component of your application package. It is an opportunity for you to show the Jury some of your artistic achievements.

Portfolio Guidelines:

- Include no more than **ten images** of your work.
- If you submit work that was created with another artist, please name the other artist(s) and identify that the work is a collaboration or that you were an assistant to the project.

Digital Portfolio Submissions:

- You must submit your portfolio as a single PDF file, including other required portfolio supporting documents.

Film/Video Portfolio Submissions:

- If you wish to include an example of your film or video work in your portfolio you may submit this through Dropbox or a similar file sharing medium. *You must notify us that you will be submitting film/video and by which method by contacting programs@yvraf.com in advance of your submission.*
- If you are submitting your film or video work for your entire portfolio you may submit no more than **three videos** at a *maximum of five minutes each*.
- If you are submitting film or video work as part of your portfolio, each video submitted is the equivalent of submitting three images. For example, if you submit two videos you may only include four images in your portfolio submission.

Hard-Copy Portfolio Submissions & Portfolio Description Sheet:

The portfolio you submit will not be returned to you, so please do not include any original artwork.

- Please put your name on each image page/photo and on the portfolio description sheet (Part 10)
- A completed copy of the portfolio description sheet must accompany the images you submit.
- Make sure the names and numbers of the images of your work match the names and numbers of those listed on the portfolio description sheet.
- 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.
- Do not staple or bind pages together.
- All hard copy applications and materials must be submitted in one envelope.

How to Submit Your Application Package

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1) Online Application Submission:

Applications submitted **online** through the YVR Art Foundation website must be received **no later than 11:59 pm PST on Sunday, March 1st 2026**.

2) Hard-copy Application Submission:

Applications submitted via **Canada Post** must be postmarked **no later than midnight, Sunday, March 1st 2026**

Mailing address:

YVR Art Foundation
P.O. Box 44638
YVR Domestic Terminal RPO
Richmond, BC V7B 1W2

Applications submitted **by courier** must be received at the Foundation office at Vancouver International Airport at the address below **no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, February 27th, 2026**.

Courier address:

YVR Art Foundation
Vancouver International Airport
3011 Aylmer Road
Richmond, BC V7B 1A2

Note: all hard copy applications and materials must be submitted in one envelope. Do not staple or bind pages together.

Questions and Inquiries:

If you have any questions or inquiries about the Emerging Artist Scholarship award eligibility criteria or the application process, please contact:

Amy Pitura
Program & Administrative Manager
YVR Art Foundation
289.264.8290
programs@yvraf.com

We also encourage you to review the “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) on the Foundation website at: <http://www.yvraf.com/about/faq>