



Mid-Career Artist Scholarship Program

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

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

General Information and Timeline

YVR Art Foundation offers Mid-Career Artist Scholarships of \$5000 each to British Columbia and Yukon First Nation artists who are aged 30 years or older and who presently reside in BC or the Yukon.

Scholarships are awarded on an annual basis to Mid-Career 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.

Up to three Mid-Career 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 Mid-Career Artist Scholarship results by April. Scholarship recipients will then be awarded and invited to attend a Scholarship Awards Reception in Vancouver in May, although not required.

Mid-Career Scholarship recipients may also have the option to display their work in an exhibition at YVR International Airport the following year.

Who May Apply

To be eligible for a YVR Art Foundation Mid-Career 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 later stages of their careers; 5+ years of pursuing a career in their field
 - Is a professional artist
 - Has had a solo exhibit of their work
 - Is recognized as established by their peers and community
 - Is typically 30 years old or older
- 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*
- Wish to further their artistic career by expanding their work or practice into a new scale or area by working with a Master Artist/Mentor, attending a school of art, or working on a visual art project that is of cultural significance to their community
- Have completed art training including, but not limited to, formal education in visual arts, worked with an artist mentor, or a combination of similar experience
- Have achieved local and/or provincial recognition through public presentation(s) of their artwork
- Be able to submit a portfolio of artwork that demonstrates the artist's commitment to their practice
- Be able to submit confirmation/acceptance of an opportunity to work with a Master Artist/Mentor, attend a school of art, or a proposal to work on a project that is of cultural significance to the artist's community
- If the scholarship recipient has agreed to exhibit at YVR in 2027, they must arrange and deliver their completed artwork to YVR no later than April 30, 2027

Note: A Mid-Career Artist Scholarship can be awarded to an individual **one time only**.

Eligible use of Scholarship Award

Artists can apply for a Mid-Career Artist Scholarship to work with a Master Artist/Mentor in a particular medium, attend a school of art, create a proposed artwork, or work on an art project that is of cultural significance to the artist's community.

Please contact the Program Manager if you have any questions about your proposed use of the Scholarship Award.

Scholarship Artwork

Applicants for the Mid-Career Artist Scholarship award propose to create a specific artwork while working with a Master Artist, attending a school of art, or working on a project that is of cultural significance to the artist's community. Mid-Career Artist Scholarship award recipients have the option to display their final artwork at the 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 x 29" D x 66" H) and be delivered to YVR no later than April 30, 2027. In lieu of delivery of a completed art work for exhibition at YVR recipients may instead submit a Report on their year's art project and/or activities by May 1, 2027.

Scoring Criteria

Your application will be adjudicated by established Indigenous artists and/or curators, and will be evaluated on the following components:

- Artistic ability as demonstrated in your art portfolio
- Learning experience, and significance of the proposed use of Scholarship Award funds to the artists' professional practice
- Description and rationale for the proposed artwork to be created
- 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 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, mentorships and/or workshops you have attended.

Part 3: Work/Volunteer History

Up to 500 words

Provide a summary of 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 Practice & Exhibition History

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 Nation ancestry, community, and culture. List any art displays or exhibitions you have participated in.

Part 5: Artist Statement

Up to 500 words

Your artist statement will summarize the work that you do and your interests and motivations within your art practice. You may also include a personal statement and share anything you would like the Jury to know that is not included elsewhere in the application.

Part 6: Proposed Use of Scholarship Award

Up to 500 words

Applicants to the Mid-Career Artist Scholarship Program propose to either work with a Master Artist, attend a school of art or create an artwork of significance to their community. Include how receiving this scholarship award will contribute to and advance your art practice.

1) Work with a Master Artist

If you are proposing to work/study with a Master Artist in a particular medium or to develop a new skill, please describe how this will further your art career and expand your current practice in new or different ways.

If you choose to apply under this category, include a letter from your Mentor or Master Artist of choice stating that they have agreed to work with you. This 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

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

If you choose to apply under this category, include a confirmation of acceptance letter, proof of enrollment, or official transcript from the art school you will be attending. You may submit this with other supporting documentation in Part 8 of the application form.

OR

3) Create an Artwork or Work on a Visual Art Project that is significant to your community

If you are proposing to work on an independent art project, describe the proposed project and how the project is significant to your culture and your community.

For example, the proposed project could be an art installation, participation in a community visual art project, or creating a work of special traditional or historical significance.

If you will be working with others on this project, a list of people including a description of their role in the proposed project is required.

Proposed Scholarship Artwork

Up to 500 words

Describe in detail the type of artwork that you would propose to create with your Scholarship award. The proposed artwork will illustrate the skills and techniques gained from receiving the Mid-Career Artist Scholarship Award.

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, honoraria*, 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 and intend to compensate them for their time, it is recommended that you discuss and confirm your arrangement with them in advance of submitting this application.

The Mid-Career 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 arts professional who can speak to your art experience, accomplishments and practice.

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 a Master Artist:

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

If you propose to attend a School of Art:

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

OR

If you propose to create an artwork or work on an art project that is significant to your community

If applicable, submit a *Letter of Confirmation from the Lead Artist* or a list of collaborators and people involved in the artwork you will be working on.

Part 9 & 10: Portfolio

A portfolio is an important component of your Mid-Career Artist Scholarship application. Your portfolio should include photos of your artwork that represent your art practice.

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 application 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, 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

Application Deadline

Sunday, March 1st 2026 11:59pm PST

1) Online Application Submission:

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

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

Questions and Inquiries: If you have any questions or inquiries about the Mid-Career 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>