



# Small Arts Project Fund Application Guide

2026

Government of  
Northwest Territories



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## Overview

The Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) Small Arts Project Fund provides \$500 - \$5,000 in funding for small-scale arts projects to emerging and mid-career artists, craftspeople, groups and organizations.

This fund supports a wide range of arts activities, including creation, production, presentation, exhibition, training, and artistic development in the following disciplines:

- Dance
- Theatre Arts
- Literary Arts
- Film and Media Arts
- Digital Arts
- Music and Sound
- Visual Arts
- Crafts (Traditional and Fine)
- Fashion
- Multidisciplinary Arts (projects that include multiple disciplines)
- Other

## What activities this funding supports

- Small-scale arts projects
- Artistic development through programming like workshops, training, mentorships, residencies, etc.
- The development of artistic and cultural expressions of NWT residents.
- Artwork that is produced for sale.

## Who can apply

Types of potential applicants include:

- Individuals who have been a resident of the NWT for at least 6 months prior to applying and are living in the NWT at the time of application.
- Organizations that are registered with NWT Corporate Registries and are in good standing.

Preference will be given to:

- Applications which use NWT resources and services in their projects.

## What expenses this funding supports

Expenses that are **eligible** to receive funding include, but are not limited to:

- Artist fees to support the applicant and/or collaborators time spent working on the project
- Costs for raw materials and supplies required to produce the artwork
- Small tools and equipment
- Shipping
- NWT booking agent fees
- Rental fees for equipment
- Studio costs
- Fees related to contracting costs
- Fees related to **artistic development** can include:
  - Professional instruction or courses in any of the program disciplines
  - Residencies
  - Workshops
  - Mentorship
- Travel for **artistic development** can include:
  - Flight, accommodation, ground transportation and baggage fees/shipping only.
  - Applicants travelling outside the NWT must make the case that expertise is not accessible within NWT.
  - Applicants to bring instructors into the NWT for projects such as workshops.

## Supported costs by art discipline

Discipline	Costs supported	Costs not supported
<b>Dance, Theatre Arts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rentals and technical fees</li> <li>• Costume expenses</li> <li>• Applicant and collaborator artist fees</li> <li>• Travel costs for artistic development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing or distribution costs</li> <li>• Business set-up or operating costs</li> <li>• Major tools and equipment</li> <li>• Inventory</li> </ul>
<b>Literary Arts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proofreading, editing and review costs</li> <li>• Office expenses (e.g., paper, typing, photocopying, etc.)</li> <li>• Illustration and design costs</li> <li>• Applicant and collaborator artist fees</li> <li>• Travel costs for artistic development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing or distribution costs</li> <li>• Commercial printing costs</li> <li>• Commercial publishing projects (e.g., calendars)</li> <li>• Technical or research writing projects</li> <li>• Ghost writing (under another name)</li> <li>• Major tools and equipment</li> </ul>
<b>Film and Media Arts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-production, production and post-production costs for original creative films or video projects</li> <li>• Space and equipment rentals and technical fees</li> <li>• Artistic web and new media projects</li> <li>• Development of artistic sound content such as podcasts, audio dramas and installations</li> <li>• Applicant and collaborator artist fees</li> <li>• Travel costs for artistic development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing or distribution costs</li> <li>• Major tools and equipment</li> <li>• Travel for crew outside of the NWT</li> </ul>
<b>Music and Sound</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Studio recording costs</li> <li>• Travel costs to record in a studio</li> <li>• Fees for session musicians</li> <li>• Applicant and collaborator artist fees</li> <li>• Travel costs for artistic development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing or distribution costs</li> <li>• Promotional videos for musicians unless the applicant is a filmmaker or video artist</li> <li>• Purchase of equipment, musical instruments, etc.</li> <li>• Major tools and equipment</li> </ul>

<p><b>Visual Arts, Digital Arts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art supplies</li> <li>• Studio costs for length of project</li> <li>• Framing costs for exhibition of artworks</li> <li>• Public art (e.g., murals, sculpture, outdoor installations)</li> <li>• Applicant and collaborator artist fees</li> <li>• One-time subscription to creative software for length of project</li> <li>• Travel costs for artistic development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing or distribution costs</li> <li>• Commercial printing costs (e.g., calendars, lithographs, postcards)</li> <li>• Major tools and equipment</li> <li>• Commercial photographic portrait projects (e.g., studio work)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fashion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of traditional or contemporary designs</li> <li>• Art supplies and small tools (e.g., Beads, needles, threads, furs, stroud, fabric, etc.)</li> <li>• Studio rentals and technical fees</li> <li>• Applicant and collaborator artist fees</li> <li>• Travel costs for artistic development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing or distribution costs</li> <li>• Business set-up or operating costs</li> <li>• Major production equipment (e.g., sewing machines)</li> <li>• Purchasing more supplies than will be used in the project</li> <li>• Major tools and equipment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Crafts (Traditional &amp; Fine)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of traditional or contemporary designs</li> <li>• Raw materials</li> <li>• Art supplies and small tools (e.g., Beads, needles, threads, furs, stroud, fabric, etc.)</li> <li>• Studio rentals and technical fees</li> <li>• Applicant and collaborator artist fees</li> <li>• Travel costs for artistic development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing or distribution costs</li> <li>• Business set-up or operating costs</li> <li>• Major production equipment (e.g., sewing machines)</li> <li>• Purchasing more supplies than will be used in the project</li> <li>• Major tools and equipment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Multidisciplinary Arts, Other</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any costs supported in other disciplines</li> <li>• Travel costs for artistic development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any costs not supported in other disciplines</li> <li>• Major tools and equipment</li> </ul>

## What expenses this funding does not support

Expenses that are **not eligible** to receive funding include:

- Major tools and equipment\* (things that are not used up by the project)
- Projects meant for competitions like awards or contests
- Third party online booking fees outside of NWT
- Inventory previously purchased with Government programming or before start of the project
- General (non-artistic) activities at receptions, carnivals, jamborees, festivals, or annual meetings.
- Living or operating expenses, such as rent or mortgage, wages, food, and utilities.
- GST, HST or PST on eligible expenses.

*\* Requests for funding for major equipment/tools such as electronics, music equipment, etc. should be applied for under the Arts Business Support Fund.*

## How funding will be allocated

- Funding is allocated to five Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) regional offices in the NWT (North Slave, South Slave, Dehcho, Beaufort Delta, and Sahtu).
- This funding is assessed and administered through the ITI regional offices.
- Applications will be accepted on an on-going basis throughout the fiscal year, from April 1 to March 31 annually.
- Applications are assessed on a first come, first serve basis until the annual budget is exhausted.
- Individuals can apply for a maximum of \$5,000 annually.
- Groups and organizations can apply for a maximum of \$5,000 annually.

## Application process

- It is strongly recommended that you contact your [regional ITI Office](#) to discuss your idea prior to the development of your proposal.
- Once you have your project planned, fill out the [Small Arts Projects Fund application form](#).
- The supporting documents that must be included with your application include:
  - Samples of work to support your application. Any one of the following will be accepted:
    - One to two sound/video clips of roughly five minutes or less.
    - One to two writing samples of five pages or less.
    - Images that showcase your work.
  - For artistic development projects: an invitation to attend, registration information, etc.
  - Copies of quote(s) (NWT quotes are encouraged)
  - Proof of residency (e.g, driver's license, letter from band, etc)
- Submit the completed application form and supporting documents to your [regional ITI Office](#).
- Applications can be submitted anytime for available funding, from April 1 to March 31st annually.

## Application processing time

Applicants will be informed in writing within 15 business days of the review of a complete application whether approval of the application has been granted and which eligible costs have been approved.

## Funding payment

Applicants approved for funding will receive a contribution agreement that outlines the terms of funding, payment schedule and reporting requirements.

- Applicants must sign the agreement and return it to their ITI regional office.
- Applications must be approved before beginning the activity. Expenditures made prior to the date of application approval will not be considered.
- To receive the payment, an account with the GNWT is required and be in good standing.
- Payment will be processed and sent to funding recipients within **14 to 30 days** of the GNWT receiving the signed contribution agreement.

## Funding conditions

Funding recipients must meet the following conditions:

- Funding must be used for the stated purposes in the approved application. If a situation arises where you cannot use the funds as proposed, contact your ITI regional office.
- Any changes in part or in full of the grant agreement must be approved in writing by the regional office prior to changes being made.
- Applicants must be in good standing with the GNWT and currently be a resident of the NWT.
- Applicants may only apply to this fund for one project at a time. A funded project must be completed and reported prior to re-applying for this fund. All overdue reporting must be submitted and approved prior to applying for new arts funding.

## Funding acknowledgement

Funding recipients must credit the GNWT for financial support in any publicity prepared in relation to your activities, including electronic, print, or visual material.

Where the logo is unable to be used, the following message can be included in publicity related to the funded recipient's activities:

***This project was made possible, in part, with funding from the Government of the Northwest Territories.***

## Funding reporting

There is no financial reporting required for this funding.