



## **2021 PROGRAM GUIDELINES COMMUNITY MUSIC MAKING**

**Application Deadline: February 16, 2021**

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TAC is committed to equity and inclusion. We welcome and encourage applications from all Toronto artists, arts organizations and artist collectives. Specific equity measures or targeted programs are in place to ensure full access and participation by Indigenous artists, artists of colour, artists who are Deaf, have disabilities or are living with mental illness, artists who self-identify as 2SLGBTQIAP, newcomer and refugee artists, young and emerging artists and artists working outside the downtown core. Learn more about what we are doing to make TAC more accessible and inclusive in our [Equity Framework](#)

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The pandemic has widely disrupted the programming and organizational plans of organizations receiving operating grants. Efforts and capacities to continue or adapt activities and to plan for 2021-22 vary greatly from company to company. In order to support operating companies, the 2021 operating grant program provides two application options:

### **Application Option 1 - Full Grant Request**

Application for a grant based on 100% or more of the 2020 operating grant amount.

This option is meant for returning applicants with significant activities planned for their 2021-22 request year as well as new applicants to the operating program.

Selecting Option 1 means that:

- i) Your application or mid-cycle report will be reviewed and assessed for merit by the relevant TAC committee and staff, and your grant level may or may not change in 2021. Assessments will recognize an organization's history of work and will not be negatively influenced by disruption of activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Application Option 2 - Voluntary Reduced Grant Request**

Application for a grant based on 50% of the 2020 operating grant amount.

This option is meant for returning applicants without public activities planned for their 2021-22 request year, that are not entirely ceasing operations, and will resume public activities in 2022-23.

Selecting Option 2 means that:

- i) Your application or mid-cycle report will not be reviewed and assessed for merit by the relevant TAC committee and staff, and your organization would receive a grant in 2021 based on 50% of the 2020 operating grant amount.
- ii) TAC funds for your request year can be applied to costs required for staff retention, research and development, communications and donor relations, facility management etc.
- iii) In 2022 your organization may apply for a grant based on 100% or more of the 2020 operating grant amount.

## OVERVIEW

Toronto Arts Council's **Community Music Making** program recognizes the role that non-professional music organizations play in creating a dynamic and culturally engaged City. This program provides funding to support the Toronto-based activities of non-profit community choirs, opera, orchestras, and ensembles that are committed to building community through music making processes such as creation, workshops, concert production, and other related activities. The City of Toronto supports this program through a funding allocation approved annually by Toronto City Council.

The program has a three-year funding cycle, with applications accepted every three years. Applicants submit a complete application in the first year and those approved for funding submit mid-cycle reports in years two and three. The Music Program seeks to support a diverse range of musical forms with a high priority given to applicants that demonstrate a commitment to the performance of works by Canadian composers.

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply to the **Community Music Making** program, an organization must:

- be non-profit;
- be governed by a Board of Directors or other body responsible for the organization;
- be located in the City of Toronto and have a significant portion of its activities occurring within the City;
- have an annual operating budget of less than \$150,000;
- conduct music activities on an annual, ongoing basis either throughout the year or on a seasonal basis;
- have previously received a minimum two project grants through TAC's music program;
- produce a minimum of three self-presented concerts with different repertoire in each season (self-presented means that the organization takes responsibility for planning, production and ticket selling);
- pay artist fees to professional<sup>1</sup> artistic leadership.
- actively engage community members, and contribute to building community through music making processes beyond concert presentation (e.g., rehearsals, workshops, masterclasses, retreats, etc);

The following are not eligible to apply to this program:

- Professional Organizations that receive funding through any TAC discipline program;
- Community music organizations with budgets greater than \$150,000;
- Community music schools, presenters/producers and/or festivals.

Organizations may receive only one grant per calendar year through the Music program and may not apply to other TAC discipline programs. However, TAC offers other types of granting opportunities through its *Strategic Initiatives* envelope, and organizations receiving funding through the **Community Music Making** program may be eligible to apply to one of these programs. Please consult TAC's website for other granting opportunities. Applicants to the **Community Music Making** program may receive a maximum of one

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<sup>1</sup> TAC recognizes that due to systemic barriers within the broader arts community (e.g. limited mainstream presentation opportunities for artists from equity-seeking communities) that some flexibility may be required in interpreting eligibility criteria to take into account equivalent professional experience and contexts. Potential applicants from equity-seeking communities are encouraged to discuss their eligibility with the program officer in advance of submitting an application.

additional grant per calendar year and must submit a final report on that project before applying to another program in the *Strategic Initiatives* envelope.

### VALUE of GRANT

**Maximum request:** TAC will fund up to 35% of an organization's annual operating revenue, to a maximum of \$25,000 per year for three years. Applicants may receive less than the full amount requested. The budget must indicate a range of revenue sources, which may include donated goods and services.

Funding awarded through the **Community Music Making** program contributes to the artistic and administrative costs associated with an organization's ongoing music activities.

TAC does not provide funding for capital projects (e.g. equipment, renovations, purchase of buildings), fundraising events/projects or deficit reduction. Exception: TAC funds may be used towards the purchase of equipment and software to achieve the goals of the organization during the COVID pandemic. This may include but is not limited to electronics, workspace materials and health and safety items.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are required to register at TAC Grants Online (<https://tac.smartsimple.ca>) and submit the Community Music Making application and all required support material using this online grants management system.

Applications must be submitted on TAC Grants Online no later than 11:59 pm on the deadline day. **TAC does not accept applications by any other means of delivery.** You will receive a confirmation email when your application is submitted. Check your spam/junk mail folder if it doesn't arrive in your in-box

### SUPPORT MATERIAL

All applicants to the **Community Music Making** program are required to submit audio or video recordings (maximum two) featuring recent work in their full application. Only recordings made within the past three years are accepted. It is recommended that at least one example be from the past year. Support Material is not required to submit and Interim Report.

Support material is an essential part of your application and should be of the highest technical quality, because the committee makes its assessment of artistic quality by listening to the recordings. Audio recordings are recommended over video recordings unless the visual element is an integral part of the work being performed.

Do not submit promotional audio/visual material, such as compilation videos used for publicity purposes or to sell programming. The committee will review a maximum of 10 minutes of support material per applicant. Works may not be heard in their entirety.

You can upload your media files to TAC or provide a link to your files. If you provide a link, please also provide the password or any other instructions required to access the file.

For uploading, the maximum file size is 200 MB and files are accepted in the following formats:

- Audio – AAC, MP3, WMA
- Video – Quicktime (MOV), AVI, MPEG, WMV

Be sure to allow sufficient time to upload support material to your application – do not wait to the last minute/hour of the submission deadline date.

Applicants may also upload a maximum 6 pages of printed support material, including press clippings. Accepted file format - PDF.

### ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The Music Committee evaluates all applications to the Community Music Making program in the context of each applicant's stated mandate and direction, available resources and stage of development, and the geographic, cultural and artistic environments in which it works, using the criteria below. TAC's equity

focused criteria represent 20% of an applicant's overall assessment in the evaluation process for this grant program.

### **1. Community Impact**

- The organization's ability to describe its current membership and audience and its level of commitment to develop both so that it reflects the community it serves.
- The ways in which the organization builds community by supporting the artistic growth of its members through development opportunities led by professional artistic personnel.
- The ways in which the organization engages its audience through outreach and audience development activities such as artists' talks, Q&As, pre- and post-performance talks, lecture-demonstrations, etc.
- The organization's ability to gain support from the wider community in the form of sponsorships, partnerships, volunteers, etc.

### **2. Organizational Stability**

- The organization's annual budget is realistic and shows a range of earned, private and government revenue.
- A demonstration, through past performance, of the organization's ability to secure the resources necessary to carry out its work.
- A demonstration, through past performance, that the organization can respond to changes in its financial circumstances; if the organization has a deficit, the effectiveness of the plans that are in place to reduce the deficit and to improve and strengthen financial planning.
- How the artistic and (if applicable) administrative staff, alongside the governing body of the organization, reflect the community served by the organization. The commitment of the staff and the governing body to the well-being of the organization.

### **3. Artistic Quality**

- The vitality of the organization's mandate and vision.
- The relationship of the mandate and vision to the organization's achievements, initiatives and goals.
- The levels of artistry achieved through the organization's artistic activities, which may include creation, production, presentation, performance, programming, etc.

Priority is given to applicants that demonstrate a commitment to the performance of works by Canadian composers.

### **4. Equity Implementation**

- TAC has further adopted specific equity-focused assessment criteria to evaluate the extent to which an applicant organization reflects the diversity of its local community and the City of Toronto in its artistic programming and its operations, particularly with regards to the inclusion and engagement of Indigenous people, persons of colour, persons who are Deaf, have disabilities or are living with mental illness, and persons who self-identify as 2SLGBTQIAP.

Included in the [Equity Framework](#) is an **Equity Priority Policy**, which states that if there are multiple well-assessed applications of equal merit in an adjudication round but insufficient funds in the grants budget to support all deserving candidates, applications proposed by applicants that self-identify as belonging to one of Toronto Arts Council's equity priority groups or that primarily involve or serve artists from these groups will be prioritized.

## **NOTIFICATION**

Applicants will be notified by email when the results are available (within four months of the submission deadline) and will be able to log in to TAC Grants Online to receive their results.

## CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

Grant recipients will be required to sign a Letter of Understanding that details the terms and conditions of their grant. The Letter of Understanding will be made available when you receive your grant results. Grant payment will not be released until the signed Letter of Understanding has been uploaded to TAC Grants Online.

Toronto Arts Council has moved to electronic payments. If your application is approved, you will be required to enter the bank account information of the grant recipient that corresponds to the Applicant Name on your Notification Letter. Bank information is submitted along with your Letter of Understanding and other Notification Letter Requirements.

Grant recipients must include visual acknowledgement of TAC support in all promotional materials, advertising and programs related to the project being funded. The TAC logo for grant recipients is available on our website; specifications for the size and placement of the logo should be commensurate with that of other donors or sponsors who have provided similar financial support. In lieu of the logo, the recipient may use the phrase "produced with the support of Toronto Arts Council with funds provided by the City of Toronto."

Multi-Year grants will be paid in three, equal, annual installments. Release of the first installment is contingent upon receipt of the signed *Letter of Understanding* and fulfillment of any conditions specified in the *Letter of Understanding*. Release of the second and third-year payments will be contingent on the organization fulfilling the interim reporting requirements that will be outlined in the grant notification letter.

TAC funding may only be used for the purposes outlined in the application, and significant changes to the nature or scope of activities or season must be reported promptly to TAC – this includes significant changes to project dates and repertoire. In such cases, TAC may require full or partial repayment of the grant.

Amounts approved for an organization may change over the multi-year period if:

- the organization does not carry out its planned program of activities.\*
- the organization undergoes major changes in artistic and/or administrative direction or personnel or a major disruption of activities is predicted.\*
- the organization fails to meet its obligations as a grant recipient, including the requirement to submit reports to TAC and comply with the acknowledgement policy.
- TAC is unable to fulfill its funding commitments due to a reduction in its grants budget.
- TAC receives an increase to its grants budget and new monies become available to the Dance program during the multi-year cycle.

*\*Note: impacts on planned programs or disruption of activities due to the COVID pandemic will be taken into consideration.*

## REPAYMENT OF GRANT

The grant must, on the request of TAC, be repaid, in whole or in part, to TAC, if the grant recipient:

- breaches any of the terms and conditions of the grant;
- knowingly provides false information in the grant application;
- uses the grant for purposes not approved by TAC;
- breaches any of the provisions of the Ontario Human Rights Code in its operations;
- ceases operating prior to completion of the project;
- ceases to operate as a non-profit organization or collective prior to completion of the project;
- winds up or dissolves prior to completion of the project;

- commences or has commenced against it any proceedings in bankruptcy, or is adjudged a bankrupt, prior to completion of the project.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL SUPPORT**

Grant recipients must include visual acknowledgement of TAC support in all promotional materials, advertising and programs of performances or works related to the grant. The TAC logo may be downloaded from TAC's website; specifications for the size and placement of the logo should be commensurate with that of other donors or sponsors that have provided comparable financial support.

### **CITY OF TORONTO ANTI-RACISM, ACCESS AND EQUITY POLICY**

The City of Toronto requires that all organizations and individuals adopt a policy of non-discrimination as a condition of receiving a grant or other support from the City.

All grant recipients will be required to submit Grant recipients will be required to submit a signed *Declaration of Compliance with Anti-Harassment/Discrimination Legislation and City Policy*.

A copy of the following City documents can be downloaded from TAC's website, [www.torontoartscouncil.org](http://www.torontoartscouncil.org): *Anti-Racism, Access and Equity Policy Guidelines, Hate Activity Policy and Procedures* and *Human Rights and Harassment Policy and Procedures*.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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