

Domestic Industry Initiatives

Guidelines 2025/26



creativebc.com | [@creativebc.com](https://twitter.com/creativebc.com)

Domestic Industry Initiatives Guidelines 2025/26

The **Domestic Industry Initiatives (DII)** program provides funding to eligible organizations delivering strategic projects with long-term impacts that foster and encourage industry development. By investing in activities that develop and innovate B.C.’s creative ecosystem, such as education and training initiatives, research that measures jobs and opportunity, and industry conferences, the program aims to grow the capacity of B.C.’s creative industries—motion picture, interactive digital media, and magazine and book publishing.

The program will fund activities and related expenses incurred between April 2025 and the end of June 2026.

Please note that the program’s eligible activity period has been extended. The 2025/26 intake will support projects with activities and related expenses incurred between April 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026. This change allows for greater advance planning both for applicants and for Creative BC. It enables us to review, approve, and confirm support for projects well ahead of time, giving clients additional lead time to plan and deliver their initiatives. Looking ahead, the 2026/27 intake will support projects with activities and related expenses incurred between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.

For music related festivals, events, research projects or initiatives, please visit [Amplify BC](#).

Program Overview

Who is eligible?: Applicants must be incorporated under British Columbia’s Societies Act, or be a British Columbia based not-for-profit organization, with its head office in B.C. Organizations applying must have a primary focus in the motion picture, interactive digital media, or magazine and book publishing sectors.

Eligible Projects: Projects must demonstrate strategic and long-term benefits to B.C.’s Creative Industries. Activities may include in-person or online forums, panels, workshops, and conferences; training, mentorship and professional development; and economic research¹.

Grant Amounts: Starting at \$1,000, funding up to 75% of project expenses. The remaining 25% may be in-kind contributions, investment, earned revenue, and/or other public funding.

Application Process Overview

The 2025/26 Domestic Industry Initiatives Program now has a rolling application period, closing on March 2, 2026. Applicants must submit their application at least **10 weeks prior** to the event start date to allow sufficient time for review and processing.

Due to the increasing demand for funding, late applications cannot be guaranteed support, even for initiatives with a history of previous funding through Creative BC.

Important: For projects in **May or June 2026**, applications must be submitted in time for funding agreements to be finalized by **March 31, 2026**. We recommend applying **no later than March 2, 2026**, for these initiatives.

What are the priorities of the Domestic Industry Initiatives program?

- Support strategic, impactful business initiatives with long-term impacts that engage and develop British Columbia’s creative industries – the motion picture, interactive digital media and magazine and book publishing industries;
- Support initiatives that foster and encourage industry development by investing in B.C. talent, measuring economic impact, and demonstrating innovation;
- Develop knowledge and research to inform B.C.’s creative industries;
- Encourage and assist projects to prioritize reconciliation, equity, and the environment in every aspect of their influence; and
- Support a broad range of projects, including those led by systemically excluded groupsⁱⁱ who experience systemic barriers to participation.

Eligible Applicants

In order to be eligible, applicants must be:

- Incorporated under British Columbia’s Societies Act; or
- A British Columbia based not-for-profit organization (with its head office in B.C.);
- Governed by a Board of Directors (where applicable);
- Engaged in the production of programs and initiatives consistent with Creative BC’s objective of developing the province’s creative industries; and
- An organization whose principals, directors and officers are in good standing with Creative BC.

In addition, organizations applying must have a primary focus in the motion picture, interactive digital media, or magazine and book publishing sectors. This should be demonstrated through the organization’s mandate, activities, and track record. Organizations whose primary operations fall outside of these sectors are not eligible for funding under this program.

Creative BC encourages applications from the following systemically excluded groups: Indigenous Peoples (First Nations [Status/Non-Status], Métis, and Inuit), Black, People of Colour, people living with one or more disability, the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, women and other groups who experience systemic barriers to participation.

Eligible Activities

The DII program supports initiatives and events that build both the immediate and long-term capacity of B.C.’s creative industries by developing knowledge, skills, processes, resources, opportunities, and abilities to meet existing needs.

Projects must demonstrate a broad benefit to B.C.’s domestic motion picture, interactive digital media, or magazine and book publishing industries, or to an aspect of B.C.’s creative industries. Projects cannot predominantly benefit one company, organization, or their clients.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Industry conferences, events, panels, workshops, and in-person or online forums.
- Opportunities for training, mentorship, and professional development.

- Resources, policies or manuals to share best practices in the areas of business, harm reduction, sustainability, equity, etc.
- Projects that increase the capacity of systemically excluded groupsⁱⁱ in B.C.'s creative industries; and
- Economic researchⁱ projects that develop knowledge to benefit those working in motion picture, interactive digital media, or magazine and book publishing industries.

Ineligible Activities and Costs

Ineligible events, initiatives and costs may include:

- Events in their inaugural year (e.g., first-time festivals).
- Ceremonies, award shows, fundraisers, luncheons, dinners, receptions, galas and parties.
- Prize money for awards.
- Live performances, including theatre, music, and dance.
- Film festival screenings.
- The development or production of creative content or projects, such as films, web series, PSAs, commercials, episodic television, educational videos, etc.
- Work placements and internships (e.g. on-set placements).
- Entrepreneurial activities that primarily benefit a single company, individual, and/or their clients/business partners. To be considered eligible, projects must demonstrate broad public benefit by being accessible, affordable, and/or have an open callout for participation.
- Events or initiatives for youth that do not directly focus on growth and skill development in the motion picture, interactive digital media, or publishing sectors.
- Business travel (flights, accommodations, per diems, etc.) for groups or individuals - including event speakers/panelists/moderators - to attend industry events, conferences, panels, or workshops is not eligible for funding through this program. Funding for certain kinds of business travel may be available through the [Passport to Markets Program](#);
- Capital purchases (i.e. property, equipment, vehicles, etc.).
- Administrative fees (up to 10% of project-specific staffing costs may be considered with Creative BC's approval); and
- Year-round organization operational costs.

For music related festivals, events, research projects or initiatives, please visit [Amplify BC](#).

Application Procedures

This year, the program operates on a **rolling intake/application period**, meaning applications will be accepted and evaluated on an ongoing basis, with a closing date of March 2, 2026. **Clients must submit an application at least 10 weeks prior to the event start date**. Applications will be evaluated as they are received, with processing time typically taking between 4 to 6 weeks.

Important Notes

- Applications will **not** be accepted for projects or events that have already occurred.
- All applications **must** be submitted at least 10 weeks in advance of the proposed initiative or event.
- Incomplete applications will **not** be considered.
- Applicants will be notified of the results of their application in writing, via email.

- For projects in **May or June 2026**, applications must be submitted in time for funding agreements to be finalized by **March 31, 2026**. We recommend applying **no later than March 2, 2026**, for these initiatives.

New Applicants

New or prospective applicants must schedule a meeting with Creative BC staff *before* applying to ensure eligibility. Projects that meet the goals of the program will be invited to submit a full application and given the link to the online application form.

Returning Applicants

Returning applicants must submit all final report deliverables before applying for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. If you have any outstanding deliverables, please contact us as soon as possible. Once the final report has been submitted and reviewed, returning applicants can request a link to the online application form.

Logo Placement Requirement

Successful applicants must include the [Creative BC and Province of British Columbia logo in all promotional materials associated with their initiative or events. Usage of logo must be submitted for approval through the third-party Logo Use Approval Form.](#)

Financial Participation

The Domestic Industry Initiative Program provides grants starting at \$1,000 but not exceeding more than 75% of the total project budget. Grant amounts are determined based on several factors, including but not limited to: the organization's size, experience, track record, financial commitments for the proposed partnership, ability to express the need for the initiative, and costs outlined in the project budget.

Creative BC will award a grant to successful applicants, and it will fund activities and related expenses incurred between **April 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026**.

Please note that the program's eligible activity period has been extended. The 2025/26 intake will support projects with activities and related expenses incurred between April 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026.

This change allows for greater advance planning both for applicants and for Creative BC. It enables us to review, approve, and confirm support for projects well ahead of time, giving clients additional lead time to plan and deliver their initiatives.

Looking ahead, the 2026/27 intake will support projects with activities and related expenses incurred between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.

Eligible expenses: Eligible expenses include any cost directly associated with delivering the project, excluding staffing costs. Creative BC may approve up to 10% of staffing costs for funding, but operational staffing is not eligible. A full breakdown of all costs must be provided in advance of the event. If the proposed project is part of a larger event (ie. A workshop at a film festival), both a budget for the entire event (ie. film festival) and a project-specific budget must be submitted.

Applicants are required to submit a proposed budget for their project, and declare all sources of revenue, including both confirmed and unconfirmed grants. Applicants should only apply for activities they can complete and pay for prior to March 31, 2026.

Any costs deemed excessive, inflated, or unreasonable by Creative BC may lead to an adjustment in the grant amount.

Creative BC's contribution will not exceed 75% of the total project budget. Applicants must secure at minimum 25% of the total budget from other sources, such as federal funding, sponsorships, ticket sales, donations, or in-kind services (excluding in-kind staffing services). Creative BC reserves the right to reduce the funding amount based on the final report and cost report submitted for the initiative or event.

Successful applicants will enter into an agreement with Creative BC (the "Agreement"). The advance payment is non-recoupable, except in cases outlined under Forfeiture and Default and within the Agreement. Successful applicants will typically receive an 80% advance payment upon signing a funding agreement, with the remaining balance paid after the completion of the project and review of the final report.

Recipients of financial support must publicly acknowledge Creative BC and the Province of British Columbia in all promotional materials related to the initiative or event.

Application Evaluation

Once applicant and project eligibility have been confirmed, Creative BC staff will assess applications based on the program's priorities, using the categories outlined below. The Domestic Industry Initiatives Evaluation Matrix, which includes point allocations and descriptions for each category, is available at the bottom of this document and on the Creative BC [website](#).

- Industry Development
- Investment in B.C. Talent
- Economic Impact
- Justice, Equity, Decolonization, Diversity and Inclusion
- Innovation
- Capacity and Feasibility

Applicants should ensure that their support materials clearly convey the strengths of their application with respect to business development opportunities and diversity. Diversity can be demonstrated through geographic region, genre, activity, cultural, or gender representation, and other means.

Given the volume of applications, funding decisions will be based on the categories outlined in the Evaluation Matrix. Please note that financial commitments to previous applicants may be reduced following Creative BC's assessment.

For further details on the evaluation process, please refer to the Evaluation Matrix in Appendix 1 below.

As this program is highly subscribed, applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible to increase their chances of receiving support.

Project Completion

Recipients are required to submit a final report and final cost report detailing the impact of the funding by the deadline specified in Schedule A of their contract. Typically, final reports will include the following measurable outcomes:

- A summary of project, including successes and challenges
- Number of attendees and/or participants, including the number of B.C. residents
- List of sponsors and partners
- Feedback from stakeholders
- A summary of media coverage, social media reach and press releases (if applicable).

Recipients must be able to provide invoices and proof of payment for all expenses upon request. The recipient is responsible for issuing all payments related to the project. Acceptable proof of payment includes bank statements, credit card statements, processed cheques, wire transfers, or e-transfer confirmations.

To complete the final report and receive the remaining funding balance, applicants must complete the online final report submission form, available on our website under 'Resources' [here](#).

Before completing the final report, please review the '2526 Domestic Industry Initiatives Final Reporting Details' document, also available on our website under 'Resources' [here](#), for a comprehensive overview of the required information.

In addition to completing short-form questions, applicants may upload the following supporting documents:

- Final report deck
- Annual report (if available)
- Copy of the event program (if applicable)
- Samples of press releases (if applicable)
- List of sponsors
- Results of delegate survey (if applicable)
- Copies of select invoices and proof of payment (upon request)
- Examples of where Creative BC and Province of B.C. logos were used.

Respectful Workplace + Client and Partner Code of Conduct

As a catalyst for, and investor in B.C.'s creative industries, Creative BC is committed to supporting a healthy ecosystem that thrives in a culture of mutual respect, dignity and inclusivity that is free from any form of harassment, discrimination, and violence. All companies that work with, or seek funding from, Creative BC are expected to adhere to [Creative BC's Code of Conduct for Clients, Partners, and Stakeholders](#), implement policies and procedures for a harassment-free workplace, and comply with relevant laws. Creative BC is a signatory of the [Creative Industries Code](#) and expects all applicants, recipients, and partners to also adhere to this Code of Conduct. [Learn more here](#).

Indigenous Initiatives

Any applicant applying with an Indigenous initiative must read: [On Screen Protocols & Pathways: A Media Production Guide To Working With First Nations, Metis, And Inuit Communities, Cultures, Concepts & Stories](#) (available on the [imagineNATIVE website](#)) prior to submitting their application.

Being Seen | Black Screen Office

Creative BC supported the [Black Screen Office's "Being Seen – Directives for creating authentic and inclusive content"](#) study, conducted to provide directives to everyone in the film, television and interactive digital media industries to help them commission, create and assess authentic content. We urge applicants to read and utilize this study as a tool to educate themselves, develop strategies for change, and enact real, systemic and long-lasting transformation.

Justice, Equity, Decolonization, Diversity + Inclusion, and Environmental Sustainability

Creative BC recognizes the impacts of past and ongoing social injustice and the effects of the climate crisis. Applicants are requested to embed accountability for change as a foundational principle within their projects by articulating their strategies and plans to contribute to positive growth. Find resources for organizations in the [Creative Equity Roadmap](#), including the adapted UNDRIP Toolkit for applicants, and through [Reel Green™](#). [Learn more here](#).

Application Checklist

Applicants invited to submit a full application will be required to complete and submit the following items to Creative BC in Windows compatible formats:

- Online application form** (available upon request)
- A Certificate of Incorporation under the Societies Act, Society Certificate, and/or GST number.**
- Completed Schedule "A" ([template provided](#)).**
- For funding requests over \$20,000:** Externally prepared company/organization financial statements in the form of a compilation engagement, review engagement, or audited statements for the previous fiscal year (companies under a year old may submit internally prepared statements). Exceptions may be made at the discretion of Creative BC.
- Project Plan/Overview ([template provided](#)):**

Using the template linked above, please include the following information to concisely present your project idea:

- **For events and training initiatives:** please include descriptions of programming, including participants, mentors and speakers, as well as a detailed timeline and action plan with key milestones and proposed event dates;
- **For research projects:** please include a summary of the project including methodology, a list of partners and collaborators, as well as a thorough description of the questions you seek to answer and why they are relevant to B.C.'s Creative Industries.

- **Target Audience and Marketing Strategy:** Include data that demonstrates a demand for your event or initiative (i.e. Website metrics, attendance numbers, social media followers, press coverage, etc.)
- **Summary of Business Development Opportunities for the community being served:** How will attendees, guests, visitors' participants, and other stakeholders benefit from the project being offered? How will B.C. creators and audience members be engaged? How does this project address a need or gap in B.C.'s creative industry?
- ❑ **Summary of organization policies and/or activities that embed accountability for change including diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as for environmental sustainability (max 250 words).**
- ❑ **Project Schedule and Descriptions:** Please provide us with a detailed project schedule/timeline. For workshops, panels, and conferences, please include confirmed speaker line-ups, proposed event schedules, workshop descriptions, etc.
- ❑ **Project Budget/Cost Report ([template provided](#)):** Please provide us with a project specific budget. If the proposed project is part of a larger event (ie. Workshop at a film festival), then a budget for the film festival and a project specific budget must be included.
- ❑ **Sponsorship Benefit Package:** Please provide us with information on what our sponsorship may include, and please provide more than one option, tier or funding level to select from.
- ❑ **Letters of Support:** Who is rooting for your success? Add a letter of reference or support for the project from Sponsors or Industry Partners.
- ❑ **List of Confirmed Sponsors:** Please provide us with a list of confirmed sponsors, and a brief overview on their sponsorship.
- ❑ **Plans and Policies:** respectful workplace policy, safety riders, equity and accessibility policies, etc. when applicable.

For More Information

If you have questions, or need assistance, please contact

Raquel Dominguez Simpson | Program Analyst

Phone: 604-260-2154

Email: rdsimpson@creativebc.com

Appendix 1 - Domestic Industry Initiatives 2025/26 - Evaluation Matrix

Project proposals should demonstrate how the projects, events or initiatives reflect the following criteria. The criteria are designed to reflect the priorities of the Domestic Industry Initiatives Program and Creative BC's [Strategic Plan](#), especially those goals and objectives centred on building local capacity, by fostering an ecosystem in which creative ambition can thrive, and on growing B.C. talent, by empowering the creative sector to expand, diversify, and develop its workforce.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	POINTS
Industry Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does this project build the capacity, or address a need or gap in B.C.'s creative industry sector? Does the proposal include meaningful partnerships with government, community partners, industry stakeholders or expert consultants? For event-based projects: has the applicant demonstrated an understanding of their audiences and how they will market their event? 	25
Investment in B.C. Talent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does this project support the knowledge, growth and development of B.C. creators and creative industry professionals? Does this project grow the next generation of talent? Does this project help grow B.C. audiences? 	20
Economic Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does this project support new business opportunities for B.C.'s creative industry locally and abroad? Does this project build capacity for industry growth, job creation? Does the project anticipate market, client, and consumer needs? Helps B.C.'s creative sector adapt to a changing business context? 	20
Justice, Equity, Decolonization, Diversityⁱⁱⁱ and Inclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does this project promote equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), expand representation of people from systemically excluded groupsⁱⁱ, or contribute to calls to action for reconciliation? Does this project support an underserved geographic region or group? Does the organization have policy, planning, or training that addresses EDI, Indigenous Peoples, or reconciliation? Does the organization have any relationships, associations, or networks with Indigenous Peoples' organizations? Does this project have any Indigenous board, staff, or volunteer members or strategies to increase participation in the organization? How are their experiences and knowledge utilized? 	15
Innovation + Environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does this project inform industry evolution with any solutions for contributing to climate balance? Does the project contribute to innovate B.C.'s creative ecosystem or inform the creative sector's positive evolution? Does the applicant use challenges and successes of past events or projects to inform their strategies and plans moving forward? 	10
Capacity and Feasibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the applicant have the ability, knowledge, track record and financial history to undertake the project? Does the application clearly describe the proposed project? Has the applicant presented a clear and detailed timeline, budget and financing plan? 	10
TOTAL POINTS	/100

Note: This evaluation matrix may be revised at any time to ensure the results match the priorities of the Domestic Industry Initiatives Program.

Due to the volume of applications received, the Domestic Industry Initiatives Program will be determining financial commitments based on the categories outlined in the Evaluation Matrix. Note that financial commitments for previous applicants may be reduced following Creative B.C.'s assessment.

ⁱ Research studies should compliment and connect with CIERATM, the Creative Industries Economic Results Assessment developed by Creative BC for the Province, please ask for consultation.

ⁱⁱ Indigenous Peoples (First Nations [Status/Non-Status], Métis, and Inuit), Black, People of Colour, people living with one or more disability, the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, and women.

ⁱⁱⁱ Diversity can be demonstrated through geographic region, genre, activity, cultural, or gender representation, and other means.