

Domestic Industry Initiatives

Guidelines 2026/27



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Domestic Industry Initiatives Guidelines 2026/27

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 July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.

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

2026/27 Application Intake Notice

For the 2026/27 fiscal year, Creative BC is only accepting applications from clients who received funding through the 2024/25 and/or 2025/26 Domestic Industry Initiatives Program. At this time, we are unable to accept applications from new applicants or new projects.

Eligible Applicants: Organizations that are incorporated under British Columbia's Societies Act, or are 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: This program supports projects that help people working in B.C.'s creative industries learn, connect, and grow—such as events, training, mentorship, shared resources, equity-focused initiatives, and sector-based research¹.

Only projects that have had at least one (1) edition before the one for which funding is requested are eligible.

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 Deadlines: This program has a rolling application period, with a closing date of Monday, March 1, 2027, at 4:00 PM PST, or until funds are exhausted. Applicants must submit their application at least **10 weeks prior** to the project start date to allow sufficient time for review and processing, but may not submit more than 6 months in advance of their project start date.

¹ 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.

Aims + Objectives

- 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.
- Support a broad range of projects, including those led by systemically excluded groupsⁱ who experience systemic barriers to participation.

Applicant Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- 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.;
- Be governed by a Board of Directors, where applicable;
- Be engaged in the production of programs and initiatives that align with Creative BC’s objective of developing the province’s creative industries; and
- Be an organization whose principals, directors and officers are in good standing with Creative BC.

Previously funded applicants must have submitted all required final deliverables for any open files, as applicable to the project delivery date, in order to be considered.

In addition, applicant organizations applying must have a primary focus in one or more of the following sectors:

- Motion picture
- Interactive digital media
- Magazine or book publishing

This focus 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 organizations representing or led by individuals from systemically excluded groups, including Indigenous Peoples (First Nations [Status/Non-Status], Métis, and Inuit), Black people, people of colour, people living with one or more disability, members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, women, and other groups that 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 that address existing needs.

As an economic development agency, Creative BC prioritizes initiatives that support the creation, ownership, and long-term sustainability of British Columbia-based intellectual property (IP). Projects should contribute to strengthening B.C.'s creative industries by advancing original content, creative leadership, and business capacity rooted in the province.

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

Supported initiatives should have a primary focus on above-the-line creative roles, such as directors, writers, and producers. Projects that are primarily geared toward below-the-line crew training, workforce development, or production service activities for large-scale productions are generally not eligible under this program.

Examples of eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Training, mentorship, and professional development programs focused on creative leadership, IP development, and project advancement;
- Industry conferences, summits, or forums that support professional knowledge-sharing and market readiness;
- Film festival industry events, such as panels, workshops, keynote presentations, and Q&As (excluding screenings);
- One-off or series-based panel discussions and/or workshops;
- Resources, policies, or manuals that promote best practices in areas such as business development, harm reduction, sustainability, equity, and inclusion;
- Projects that increase the capacity of systemically excluded groups¹ within B.C.'s creative industries; and
- Economic research¹ projects that develop knowledge to benefit individuals and organizations working in motion picture, interactive digital media, or magazine and book publishing industries.

Eligible Costs

Eligible costs must be reasonable, necessary, and directly related to the delivery of the approved initiative(s). All costs must be occurred during the approved project term.

Venue, Equipment, and Technical Costs

- Venue rental fees for events, workshops, or convenings;
- Technical production costs, including audio-visual equipment rental, staging, livestreaming, captioning, and technical support services;

- Equipment rentals required specifically for the delivery of the approved initiative.

Professional Fees and Project-Specific Staffing

- Speaker, facilitator, presenter, and trainer fees;
- Moderator and panel facilitator fees;
- Fees for contractors or external hires engaged in project-specific roles required for the delivery of the initiative (e.g., program coordinators, researchers, technical specialists, etc.);
- Contractors and external hires must not be full-time or part-time employees of the applicant organization;
- Contractor and consultant fees must be reasonable and aligned with industry standards. Creative BC reserves the right to assess the reasonableness of all proposed costs and may deem costs to be excessive or inflated when compared to industry standards, project scope, or the anticipated public benefit. Such costs may be reduced or removed from the eligible budget.

Marketing and Promotion

- Marketing, communications, and promotional costs directly related to the initiative, including graphic design, advertising, digital marketing, and outreach materials;
- Expenses must support participation, accessibility, and awareness of the initiative and may not promote an applicant’s overall organization, ongoing operations, or unrelated activities.

Regional Travel Costs (Limited)

- For projects delivered by or primarily serving regional or remote communities, up to 25% of approved travel costs may be eligible where essential to project delivery (e.g., bringing speakers, facilitators, or collaborators to the region);
- Travel support is intended to address the disproportionate costs faced by regional applicants and must be clearly justified in the application;
- All eligible travel costs must be reasonable and directly related to the approved project activities.
- Travel quotes must be provided at time of application, and travel receipts and invoices must be provided at the time of final report.

Other Eligible Costs

- Project materials, supplies, and resources directly related to program delivery;
- Modest catering costs directly related to the delivery of the initiative, such as coffee, tea, non-alcoholic beverages, and light snacks, may be eligible where they support participant engagement during project activities (Catering must be reasonable in scale and proportionate to the scope and duration of the initiative);
- Accessibility supports, such as captioning, ASL interpretation, or accessible format materials.

Ineligible Activities

The following activities are not eligible for support under the DII program:

- Events in their inaugural year (e.g., first-time festivals);
- Ceremonies, award shows, fundraisers, luncheons, dinners, receptions, galas and parties;

- Live performances, including theatre, music, and dance;
- Film festival screenings;
- The development or production of creative content or individual projects, including films, web series, PSAs, commercials, episodic television, educational videos, or similar works;
- Work placements and internships, including on-set placements and crew attachments;
- Projects primarily focused on below-the-line crew training, technical skill development, or workforce initiatives intended to serve large-scale domestic or international productions;
- Entrepreneurial or business development activities that primarily benefit a single company, individual, and/or their clients or business partners. To be considered eligible, projects must demonstrate a broad public benefit and be accessible, affordable, and/or include an open call for participation;
- Events or initiatives for youth that do not directly support growth and skill development, creative leadership, or career pathways within the motion picture, interactive digital media, or magazine and book publishing sectors.

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

Ineligible Costs

The following costs are not eligible for funding under the DII program:

- Prize money or cash awards;
- Alcohol, plated meals, and catering primarily intended for social or entertainment purposes;
- Business travel expenses, including flights, accommodations, per diems, and related costs, except where travel is explicitly approved under the Regional Travel Costs provision above;
- Capital purchases, including property, equipment, vehicles, or other capital assets;
- Fees paid to an applicant organization’s existing full-time or part-time employees, except where approved as project-specific staffing;
- Administrative or overhead fees, except where explicitly approved by Creative BC;
- Year-round organizational operational or core costs.

Financial Participation

The Domestic Industry Initiative Program provides grants starting at \$1,000, and up to a maximum of 75% of the total eligible project budget. Grant amounts are determined based on several factors, including, but not limited to: the applicant organization’s size, experience, track record, financial commitments toward the proposed initiative, demonstrated need, and costs outlined in the project budget.

Creative BC will provide financial support to successful applicants for eligible activities and related expenses incurred between **July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027**.

Please note that, beginning in the 2025/26 fiscal year, the program’s eligible activity period was adjusted. As a result, the 2026/27 intake supports projects with activities and related expenses incurred between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.

This change allows for greater advance planning both for applicants and for Creative BC by enabling projects to be reviewed, approved, and confirm support well ahead of anticipated start dates. Approved applicants benefit from additional lead time to plan and deliver their initiatives.

Budget Requirements

Applicants must submit a detailed proposed budget for the project and declare all sources of revenue, including confirmed and unconfirmed funding. Applicants should only apply for activities they can complete and pay for on or before June 30, 2027.

If the proposed project forms part of a larger event (e.g., a workshop delivered within a film festival), applicants must submit:

- A budget for the overall event; and
- A separate, project-specific budget that clearly itemizes eligible expenses related to the funded initiative.

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

Creative BC’s contribution will not exceed 75% of the total project budget. Applicants must secure a minimum of 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 adjust the final funding amount based on the final report and cost report submitted upon project completion.

Payment and Acknowledgement

Successful applicants will enter into a funding agreement with Creative BC (the “Agreement”). Approved grants are non-recoupable, except in circumstances outlined under *Forfeiture and Default* within the Agreement.

Successful applicants will typically receive:

- An 80% advance payment upon execution of the funding agreement; and
- The remaining balance following completion of the project and review and acceptance 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 Procedures

The Domestic Industry Initiatives (DII) program operates on a **rolling application intake**, with applications accepted and assessed on an ongoing basis until March 1, 2027, or until available funds are fully allocated.

For the 2026/27 intake, the program is closed to new applicants and new projects. Applications will only be accepted from existing DII clients for the continuation or delivery of previously approved or ongoing initiatives, subject to eligibility and available funding.

All applications must be submitted **at least 10 weeks prior** to the proposed initiative or event start date. Applications are assessed as they are received, with processing times typically ranging from 4 to 6 weeks, subject to volume.

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.
- Applications must be received **by 4:00 PM (PST) on March 1, 2027**, to be considered for funding under this intake.

Applicant Restrictions for the 2026/27 Intake

For this intake, eligibility is limited as follows:

- Applications will only be accepted from organizations that received DII funding in the 2024/25 and/or 2025/26 fiscal years.
- Applicants must have submitted all required final reports and deliverables for any previously funded and currently open files before applying.
- Organizations with outstanding reporting requirement are not eligible to apply until all deliverables have been submitted and reviewed by Creative BC.

Applicants with outstanding final reports are encouraged to contact Creative BC as soon as possible to address reporting requirements.

Logo Placement and Acknowledgement Requirement

Successful applicants must include the [Creative BC and Province of British Columbia logo in all promotional and marketing materials related to the funded initiative or event.](#)

[All proposed logo usage must be submitted for approval through Creative BC's third-party Logo Use Approval Form, in accordance with brand guidelines.](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence Technology

Applicants using Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology should refer to the Province of British Columbia's [Draft artificial intelligence responsible use principles](#). Particularly the principles of **transparency**, **accountability** and **fairness** in how they relate to this program.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology must be disclosed and outlined in the application.

This applies to:

- The use of AI to prepare the application form and all supporting materials; and
- The use of AI in the creation of content or otherwise, for projects supported by Creative BC.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all applications and projects have access to all underlying rights including content that is created with the assistance of AI technology.

Creative BC views emerging technologies as potential tools to empower practitioners, not replace them, while remaining aware of their evolving legal, ethical, and cultural implications. Disclosure around the use of AI technology is required to understand how these technologies are being used and how they align with the Province of British Columbia’s principles of use. Applicants will not be penalized for disclosing the use of AI technology.

Creative BC does not use AI technology to evaluate applications and supporting materials.

Program 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.

Project Completion

Recipients are required to submit a final report and final cost report by the deadline specified in Schedule A of the funding agreement. These reports must outline the outcomes and impacts of the initiative supported by Creative BC.

Final reporting will typically include the following information:

- A summary of project, including successes and challenges;
- The number of attendees and/or participants, including the number of B.C. residents;
- A list of sponsors and partners;
- Feedback from participants and/or stakeholders; and
- A summary of media coverage, social media reach and press activities, where applicable.

Recipients must retain and, upon request, provide invoices and proof of payment for all project expenses. For projects that include staffing or travel costs, receipts and contracts may be required. The

recipient is responsible for issuing all project-related payments. Acceptable proof of payment includes bank or credit card statements, processed cheques, wire transfers, or e-transfer confirmations.

To receive the remaining balance of funding, recipients must complete the online final report form, available on Creative BC’s website under ‘Resources’.

Before submitting the final report, recipients are encouraged to review the ‘Domestic Industry Initiatives Final Reporting Details’ document, also available under ‘Resources’ [here](#), which provides a comprehensive overview of reporting requirements.

In addition to responding to the required questions, applicants will be asked to submit or upload supporting documentation, including:

- A final report deck;
- An annual report (if available);
- A copy of the event program (if applicable);
- Samples of press releases or communications materials (if applicable);
- A list of sponsors;
- Results of participant or delegate surveys (if applicable);
- Copies of select invoices and proof of payment (upon request); and
- Examples demonstrating the use of Creative BC and Province of British Columbia logos.

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](#).

For More Information

If you have questions, or need assistance, please contact:

Raquel Dominguez Simpson

Analyst, Creative Industry Programs

rdsimpson@creativebc.com

Heather Campbell

Analyst, Creative Industry Programs

hcampbell@creativebc.com

Appendix 1 - Domestic Industry Initiatives 2026/27 - 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, Diversityⁱⁱ and Inclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does this project promote equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), expand representation of people from systemically excluded groupsⁱ, 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 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.

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