

**Applications will be accepted and evaluated on an ongoing basis starting July 1, 2017 up to November 30, 2017. An additional intake will be added if funding allows.**

The BC Touring Council is seeking proposals from non-profit, performing arts presenters for funding for **Warming Up the Act (WUTA)**. Warming Up the Act provides financial assistance to presenters in BC to engage aspiring, emerging BC artists as “openers” for main stage artists/acts presented as part of their series or season.

Warming up the Act offers aspiring, emerging artists an opportunity to work with presenters and main stage artists in a professional environment. The goal of the program is to provide aspiring, emerging artists with the opportunity to engage with main stage artists, to build new audiences and to gain practical experience and knowledge about presenting and touring in BC.

Aspiring, emerging artists are defined as those up to 34 years old, who have mastered the basic techniques of their art form through education or apprenticeship and are in the early stage of launching a professional career. Proposed aspiring, emerging artists will use support from Warming up the Act to maximize their potential audience, and propel them into eventually headlining or being considered a main stage artist.

#### **Awards are based on the above, as well as the following:**

- A qualitative assessment of the applicant’s presenting history.
- Eligible applications will be reviewed by staff and evaluated by a peer adjudication committee.
- On a case-by-case basis.
- Requests may be **up to a maximum of \$3,000** per organization. Funding is limited.
- 60% of your funding request must be used to pay artist fees, and/or expenses associated with touring including travel and accommodation.
- Activity must occur between **July 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018**.

#### **Who Can Apply?**

- Applicants are advised to contact the program coordinator to discuss your proposal prior to submitting an application.
- Applicants must be a community-based performing arts presenter in BC that presents a series or season of performing arts events featuring professional artists (Producing companies that present their own works in a series or season are ineligible.)
- Applicants must be a registered not-for-profit society in BC with a minimum of one year of presenting activity.
- Applicants must provide financial statements for the most recently concluded fiscal year.
- Where applicable, applicants must have completed and submitted final reports to the BC Arts Council for any outstanding funding assistance provided.

## Eligible Activity

- Demonstrates the engagement of BC based, aspiring, emerging artists as opening acts for professional main stage artists featured as part of a presenting season or series.
- Presenters are encouraged to connect with agents, managers to discuss emerging artists on their rosters who may be able to support mainstage artists on a regional, provincial and national tour.
- While we encourage presenters to use the same performance space as main stage artists, proposals may include the use alternate spaces i.e. lobby, public or other spaces as part of the main stage presentation.
- The program recognizes that the length of an opening performance may vary from the length of a main stage performance.
- We strongly encourage applications from those working to present culturally diverse cultures and/or Indigenous artists.
- In order to distribute the program's limited funds throughout the regions of BC, we encourage applicants from rural and remote communities to apply.
- We encourage applicants to be innovative and inventive.
- Applicants must compensate aspiring, emerging artists by paying fees at industry standards. The professional associations below maintain recommended fee schedules for arts-based activities that can be used as a reference. Some of these associations include:
  - American Federation of Musicians (**AMF**) (afm.org) for professional musicians;
  - Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists/West Chapter (**CADA/BC**) (cadabc.org) for performers, choreographers, teachers, artistic directors & more;
  - Canadian Actors' Equity Association (**Equity**) (caea.com) for performers (actors, singers, dancers), directors, choreographers, fight directors and stage managers, engaged in theatre, opera and dance in English Canada;
  - Canadian League of Composers (**CLC**) (composition.org) for Canadian composers;

## Definitions

**Aspiring, Emerging Artist:** are defined as those up to 34 years old, who have mastered the basic techniques of their art form through education or apprenticeship and are in the early stage of launching a professional career. Proposed aspiring, emerging artists will use support from Warming up the Act to maximize their potential audience, and propel them into eventually headlining or being considered a main stage artist.

### Exclusions

- operating expenses
- community festivals
- festivals not presenting a series or season
- start-up costs or "seed" funding
- capital expenditures (construction, renovation, property and/or equipment purchase)
- Applicants cannot apply to both the BC Arts Council's Youth Engagement Program and Warming Up the Act.

### Maximum Assistance – up to \$3,000 per applicant

A total of \$3,000 per applicant is available. Awards may be less than the requested amount based on the assessment of the application. 60% of your proposed budget must be allocated to artists' fees, and/or expenses associated with touring including travel and accommodation.

### Adjudication Process

Applicants will be informed of the committee's decision by email approximately **four weeks** after receipt of an application. Funds will be paid out to successful applicants within **six – eight weeks** following adjudication.

### Assessment criteria

Merit-based, independent assessment is the primary means of evaluation. The engagement of aspiring, emerging artists is key to this success of this program. Committee members will consider the impact of the experience on participating artists, the potential audience and whether participating aspiring, emerging artists have an opportunity to participate in a regional, provincial or national tour. They will also consider the accessibility of the project to aspiring, emerging artists, including those of Indigenous, culturally diverse and/or regional communities.

## **Applicant Requirements**

Applications must be submitted on forms provided. Applicants should have both emerging and mainstage artists and dates of the proposed performances confirmed prior to submitting an application. Support materials as listed must accompany the application. Specifically, support materials for each component must include:

- a completed original application form with authorized signatures
- details of the proposed activity for which support is requested including names of all artists—including both emerging and mainstage artists—place of origin, performance genres, websites, links to Facebook pages, a biography or description of artists (not all artists will be familiar to the adjudication committee), tour or performance history of proposed aspiring, emerging artists, dates of presentation and proposed fees;
- applicants should address the potential impacts and/or benefits to adding aspiring, emerging artists as openers for your performance/series. Please indicate any potential impacts and/or benefits to mainstage and warm up acts, as well as audience members.
- A completed budget (on the form provided) that includes proposed artists' fees for the emerging artists you have proposed. If the fees for your proposed emerging artists varies by artist, please explain the difference in fees. For example, solo artist fees are paid less than duos or trios. Only expenses associated with presenting your proposed emerging artists should be included in your budget. Expenses that are incurred as part of the presentation of your mainstage artists are not eligible for funding.
- the most recent financial statements (or review engagement) including balance sheet for the organization;
- a current list of board and staff with contact information;
- a final report regarding funding previously awarded under the Warming up the Act Program

## **FAQ – Warming up the Act**

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

Applicants must be a community-based performing arts presenter in BC that presents a series or season of performing arts events featuring professional artists (producing companies that present their own works in a series or season are not eligible.) Consult the guidelines for more information.

### **How much can a presenter request?**

Requests may be **up to a maximum of \$3,000** per organization.

### **Do I need to have my artists confirmed before applying?**

Applicants should have both main stage and opening artists confirmed prior to completing an application.

### **Do I need to send bios for all artists?**

Applicants should send bios for aspiring, emerging artists only.

### **What is the definition of aspiring, emerging artists?**

Aspiring, emerging artists are defined as those up to 34 years old, who have mastered the basic techniques of their art form through education or apprenticeship and are in the early stage of launching a professional career. Proposed aspiring, emerging artists will use support from Warming up the Act to maximize their potential audience, and propel them into eventually headlining or being considered a main stage artist.

### **Would an act in a double-bill be considered eligible?**

A "double-bill" may be considered eligible for funding, however the objective of the program is to provide funding support to presenters to hire aspiring, emerging artists to open for main stage artists/acts. At least one act in a double bill must be an aspiring, emerging artist in order to be considered.

### **Does BCTC have a list of aspiring, emerging artists?**

BCTC will not endorse or recommend specific artists, however the 2017 edition of ArtsOnTour.com features a new emerging artist category to provide listings of available artists (marked by an 'e' icon). We encourage you contact agents, artists, or managers or to put out a call to local artists.

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### **Final Reports**

Recipients must submit a final report within 60 days of the final performance. Report forms will be sent to applicants and available on BCTC's website.

### **Recognition of Assistance**

The support of the BC Arts Council, the Province of BC and the BC Touring Council should be acknowledged in all promotional materials. Logos and graphics standards are available at [www.bcartscouncil.ca](http://www.bcartscouncil.ca) and on BCTC's website at [www.bctouring.org/funding-logos](http://www.bctouring.org/funding-logos)

### **Changes to Awards**

BCTC reserves the right to redistribute or suspend payment if the organization is unable to carry out the proposed activity.

### **How to submit?**

Applications must be emailed (as PDF digital files) to [sheryl@bctouring.org](mailto:sheryl@bctouring.org). All applications received will be acknowledged by email.

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Questions? **Sheryl McGraw, Program Coordinator, BC Touring Council**

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