The BC Touring Council is seeking proposals from non-profit, performing arts presenters, including festival presenters for **Warming Up the Act (WUTA)**. Warming Up the Act provides financial assistance to presenters in BC to engage aspiring emerging BC artists.

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 reach new audiences and gain practical experience and knowledge about presenting and touring in BC.

**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.
- Requests may be **up to a maximum of $3,500** per organization, per program. Funding is limited.
- 60% of your funding request must be used to pay artists’ fees, and/or expenses associated with touring including travel and accommodation.
- The application deadline is **Friday, February 21, 2020.**
- Activity must occur between **June 1, 2020** and **August 31, 2020.**

**Program Components**

Eligible Applicants are able to apply to one of the following.

Funding is available to:

- A. Engage BC aspiring emerging artists to open/warm up for main stage acts as part of a series, season or as part of festival programming.
- B. Presenters looking to program a group/showcase of aspiring emerging artists as part of special event, special series or showcase OR as part of a block booking with presenter colleagues.

**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);
- Arts & Cultural Festivals that compensate artists and by paying fees at industry standards are also eligible to apply;
- Applicants must be a registered not-for-profit society in BC;
- Arts and Cultural festivals must have occurred at least one year prior to submitting an application;
- Applicants must provide financial statements for the most recently concluded fiscal year;
- Where applicable, applicants must have completed and submitted final reports for any outstanding funding assistance;

For the purposes of this program, aspiring emerging artists are those between the ages of 18 to 34 years old who demonstrate competency of the basic techniques of their art practice and are in the early stage of launching a professional career.

Proposed aspiring emerging artists may have reached a critical moment in their career, are interested in touring and will use this opportunity to maximize their potential audience, and to propel them into the next phase of their career development.

Where there is a group/band/artistic company being proposed, the majority of the artists must be aspiring emerging BC artists.
Eligibility

- Demonstrates the engagement of BC based, aspiring emerging artists.
- Presenters are encouraged to connect with agents and managers to discuss aspiring emerging artists on their rosters who may be eligible to participate.
- While we encourage applicants to use the same performance space(s) as main stage artists, proposals may include the use of alternate spaces i.e. lobby, public or other spaces.
- The program recognizes that the length of opening performances may vary from the length of main stage performances.
- We strongly encourage applications from organizations who present culturally diverse and/or Indigenous artists to apply.
- In order to distribute the program's limited funds throughout the regions of BC, we encourage presenters from rural and remote communities to apply.
- Prior to submitting an application, we strongly encourage presenters to consult with main stage artists to ensure they are aware, and are in agreement with your plans to present opening artists.
- All artists including aspiring emerging and main stage (where applicable) should be confirmed prior to submitting an application.
- 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, and as a litmus test to ensure that you are meeting or exceeding appropriate levels of compensation. Some of these associations include:
  - Vancouver Musicians’ Association, a local office of the American Federation of Musicians (www.vma145.ca) for professional musicians;
  - Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists/West Chapter (CADA/BC) (cadawest.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;
- Should you require any information about compensation, please contact the program coordinator.

Definitions

Aspiring emerging artists:

For the purposes of this program, aspiring emerging artists demonstrates competency of the basic techniques of their art practice and are in the early stage of launching a professional career. Proposed aspiring emerging artists may have reached a critical moment in their career development, and will use this opportunity to maximize their potential audience, and to propel them into the next phase of their career. Where there is a group/band/artistic company being proposed, the majority of the artists must be aspiring emerging BC artists.

Exclusions

- conferences, competitions;
- start-up costs or “seed” funding;
- capital expenditures (property and/or equipment purchase);
- Presentations that are for fundraising events, conventions/conferences, family or religious celebrations;
- Producing companies that produce/present their own works in a series or season;
- Programming presented outside of the activity period included in the guidelines.

Maximum Assistance – up to $3,500 per applicant

A total of $3,500 per applicant is available. Awards may be less than the requested amount based on the assessment of the application. 80% of your funding request 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 of the deadline. Applicants will be adjudicated by a peer committee that may include artists, agents, and presenters.
Assessment criteria
Merit-based, independent assessment is the primary means of evaluation. The engagement of aspiring emerging artists is key to the success of your proposed program. Committee members will consider the impact of the experience on participating artists, the presenter, and the audience. 60% of your funding request must be used to pay artist fees, and/or expenses associated with touring including travel and accommodation.

Applicant Requirements
Applications must be submitted on forms provided. 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 aspiring emerging and main stage artists—biographies, contact information for aspiring emerging artists, websites and links to Facebook pages, as well as tour or performance history;
- a biography or description of all proposed aspiring emerging artists as not all artists will be familiar to the adjudication committee;
- applicants should address the potential impacts and/or benefits to engaging aspiring emerging artists. Please indicate any potential impacts and/or benefits to main stage artists, as well as the audience;
- a completed budget (on the form provided) that includes fees for the aspiring emerging artists you have proposed. If the fees vary 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 mainstage artists are not eligible for funding;
- the most recent financial statements (or review engagement) including balance sheet;
- a current list of board and staff with contact information;
- If applicable, a final report for 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, season, or arts and cultural festival featuring professional artists (producing companies that present their own works in a series or season are not eligible). Arts and cultural festivals who compensate artists by paying fees at industry standards are also eligible to apply.

How much can a presenter request?
Requests may be up to a maximum of $3,500 per organization.

Do I need to have my artists confirmed before applying?
Applicants should have all artists, including emerging and main stage artists, confirmed prior to submitting an application.

Do I need to send bios for all artists?
Applicants should send bios for aspiring emerging artists only with their application.

What is the definition of aspiring emerging artists?
For the purposes of this program, aspiring emerging artists are those between the ages of 18 to 34 years old who demonstrate competency of the basic techniques of their art practice and are in the early stage of launching a professional career. Proposed aspiring emerging artists may have reached a critical moment in their career, are interested in touring and will use this opportunity to maximize their potential audience, and to propel them into the next phase of their career development.

Where there is a group/band/artistic company being proposed, the majority of the artists must be aspiring emerging BC artists.

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 hire aspiring emerging artists. 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’s ArtsOnTour.com features an emerging artist category to provide listings of available artists (marked by an ‘e’ icon). We encourage you to contact agents, artists, or managers or to put out a call to artists. We cannot endorse or recommend specific artists.
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 may be found on BCTC’s website at 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. All applications received will be acknowledged by email.

Questions? Sheryl McGraw, Program Coordinator
Sheryl@bctouring.org  Direct: 604-253-2726, BC Touring Council, PO Box 547, Nelson, BC  V1L 5R3

The Aspiring Emerging Associates Program is a partnership program with the Province of BC and the BC Arts Council.