

The online portal for the Spring 2023 round of funding will open on Monday, February 27.

The deadline for all applications is 11:59 PM Friday, May 5.

But first! Learn about key changes we are making. As a result of recommendations from our [Imagining Equitable Futures](#) work, we are modifying our application process. These changes will help us to move now towards more equitable funding. We're excited to embrace this vital work, and we appreciate your willingness to comply with new requirements.

First, we are focusing on “Where Arts Starts”

We encourage applications from artists and from organizations that want to experiment, to explore new creation processes—including disciplines other than their own—or to build on new work. **For more details and definitions, please review the revised 2023 guidelines carefully. You can find those [here](#).**

Second, watch for eligibility criteria!

Individuals: when you apply, you will be asked to identify either as an emerging or established artist;. See criteria spelled out [here](#).

- Emerging Artists can apply for up to \$10,000
- Established Artists can apply for up to \$7,500

Organizations, groups & ad hoc collectives: when you apply, you will be asked to identify either as emerging or established. See criteria spelled out [here](#).

- Emerging Organizations can apply for up to \$10,000
- Established Organizations can apply for up to \$7,500

Third, now Peer Reviewers (formerly Artists-at-Large) will assess all applications.

In the past, Board members were joined by Artists-at-Large to adjudicate the grants. This will no longer be the case. Instead, an advisory group comprised of seasoned local artists and arts administrators will become RWAFF Peer Reviewers, and will be paid to do this work. To learn more about this important shift, please [click here](#).

Why change, why now? Changes you see here reflect an extensive process that included a consultant, RWAFF board members, and a group of locally based racialized artists. The latest phase of this work has resulted in a detailed report, Moving Recommendations Forward. As the report points out, change takes time and thoughtful planning. RWAFF is starting with the Spring 2023 round of funding.

Transparency is vital when it comes to confidence in public funding. You can expect RWAFF's Board of Directors to share all the news we can about our process, challenges, changes, and results. To see a **visual timeline** (pdf) of our work to date, please [click here](#).

We welcome your questions and inquiries. Please reach out to us at info@artsfund.ca.

For links, downloads, tips and guidelines, as well as deadlines and procedures for the online application process, please visit [Region of Waterloo Arts Fund](#). Please subscribe to our website to ensure you are getting the latest, up-to-date information.

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RWAF's mission is to contribute to the vibrancy of the arts-and-culture sector in Waterloo Region by promoting, encouraging, and providing support to arts organizations and individual artists.

Where Art Starts speaks to RWAF's twenty-plus year support for innovation and artistic creation throughout the cities and townships that make up this distinctive region. Investing in foundational support for artists and arts organizations ensures that everyone benefits from a dynamic and creative culture and to community well-being.

Learn more by visiting our [website](#). And be sure to like and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). **Our social media coordinator, Grace Scheele, can help you celebrate your project. Are you a grantee? Start by reaching out to Grace at this address: socialmedia@artsfund.ca.**

And use these handles to follow us on social media:

Instagram: [@rwarthfund](#)

Facebook: [@rwarthfund](#)

Twitter: [@RWArtsFund](#)

For links, downloads, tips, and guidelines, as well as deadlines and procedures for the online application process, simply visit the [Region of Waterloo Arts Fund](#).

Be sure to subscribe to our website to ensure that you are getting correct, up-to-date information. We invite you to reach out with questions to us at info@artsfund.ca. The Arts Fund's email is monitored regularly, and all inquiries will be answered.