FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

General Funding Program
Special Project Grants
Organizational Development and Pooling
(Call for applications – March 8, 2021)

What are the main changes compared to the regular special project grants?
The program’s key aspects remain unchanged. However, the program was modified to meet the needs of organizations to adapt and strengthen themselves during the pandemic. Also, the program takes into account the priorities identified by professional groups and associations met by the Conseil des arts de Montréal (CAM) and on the information gathered by CAM teams.

1. What are the main changes to the Special Project Grants Program?

The application deadline has been moved to March 8, 2021 (instead of February 15). The project review period has been shortened, from 12 weeks to 8-to-10 weeks. As a result, we will be able to send our responses at the beginning of May 2021.

There are two types of eligible projects:

1. Project that aim to strengthen organizations or help them stabilize or adapt
2. Pooling projects carried out in cooperation with individual artists, cultural workers, artists’ collectives or cultural organizations and designed to meet a specific need and support them during this recovery period for the arts in Montréal

Other noteworthy changes:

- The evaluation criteria set out in Section 5.1 of the detailed presentation have been revised to ensure they are consistent with the types of eligible projects.

Important

- A project cannot be completed before a response has been received (May 5, 2021).
- Organizations must ensure that their applications contain all required documents and information prior to filing. Incomplete applications will be deemed inadmissible and will not be considered.

Finally, in July 2020, we launched a Support Fund for Accessibility Costs to provide financial assistance to artists self-identifying as deaf or living with a mental illness or a visible or invisible disability to cover the accessibility costs that the artist or organization incurs to carry out a project. The Support Fund for Accessibility Costs provides:

- Financial support to submit a funding application.
- Financial support covering the accessibility costs for artists or the public of a project funded by the General Funding Program.

For more information, contact your advisor or:

Frédéric Côté at frederic.cote3@montreal.ca or (514) 280-3783.
2. **Qu’entendez-vous par projet de mutualisation ?**

“Pooling” is the act of harnessing the synergy between two or more entities that share their competencies and human, physical and intangible resources in order to strengthen their network by means of a short-, medium- or long-term process whose degree of formality and structuring character can vary. Submitted projects may be carried out in cooperation with other partners to meet a specific need in your arts community during this recovery period for the arts in Montreal. In addition, projects may be geared to individual artists, cultural workers, artists’ collectives or cultural organizations.

3. **Dans le cas d’une mutualisation, peut-on collaborer avec un organisme à but lucratif (OBL)?**

Oui, sans que cela ne soit une obligation. D’ailleurs, la capacité à prendre part ou à mettre en place des collaborations solides, cohérentes et ayant un impact significatif, tout comme la diversification des partenariats et des sources de financement, font partie des critères d’évaluation du programme.

4. **Is there a minimum or maximum amount awarded?**

No. However, funding provided by the CAM through project grants must not exceed 75% of the project’s costs. Refer to the [list of subsidized organizations in 2019](#) for an idea of the amounts awarded.

5. **Can you provide examples of projects that enable artists to structure or adapt their operations or expand their capabilities?**

- A review of your business, production or creation models.
- Adaptation of presentation methods to ensure the project is viable in the current circumstances, whether online, onstage, on-site, etc.

However, these are merely examples. It is your responsibility to determine which projects are able to meet these objectives in keeping with your organization’s needs.

6. **Is an in-house strategic planning exercise considered an eligible project?**

Yes, if you are able to show the costs incurred for that exercise. Do not forget that your projects are evaluated in comparison with many others. It is important to explain clearly how the project meets one or more needs related to the health situation and to show the project’s impact on the organization or its community.
7. Are projects with a primary focus on cultural mediation eligible for this program?
   Although some projects may incorporate mediation activities, those that are primarily focused on cultural mediation are not eligible for CAM. However, these activities can sometimes obtain funding through subsidy programs offered by the Service de la culture, City of Montréal (en français seulement).

8. Are projects to acquire materials and equipment for compliance with mandatory public health standards eligible?
   No.

9. Since box office income is down as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, do you take own-source revenue into account?
   Yes. The people who sit on our evaluation committees hail from the artistic community. They understand the constraints and difficulties that the pandemic poses for your activities. As a reminder, CAM funding cannot exceed 75% of the total budget you will submit. You should include any own-source revenue you receive. This may include revenue from exchanges of services rendered, whether recorded or not, from sponsorships, and so on.

10. It’s difficult to contact presenters at this moment. Do we absolutely have to have a letter of confirmation or intent from a presenter before submitting the project?
    No. The evaluation committees understand that presenters are hesitant to make firm commitments in light of the uncertainty surrounding the current situation. However, if you have received confirmations, you should mention them.

11. What is the next application deadline for applying for a multi-year operating grant?
    The call for applications for operating grants will be issued in 2022. This year, as an exception, the Conseil has reinstated the amount of the multi-year grant provided to organizations funded by this program for another year.

    On your grant’s renewal anniversary date (in your case, in February, June or November 2021), you will receive information on the associated obligations, payment terms and report via the ORORA portal.
12. Where can I find an explanation of the terms used in the program documents?

The Conseil des arts maintains a regularly updated glossary of these terms, which you can download from the CAM’s website.