

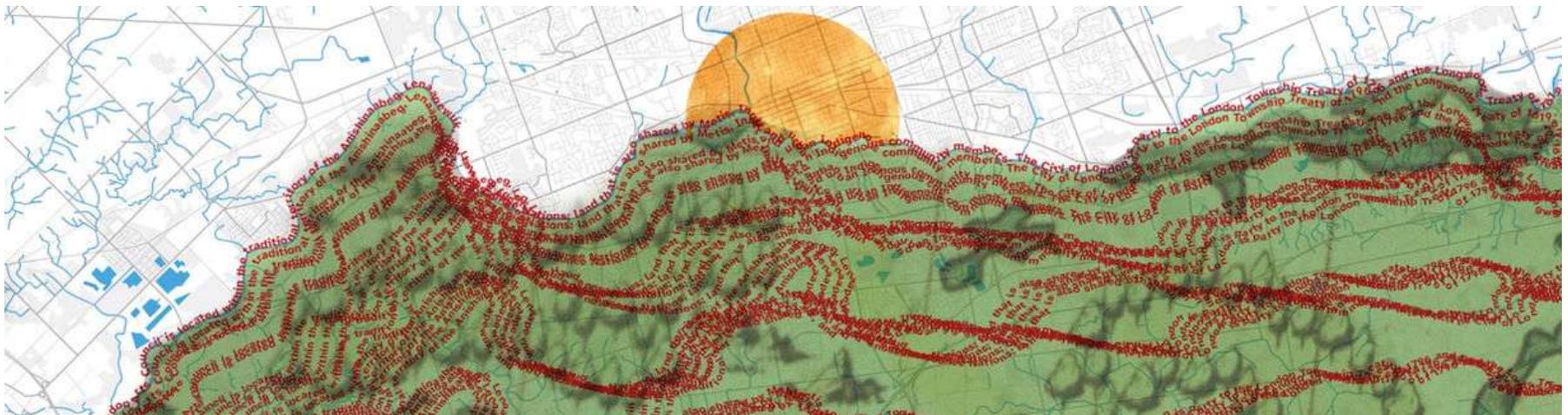
London Arts & Community:

Funding Programs and Support Available in London



The **London Arts Council** is located within the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Lenaapewuk, and Haudenosaunee Nations; land that is also shared by Metis, Inuit, and urban Indigenous community members. We are committed to inclusive and equitable arts programming that promotes Indigenous representation and ongoing relationship building with the local Indigenous community.

Indigenous London Arts programs and services are provided through the London Arts Council to honour Indigenous ways of knowing and being and to support Indigenous artists and creators to continue to thrive in various artistic forms and cultural practices.



Visual Land Acknowledgement created by Indigenous Artist Katie Wilhelm

Overview

We will present **funding programs** and **support opportunities** available to the **arts community** and to **community events that incorporate artistic elements** in London.

The London Arts Council, the Community Foundation, and the City of London's Neighbourhood and Community-Wide Services will share programs and address frequently asked questions.

- **London Arts Council:** CAIP; EDI Micro Grants
- **London Community Foundation:** Paul Seed Fund – Music for Good; Music for Festivals
- **City of London - Neighbourhood & Community-Wide Services:** Neighbourhood Small Events Fund; Event Equipment Lending Program
- **Q&A**





London **Arts** Council

About the London Arts Council

- Established in 1995, the London Arts Council (LAC) is a **nonprofit, arm 's-length umbrella arts service organization**.
- We work with public, private, and community partners **to build and sustain Londoners' awareness of, involvement in, and support for all artistic disciplines across the city**.
- Our programs in education, health, and community **provide paid opportunities for professional artists and creators** in London and three surrounding First Nations (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation; Oneida Nation of the Thames; and Munsee-Delaware First Nation) **to create and deliver artworks**, as well as **support local arts organizations**.
- Through a **Purchase of Service Agreement** with the City of London, we **administer the City's Public Art and Monument Program and the Community Arts Investment Program (CAIP)**.
- www.londonarts.ca | www.indigenousslondonarts.ca



Community Arts Investment Program (CAIP)

The **London Arts Council** has administered the **City of London's Community Arts Investment Program (CAIP)** for **London's artistic community** since **2001**.

CAIP supports:

Arts Organizations

- Administrative and operational expenses
- Incorporated Nonprofits and Registered Charitable Arts Organizations in London

Individuals & Collectives/Ad Hoc Groups

- Creative projects (*Research, Creation, Production/Presentation, Series, and Festivals*)
- Professional Artists/Creators/Practitioners of Traditional Arts
- Individuals as well as Collectives and Ad-Hoc Groups
- Based in London and Surrounding First Nations Communities (*Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee-Delaware Nation*)



CAIP Eligibility Criteria: Individuals & Collectives

CRITERIA	INDIVIDUALS	COLLECTIVES & AD HOC GROUPS
LOCATION	London or Surrounding First Nations Communities	Lead based in London or Surrounding First Nations Communities
AGE	18+	All members 18+
CITIZENSHIP	Canadian Citizen/Permanent Resident	Lead must be Canadian Citizen/Permanent Resident
ARTISTIC MERIT	Demonstrate ability, innovation, and originality	Demonstrate ability, innovation, and originality
COMPENSATION	Must pay professional artist fees	Must pay professional artist fees to London/Surrounding First Nations artists
FINANCIAL	Multiple revenue sources	Multiple revenue sources
SCOPE	Nonprofit activities; safe workplace required	Nonprofit activities; safe workplace required

For more information, please check: <https://www.londonarts.ca/professional-artists> | <https://www.londonarts.ca/artist-collectives>

CAIP Eligibility Criteria: Arts Organizations

CRITERIA	ARTS ORGANIZATIONS
LOCATION	Located in London
LEGAL STATUS	Ontario legally incorporated nonprofit/registered charity
MANDATE	Clear and focused artistic mandate; regular programming
EXPERIENCE	Minimum 1-year sustained programming
COMPENSATION	Must include artist fees; led by paid professional staff
FINANCIAL	Sound financial management; budget under \$1.5M; multiple revenue sources
GOVERNANCE	Board of Directors/ fiduciary oversight
SCOPE	Nonprofit activities; safe workplace required

For more information, please check: <https://www.londonarts.ca/arts-organizations>

CAIP: Program Timeline

Arts Organizations (2026 Closed)

- Submissions Open: January 2027
- Submissions Deadline: February 2027

Individual Artists & Collectives/Ad Hoc Groups (2026 Open)

- Submissions Open: February 20, 2026
- Submissions Deadline: March 27, 2026, 4:30PM

It is **strongly advised** that applicants consult with an **LAC** team member to determine eligibility for a project investment.

Consultation requests must be made at least two weeks before the submission deadline through: investment@londonarts.ca

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Micro Grants Program

- Designed to provide financial assistance for projects and initiatives of Individual Artists and/or Artist Collectives who have encountered barriers in obtaining support within the current systems and structures of existing traditional funding mechanisms.
- Directed to:
 - Indigenous Peoples based in London, Ontario, and the surrounding First Nations (Chippewa of the Thames First Nation, Munsee Delaware First Nation, and Oneida Nation of the Thames)
 - Those with English as their Second Language and culturally Diverse (Racialized) Peoples based in London, Ontario
- 2026 Program Timeline: follow our website and social channels for announcements



LONDON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

About the London Community Foundation

Established in 1954 by J. Allyn Taylor, London Community Foundation is a **public foundation** where people and families establish charitable funds. The Foundation is **dedicated to improving communities across London and Middlesex County** through collaboration, strategic leadership, and innovative solutions to charitable giving.



Paul Seed Fund

The Paul Seed Fund, held at London Community Foundation, aims to **boost live music performances** in London by **creating connections** and **opportunities for musicians, venues, and audiences.**

The Fund has established strong partnerships with the London Arts Council and London Music Office.

Music for Good

FOR: London-based charities, non-profits and community groups to have LIVE Music at their events.

HOW MUCH: Up to a maximum of \$2,000 is available per event. Specifically, up to \$1,500 for musicians and up to \$500 for sound technicians.

PAYMENT: The Foundation is partnered with the London Arts Council who directly pays the performers and technicians.

AVAILABLE TO APPLY: Ongoing basis; due at least 4 weeks before event.

APPLICATION FORM: <https://www.lcf.on.ca/music-for-good>



Music for Festivals

FOR: London-based for-profits, non-profits and community groups to have LIVE Music at their festivals with an event budget of <\$75K.

HOW MUCH: Up to a maximum of \$3,000 is available per event. Specifically, up to \$2,000 for musicians and up to \$1,000 for sound technicians.

PAYMENT: The Foundation is partnered with the London Arts Council who directly pays the performers and technicians.

AVAILABLE TO APPLY: March 24 and then on an Ongoing basis; due at least 4 weeks before the event.

Music for Good and Music for Festivals: LAC's role

- Protects artistic standards and supports professional compensation for musicians
- Provides production expertise when needed
- Ensures responsible use of funding based on the London Community Foundation (LCF)'s Paul Seed Fund (PSF) guidelines and LAC's general finance management guidelines

Feasibility Assessment:

- Upon LCF's assessment process, LAC reviews the approved proposal and budget to confirm technical requirements (sound, staging, equipment), alignment with community impact goals, and value of investment relative to outcomes

Event Delivery Option A - LAC Curation:

- Manages artist/sound technician booking
- Coordinates logistics
- Assists with technical needs (if required)

Event Delivery Option B - Applicant Managed:

- Applicant handles event logistics directly
- Must curate within approved budget parameters
- Works within LCF-PSF/LAC guidelines and the program structure

Artist Engagement & Payment Process

- Processes payment directly to the artist and sound technician (upon invoice submission)

Note: for inquiries re: Music for Good and Music for Festivals, please contact the **London Community Foundation** at info@lcf.on.ca



London
CANADA

City of London

Neighbourhood & Community-Wide Services

The City of London offers a wide range of neighbourhood and community-wide services designed to strengthen connections, support residents, and build inclusive communities. These programs help residents host local events, improve public spaces, and build stronger neighbourhood relationships. The City of London is here to support residents through the process.

Programs include:

- **Neighbourhood Small Events Fund**
- **Equipment Lending Program**
- **Outdoor Movie Nights**

To learn more about other Neighbourhood programs, please visit [Neighbourhood programs and funding | City of London](#)



London
CANADA

Neighbourhood Small Events Fund

Program Overview:

- The Neighbourhood Small Events Fund is a City of London **grant program** that supports residents in hosting **free, accessible, small-scale neighbourhood events on public property**. Through this program, the City provides funding, resources, and equipment to help make event planning simple and successful.
- Eligible applicants can receive **up to \$500** to cover approved event expenses such as **food, décor, entertainment, and activity supplies**.



Neighbourhood Small Events Fund

Eligibility Criteria:

- Led and operated by neighbourhood residents or groups
- Held in an accessible public space
- Free to attend and open to the neighbourhood
- Attendance is no more than 300 people
- Non-revenue generating and non-fundraising
- Event must have the purpose of building community and fostering neighbourhood-based relationships

Who Isn't Eligible?

- Businesses and Commercial groups
- Not for profit and charitable organizations
- Schools, hospitals, government institutions
- Events that involve fundraising, political or religious activities
- **Residents or groups receiving other City of London funding including Community Arts Investment Program (CAIP)**



Neighbourhood Small Events Fund

Applying to Host a Neighbourhood Event:

- Visit [Supports for neighbourhood events | City of London](#)
- Submit the Neighbourhood Event Application Form 30 days prior to the event
 - **60 days required if requesting a road closure**
- Review the guides and information on the webpage for support
- City reviews event details and confirms eligibility and insurance requirements
- Event agreement finalized prior to event date



Equipment Lending Program (ELP)

- Available April 1 – October 1 each year
- Event equipment free of charge to residents and neighbourhood groups
- Examples of available equipment include tables, chairs, games, A-frame signs, and more
- Resident is responsible for picking up and dropping off equipment from our storage facility located at 656 Elizabeth St
- Applicants must meet the same eligibility requirements as the Neighbourhood Small Events Fund, **except individuals receiving CAIP funding are still eligible for ELP.**



Summary:

How to maximize funding and support opportunities for projects?

For Individual Artists

- General rule: Applicants **may not** apply for CAIP, Micro Grants, and Small Event funds within the same year. (Note: eligibility is based on applicants, not projects)
- Individual artists applying for CAIP or EDI Micro Grants who plan to present their project in an accessible public space **may request** support through the City's **Equipment Landing Program**. This support may be listed as an in-kind donation to strengthen their programming and improve project viability.
- If an individual artist's **CAIP request is not successful** this year, they **may apply for Small Event funds**, provided you meet the eligibility criteria.

For Artist Collectives or Ad-Hoc Group

- General rule: Applicants **may not** apply for CAIP, Micro Grants, and Small Event funds within the same year. (Note: eligibility is based on applicants, not projects)
- Artist collectives or ad-hoc group applying for CAIP or EDI Micro Grants who plan to present their project in an accessible public space **may request** support through the City's **Equipment Landing Program**. This support may be listed as an in-kind donation to strengthen their programming and improve project viability.
- Artist collectives or ad-hoc group **may apply for CAIP** (public funding) and **Music for Good/Music for Festivals** (private funding) at the same time for arts presentation projects. Applying to multiple funding programs can diversify your revenue streams, increase project viability, and help you leverage additional government (provincial or federal) funding.
- If their **CAIP request is not successful** this year, you **may apply for Small Event funds**, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

For Residents and Community Groups

- Residents or community groups are eligible to apply for **Small Event funds, Equipment Landing Program, and Music for Festivals/Music for Good** for their neighbourhood events at the same time.

Q & A

Reminder: links for each program presented during this Information Session are included throughout the presentation.

General questions can also be sent to the London Arts Council: info@londonarts.ca

Question 1. For organizations or individuals who are unsure which program best fits their event or project, what is the best way to decide?

Michelle Arnett, LAC: If you are considering whether CAIP might be the right program for you, the best approach is to book a consultation. During that meeting, we can review the criteria and discuss your specific project in more depth to determine whether CAIP is a good fit.

Lori Runciman, LCF: Because CAIP has a deadline, you should prioritize that program first. Small Neighborhood Events remains open only until funds run out, so that should likely be your next priority. After that, you can look at Music for Good and Music for Festivals, which both accept applications on an ongoing basis. You will want to review all the programs, of course, but CAIP is the one to focus on first.

Eunju Yi, LAC: This can sometimes feel like a “chicken-or-egg-first” situation. CAIP does have a deadline, so we would encourage applicants to prioritize it. However, to develop a well-thought-out budget, applicants should first consider speaking with other organizations about their funding or support programs. This helps determine whether their project is at least eligible for those programs. If so, applicants can include them in the budget as a “potential revenue source.” They cannot list those funds as a confirmed revenue source, but they can identify, for example, Music for Good or Music for Festivals, as potential future support.

Question 2. Is there a limitation on the number of events one organization can submit per year to the Music for Good /Music for Festivals?

Lori Runciman, LCF: There is no set limit. We review each request as it comes in and assess whether it meets the eligibility criteria. Naturally, organizations have a reasonable capacity, which will likely limit how many events they can realistically submit. We are not too concerned about being overwhelmed by multiple submissions from a single applicant, and we will continue to review each application individually.

I should add: if you are an organization considering submitting, for example, five events in a year, please reach out and speak with us. We are not trying to make things difficult or require you to complete five separate applications unnecessarily. A conversation will help us determine the best and most efficient way to process your submissions.

Question 3. During your presentation you mentioned that the sooner someone applies for Music for Good, the better. You also referenced the four-week pre-event requirement. Is that a firm timeline, or is there some flexibility?

Lori Runciman, LCF: The four-week timeline is especially important when you need the London Arts Council to help curate the artist. They require enough time to make arrangements and coordinate the logistics.

If you have already booked your performer and everything aligns with the program criteria, then yes, there is some flexibility.

However, if your event is happening this weekend, for example, and you want to apply, that would be far too close. We strongly recommend aiming to meet that minimum four-week window.

I also want to highlight the maximum lead time. While “the sooner, the better” is generally helpful, giving us a full year's notice is actually too early. We aim to keep submissions within about 4 to 5 months of the event date. This helps us manage the flow of events in our pipeline.

Question 4. How early should someone submit a request for the Equipment Lending Program if they want to secure equipment for popular summer dates, like July or August?

Melanie Camarinha, City of London - NCWS: Ideally, as soon as you know you will need the equipment. When you apply for the Neighbourhood Small Events Fund to host an event, you can submit your equipment request at the same time.

Even if you later decide not to use the Equipment Lending Program, that's completely fine. We generally recommend submitting your request at least 30 days before the event, since the equipment is limited. We only have a limited number of each item (such as games, tables, and chairs), and approvals are granted in the order applications are received.

** Note: submissions for this program close in October each year.*

Question 5. Regarding the Neighbourhood Small Events Fund, you mentioned that events must be hosted in “accessible public spaces.” Could you please elaborate on this criterion? What qualifies as an accessible public space for this funding stream?

Melanie Camarinha, City of London - NCWS: Essentially, the space must be publicly accessible for the neighbourhood and free of any barriers to entry.

Events cannot take place in private backyards, restricted or gated areas, or spaces that are not open to the general public. Locations that require paid admission or that are accessible only by invitation would not qualify.

Most neighbourhood events happen on City of London property, but applicants can also request to use their street block - we can support a road closure if needed. Neighbourhood parks are also eligible. We have also held events at community centres, since they are open to the public. Even restaurants can be eligible if they are open to the public and not hosting an invitation-only gathering.

These are the types of open, accessible spaces we look for when assessing where a neighbourhood event can be hosted.

Question 6. What is the difference between an Artist Collective and an Ad Hoc Group of Artists for the CAIP program?

Michelle Arnett, LAC: They are very similar. The main difference is that while both groups are led by professional artists, an ad hoc group may also include amateur artists working alongside a professional artist.

Question 7. We often talk about the importance of having additional sources of revenue when applying for CAIP. Could you give some examples of other sources of revenue that would count in a project budget?

Michelle Arnett, LAC: LAC will not provide 100% support on any project. Applicants should consider several other potential revenue sources, such as fundraising campaigns, donations, provincial or federal funding (e.g., grants from the Ontario Arts Council or the Canada Council for the Arts), and other grants available.

Question 8. Some CAIP-supported projects result in artwork being created. Can that artwork be sold at the end of the project?

Michelle Arnett, LAC: I will use visual arts as an example. If someone applies for a creation or production/presentation grant, say they're creating a series of paintings and plan to exhibit them at a venue in London, and that is the project they have requested funding for, then nonprofit activity can occur during the project timeline.

However, once the project period has ended, your final report has been submitted, and all funds have been used, you may sell the artworks you created.

My suggestion is to set aside some of the revenue from those sales in a separate account. That way, if you apply to CAIP again in the future, you can reference that revenue as an additional funding source in your budget.

Question 9. The process of applying for grants and support can be overwhelming and intimidating. What advice would you offer to a first-time applicant? What could they do to help themselves through this process?

Melanie Camarinha, City of London - NCWS: If you're applying for the Neighbourhood Small Events Fund and planning to host a neighbourhood event, I recommend connecting with a group of people who can help provide input and assist with planning. Events often require a lot of ideas, coordination, and support, so having others involved can make the process much smoother. We also encourage applicants to connect with neighbours and friends to ensure there's interest and buy-in, as well as to help promote the event—whether that's by distributing flyers in the community or creating a Facebook group. Community engagement is really important for this program.

Question 9. Continued.

Michelle Arnett, LAC: I would recommend taking advantage of the resources available to you. Carefully read the guidelines and criteria, and don't hesitate to schedule a meeting or consultation. For CAIP specifically, we have a list of last year's funding recipients on our website, along with details about their projects. Reviewing those examples can be very helpful if you're unsure whether your project would be eligible, especially before you book a consultation.

Lori Runciman, LCF: I'd like to underscore the importance of accessing as many eligible resources as possible. Listing Music for Good or Music for Festivals as potential funding sources can strengthen your applications to other programs. While applying to multiple programs may require a bit more work, it ultimately gives you a stronger, more diverse pool of resources to help make your event as successful as possible.

Question 10. What is the best way to ask questions?

- If you have **general questions** regarding the funding and support programs, please contact the London Arts Council at info@londonarts.ca
- If you have inquiries regarding **CAIP and EDI Micro Grants Program**, please contact the London Arts Council at investment@londonarts.ca
- If you have inquiries regarding **Music for Good and Music for Festivals**, please contact the London Community Foundation at info@lcf.on.ca
- If you have inquiries regarding **Neighbourhood Small Events Fund and Equipment Landing Program**, please contact the City of London Neighbourhood Community-Wide Services at specialevents@london.ca

Question 11. How does an artist find employment in the community and make connections when they are new to the city?

Please sign up for LAC's newsletter and follow our social media to see opportunities available. For more questions, please contact the London Arts Council at info@londonarts.ca

Question 12. If an artist lives outside of London, such as St. Thomas, is there anything they can access through LAC?

The City of London's Community Arts Investment Program supports artists from London and the surrounding First Nations. As a municipal-based arts council, LAC's programs and services support local (London and surrounding Nations) artists, arts organizations, and the arts ecosystem in London for the benefit of the London community. We encourage artists from different cities to contact their municipal governments to learn about arts funding programs and the support available.

Contact Information

- **General questions** regarding the funding and support programs: info@londonarts.ca
- Inquiries regarding **CAIP and EDI Micro Grants Program**: investment@londonarts.ca
- Inquiries regarding **Music for Good and Music for Festivals**: info@lcf.on.ca
- Inquiries regarding **Neighbourhood Small Events Fund and Equipment Landing Program**: specialevents@london.ca

