

BACKGROUNDER

Professional Arts Organizations Program Review 2015/16

The multi-year and annual adjudication deadline for the 2016 PAOP funded groups has been postponed for one year to conduct a review of the program.

How will we be proceeding?

- November 30 to December 4, 2015: Small community meetings Saskatoon and Regina
- December 2015: "What we Heard" report circulated to all funded organizations
- January 15, 2016: Deadline for extension-year funding documents to Arts Board
- January to February 2016: Survey, informed by community conversations and extension documents, goes out to all funded groups
- March to May 2016: Continued analysis and development of proposed changes
- May 2016: All-group session to present and discuss the changes proposed
- July 2016: Application package developed
- September 2016: Application package available to organizations
- January 2017: Deadline for refreshed PAOP program.

What has led to the decision to review the program at this time?

Over the past two cycles (six years), we have identified a number of shortcomings with the program that have been intensified by flat-lined funding levels, rapid changes in technology, and the new ways artists and arts organizations are working and developing.

Our concerns include:

- No funding for new groups coming into the program
- No funding for risk-taking or innovation
- Inequities within the discipline-based clusters
- Forcing the creation of non-profits just to be eligible for the program
- Emphasis on organizational growth as an indicator of success
- Lack of attention to appropriate organizational life-cycle.

What do we hope to accomplish through this process?

- Strengthen relations with the arts community through consultation and group problem-solving
- Improve the equity and fair adjudication within the program
- Ensure that the program is structured to best serve the needs of our community, in a sustainable manner
- Encourage an ecosystem and life-cycle approach to organizational goals
- Encourage awareness of current national and provincial funding system realities and strategic responses to these realities
- Develop a framework to adequately measure impact.