



2026 MAC MicroGrants Guidelines & Information

The Mississauga Arts Council's (MAC) MicroGrant Program provides funding to individual artists to support the creation, presentation, and professional development of their artistic practices. These MicroGrants target areas of interest or needs within the local arts sector and act as catalysts for growth and collaboration across artistic disciplines.

About the MicroGrant program: macarts.ca/programs/microgrants/

In the Fall 2026 funding round, MAC is offering two distinct streams of funding through a single application form.

1. **Matchmaker MicroGrants** - matching grants of 50% of expenses up to a maximum of \$3000 for projects that take place in Mississauga and include a public-facing activity for audiences in Mississauga.
2. **Career Development MicroGrants** - providing up to \$1200 in support of activities that demonstrate value to artistic or career growth for Mississauga artists.

Please review these guidelines carefully for detailed information about these funding streams including:

- General eligibility requirements
- Funding stream details
- Information session details
- Important dates and deadlines
- Application form requirements
- MicroGrant assessment
- Frequently Asked Questions

Application Deadline: Monday, October 5, 2026, by 5:00 PM EDT.

Strictly enforced. No late or incomplete submissions will be accepted under any circumstances.

All applications MUST be submitted through the application webform here:

<https://form.jotform.com/261893952573269>

MAC's MicroGrant program is supported in part by RAMA Gaming Centre through the Mississauga Charitable Gaming Association and by generous donors like you.



General Eligibility & Application Limits

To apply for any MAC MicroGrant, applicants must meet the following mandatory criteria:

- **Residency Requirement:** Applicants must be permanent residents of Mississauga. A Mississauga address is mandatory and non-negotiable. Business addresses, P.O. Boxes, or temporary/friend's addresses are not eligible. MAC reserves the right to request proof of residency (e.g., utility bill, driver's license) at any stage.
- **Strict Application Limit:** Applicants may only submit **one (1) application for one (1) funding stream** per round. Submitting multiple applications across any stream will result in **all** submissions being automatically disqualified without review.
- **Unincorporated Groups & Lead Artists:** Unregistered collectives or arts groups are welcome to apply, but the application must be submitted under the name of an individual lead artist who meets the residency rule. An individual may only be named as the primary applicant or project lead on **one (1) single application** per round.
 - *This round, the following are NOT eligible to apply: incorporated groups, nonprofit organizations, registered charities, businesses. Please contact us to learn about other grant sources that your organization may qualify for.*
- **Outstanding Reports:** Previous MAC MicroGrant recipients are eligible to apply **only if** final reports for all prior projects have been received and formally approved by MAC before this application deadline.
- **MAC Membership:** Applicants do not need to be members of MAC to apply. However, successful MicroGrant recipients must purchase or renew an Individual MAC Membership (\$40/year) to receive their funding. Learn more at: macarts.ca/mac-membership/

Funding Streams At-a-glance

Use this chart to determine which funding stream best aligns with your goals. **You may only apply to ONE stream in this funding round.**

Feature	Matchmaker MicroGrants	Career Development MicroGrants
Focus	Project creation, production, and public presentation.	Individual skill-building, mentorship, and business capacity-building activities.
Maximum Funding	Up to \$3,000	Up to \$1,200
Matching Required?	Yes. Covers up to 50% of the project budget. Requires confirmed revenue or in-kind support.	No. Covers up to 100% of eligible expenses.
Public Component?	Mandatory. Must include an activity or event in Mississauga that is open to the general public.	No. Focused entirely on the applicant artist's professional growth.
Artist Fees	Mandatory. Must pay direct artist fees to Mississauga-based creatives.	N/A (Unless paying an external professional mentor/instructor).

Learn more about MicroGrants & Access resources to help you prepare your application: macarts.ca/programs/microgrants/

Submit an application through the Webform:
<https://form.jotform.com/261893952573269>

Stream 1: Matchmaker MicroGrants

Purpose: To support Mississauga-based creatives to launch or complete an artistic project that engages local audiences and contributes to the strength of Mississauga's arts sector.

Project Requirements

- **Location:** The project and its public component must take place entirely within the city of Mississauga.
- **Public Engagement:** The project must include a public-facing activity or event (exhibition, performance, screening, workshop) open to the general public. It can be free or ticketed, but **cannot** be private or invite-only.
- **Local Impact:** The project must pay professional artist fees to Mississauga-based artists.
- **Matching Budget:** The grant covers up to 50% of direct project costs. Applicants must demonstrate a 50% match at the time of application via confirmed revenue (grants, sponsorships, personal financial contributions) or confirmed in-kind support (volunteer hours, donated services/venues). *Note: Anticipated ticket revenue is considered unconfirmed and cannot count toward your matching requirement.*



Project Timeline

- Projects may be underway before the application deadline, but MAC will not provide retroactive funding for projects that are fully completed before December 31, 2026.
- Projects cannot end before January 1, 2027, and must be completed by December 31, 2027.

Eligible & Ineligible Expenses

- **Eligible:** Artist fees for Mississauga-based creatives, venue rentals in Mississauga, equipment rental/production, marketing/promotion, and direct project administration.
- **Ineligible:** Activities outside Mississauga, general research projects, capital purchases (computers, cameras, instruments, permanent structures), fundraising activities, hospitality (food, beverages, alcohol).

Assessment Criteria

Applications are evaluated by the jury based on:

1. Impact & Innovation of the proposed project.
2. Connection to the Mississauga community and target audience.
3. Qualifications in the arts to complete the proposed project.
4. Feasibility of the project schedule, work plan, and budget.

Stream 2: Career Development MicroGrants

Purpose: To support individual artists seeking financial assistance to undergo strategic professional growth, strengthen artistic/business skills, or build career capacity.

Project Requirements

- **Relevance:** Activities must be directly tied to advancing the applicant's professional career growth as an artist.
- **Eligible Activities:** Specialized classes/courses, workshops, professional mentorships, or business capacity-building initiatives (e.g., marketing strategy development, arts-business training).
- *Note: Matching funds are not required for this stream. MAC can fund 100% of the activity cost up to the \$1,200 maximum.*



Project Timeline

- Activities may begin before the deadline but cannot be fully completed before winners are announced (November 2026).
- Activities must take place and finish between January 1, 2027, and December 31, 2027.

Eligible & Ineligible Expenses

- **Eligible:** Registration/course fees, mentor/instructor fees (mentors must be established professionals in their field; funding cannot compensate family members), learning materials, and direct capacity project costs including travel costs.
- **Ineligible:** Degree-granting post-secondary tuition, general research, capital purchases (computers, software subscriptions, tools), fundraising costs, hospitality.

Assessment Criteria

Applications are evaluated by the jury based on:

1. Rationale and clear impact of the activity on the growth of the artist's career.
2. Qualifications of the applicant and the chosen mentor/instructor/institution.
3. Feasibility of the timeline, work plan, and budget.

MicroGrant Information Session

MAC will host a **Live Zoom Info Session** on **Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 1:00 PM EDT**. This info session will cover the MicroGrant guidelines and preview the application webform, offering artists a chance to ask questions and learn more about the MicroGrant program and both the Matchmaker and Career Development funding streams.

Register for the live session here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/b7NgmzdsRUWMy7_4W4qzYw

When you register, you will receive an email with a private link to join the webinar. If you have any questions or did not receive your link, please contact info@macarts.ca.

This info session will be recorded and uploaded to MAC's YouTube channel. Once available, a link will be added to the MicroGrant page on our website here:

macarts.ca/programs/microgrants/

Important Dates and Deadlines

MicroGrants Open: Tuesday, August 6, 2026

Live Zoom Info Session: Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 1:00 PM EDT
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/b7NgmzdsRUWMy7_4W4qzYw
(Will be recorded and uploaded to MAC's YouTube channel).

MicroGrants Close: Monday, October 5, 2026, by 5:00 PM EDT

Winners Notified: Week of November 2, 2026 (TBC)

Winners Announced: Week of November 30, 2026 (TBC)

Project Eligible Window: January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027

Final Reports Due: 1 month after project completion (or by Dec 31, 2027, at the latest).

Application Form Requirements & Instructions

Both funding streams use the **same online webform**. You will select your desired stream via a dropdown menu at the beginning of Section 2. Because this single form accommodates both tracks, please review and follow these section-by-section instructions carefully.

Submit your application through the MicroGrant webform here:

<https://form.jotform.com/261893952573269>

Important: *Partially completed online applications **cannot be saved or edited later**. We strongly encourage you to gather, draft, and format all required text and documents before starting your online submission.*

- **View a layout preview of the webform here:**
macarts.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Fall-2026-MicroGrant-Sample-Application-Form.pdf

Section 1: Applicant Information (All Applicants)

This section collects your basic profile data and artistic background.

- **Contact Information:** Full name, email, phone number, and street address.
- **Artist Website/Social Media:** Link to your professional website or primary creative social channel.
- **Sauga Arts HUB Profile Link:** *(Optional)* Link to your artist profile, if applicable.
- **Document Upload – Artist CV/Resume:** Upload your current CV/Resume as a PDF.
- **Document Upload – Relevant Work Samples:** Upload **one single PDF** containing exactly three (3) work samples (images, text excerpts, or links to online media/videos). Include brief descriptions explaining how these samples demonstrate your capacity to successfully execute your proposed MicroGrant project. *Note: Ensure cloud links (Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.) have public viewing permissions.*

Section 2: Project Information & Tips

This section details your proposal. Pay close attention to stream-specific requirements to ensure your application is filled out correctly for the jury.

- **Funding Stream Dropdown:** Select either **Matchmaker MicroGrant** OR **Career Development MicroGrant**.
- **Project Name/Title & Project Description:** A clear title and concise summary of your project (Maximum 50 words).
- **Public Event & Communication Details** (Maximum 100 words):
 - **Matchmaker Applicants:** Detail your mandatory public-facing event in Mississauga and your communication plan to promote it.
 - **Career Development Applicants:** Type "**N/A – Career Development Stream**".
- **Intended Audience** (Maximum 100 words):
 - **Matchmaker Applicants:** Be specific about your target audience in Mississauga and how you will engage them.

- **Career Development Applicants:** Describe the audience you typically reach or aim to impact through your wider artistic practice.
- **Impact/Benefit Statement** (Maximum 200 words):
 - **Matchmaker Applicants:** Detail the short- and long-term impact of this project on the local community and the participating artists.
 - **Career Development Applicants:** Detail how this specific skill-building, mentorship, or capacity initiative will structurally advance your professional career.
- **Artists Involved:** Enter the total number of artists involved in the project **AND** the total number of those artists who are permanent Mississauga residents.
- **Project Start/End Dates:** Enter your proposed timeline. Ensure your dates align with program guidelines (activities must be completed between January 1, 2027, and December 31, 2027).
- **Document Upload – Project Proposal:** A comprehensive PDF detailing your project or development activity, key dates, and background profiles of any partners, mentors, venues, or institutions involved.
- **Document Upload – Work Plan/Timeline:** A clear PDF breakdown of your milestones, work stages, or curriculum schedules.
- **Optional Material:** You may include brief additional text comments in the box provided and/or upload **one (1) additional support document** (PDF) to provide further context for the jury. *This is entirely optional.*

Section 3: Budget Information

Your financial data must cleanly back up your project proposal and match the values in your uploads.

- **Document Upload – Project Budget:** Upload your completed standard MAC Budget Template as a PDF.
 - Download the Mandatory Budget Template (*Save a copy to your computer/Google Drive; do not request edit access*):
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HUI5mwXJBBSRmjya97sffmg0TSFLUggG5I0RBaQ-tk/copy>
 - **Matchmaker budgets** must demonstrate matching revenues (monetary or in-kind) balancing out total expenses.
 - **Career Development budgets** must reflect the total direct cost of the training, course, or mentorship.
- **Funding Amounts:**
 - Enter the **Total Expenses** for your project exactly as identified in your budget sheet.
 - Enter the exact amount of **MicroGrant Funding Requested** from MAC (Up to \$3,000 for Matchmaker; up to \$1,200 for Career Development). This must match your budget sheet request.

- **Funding Sources Description:** Briefly describe all confirmed revenue sources for your project.
 - **Matchmaker Applicants:** You must outline your mandatory confirmed matching revenue or in-kind contributions here.
 - **Career Development Applicants:** Enter "**N/A**" if you do not have or require outside revenue sources.
- **Past MAC MicroGrant History:** Select **Yes** or **No** to indicate if this project has received a MAC MicroGrant in the past.
 - *If you answer YES:* Describe how the project has substantially grown, evolved, or why it continues to have a vital impact on the community.

Section 4: Submission Confirmation

- **Review and Declaration:** The final page of the webform allows you to review your entries. You will be required to check a mandatory declaration box confirming that all information provided is true, accurate, and that you accept the program guidelines, jury finality, and funding policies of the Mississauga Arts Council.

Ready to submit your application?

Submit your application through the MicroGrant webform here:

<https://form.jotform.com/261893952573269>

Jury Assessment, Confidentiality, and Discretion

- **Independent Peer Jury Review:** All eligible applications are evaluated by an independent assessment panel (jury) consisting of arts professionals reflecting a diversity of practices.
- **Assessment Criteria:** Please refer to the assessment criteria for each funding stream above to better understand how your application will be evaluated. In addition to any funding stream-specific criteria, the jury will be reviewing all applications on the following:
 - Qualifications of the applicant to undertake the project as proposed in the application
 - Feasibility of the timeline and work plan
 - Realistic and detailed budget
- **Confidentiality of Deliberations:** To ensure a fair process, the identity of the jurors, individual scoring, and specific panel deliberations remain strictly confidential.
- **Finality of Decisions:** All funding recommendations made by the jury are final and binding. There is no appeal process, and decisions will not be overturned.
- **Constructive Feedback:** Unsuccessful applicants may request a general feedback summary by email within 30 days of notification. This feedback is intended solely as constructive, forward-looking guidance to help artists strengthen future proposals. MAC staff will not enter into debates or correspondence regarding the panel's final grading.
- **Available Funding Limitations:** The MicroGrant program is highly competitive. Meeting eligibility criteria and receiving a positive evaluation do not guarantee funding. Grants are awarded based on merit relative to other applications and are subject to the availability of funds. MAC reserves the right to award partial funding amounts.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

How do I submit a MicroGrant Application?

Once you have read these guidelines and prepared your application materials, you can use this link to submit your application for both the Matchmaker and Career Development MicroGrant funding streams: <https://form.jotform.com/261893952573269>

Can I apply for both streams if I have two completely different projects?

No. To ensure fair distribution of funds, applicants may only submit one application per funding round. Submitting to both streams will result in the disqualification of both applications. Please choose the stream that best fits your immediate needs.

Can I submit an application on behalf of my unregistered collective or arts group?

Yes. You will submit the application under your name as an individual, acting as the project lead. The lead applicant must hold a Mississauga address. Please contact info@macarts.ca to confirm your group's eligibility configuration before applying.

Can a registered non-profit organization or charity apply?

No. MAC MicroGrants are strictly for individual artists and unincorporated collectives. Registered non-profits and charities can seek funding through the City of Mississauga, The Hazel McCallion Foundation, or other arts grant funders.

How can I view the application questions to prepare my application?

All the application questions are listed in these guidelines. If you wish to see a sample application form, MAC has one available here:

<https://www.macarts.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Fall-2026-MicroGrant-Sample-Application-Form.pdf>

NOTE: You MUST submit your application using the webform. This document is for reference ONLY and is not an alternative submission option.

The application form requires text in the "Public Event" boxes, but I am applying for Career Development. What do I write?

Simply type "**N/A – Career Development Stream**" in that specific text field. The system will allow you to submit, and the jury will evaluate your application based on your career impact statement and your project proposal upload.

I already have a budget document, do I have to use MAC's template?

Yes. MAC requires all applicants to use our budget template for their MicroGrant application. You can save/download a copy here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HUI5mwXJBBSRmjya97sffmg0TSFLUggG5l0RBaQ-tk/copy>

If you have a detailed budget document you wish to share, you can upload it on page 2 in the OPTIONAL - Additional Upload section.

Do I need a matching budget for the Career Development stream?

No. Unlike the Matchmaker stream, which only covers 50% of a budget up to \$3,000, the Career Development stream requires no matching funds and can cover up to 100% of your eligible expenses up to the \$1,200 maximum cap.

What happens if my budget includes an ineligible expense?

Including an ineligible expense is acceptable to show the full scope of your project, but MAC's funding cannot be allocated to it. For Matchmaker grants, you must demonstrate that any ineligible expenses are covered by your matching corporate, personal, or alternative funding sources.

What counts as "In-Kind" support?

In-kind support refers to non-monetary contributions, such as donated professional services, volunteer hours, or venue space provided free of charge or at a documented, significant discount.

How do I sign up for the Info Session on September 9, 2026

The info session will be virtual on Zoom at 1pm on September 9, 2026. You can register for the web meeting here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/b7NgmzdsRUWMy7_4W4qzYw. When you complete the registration form, zoom will send you a private link to access the event.

Will MAC review my draft application before I submit it?

MAC staff can clarify eligibility and submission requirements but cannot review or provide feedback on the content or quality of your application materials before the jury deadline. We highly encourage applicants to attend the **Info Session on September 9, 2026**, or view our grant-writing webinars at macarts.ca/programs/td-culture-lab/.

What if I require accessibility support to apply?

If you require assistance or alternative formats to complete the online webform, please email info@macarts.ca well in advance of the deadline, and our team will coordinate support.

Who do I contact if I have further questions?

First, please review the guidelines and info session recording thoroughly. Additional inquiries can be directed to staff via email at info@macarts.ca. Please allow 2–3 business days for a response.