

## What is the Columbia River Basin Public Art Program?

The Columbia River Basin Public Art Program (the Program) supports the development, installation and display of permanent public art projects, where the art is produced by Basin artists and is focused on celebrating the community's connection to the Columbia River system and the local watershed. Projects will help enhance the public's sense of place.

The Program is administered by Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) and funded by the Trust.

## Who can apply?

Eligible applicants include local governments, non-profits and First Nations in the Columbia Basin Trust region ([ourtrust.org/map](https://ourtrust.org/map)). Individual artists are not eligible to apply.

## When is the application deadline?

September 29, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. PT / 3:00 p.m. MT.

## What types of projects are eligible?

The types of permanent public art to be supported in the Program will be determined by the applicant community. Examples of art works include:

- Sculpture
- Mural
- Installation
- Functional art (e.g. a walking bridge with relief sculpture, a park bench with engraving)

The art must be permanently displayed in broadly accessible public spaces or buildings. The applicant must own the property where the art is displayed or have secure and long-term access rights to the property.

Strong applications will demonstrate how the project enhances the public spaces, and the community's connection to the watershed. They will also demonstrate a plan to care for and maintain the public art, and the resources committed to do the same over time.

Artists selected to produce public art must reside in the Columbia Basin Trust region ([ourtrust.org/map](https://ourtrust.org/map)).

## What types of project costs are eligible?

Eligible project costs may include but are not limited to:

- public consultation;
- design solicitation or a public call for submissions;
- artist fees based on fair compensation (i.e. [Public Art Minimum Recommended Fee Schedule — CARFAC](#));
- project materials and mounting infrastructure; and
- site preparation, transportation, installation and signage.

### What types of projects are not eligible?

- Art that is already completed and intended to be purchased by the applicant.
- Art that is created by a resident outside the Basin.
- Art that is inconsistent with the spirit and intent of the Program.
- Art that does not celebrate the region or the community's connection to the Columbia River or local watershed.
- Projects that do not fairly compensate the Basin artist.
- Applicants that do not demonstrate community support for the work.

### How much will the Trust fund?

It is expected that the Trust will support up to 100% per cent of total project costs to a maximum of \$75,000.

### When will applicant communities hear the results?

The review process may take up to four weeks. CKCA or Trust staff may request additional information during the evaluation phase. Communities will be contacted by email to confirm if the project application has been approved for funding.

To finalize funding, CKCA and the recipient will sign a Contribution Agreement. Funds will be received after both parties sign the Agreement.

### When can a project begin?

Funds can only be used for approved project expenses that occur after approval of funding has been received and the Contribution Agreement has been signed.

### What else to keep in mind?

Even if a project meets eligibility criteria, it may not be selected for funding as the Trust and CKCA often receive requests for more funding than what is available. The Trust and CKCA retain the right to determine project eligibility and the amount of funding allocated to each project; this may be all or part of what was requested.

Depending on the nature of the project, applicants may have to obtain specific permits and approvals prior to receiving Trust funds.

### Ready to apply?

1. Contact the CKCA office to discuss and confirm eligibility.
2. Complete the online application form at <https://ckca.grantplatform.com/>.

### Questions?

Any additional questions should be directed to Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance by calling 250-352-2421 or by email at [admin@wkartscouncil.com](mailto:admin@wkartscouncil.com).