



Guelph Arts Council Artist Relief Fund Application Guidelines

Deadline: Ongoing

The Guelph Arts Council Artist Relief Fund provides short-term financial assistance to local artists living with debilitating health issues. The creation of this fund was in response to a growing community realization of the plight of self-employed artists whose health leaves them unable to work and, unfortunately, also unable to collect employment insurance or other government benefits. The funds that provide emergency financial assistance to these people in need are donated throughout the year.

Guelph Arts Council is making available an application form and a comprehensive list of additional resources. This will ensure that each applicant is informed about additional assistance even if an artist relief fund application is not approved.

Application process

Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Guelph Arts Council Artist Relief Fund Awards Committee. Not every applicant will be guaranteed funding; each application is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and the selection process is at the discretion of the Committee. The Committee has the right to ask applicants for additional information if such is required. All decisions of the Committee are final. Applicants will be contacted by telephone when the Committee has reached a decision.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants are selected based on their need for funds rather than on the quality of their artwork.

- Applicants must be professional artists living in Guelph/Wellington County and have earned their primary income through their artistic endeavours for more than a year.
- Applicants must provide support materials that reflect their health issues and their financial situation.

Amounts

The amount awarded is dependent on the number of applicants, the specific needs of each eligible artist and the amount of money available. The maximum amount available for each individual application is \$500.

Documentation

Along with a completed application form, applicants are required to submit a doctor's note outlining their current health situation. Copies of relevant medical bills and work-related invoices as well as the previous year's income tax return must also be submitted. This support documentation will not be returned to the applicant.

NOTE: Guelph Arts Council commits to maintaining confidentiality with respect to all personal and financial information provided in or with an Artist Relief Fund application.

Completed application forms and documentation should be sent to:

Guelph Arts Council
Attention: Artist Relief Fund Committee
147 Wyndham Street North - Suite 404
Guelph, ON N1H 4E9
Phone: 519-836-3280 Fax: 519-766-9212
admin@guelpharts.ca guelpharts.ca

(application form on next page)

Are you a member of any professional associations? Please specify:

Have you applied for additional funding elsewhere? Yes / No (Please circle)

If yes, with what organization? _____

Declaration

I, _____ (print name) certify that the information provided in the Guelph Arts Council Artist Relief Fund application and on any attached documents is correct and complete. I understand that Guelph Arts Council may contact my landlord, physician, or payee etc., or may contact me for additional information as may be deemed necessary to expedite the decision on this application.

Dated this _____ Day of _____, 20_____ .

Signed _____

Please list your fixed monthly expenses (you must submit all relevant bills or photocopies of bills with your application):

Housing (rent/mortgage/taxes/insurance)	\$ _____
Utilities including phone/internet	\$ _____
Transportation (public transit, car payments/insurance)	\$ _____
Food	\$ _____
Medical	\$ _____
Other _____	\$ _____

Please describe in the table below what form of financial assistance you are requesting, with specific dollar amounts for specific expenses (including any dollars that might already be spent with relevant receipts).

Expense	Amount	Payable to
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
Total amount requested	\$	(Maximum \$500)

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Application checklist:

- Completed Application form
- Current curriculum vita (CV) or résumé
- Financial documentation (copies of relevant invoices, bill statements, previous year’s income tax return [pages 1 and 2])
- Medical documentation confirming diagnosis and inability to work (doctor’s note)

Guelph Arts Council
Attention: Artist Relief Fund
147 Wyndham Street North, Suite 404
Guelph, ON N1H 4E9

Guelph Arts Council

Suggestions for Long-term Financial Support

Some applicants may require more financial support than the Guelph Arts Council Artist Relief Fund is able to offer them. Artists looking for long-term emergency financial support may wish to contact **Ontario Works** or the **Ontario Disability Support Program**.

Ontario Works provides financial and employment assistance to people in financial need. Every person has the right to apply for assistance and to have an application taken. Eligibility will depend on individual circumstances including income and assets. If an applicant is determined eligible for assistance, that individual will continue to receive assistance as long as he/she is eligible. The amount depends on family size, needs, income and willingness to participate in approved activities.

In Guelph, the Ontario Works office is located at 129 Wyndham Street North, Guelph, ON N1E 4E9 519-837-2670

<http://www.county.wellington.on.ca/social.aspx?id=11>

An applicant requiring long-term financial support may qualify for the **Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)**. This program helps people with disabilities who are in financial need pay for living expenses, like food and housing. The program provides eligible people with disabilities with both income and employment support.

Applicants must live in Ontario, require financial assistance and have a substantial physical or mental disability that is expected to last for a year or more. Each applicant's financial and disability status will be reviewed individually.

Individuals can apply for ODSP by first being accepted by Ontario Works and then receiving an ODSP application package through their Ontario Works support worker. The second choice to apply for ODSP is by going directly through ODSP which often is a longer process than through Ontario Works.

For additional information on the Ontario Disability Support Program, visit the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services office at 86 Gordon Street, Guelph, ON N1H 4H6 (Wellington Plaza) 519- 822-7500

<http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/mcass/english/pillars/social/odsp>