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Summary of the Peer Jury Feedback

Operational Support Program

April 30, 2026 Deadline

General Information and Data

- 55 applications to the Operational Support program were evaluated by a multidisciplinary jury of arts professionals.
- The jury was able to award a total of \$3,295,000 to 55 organizations who were evaluated in this program deadline (100% success rate, with a 66.1% funding rate).
- Of the 55 grants awarded, 13 were awarded to organizations who had not received Core support grant in the last cycle from the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture.
- Prior to peer jury evaluation, an additional 2 applications that were submitted were disqualified as they were incomplete.
- For more detailed information, please consult the [media release](#) featuring the results of this deadline.

Recommendations on application components

- The jury applauded the exceptional work being done by non-profit arts organizations in New Brunswick, especially the many multidisciplinary initiatives and opportunities for engagement with professional artists and with communities.
- The jury noted that many organizations were working with very small budgets, which was especially reflected in employee salaries and artist fee amounts. The jurors were hopeful that the increase to the Operational Support budget envelope would help address this lack of funding, especially as the new [Status of the Artist legislation](#) will require arts organizations that receive provincial funding to respect national fee scales as of April 2027. More information on the Status of the Artist and the SOA Toolkit compiled by the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture can be found [here](#).
- As the jury utilized the evaluation criteria in the [Operational Support program guidelines](#), they appreciated when applications demonstrated the following elements:
 - Strong governance, including:
 - Active board of directors
 - Clear and up to date strategic plan with achievable goals
 - Equity and inclusivity policies and/or practices with clear integration into operations
 - Diverse and robust partnerships
 - Dynamic programming
 - Sustainable growth over the years of operation
 - Consistent and transparent financial data
 - Good marketing and/or communications plan or practices, including an up-to-date website



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- The jury noted that there were many applications that used abstract or opaque language that made it difficult to evaluate an organization's delivery of their programs and services; they recommended that applicants use clear and concise language and/or data to describe their organization's activities and impact.
- The jury recommended that applicants write their application with a multidisciplinary artistic audience in mind. When describing the organization and its programs and services, be sure to describe it in a way that will be understandable by a jury of arts professionals from a variety of backgrounds, as one or more jurors may not be as familiar with the context or needs of your specific community or discipline.
- The jury noted that several applications highlighted activities that seemed outside of the scope of the organization's stated mandate. The jurors encouraged organizations to consider whether their programming is aligned with their mandates.
- The jurors encouraged organizations to indicate clearly when there are activities that have confirmed funding through other revenue sources.
- The jury appreciated seeing diversified and contemporary programming that was relevant to the organization's communities, and they were especially pleased to see the impact and benefit of organizations who prioritized working with New Brunswick artists.
- The jury noted that it was sometimes difficult to understand the relationship between the applicant organization and other organizations that work closely together. The jurors encouraged applicants to explain these relationships so that they better understand the context.
- The jury encouraged organizations to continue exploring options to diversify their revenues where possible, including private donations, fundraising, federal grants, provincial project grants, etc.

Other programs that may interest the organizations who applied to this program deadline:

- Organizations who receive Operational Support grants remain eligible to apply to artsnb's Artist in Residence program for projects that are not part of their regular activities supported by the Operational Support grant. Please refer to the [Artist in Residence program guidelines](#) or email prog@artsnb.ca with questions.
- Organizations who receive Operational Support grants remain eligible to apply to the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture's (THC) grant programs for other projects. Organizations may consult the updated programs available on the [THC website](#), or contact THC with questions at culture@gnb.ca.
 - The [Capacity Building program](#) offers grants to arts organizations and cultural industries, either in Organizational Capacity Building or Arts Sector Capacity Building.
 - The [Community Arts Impact program](#) offers support for small- and larger-scale community arts activities and projects.
 - The [Export and Market Access program](#) helps New Brunswick arts organizations and cultural industries export or tour their creative works.



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- The [Explore NB Event Fund](#) supports established festivals/events of two (2) consecutive days or longer that demonstrate a tourism impact in their area.