

SUPPORTING CANADIAN ARTISTS POST-PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic has now upended the Canadian arts scene for over 18 months. In a field that relies predominantly on events, performances, exhibitions and classes to turn a profit, artists were some of the hardest hit by the economic fallout:

80%

OF ARTISTS LOST
INCOME DURING THE
PANDEMIC

40%

OF ARTISTS WERE ON
THE VERGE OF FOOD
INSECURITY

"Never have I seen our community of artists face a greater challenge. They need us to step up for them now, as they are stepping up for us in providing hope, connection and joy."

-Tim Jones, CEO of Artscape-
Canadian arts non-profit



Despite these industry barriers, artists have persisted. Canadian creatives have responded to the pandemic by constructing new methods to interact with their audiences and continue creation:



TRANSITIONING TO
ONLINE GALLERIES



PERFORMING IN
ONLINE CONCERTS



STREAMING
DANCE/THEATRE

SO HOW CAN WE SUPPORT THEM?

BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE

In March, leaders of major Canadian arts organizations called on the federal government to institute a basic income guarantee for artists. This would ensure an income floor to anyone in need and supports artists in times of disaster and instability.



INVEST IN AN EQUITABLE ART SCENE

The Canadian Council for the Arts' 2021-2026 Strategic Plan for rebuilding post-pandemic noted that COVID-19 brought increased awareness of the systemically oppressive foundations of the arts sector. Supporting artists means diverting funds in Indigenous, Black, disabled and queer art spaces.



PROMOTING ACCESS FOR ARTISTS

According to the CCA, advancing universal access to digital and financial resources for artists and art groups is central to supporting Canadian artists. This is particularly integral in areas such as Northern Canada whose resources are scarce.



RESPECT THE VALUE OF ARTS

With the pandemic came a reckoning of the often precarious gig-economy life of Canadian artists. Art groups are calling on organizations and individuals to advocate for arts by consistently funding local, BIPOC artists and by considering the ways the art sector contributes to social cohesion and community.



RESOURCES FOR CANADIAN ARTISTS

AKIN RELIEF FUND

The Akin Collective's Rent Relief Fund works to provide Akin creatives with anonymous emergency grants in times of unexpected financial emergencies

1



2

TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL

TAC regularly bulletins emerging grants and COVID-19- related updates for artists, including ways you can help the Toronto arts community thrive

BEHIND THE SCENES

Behind The Scenes provides financial support to entertainment and technology professionals in need

3



4

GLAD DAY FUND

Glad Day has set up an emergency fund to help LGBTQ2S artists, performers & tip-based workers. The fund is also available for donations

SOURCES

TORONTO ARTSCAPE FOUNDATION 2020 ARTIST SUPPORT REVIEW: <https://bit.ly/3robFwN>

CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS 2021-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN: <https://bit.ly/3lqpHu2>

AKIN COLLECTIVE RESOURCES FOR ARTISTS LIST: <https://bit.ly/3Ei8evy>