Canada Council for the Arts | Conseil des arts du Canada

Applying to the Canada Council for the Arts

October 16, 2025

Land Acknowledgement

The Canada Council's offices, located in Ottawa, are on the **unceded, unsurrendered Territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation** whose presence here reaches back to time immemorial.

Introductions

Webinar Team

Gabriel Zamfir-Enache, Program Director

Lien De Nil, Program Manager

Jorge Espinosa, Program Officer

Patrick McCormack, Program Officer

Agenda

- Context and **Overview**
- **Funding** opportunities
- **Tips**, Advice and Tools
- The **new portal**

The Canada Council for the Arts: Who we are and what we do

We are proud to be Canada’s public arts funder

We award grants to individuals, groups and organizations to carry out their arts projects and activities

We award prizes in recognition of outstanding achievements

We support other initiatives including the Art Bank, Âjagemô, the Public Lending Right Program and international initiatives such as the Venice Biennale of Architecture

Programs

Canada Council grants are organized into 5 main Programs that support a wide range of artistic activities and the arts sector.

Each Program offers grants which are called funding opportunities.

- Explore and Create
- Engage and Sustain
- Creating, Knowing and Sharing: The Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples
- Supporting Artistic Practice
- Arts Across Canada and Abroad

Supporting Artistic Practice

Supports Canadian arts professionals, groups and arts organizations who champion the Canadian arts sector, boost the capacity for artists to realize work and advance the conditions of creation.

Funding opportunities in this Program:

- Sector Support, Innovation and Development
- Composite Activities
- Literary Publishing Projects
- Literary Publishers
- Support Organizations
- National Arts Service Organizations

Funding Opportunities

Sector Support, Innovation and Development

Composite Activities

Literary Publishing Projects

Microgrants

Core funding for Support Organizations and Literary Publishers

Sector Support, Innovation and Development

Sector Support, Innovation and Development (SSID) funds projects by artists, arts professionals, groups and organizations. These projects **encourage and support the ongoing growth**, **strengthening** and **development** of the arts sector.

This grant supports activities that meet of the following objectives:

- **Improve**, **build** and **innovate** the Canadian arts **sector's capacity** to support the arts and artists.
- **Strengthen** and **develop** the arts sector by supporting collaboration, targeted initiatives and career development opportunities for **Canadian arts professionals.**

What has changed?

More support for sector development!

All eligible applicants can now apply for capacity building and organizational development projects, including core grant recipients.

Open and accessible to more profiles!

Artists, arts workers and First Nations, Inuit or Métis artists or arts/cultural workers can now apply

More flexibility!

No deadline!
Apply any time before the start date of your project or activity

Professional development, workshops series, training, mentorships, conferences, symposia.

Exploring or implementing innovative solutions to complex sectoral issues.

Capacity-building activities to improve the internal working of your organization, or to strengthen your capacity to better support your arts community.

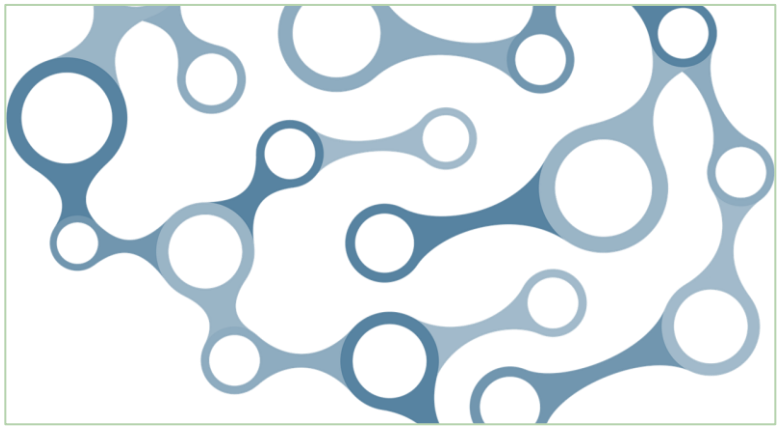
Gathering and sharing knowledge through research, publishing or networking to support support artistic or literary practice.

Sector Support, Innovation and Development: Details

How Much?

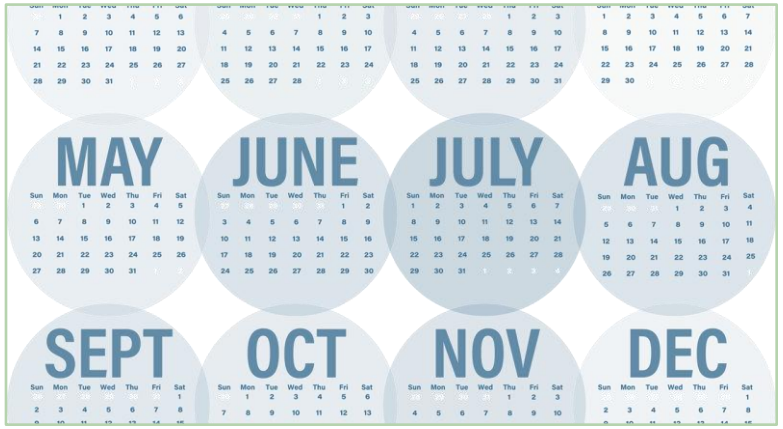
Up to $100,000 per application.

You can request up to $100,000 per year.



How often?

You can submit 2 applications per year (January 1 to December 31)



When can I apply?

Apply anytime before the start of your project.

Literary Publishing Projects

Funds Canadian publishers of literary books and magazines committed to developing and promoting Canadian literary authors through the publishing process. Grants support the publication of literary books and magazines written by Canadian authors.

To be eligible your organization must pay fees or royalties according to the standards of the arts practice and fulfill contractual obligations related to copyright payments, at the application deadline

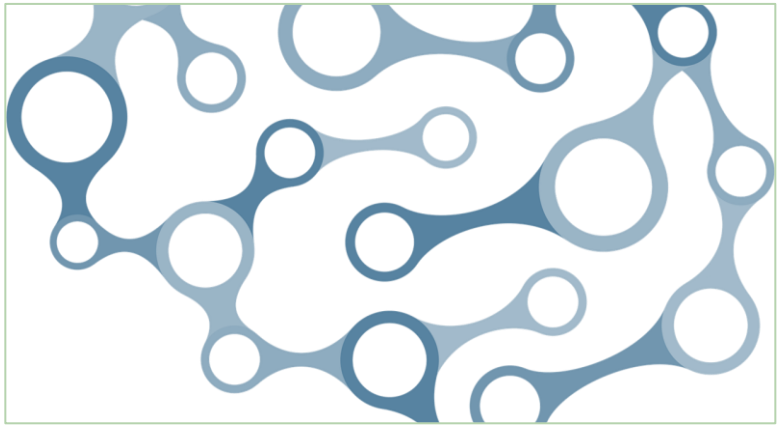
- Creative writing magazines must have published at least 2 print issues of the magazines in the year preceding the application.

- Electronic creative writing magazines must have been available and maintained a publishing program for at least 12 months before the deadline.

Literary Publishing Projects: Details

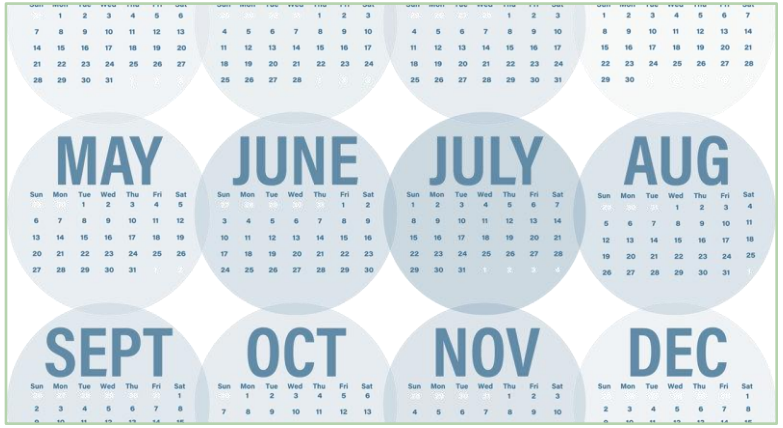
How much?

Up to $30,000



How often?

You can submit 1 application per year (January 1 to December 31)



When can I apply?

Spring 2026

Composite Activities

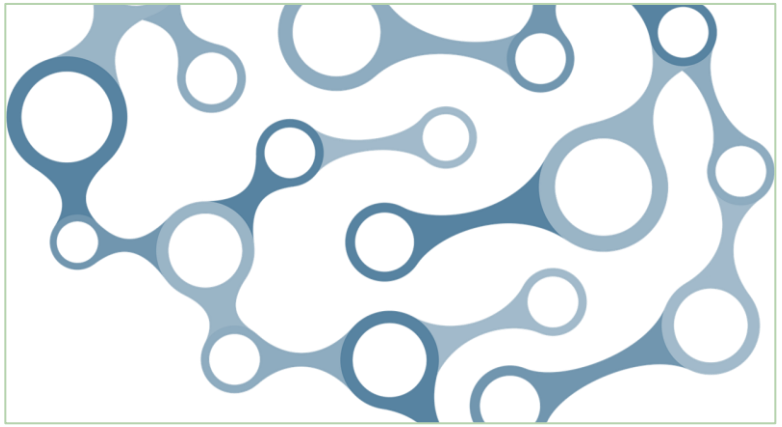
Composite Activities will provide **multi-year** activity support for **Canadian artists, arts and cultural workers, artistic groups and organizations** to carry out multiple, large, or complex projects, for a period of up to 3 years. Grants support a wide range of activities that meet one or more of the following objectives:

- Support the **artistic process** from research to presentation
- Support the **publication** of literary books and magazines authored by Canadian writers
- Improve and innovate the Canadian arts sector's capacity to **support the arts and artists**
- Develop and improve ways for the public to **engage** with Canadian artworks and artists
- Develop and **support markets** for Canadian arts both domestically and abroad.

Composite Activities: Details

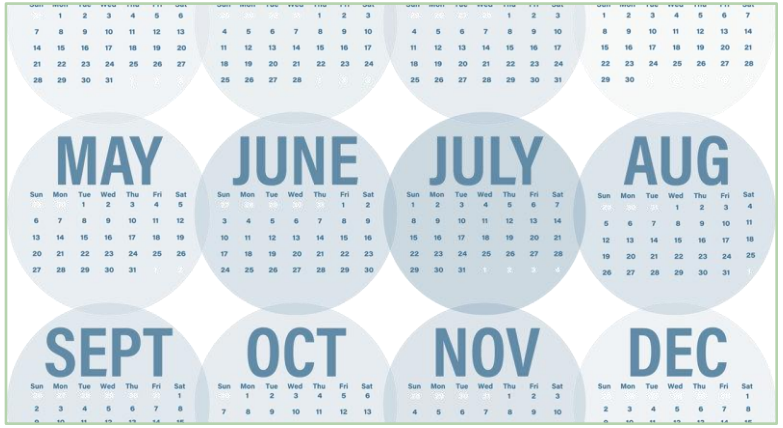
How Much?

Up to $100,000 per year for up to 3 years, for a maximum of $300,000.



Am I Eligible?

You must have received either **2 project grants or a single composite grant in the last 5 years.**



How many deadlines?

One deadline per year

One application per deadline

First deadline is November 5

Wide Range of Activities

A wide range of activities can mean many things. For example, it could include more than one discipline, phase, or activity.

Projects no longer need to focus on one thing. You have an opportunity to expand and explore and create multifaceted projects.

Activities previously supported through composite grants continue to be eligible.

Microgrants

Funds activities that will grow and advance your artistic career or practice.

Micro-grants supports a wide range of activities which were previously funded by:

- Explore and Create: Professional Development for Artists
- Supporting Artistic Practice: Professional Development for Arts Professionals
- Arts Across Canada: Travel
- Arts Abroad: Travel

Microgrants: What can you apply for?

A microgrant project may consist of one or more of the following activities:

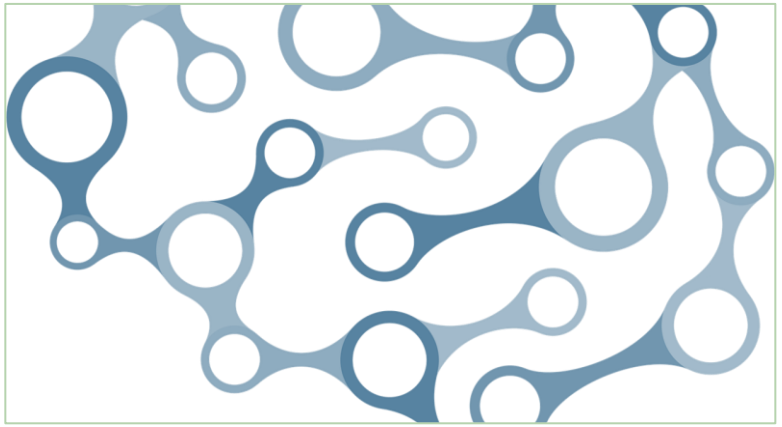
- Career or artistic development and acquiring knowledge
- Increasing accessibility for audiences, artists and/or arts workers who are Deaf or have disabilities
- Market and network development
- Participation in a presentation or exhibition opportunity

Microgrants: Details

How much?

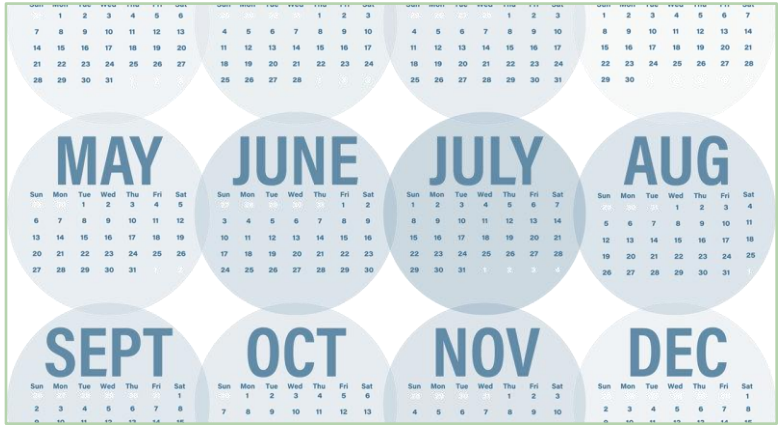
Up to $10,000 per application.

You can receive up to $30,000 per year



How often?

You can submit 3 applications per year (January 1 to December 31)



When can I apply?

Apply any time before the start of your project, activity or departure date.

Core grants

Support Organizations

Literary Publishers

Support Organizations

Support Organizations provides multi-year funding to Canadian arts organizations that reinforce Canadian art practice through a range of targeted activities and services, including those that bolster the creative and professional capacities of artists of all disciplines.

This core grant is for:

- ✓ Activities and services that provide targeted resources and opportunities for the development of a particular artistic practice, group of artists and/or arts organizations
- ✓ Support services or platforms
- ✓ Magazine publishing for **magazines about the arts and literature**
- ✓ Agency or management services

Important information

Here are some important details to note for the Support Organizations core funding deadline

The next deadline is in **April 2026**

This will be for a 4-year cycle starting in 2027

Fiscal years starting in 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030

We will be hosting **webinars** this winter to help you prepare

Literary Publishers

Literary Publishers provides multi-year funding to Canadian publishers of literary books and magazines committed to developing and promoting Canadian literary writers and artists through the publishing process.

This core grant is for:

- ✓ Contribution towards activities that develop and promote Canadian literary writers and artists through the publishing process.
- ✓ **Creative writing magazines**

Important information

Here are some important details to note for core grants from the Literary Publishers component

Remember to submit your **annual reports** through the new portal

The next core funding deadline will be in **spring 2027**

If you have **questions** please reach out to us via the portal

CADAC form for publishers and magazines

CADAC is a joint effort of arts funders across the country and is dedicated to the collection, dissemination, and analysis of financial and statistical information about Canadian arts organizations in a system of record.

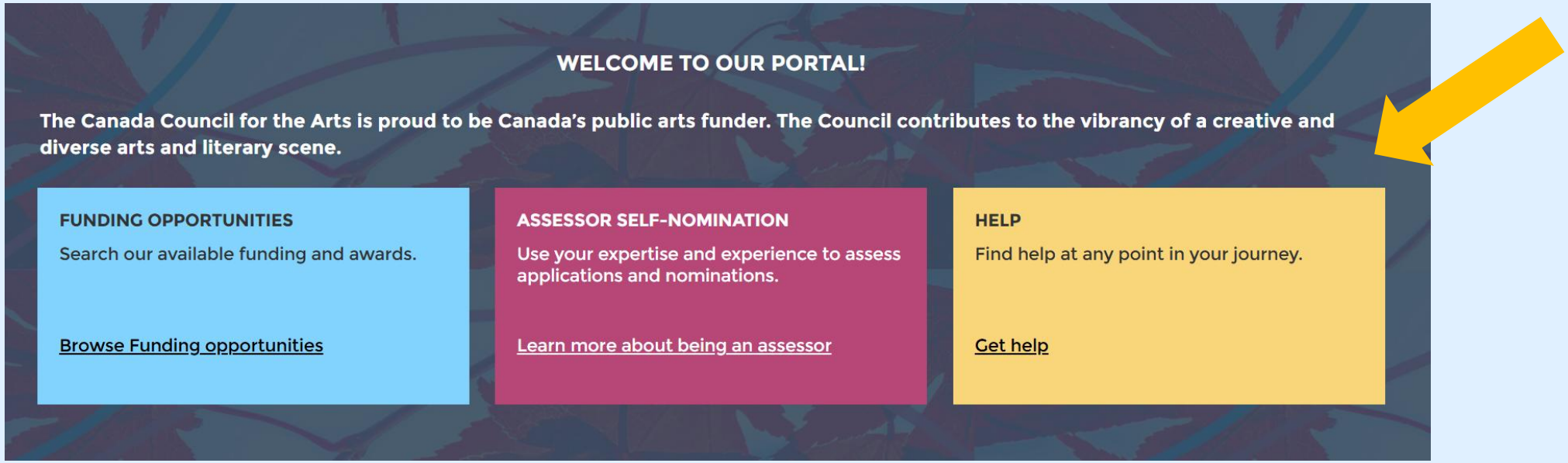
CADAC provides a simplified process, standardized forms and a web-based application to arts organizations applying for operating (core) grants to submit financial and statistical information for use by funding agencies.

CADAC form for publishers and magazines

- ✓ Financial reporting will shift to CADAC before the next core funding deadline.
- ✓ The CADAC team will be sending out invitations to participate in training in late fall/early winter.
- ✓ Once you have received the training, magazines will be asked to move their financial reporting to CADAC.
- ✓ Until then, you can continue to use the existing excel document for financial reporting to release any outstanding core payments.

Contact us

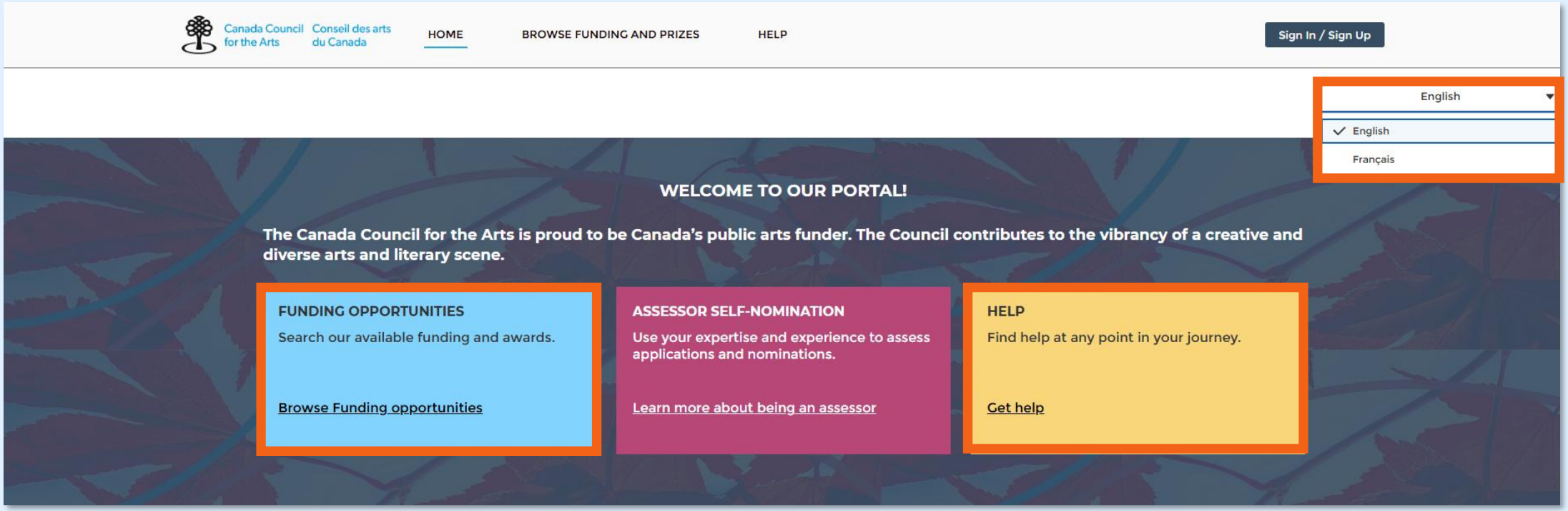
If you have other questions, please contact us through the **help function** in the portal:



or at: supportingartisticpractice@canadacouncil.ca

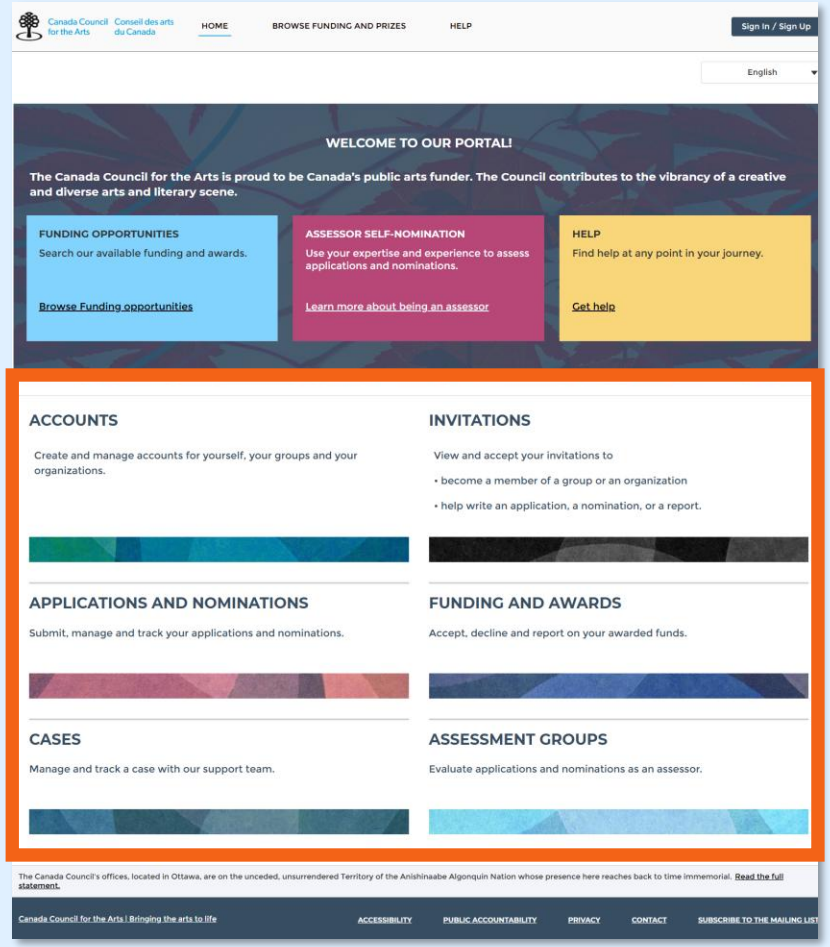
Welcome to the portal

Visit the portal to browse funding opportunities (grants and prizes) and get help from the Canada Council in your preferred language.



What you can do with a portal account

- submit applications and nominations
- track and report on funding awards and payments
- securely manage your account and banking information
- self-nominate to be an assessor
- keep track of your communications with the Council



Sign up for a portal account

Whether you're new to the Canada Council, or had an account in the previous portal, you need to sign up for an account in our updated portal to:

apply for funding opportunities

self-nominate to be a peer assessor

track your funding awards and payments

access all available portal features

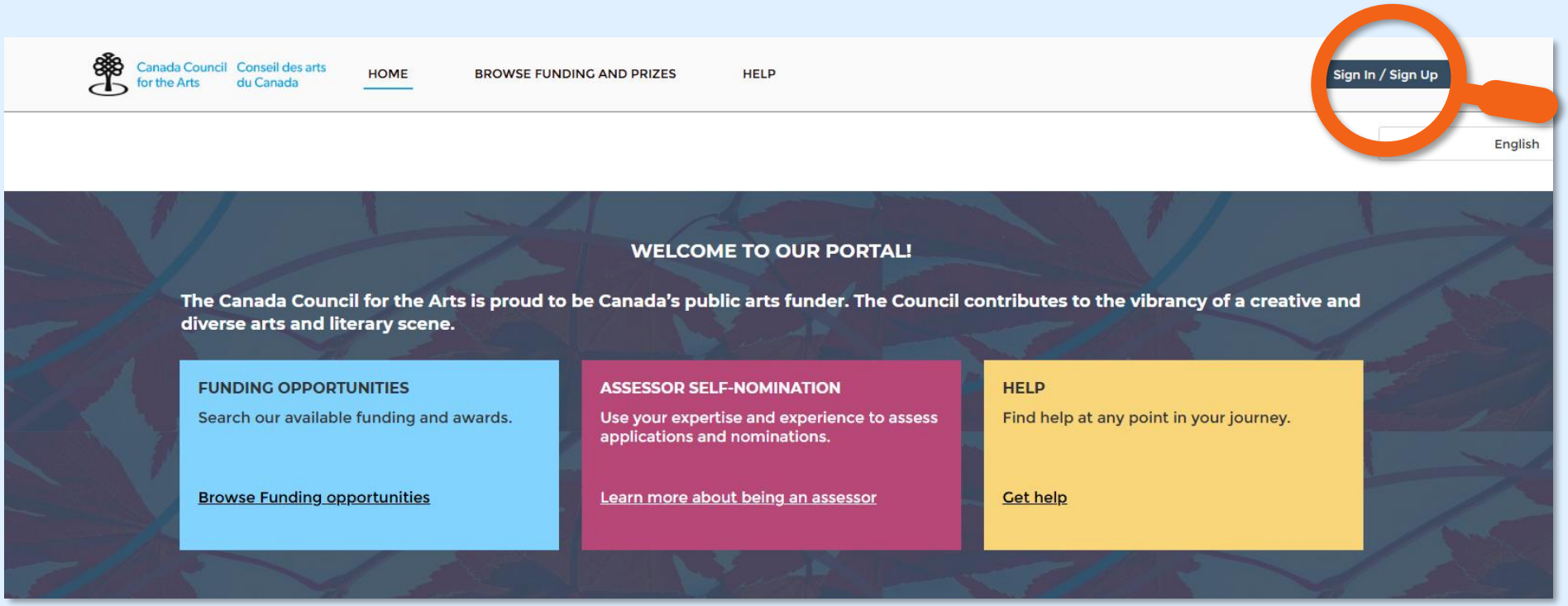
Did you have an account in the previous portal?

Your account details and **application history** will be carried over to the updated portal.

Use the **same email address** from your previous account when setting up your new account.

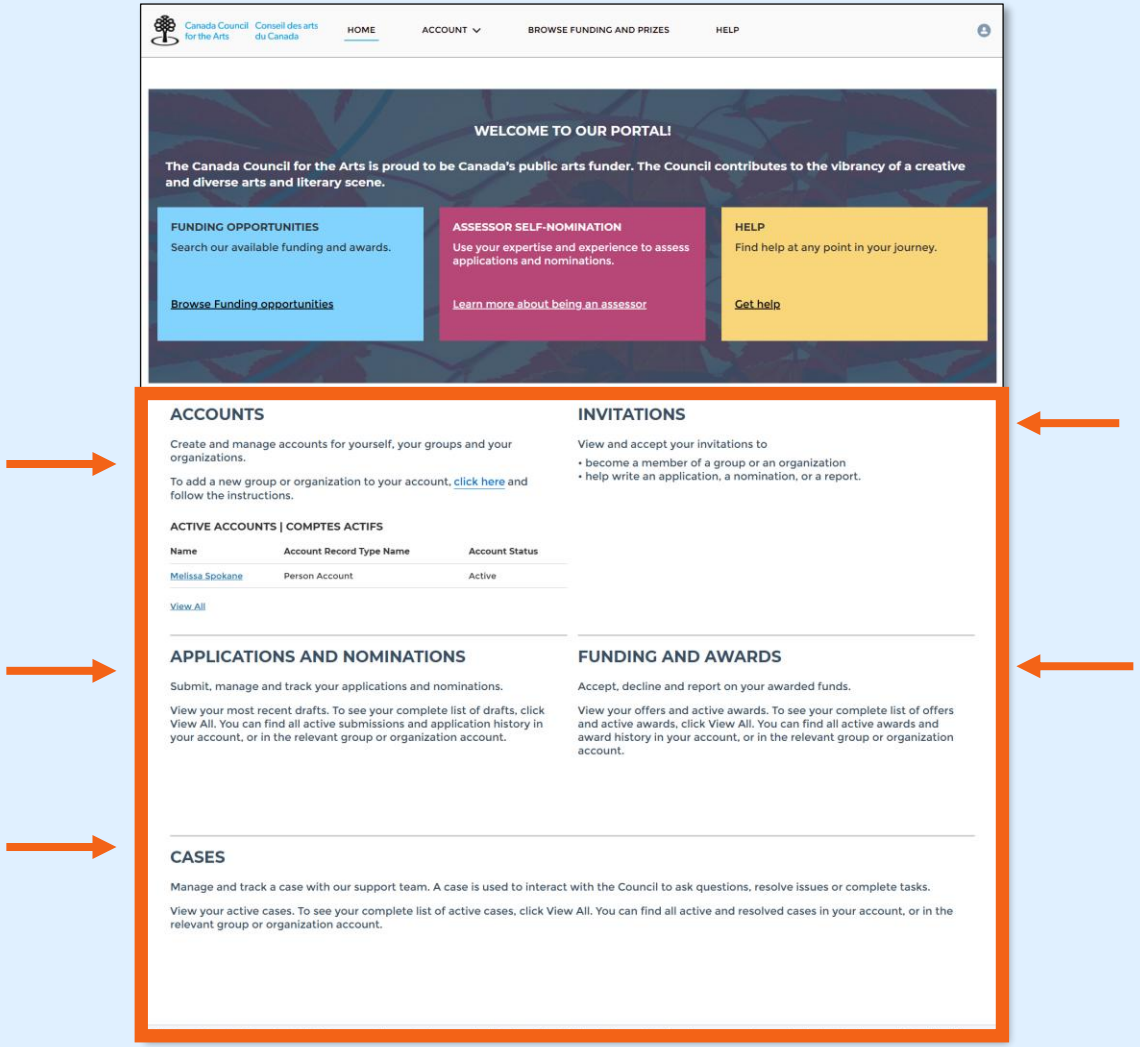
Prefer a different email? Create your account with your preferred email, then use the **help** feature to request that your previous account information is linked.

How to sign up for an account



Need help? Consult our how-to video, Self-Study Guides and Quick Reference Guides at canadacouncil.ca/funding/resources

Sign in to your account



Applicant profile categories

- You need an applicant profile to apply for grants.
- Profile category determines eligibility for specific funding opportunities.
- 9 easy-to-navigate profile categories.
- Profile descriptions in the Granting Eligibility section of your account.
- Select the profile that best matches your work and activities.

1. Artist or arts worker
2. Artistic group
3. Arts supporting group
4. Artistic organization
5. Presenting organization
6. Supporting organization
7. Business cultural connector
8. Foreign arts festival, biennale or book fair
9. Foreign publisher or theatre

First Nations, Inuit and Métis applicant profiles

Applicants who belong to First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities can select one of these profiles:

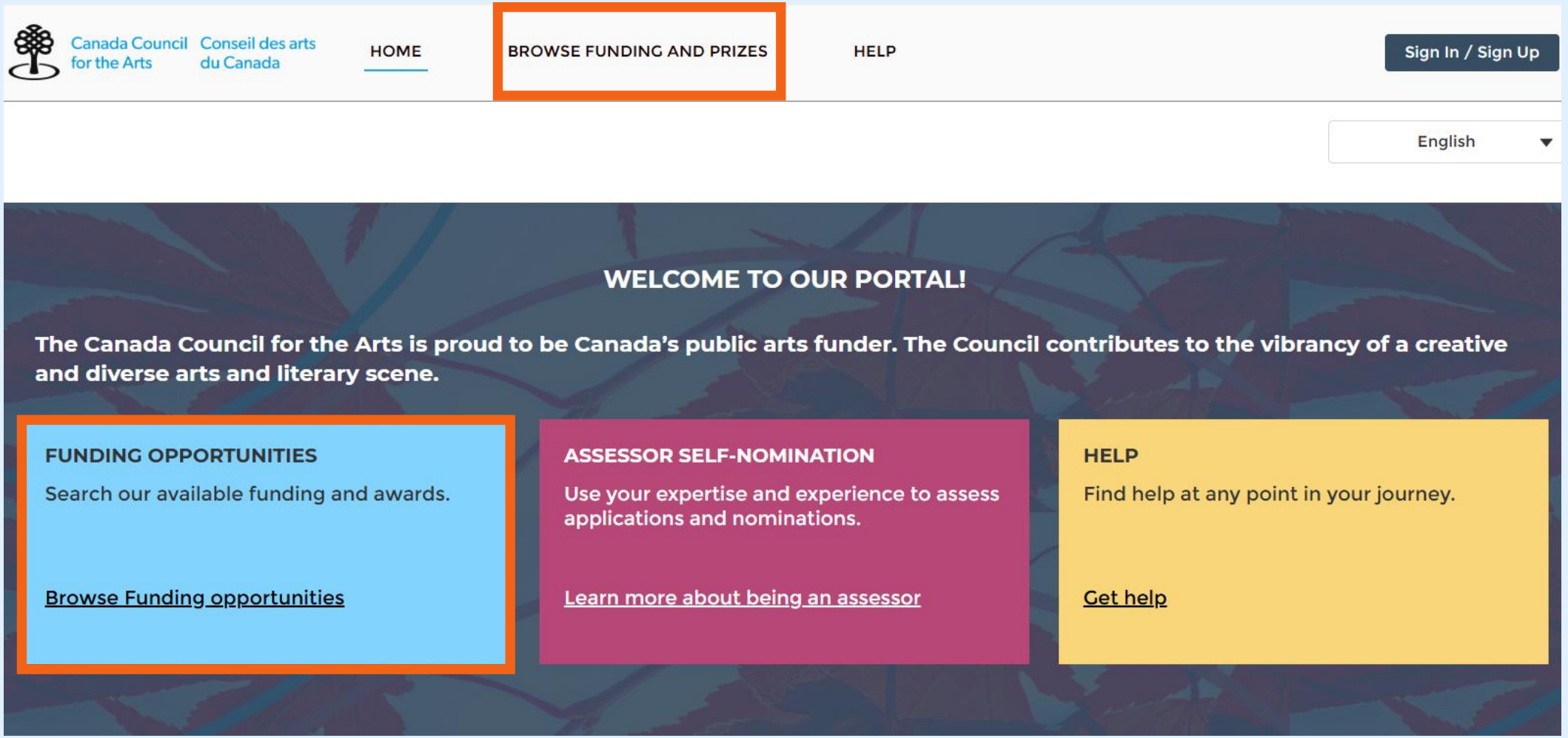
1. First Nations, Inuit or Métis Cultural Carrier
2. First Nations, Inuit or Métis Artist or arts/cultural worker
3. First Nations, Inuit or Métis emerging artist
4. First Nations, Inuit or Métis group or collective
5. First Nations, Inuit or Métis not-for-profit organization
6. First Nations, Inuit or Métis for-profit organization

To reduce barriers for First Nations, Inuit or Métis applicants, these profiles provide access to all the Council's funding opportunities, beyond Creating, Knowing and Sharing: The Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples program.

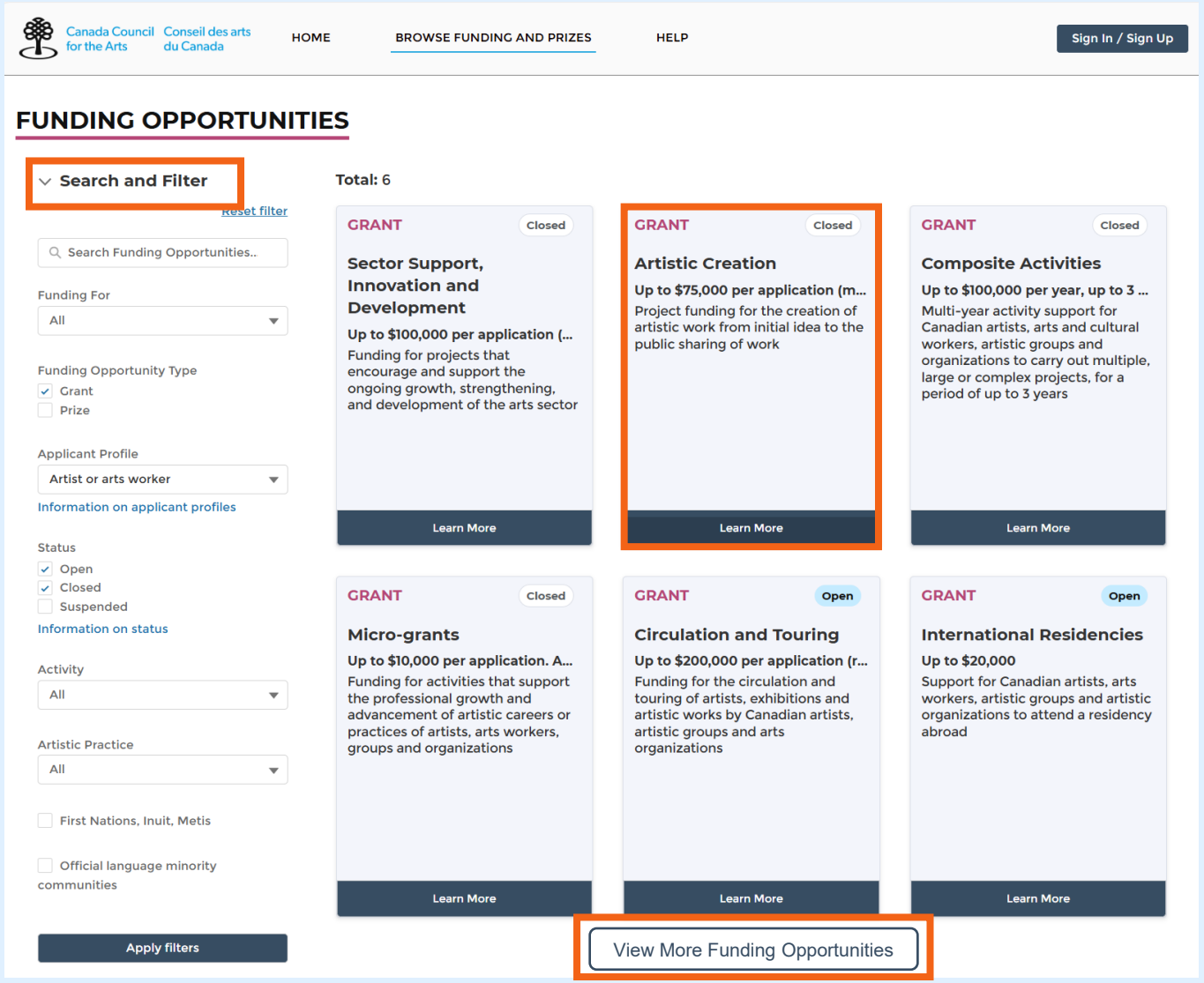
Did you have an applicant profile in the previous portal?

- You do not need to create a new profile.
- Your previous profiles and account information, including your **application history**, will be transferred when you open an account in the updated portal.

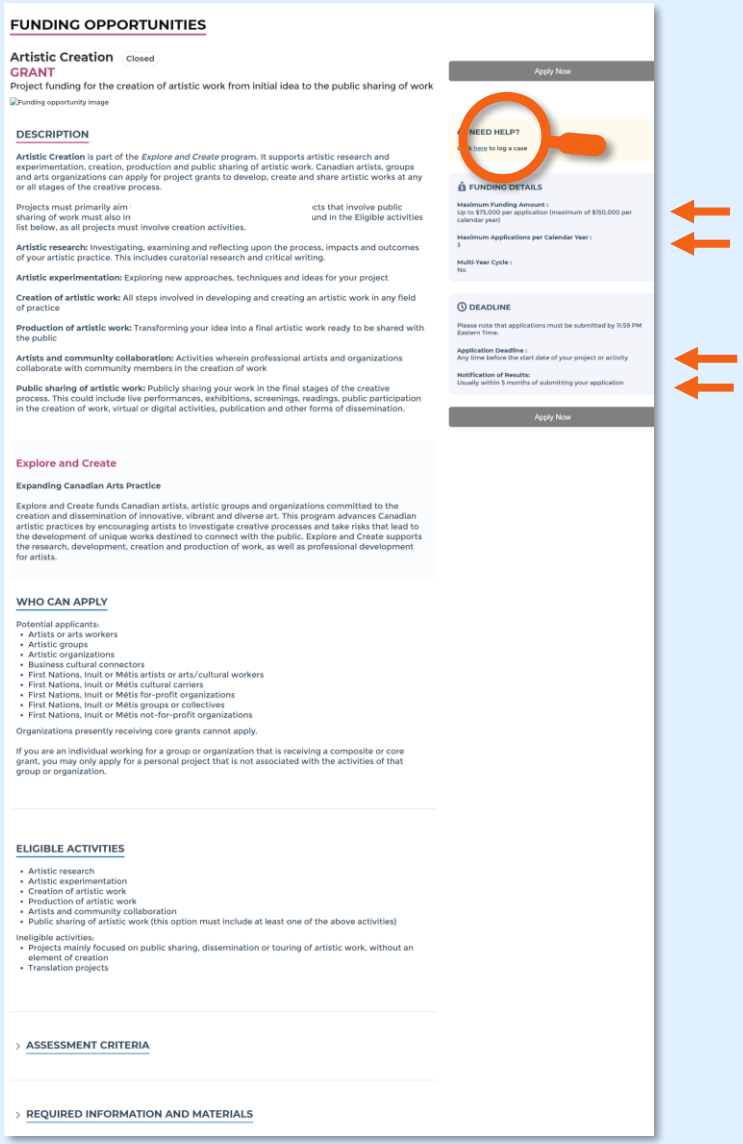
Browse funding opportunities



How to browse for funding opportunities

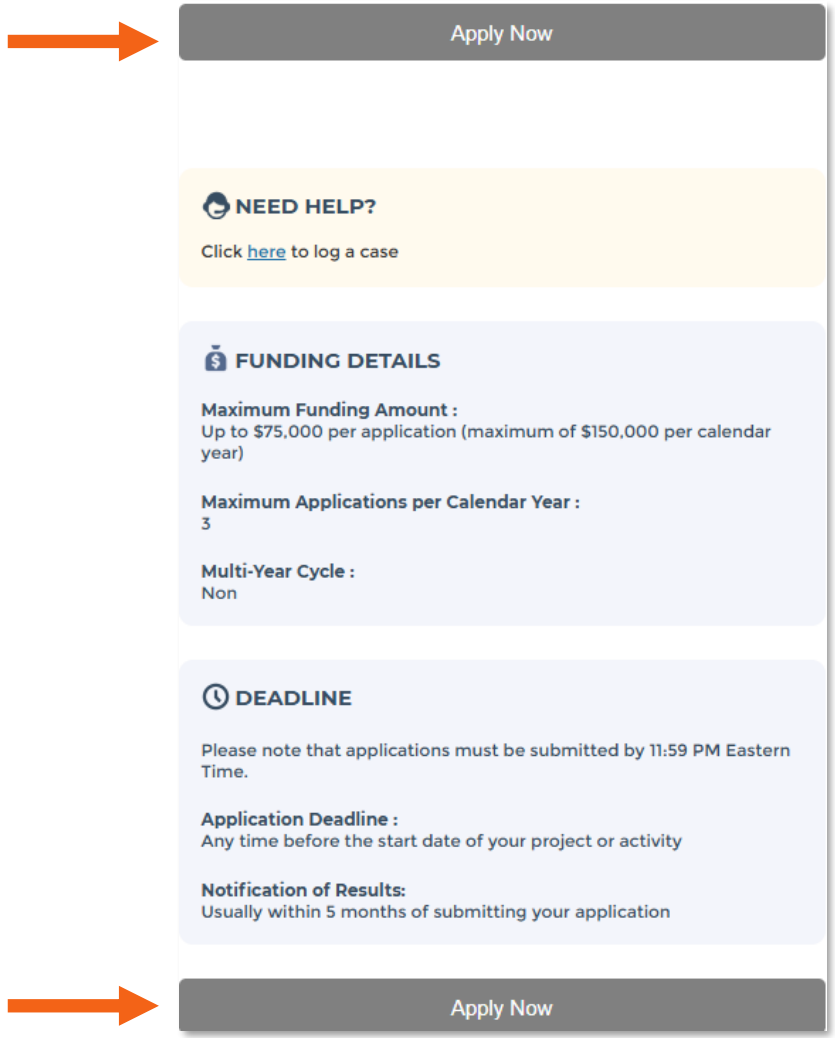


View funding opportunity details



Ready to apply for funding?

- ☑ Add an applicant profile
- ☑ Select a Funding Opportunity
- ☑ Complete Checklist items
- ☑ Start your application



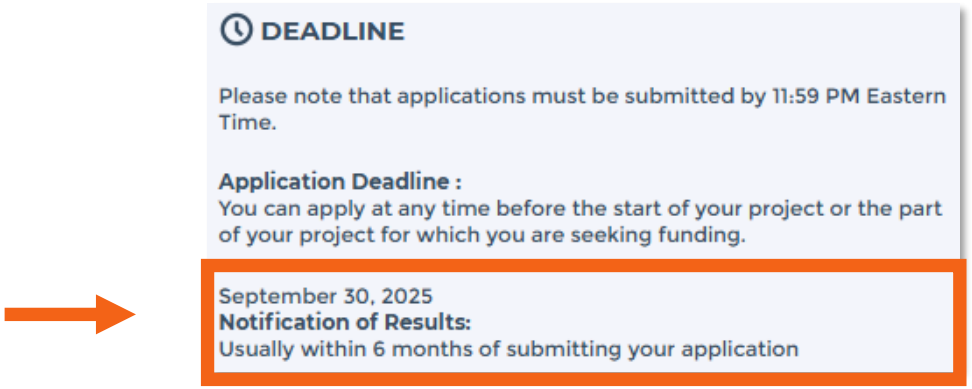
Funding results

Funding decisions are based on the ranking determined by the peer assessment committee.

Applications that ranked highly will receive funding, while those that did not score highly enough, will not receive funding.

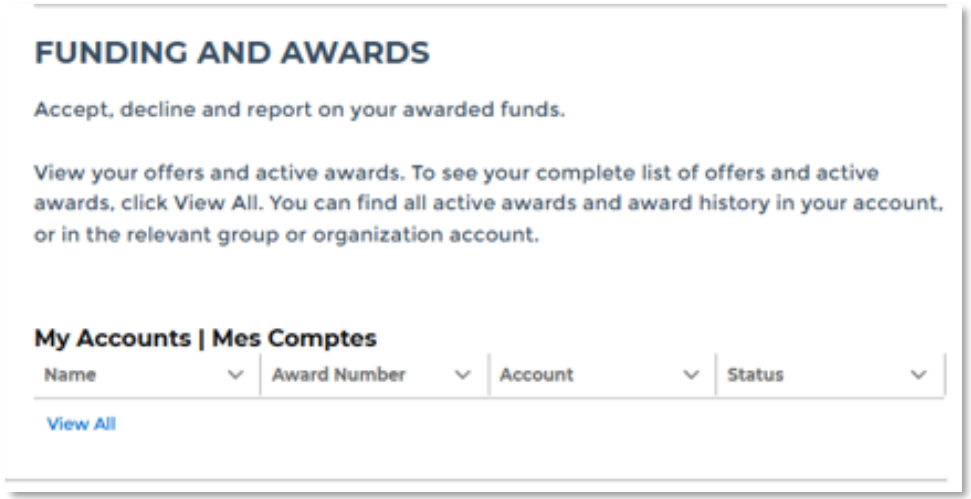
Once results are released, you will receive an email with your funding result and your application scores.

The notification of results date is found on the specific Funding Opportunity webpage.



If you are awarded funding

- ☑ Accept or decline your funding by the date in the **Funding Awards Checklist**
- ☑ Complete the **Checklist**
- ☑ Ensure your banking details are up-to-date
- ☑ Keep track of your payments



If you are not awarded funding

Keep the following in mind:

The assessment process is very competitive

Our budget is limited, and we cannot support all applications

It does not mean that your project or activity lacks merit

The context changes with each competition

Planning to re-apply?

Review your application scores to identify strengths and areas of improvement

Check the deadline and annual application limits for your selected Funding Opportunity

Reflect any changes to your timeline, participants, budget and other key details in your new application

Get a fresh perspective! Ask a friend for constructive feedback about your application

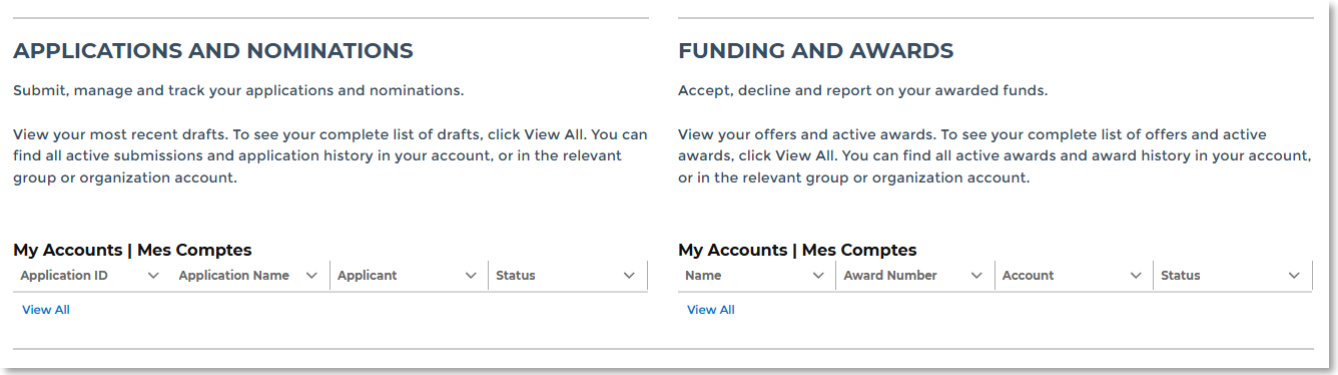
Keep any support material links active until the notification of results date

Manage and track your applications and Funding Awards

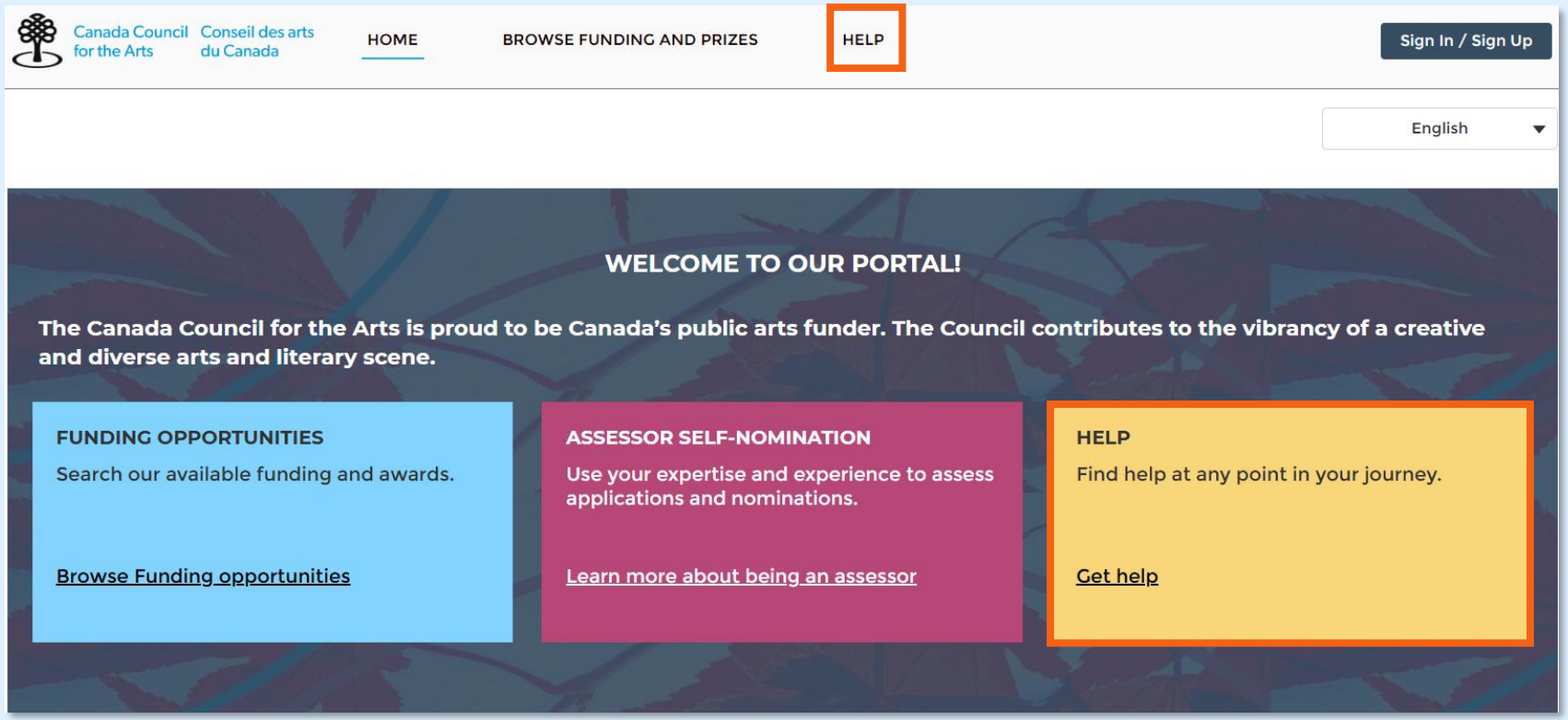
Track the status of your applications

View and **manage** your awarded funds in the Funding Awards section of your portal account.

Access your **application history** and **awards** over time.



How to get help



More resources

Consult the Guidance and Resources webpage to find more helpful resources and tools at canadacouncil.ca/funding/resources

Videos, Self Study and Quick Reference Guides to help you create an account, navigate, and manage your funding awards in the portal.

Details about upcoming webinars and information sessions

Detailed information about Application Assistance

Guidance and a template to help you create an arts and cultural CV