

Resources/Support for the Arts & Culture Sector

1. City of Mississauga measures that apply to arts & culture groups

- **Mississauga Business Enterprise Centre – COVID 19 Support – City of Mississauga**
<https://www.thefutureisunlimited.ca/covid-19/?campaign=mbec-banner>
 - The Economic Development Office has created an online portal to offer businesses affected by COVID-19 the most up to date information as it becomes available
 - MBEC continues to provide support to Mississauga businesses by phone, email, and online web conferencing during regular business hours
- **City of Mississauga Business Licensing – City of Mississauga**
<https://web.mississauga.ca/city-of-mississauga-news/covid-19/guidance-for-businesses/>
 - All fines, penalties and late fees have been temporarily suspended for any licence that has expired after March 1, 2020
 - Business licenses that have expired since March 1, 2020 are extended until further notice
 - New licence applications are suspended until further notice
 - Complaints related to business licensing will still be investigated
- **Sign By-law and Portable Signs on Road Allowances Corporate Policy Amendments – City of Mississauga**
<https://web.mississauga.ca/city-of-mississauga-news/news/mississauga-city-council-provides-additional-relief-in-response-to-covid-19/>

Council has amended the Sign By-law and Portable Signs on Road Allowances Corporate Policy to provide additional advertising opportunities for businesses and community groups during the COVID-19 pandemic.

 - Three additional portable signs per street front are added without a permit
 - The maximum display period was extended from 21 days to 30 days
 - The number of permits per group was increased from 10 to 15 per year

2. Government of Canada support

- **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) – Government of Canada**
<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html>

Temporary income support for individuals forced to stop work because of COVID-19. The CERB currently provides \$500 a week for up to 16 weeks.

The Benefit is available to workers:

- Residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old
- Who have stopped working because of reasons related to COVID-19 or are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits or have exhausted their Employment

Insurance regular benefits or Employment Insurance fishing benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020

- Who had employment and/or self-employment income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application
- Who have not quit their job voluntarily

An important clarification on artist earnings and royalties: On April 15, Minister of Canadian Heritage Steven Guilbeault confirmed that artists who are earning less than \$1,000 a month through their sources of income can still qualify for the CERB. The Minister also clarified that royalty payments are not included as a source of income, which means that royalties can be earned without penalty or loss of eligibility for the CERB.

- **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) – Government of Canada**

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/24/prime-minister-announces-partnerships-provinces-and-territories>

The federal government has partnered with provinces and territories to deliver commercial rent assistance for small businesses.

- Forgivable loans to qualifying commercial property owners to cover 50% of three monthly rent payments that are payable by eligible small business tenants experiencing financial hardship during April, May, and June
- Loans will be forgiven if the mortgaged property owner agrees to reduce the eligible small business tenants' rent by at least 75% for the three corresponding months under a rent forgiveness agreement, which will include a term not to evict the tenant while the agreement is in place. The small business tenant would cover the remainder, up to 25 per cent of the rent
- Impacted small business tenants are businesses paying less than \$50,000 per month in rent and who have temporarily ceased operations or have experienced at least a 70 per cent drop in pre-COVID-19 revenues. **This support will also be available to non-profit and charitable organizations, an important distinction for some arts and culture groups**

- **Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) – Government of Canada**

<https://ceba-cuec.ca/>

The Government of Canada has launched the new Canada Emergency Business Account to ensure small businesses have access to the capital they need to see them through the current challenges.

- Implemented by financial institutions in cooperation with Export Development Canada
- \$25 billion program provides interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits
- Repaying the balance of the loan on or before December 31, 2022 will result in loan forgiveness of 25 percent (up to \$10,000)

- **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) – Government of Canada**
<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html>
 - Generally covers 75% of an employee's wages – up to \$847 per week - for employers of all sizes and across all sectors who have suffered a drop in gross revenues of at least 15% in March, and 30% in April and May
 - Will be in place for a 12-week period, from March 15 to June 6, 2020

- **Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) - Business Development Bank of Canada**
https://www.bdc.ca/en/about/mediaroom/public_statements/pages/statement-regarding-eligibility-criteria-business-credit-availability-program-bcap.aspx
 - Changes to eligibility guidelines make bars, pubs and music venues eligible for the Canada Emergency Business Account and the SME Loan and Guarantee program
 - To access these loans, business owners must contact their primary financial institution

- **COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations – Government of Canada**
<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/information-covid-19.html>
 - \$500 million emergency support fund to meet the financial needs of cultural, heritage and sport organizations facing significant losses due to COVID-19
 - It will be administered by Canadian Heritage with the support of its partners
 - Objective is to have the funds available as quickly as possible
 - On an April 23 tele-town hall, Lisa MacLeod (Ontario Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries) indicated that she has requested that 40% of the Fund be invested in Ontario because of our high concentration of arts and culture industries

3. Government of Ontario support

- **Ontario Live – Government of Ontario**
<https://ontario.live/>
 Ontario Live is a virtual marketplace created by the provincial government to help support local artists, operators, attractions and businesses throughout the province.
 - Individuals will soon be able to purchase cultural products or donate to artists and cultural businesses in Ontario

- **Celebrate Ontario grants – Government of Ontario**
<http://www.grants.gov.on.ca/GrantsPortal/en/OntarioGrants/GrantsHome/index.htm>
 The Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries has confirmed that Celebrate Ontario grants will continue to flow even if events need to be postponed or cancelled.

- **Music Together – Ontario music industry & Government of Ontario**

<https://musictogether.ca/>

- \$300,000 fund to support live streamed house concerts by Ontario musicians and access to ecommerce tools
 - \$1000 payment for selected artists
 - \$150,000 raised by Ontario music community, \$150,000 matched by the Province
- **Ontario Music Fund - Government of Ontario**
http://www.ontariocreates.ca/music/the_ontario_music_fund.htm
 - On an April 9 tele-town hall, Minister MacLeod shared new details related to the redesigned Ontario Music Fund
 - The fund will remain at \$7 million annually and will be administered through Ontario Creates
 - The redesigned Fund will include streams for music creation, live music and industry initiatives
 - More information is expected to come in late May
- **Ontario Arts Council Strategic Fund (in development)**
<https://www.arts.on.ca/news-resources/news/2020/oac-takes-action-to-support-artists-and-arts-organizations-through-covid-19-crisis>
 - OAC is developing a strategic fund to help Ontario artists and arts organizations respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Details will be announced in the coming weeks

4. Arts and Culture Support - General

- **Digital Originals Initiative - CBC and Canada Council for the Arts**
<https://canadacouncil.ca/initiatives/digital-originals>
 - Artists, groups or organizations can either adapt their existing work or create a new work for digital dissemination to the Canadian public during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - \$5,000 micro innovation grant from the Canada Council
 - Funded projects will be housed on a dedicated CBC/Radio-Canada website and other digital platforms
- **Advance Funding, Funded Organizations - Canada Council for the Arts**
<https://canadacouncil.ca/press/2020/03/advance-funding>
 - \$60 million in advance funding, the equivalent of 35% of annual grants held by over 1,100 core funded organizations
- **LEAN Canada - Leadership Emergency Arts Network**
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1msW7pzaUXWlgn0aEuyeadl4EHxQG4c5dr2xD9kPcoMM/edit>

The Leadership Emergency Arts Network (LEAN) is a team of former arts leaders who care deeply about the sector. The group was formed as an immediate, ad hoc, pro bono response network to help arts organizations, big and small, deal with what is coming at them, including help with strategic decision-making, crisis response, financial analysis, board direction, relationship mediation, HR management, systems change or inspirational leadership. The LEAN Team can be reached at LeanArtsCanada@gmail.com.

5. Film and TV sector resources

- **Professional Development & Learning Resources – Ontario Film Commission**
<https://digitallibrary.ontariocreates.ca/DigitalLibrary/IndustryResources.aspx>
 - Comprehensive industry resource hub hosted by Ontario Creates for film workers
 - Includes everything from training resources to mental health resources
 - Updated every two days

- **Creative Relief Fund - CBC**
<https://www.cbc.ca/creativerelief/>
 - \$2 million in development and production funding for original Canadian storytelling, including scripted comedies and dramas, unscripted entertainment, kids and young adult programming, podcasts, play adaptations and short documentaries
 - Submissions are currently closed

- **Actors' Fund of Canada (AFC)**
<https://afchelps.ca/covid-19-guide/>
 - Supports entertainment industry professionals working in TV and film, music, theatre, and dance
 - Provides short-term emergency financial assistance for essential household bills and costs that cannot otherwise be paid

- **Production Industry Task Force – Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA)**
<https://cmpa.ca/covid-19/>
 - The CMPA along with numerous industry organizations and stakeholder groups have joined forces to create the COVID-19 Production Industry Taskforce
 - The group will collectively to assess the impact on the industry, and this work will inform governments at the federal, provincial and municipal levels on the need for critical support

6. Music sector resources

- **COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund - Unison Benevolent Fund**
<https://unisonfund.ca/unisons-covid-19-relief-program-faq>

- Unison provides free counselling and emergency financial relief for the Canadian music community
- Unison has launched a \$500,000 fund to support musicians, entertainment professionals, venue owners and other members of the Canadian music community who are unable to work because of COVID-19
- **Enhanced Emergency Fund - SOCAN**
<https://www.socan.com/socan-announces-2-million-enhanced-emergency-program-for-struggling-socan-members/>
 - SOCAN is allocating up to \$2 million for emergency royalty advances for its songwriter and composer members

7. Writing and publishing sector resources

- **Support - Publishing & News Sectors – Government of Canada**
<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2020/03/covid-19-the-government-of-canada-is-taking-action-to-support-the-publishing-and-news-sectors.html>
 - The department of Canadian Heritage has convened a New Independent Advisory Board on Eligibility for Journalism Tax Measures
 - Canadian Heritage is working to simplify the submission and processing of 2020-21 funding requests for the Canada Book Fund and Canada Periodical Fund. The process will reduce the time it takes to process files and issue funding
- **Canadian Writers' Emergency Relief Fund – The Writers' Union of Canada & Writers' Trust of Canada**
<https://www.writersunion.ca/news/emergency-relief-fund>
 - Initial fund of \$150,000 and grants in amounts of \$1,500 to writers that have seen contracted or projected income evaporate due to the current public health crisis
 - Financial support for the program is supplied by three program partners: the Writers' Trust, TWUC, and RBC