



**2023 Toronto Arts Foundation Indigenous Artist Award
Description and Eligibility Guidelines
Nomination Deadline: July 4, 2023**

Toronto Arts Foundation Awards are designed to heighten public awareness of arts in Toronto by recognizing artistic excellence and achievement.

The awards celebrate artists, cultural leaders, and organizations whose work contributes to the artistic and cultural life of Toronto. Awards are presented in recognition of a body of creative accomplishment, rather than for specific works or achievements.

Award Description

Indigenous Artist Award

The Toronto Arts Foundation Indigenous Artist Award is a \$20,000 cash prize which celebrates an Indigenous artist or artist collective that has made a recognized contribution to the creative cultural life of Toronto. In addition, the recipient selects an artist mentor/Elder or mentee/protégée to receive \$5,000. Thanks to support from Bell, for the first time this year two award finalists will also receive \$2,000 each.

Established in 2021, the award is supported by the K.M. Hunter Foundation. The Award is presented every year by Toronto Arts Foundation.

Basic Eligibility Requirements

Individual Artists:

- must be Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit).
- must have demonstrated an ongoing association with Toronto.
- must have contributed significantly to the arts and culture of Toronto.
- must be living at time of selection.
- nominees are not eligible to nominate or receive Toronto Arts Foundation awards while serving on the board member or staff of Toronto Arts Foundation or Toronto Arts Council

Collectives:

- all members must identify as Indigenous.
- must be headquartered in Toronto and have a significant portion of its activity taking place in the city.
- must have contributed significantly to the arts and culture of Toronto.

Definitions:

Professional Artist: an individual who is recognized as such by their peers (artists working in the same artistic tradition), who has a history of public presentation, publication and/or production, who is not currently enrolled in an undergraduate or college program, and who is committed to devoting more time to their artistic activity if financially feasible.

Collective: A collective is defined as two or more artists working together under a group name, either on a single project or on an ongoing basis. Collectives are unincorporated and operate on a not-for-profit basis.

**Incorporated Organizations are not eligible for this Award for 2022.*

Undergraduate and college students are not eligible to apply.

No person or organization may be selected for more than one Toronto Arts Foundation award within any given year. No person or organization may receive the same Toronto Arts Foundation award twice. This does not preclude a recipient from being considered for a different Toronto Arts Foundation award in the future.

How to Nominate

**Individuals and collectives may self-nominate for the award but will require a letter of reference.*

To nominate an individual, a collective or organization for the Toronto Arts Foundation Indigenous Artist Award you must:

- visit the Toronto Arts Foundation Nomination portal.
- register an account on the Toronto Arts Foundation Nomination portal or sign into your existing account.
- submit the nomination online, complete with supporting material.

Notes

Along with the name of the individual or organization you are nominating, the nomination portal will ask for a biography, a nomination rationale and accompanying support material in the form of visual, audio or text-based attachments.

Nominators can save their application at any time before submission by clicking 'Save Draft'. Nominators can log-in and out of the Toronto Arts Foundation Nomination portal as many times as needed before clicking 'Submit'.

**Please ensure you register through the Toronto Arts Foundation Nomination portal and not Toronto Arts Council's TAC Grants Online.*

Details of Nomination and Selection Process

Nominations: Nominations will be sought broadly through a promotional social media campaign, outreach activities and information sessions and events.

Selection Process: An Award Assessment Panel of up to 10 Indigenous arts community members will review nomination profiles and select a shortlist and recipient recommendation for this award. The recommendations then go to Toronto Arts Foundation's Board of Directors for final approval.

Award Selection Process: Policies and Procedures

Deliberations will be guided by the following assessment criteria:

- artistic strength and achievement
- strength of the candidate's artistic goals and objectives
- contribution to the development of arts and culture in Toronto
- the nominee's overall public impact including community engagement.

Following deliberations, the Assessors will recommend a shortlist and recipient for the award. The shortlist will be made public in advance of the official awards presentation. The recipient will be announced the day of the official awards presentation event.

All facets of the assessment process are managed by Toronto Arts Council with support from Toronto Arts Foundation.

Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest refers to a situation in which private interests or personal considerations may affect an Award Assessor's judgement in the assessment processes.

Specifically, a conflict of interest exists where an Assessor has a financial interest in the success or failure of a candidate or has a personal interest in a specific candidate or has any other reason which makes them unable to evaluate the candidate objectively.

If during the Award Assessors deliberations any Assessor has a conflict of interest, that person is expected to declare such conflict and withdraw from the selection/voting process.

Toronto Arts Foundation reserves the right to amend these Policies and Procedures, without notice to any party.

Further Questions:

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