



VANCOUVER CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL 2025 YOUNG AND EMERGING ARTISTS

VCBF has provided opportunities for young and emerging artists to share their talents with the community at our events since the festival's inception 20 years ago. With this project, our aim is to formalize this process into a mentorship opportunity. We have often heard that young or emerging artists have hesitations or fears about applying for government or foundation grants. Our aim is to provide an opportunity to apply for a micro-grant through a supportive process.

In 2024, VCBF provided the infrastructure, artist fees and cost of supplies for 11 different artists to create unique, engaging activations for event attendees. Examples of art activations include: cedar bark bracelet making, block printing, felt flower making, paper fan decorating, etc. Event attendees could participate in creating art for free.

We would like to expand this to include 15 artists in 2025 and formalize the process so that young and emerging artists experience how to apply for, execute and report on a micro-grant project. Our staff team will support the artists through the entire process and provide templates for budgets, workplans, surveys and reports that the artists will then customize to fit their particular project and artistic genre. The artists will all activate at The Big Picnic on March 29, 2025 or Blossoms After Dark on 28-30, 2025. Both events are at David Lam Park. Attendance at The Big Picnic last year was 15,000+ people and 43,000+ people at Blossoms After Dark over the 3 nights.

Artists will:

1. Develop a proposal for an interactive, engaging activity for a public event
2. Create a budget and workplan for their activity with deliverables and dates
3. Practice facilitation and public speaking skills by guiding event attendees through their proposed art activity
4. Collect feedback from participants and create a mini report for VCBF

We believe that by participating in this process young and emerging artists will be enabled to apply for other grants and to expand their portfolios. This opportunity will also allow young and emerging artists to showcase their art form to a relatively large audience at a public event. We believe this is an important project at this time because post- pandemic, cost of living has increased so much that many artists can't afford to share their art form and that creating art together is a way to combat loneliness and boost community connection.

Apply at <https://forms.gle/6m85hiEjS8oicf369>