

Summary of the Evaluation of the CANADA ARTS PRESENTATION FUND 2018-19 to 2022-23

OVERVIEW

The **Canada Arts Presentation Fund** is a grants and contributions program designed to give Canadians access to a variety of professional artistic experiences in their communities.

The Canada Arts Presentation Fund has **three components**:

- ◆ Programming
- ◆ Development
- ◆ Fathers of Confederation Buildings Trust Group

The evaluation covers the period from **2018-19 to 2022-23** and examines the Program's relevance, effectiveness and efficiency.

FINDINGS

Relevance

The Program continues to meet the needs of the arts presentation sector. It distributed close to \$190 million in regular funds during the period, as well as five emergency funds totalling \$74 million in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Program is part of a continuum of public intervention **where there is more complementarity than overlap**. However, the existence of numerous funding bodies is cumbersome for applicants.

The Program has strengthened its alignment with government-wide priorities, particularly in terms of IDEA. However, **barriers to access remain** and there is room to strengthen alignment with IDEA and environmental priorities.

The Canada Arts Presentation Fund is facing challenges in adapting to rapidly changing and new needs and priorities. Key factors are the Programs's broad scope and the high recurrence of recipients.

In 2022-23 **77%** of recipients had been funded since at least 2018-19 } These recipients received **88%** of the budget

Effectiveness

The Program has reached most of its expected results. However, restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic impacted some results.

With the emergency funds distributed in response to COVID-19, **recipients were able to maintain and resume activities**. In some cases, they innovated by offering virtual experiences.

The Program has **contributed to the professional development of arts presenters** and to the involvement, participation and appreciation of Canadians in artistic experiences. Annually, projects funded have attracted:

Between **19M** visitors, except in 2020-2021 and 2021-22, due largely to the COVID-19 restrictions, and **20M**

More than **80,000** volunteers.

70% of Canadians believe that **artistic and cultural activities are somewhat or very important** to their quality of life.

(Arts and Heritage Access and Availability Survey, 2020-21)

Effectiveness (cont.)

There are **challenges** to achieving and reporting on results:

- The Program's reporting on the country's **diverse artistic experiences is somewhat limited**, mainly due to unclear definitions and criteria.
- The Program's **impact on the financial health** of the arts presentation community **has been modest**, with results below targets.
- There are **gaps with certain performance indicators** that limit result measurement and reporting.

Efficiency

Overall, the **Canada Arts Presentation Fund's delivery is efficient**:

- Its **administrative cost is 12%**, compared with 17% reported in the last evaluation.
- **74%** of recipients surveyed were **generally satisfied** with the Program.
- It uses grants and multi-year agreements **to reduce the administrative burden**.
- Although the delivery of emergency funds meant **high operational pressure**, it introduced **simplifications** specific to the emergency context.
- It **met the service standards**, except in 2021-22, when timelines were affected by the delivery of emergency funds.

Some challenges impact efficiency:

- The **application process is cumbersome** for employees and applicants.
- While certain aspects of the Program support its sustainability, the Canada Arts Presentation Fund's ability to generate lasting results is **based on an ongoing funding approach** which:
 - **creates expectations** among recipients for continued funding
 - **saturates** the budget
 - **limits access** for new recipients

RECOMMENDATIONS

The evaluation offers the following 3 recommendations to the Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Cultural Affairs:

1

Review the Canada Arts Presentation Fund funding priorities and strategies

to clarify and refocus its intervention and to increase equitable access to funding and its capacity to generate sustainable impact in the arts presentation sector.

2

In collaboration with the regions and the Centre of Excellence, **review the internal mechanisms and processes for analyzing and delivering Canada Arts Presentation Fund grants and contributions** to continue to alleviate the administrative burden on employees and applicants.

3

Improve the performance measurement of the Canada Arts Presentation Fund

to support better reporting and decision-making by reviewing and updating its logic model, expected results and indicators.

