

Impact of Grants on First Time Recipients



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des arts
du Canada



The Research Project

To understand the impact of the support provided to first-time grant recipients, Goss Gilroy Inc. interviewed Canada Council staff, surveyed **782 recipients**, and held focus groups and interviews with **81 recipients**.



782

Recipients surveyed



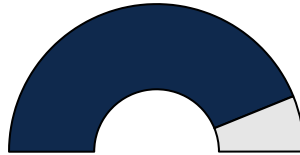
Immediate Impacts

For many first-time recipients, a Canada Council grant provides a **sense of legitimacy and validation**, increases **confidence**, brings greater **financial security** and allows recipients to **maintain or expand their practice**.

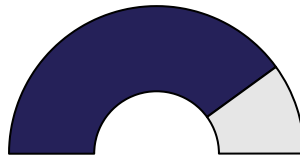
"It was priceless in providing me validity – that someone out there thinks I'm doing something right and wants to encourage me. No amount of money can replace that feeling."
- Focus group participant, Arts Abroad individual grant recipient



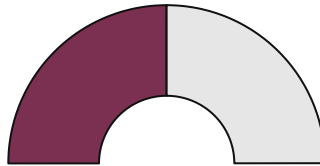
Connectivity and Opportunities



86% expanded their network



80% accessed other opportunities



50% accessed other funding



Learning and Innovation

89%

Were able to innovate, take risks or try something new during their project

87%

Developed or learned new skills, artistic or otherwise



Community Impacts

"To bring people in from so many different backgrounds and not only cover the costs but be able to pay them for the art they made was a powerful place to come from." - Focus group participant, Explore and Create group grant recipient

Community impacts of first-time grants include **support to other artists, representation and professional opportunities for others, community-building, advocacy, and intercultural dialogue**.

60%

Hired or engaged other people

74%

Increased access or capabilities for strategic groups*

67%

Raised visibility of an artistic practice or community

To lower barriers for first-time applicants, participants suggest **making grant-writing support more accessible**, either through Canada Council Program Officers or peer-to-peer mentorship.

*Strategic groups include youth, official language minority communities, Indigenous, Black, racialized, Deaf and disability, and 2SLGBTQI+ and gender-diverse communities, women, and people at intersections of these groups.

For more information, please visit this page:
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