

B.C. FIRST NATIONS ARTS VITALITY RESEARCH PROJECT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

AUGUST 2023



FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL

Submission Deadline

Proposal Deadline: October 12, 2023

RFP contact:

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All communications and questions regarding this RFP should be directed to the RFP contact via email. Email is the preferred method of communication. Please include "FPCC AV Research RFP" in the subject line for all RFP-related correspondence.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

FPCC Arts Program has developed a strong network of experts and knowledge keepers who guide our shared goals to redress the impacts of colonization by creating programming and resources that support First Nation arts revitalization research. The Arts Program supports arts revitalization and stewardship through grant programming, professional development, resources, research, and advocacy. Our community-based approach fosters upholding relationships within and across First Nation communities and creates opportunities to increase community capacity, develop technical expertise, and share knowledge and resources.

The FPCC Arts Program is seeking a consultant or a consulting company to assist with a two-year-long project to understand the state or vitality of First Nation arts revitalization in B.C. and the current and future needs of B.C. First Nation communities to revitalize it.

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) is a provincial Crown Corporation formed by the Government of British Columbia in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program. The First Peoples' Cultural Council is supported by *the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act* in legislation.

The mandate of FPCC is to assist B.C. First Nations in their efforts to revitalize their languages, arts, and cultural heritage. Since 1990, FPCC has successfully distributed over \$45 million to British Columbia's Indigenous communities for languages, arts and culture projects.

FPCC is committed to providing communities with a high level of support and quality resources. Our cultural heritage, and the living expression of our identities are integral to the health of all members of our Indigenous communities and the well-being of all British Columbians.

The First Peoples' Cultural Council serves:

- 204 B.C. First Nation communities
- 34 First Nations languages
- 90+ language dialects
- First Nations language champions
- First Nations language learners
- First Nations schools
- First Nations Elders
- First Nations arts and culture organizations
- First Nations and Indigenous artists and arts administrators

WHAT WE DO

Specific activities of FPCC include:

- Facilitate opportunities for First Nations communities in B.C. to receive funding for cultural heritage, language and arts projects
- Advise government on programs and issues related to Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage
- Facilitate relationship-building opportunities between government and non-government entities and First Nations experts
- Offer a network of information and opportunities to Indigenous artists, language champions and cultural heritage experts
- Offer advice and assistance to Indigenous funding applicants
- Educate and share information with people in B.C. about languages, arts and cultural heritage
- Advocate for Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage in B.C.
- Raise awareness and build support networks for language and cultural revitalization on a global scale

PROJECT GOALS/OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective of this research project is to assess the current vitality of B.C. First Nations Arts Vitality (AV), with the goal of developing comprehensive strategies for the revitalization of B.C. First Nations AV. By determining the status of B.C. First Nations AV now, we can monitor changes over time and respond appropriately. Within this overarching objective, this study has three specific goals as follows:

- Establish **benchmark data** to track B.C. FN AV metrics over time, including:
 - Successes and challenges in current B.C. First Nations AV management strategies
 - Status of at-risk arts practices and current risk management strategies
 - Protection needs for B.C. First Nations Arts landscapes and places
 - Impacts of climate change, resource development and other accumulative impacts and activities on AV
 - Community capacity and readiness for B.C. First Nations AV stewardship (number of AV workers, experts, and Knowledge Keepers; community-based training and apprenticeship programs, infrastructure to support B.C. First Nations AV management and stewardship, etc.)
 - Intangible Arts metrics: cultural arts practices being practiced, community knowledge holders, oral storytelling, etc.

- Collect **qualitative data** on topics including:
 - Connections between intangible and tangible aspects of B.C. First Nations AV
 - Community perceptions and conceptualizations of B.C. First Nations AV (including those shaped by B.C. First Nations languages), and their significance
 - Impacts of B.C. First Nations AV on individual and community health and wellness
 - Economic impacts of B.C. First Nations AV (e.g., jobs, skill sets, training)

- Assess **needs and readiness** for ongoing and **future B.C. First Nations AV research**, including:
 - Community capacity and professional development needs
 - Needs for varied technological and creative approaches to B.C. First Nations AV documentation and monitoring
 - Interest in Arts Administrative and Infrastructure programs and database-centered documentation
 - Concerns and challenges with collaborations, data

SCOPE/DELIVERABLES

The primary outcome of this study will be a comprehensive, peer-reviewed¹ report that summarizes the research findings, based on quantitative and qualitative analyses of B.C. First Nations AV vitality data (see methodology section below). The data will be contextualized concerning published works on AV revitalization and management in B.C. and elsewhere. The key audience for the report will be B.C. First Nations communities and AV experts in B.C. and beyond, as well as FPCC funders and other partners. Along with the report itself, FPCC will retain rights to all research materials used in developing the report, including:

- Spreadsheets/databases with AV metrics (can be adapted for longitudinal study on AV over time)
- Transcribed interviews and summary reports from focus groups and site tours
- Photographs, videos, and other multimedia from site tours (and possibly other sources)

The delivery timeline is as follows:

Develop and approval of Research Methodology	November 24, 2023
Develop and approve of Research Plan and questionnaire	November 24, 2023
Interim report with summary of data and findings to date	January 30, 2024
Draft 1 final report	May 31, 2024
Final report (peer-reviewed, graphic-designed)	July 20, 2024

Methodology

This research project should employ a team approach to engage with and learn from Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and AV stewards and experts from across B.C. The methodology should employ four complementary strategies to curate a diverse range of information on B.C. First Nations AV vitality: interviews, Storywork focus groups, and Arts Based Research through community arts project grants. Each of these will be informed by background research of published literature on AV in B.C. within the scope of this current study, engaging with all 204 First Nations communities in B.C. will not be possible, but the project will need to ensure that the data collected provides a representative portrayal of AV across the province.

The main guiding principle for building a representative sample is to include communities that are diverse in terms of cultural and geographic variables. With respect to cultural diversity, the project should start with the 34 language communities of B.C., which can be grouped into 7

¹ Peer reviewers will be outside experts who can assess the methodological approach, validity of the findings, and presentation of the research. Reviewers will be paid a one-time honorarium for their contribution. Potential reviewers include: Lisa Prosper, Christine Cameron, and Heather George.

language families, or 9 major sub-families². The project team should assume that the linguistic histories traced through language family relations reflect communities' cultural relationships and histories. FPCC also believes that tracking B.C. First Nations AV within and between linguistic groups will facilitate our understanding of the long-term trajectory of AV.

BUDGET

Please provide cost proposals to accomplish the scope outlined above. The budget must include costs necessary for the entire project, including:

- Research
- Facilitating and supporting focus groups (a minimum of 3 across the province in distinct cultural groups and regions)
- Conducting site visits
- Oral interviews and surveys
- Transcription, honoraria and all meeting and travel costs
- Report design
- Arts Projects grants for completing Arts Based Research
- And other necessary costs

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Request for Proposal timeline

- RFP Release (September 5, 2023)
- Deadline for questions (October 5, 2023)
- RFP Submission deadline (October 12, 2023 at 5:00 pm)
- Interview period (October 16 to 20, 2023)
- RFP vendor selection (October 27, 2023)

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES & REQUIREMENTS

All RFP submissions must include the following:

- **Profile:** Company name, background, history and list of main projects/clients.
- **Draft Approach and Methodology:** A detailed description of how the scope of work outlined in this RFP document will be completed and carried out. Clearly indicate all resources required to complete the work.
- **Portfolio:** Provide examples of previous work that demonstrate similarity in projects (e.g. scope, size, Indigenous peoples, government, or non-profit.) Showcase work demonstrating similar projects with First Nations in B.C. and/or Canada.

² The Athabaskan family has two main branches in B.C. (Dene and Tlingit), which we are counting individually for purposes of maximizing representation. Similarly, the Salishan family has two main branches (Coastal and Interior), which we are also counting individually.

- **Work plan/timeline:** Describe a detailed timeline of the project and identify key milestones for each phase of the project. Please also indicate what is needed from FPCC staff for the project to be streamlined in a timely fashion.
- **Key staff:** Describe the key staff who will be working on the project and highlight their qualifications and experience.
- **Cost:** Provide a detailed breakdown of costs associated with the project (See Budget section).

RFP EVALUATION

FPCC will review proposals, answer questions during the question period and then shortlist bidders for interviews. Only successful bidders will be contacted for interviews. Evaluation of the submitted proposals will be based on the following criteria:

- Previous projects and experience that are provincial or national in scope
- Experience working with Indigenous AV and with Indigenous peoples
- Completeness, quality and relevance of the proposal
- Staff/company qualifications and prior experience working with Indigenous peoples or government or non-profit
- Service Fees / Costs
- 3 references from past projects that are relevant to this work.