



Cultural Leaders Legacy Arts Awards 2026

NOMINATION PACKAGE

ATB POWERING POSSIBILITY THROUGH THE ARTS AWARD

Deadline: March 10, 2026, 4:30pm MT

ATB Powering Possibility Through the Arts Award

The **ATB Powering Possibility Through the Arts Award** recognizes and supports small to mid-sized organizations that are committed to enriching Calgary through arts programming that powers possibility for the local creative community.

This is a \$5,000 cash award, with funds intended to allow a presenting body the ability to continue its work and expand its impact in the arts and culture community. The award will be presented to the recipient at an event celebrating the arts on May 4, 2026.

This award was established by ATB Financial and is a legacy project of Calgary 2012, Calgary's year as a Cultural Capital of Canada.

About ATB Financial

ATB Financial is an Alberta-built financial institution that is a catalyst for economic growth in our province. We're always looking for new ways to use our financial know-how and our network of dedicated team members to make a difference in Alberta's communities.

ATB Financial is a proud supporter of the arts in Alberta, including Calgary Arts Development and the Calgary 2012 initiative, as well as the National Music Centre, the Calgary Folk Festival, the Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival, and through our Branch for Arts and Culture.

Award Rules & Criteria

Eligibility

Nominees for the **ATB Powering Possibility Through the Arts Award** must meet all of the following:

- Be registered and operating in Calgary since the beginning of the nomination year (2026).
- Have an operating budget of \$500,000 or less.
- Programming must be accessible to the public.
- Be currently offering artistic programming that compensates artists.
- For-profits are eligible as long as the organization has a positive impact on the community and a presenting history.

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Nominations

Nomination packages must include the following:

- One (1) copy of a document (800 words or less) describing the work of the organization.
- One (1) copy of a 30-word synopsis of why the nominee has been nominated (may be used for publication and media purposes in the event the nominee is selected to receive the award).
- Example(s) demonstrating the work of the nominee as it pertains to this award (**maximum five individual examples**). Please note the example(s) must be submitted in PDF format, and each file can be a maximum of 3MB.
- One (1) letter of nomination (1,000 words or less) from a peer or colleague within the organization's field of work.
- One (1) copy of the Nomination Declaration form, available for download on the award web page, signed by both the nominee and nominator.

Jury

The awards jury will be composed of artistic peers and community members based in Calgary as well as a representative from ATB Financial, who may be based in either Calgary or Edmonton. Jury members are not disclosed in advance of the official announcement of recipients by Calgary Arts Development.

In the event of a perceived conflict of interest, an alternate will replace the jury member in question. The jury will operate with strict confidentiality. All decisions are final. Calgary Arts Development may screen nominations to verify eligibility.

Selection Criteria

The award recipient will be selected based on the following criteria:

Programming - Maximum of Five Points

- Describe how your programming powers new possibilities through the arts; for artists, for participants, for audiences or for the community.
- Detail how your programming prioritizes inclusivity, powering new possibilities for artists or community members.

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Community Impact - Maximum of Seven Points

- How has your past or current work opened up new possibilities in your community? This could include new partnerships or collaborations, positive impacts on community members, community pride or community activation.

Impact on the Artist – Maximum of Three Points

- How has your programming had a positive impact on artists in your community?

Special Considerations - Maximum of One Point

- Are there any extenuating considerations that are not addressed by the criteria above?

Notification

All nominators will receive acknowledgment of receipt by email, and will be notified of whether their applications were successful. The nominator and nominee are required to keep the status of their nomination confidential until the official announcement of awards recipients by Calgary Arts Development, and to accommodate the filming of a recipient video.

Deadlines & Delivery

The deadline for uploading completed nomination packages is 4:30pm on March 10, 2026.

Complete applications must be submitted through our [online platform](#) on or before the deadline. Incomplete or late nominations will not be accepted or considered.

If you have nominated someone and did not receive acknowledgement of receipt or notification, please contact awards@calgaryartsdevelopment.com.

Before submitting your nomination package, ensure that you have prepared:

- One (1) copy of a document (800 words or less) describing the organization's work.
- One (1) copy of a 30-word synopsis of why the nominee has been nominated.
- Up to five (5) examples demonstrating the work of the nominee and their suitability for this award. As few as one example is acceptable.

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- One (1) copy of a letter of nomination (1,000 words or less) signed by the nominator.
- One (1) copy of the Nomination Declaration form, signed by both the nominee and nominator.

For more information about the **ATB Powering Possibility Through the Arts Award**, please email awards@calgaryartsdevelopment.com.

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