ROM

IARTS TEXTILES OF INDIA GRANT

APPLICATION

Deadline: May 15, 2026

The IARTS Textiles of India Grant supports a project on Indian textile arts. This biennial grant of $15,000 CAD can be used anywhere in the world by anyone in the world toward a project that enhances critical knowledge and awareness about Indian textiles, dress, or fashion. Applicants can include scholars, curators, educators, community leaders, artists and enthusiasts. Projects can be research-based or creative. They must further the preservation, documentation, encouragement, improvement, or the interpretation of Indian textile arts, their history and/or future. Through the support of such activities, the grant is meant to encourage cultural understanding, institutional collaboration, and public engagement.

The award has two components:

1. A **project** on Indian textiles, which can include research in any institution or collection or with knowledge keepers, fieldwork, apprenticeship, training, creative work or interpretation. Maximum of $15,000.

2. A **public program** related to the project presented in Toronto, Canada or online at the end of the award period, which can include a lecture or workshop, a publication, an online exhibition or resource, an installation, a performance, or any combination of these. The details of this program will be finalized in discussion with museum staff after the grant has been awarded. In the application, we are interested in your vision for a public outcome that can be put together by the end of the grant period. Maximum of $7000 is available for this part, which is separate from the $15,000 grant. Program funds will be directly administered by the ROM. Please note that funds cannot be used to mount a physical exhibition. Also, ROM cannot host printing and dyeing demonstrations. ROM can provide invitation letters for travel to Toronto but cannot guarantee visas for entry to Canada; international applicants should plan to apply for Canadian visas 4-6 months in advance. If the grant facilitates the production of artwork, ROM reserves the right of first refusal to acquire the artwork.

Eligibility

The award can be made to a person or a group of people. It is open to residents of any country, 18 years and older.

Level of Award

A grant of $15,000 CAD is given for the proposed project. The grant can be used for direct expenses related to the project such as transportation, visas, accommodation, supplies, equipment. Fees for professional services (such as videographer, translator) are allowed up to $5000. Applicants without full-time employment are allowed a stipend up to $5000. The award does not cover travel for the applicant's students, installation costs for a museum exhibition, or top-up of regular salaries.

Requirements
- Complete the project between July 2026 and July 2028
- Submit a progress report midway through the project
- Submit a final report and accounting of fund with receipts
- Carry out a program with ROM at the end of the project, either In-person or online

Award Selection Criteria
- Applicant's demonstrated history of engagement with and passion for Indian textiles
- Originality and innovativeness of the project, especially toward new perspectives, sources, or methodologies in the field of Indian textiles.
- Rigor of the project
- Care and clarity of objectives and design of the project. The project should be clearly focused on a given region or textile type. Good justification is needed for multiple regions or textile types.
- The viability of the project within the time frame and budget, and how prepared the applicant is to carry out the project
- The contribution of the project to the applicant's personal or professional development
- The impact of the project on wider audiences and communities.
- Revival of a technique for revival's sake Is insufficient. What is the larger reason, Impact and dynamic?
- Ethical engagement and co-production is required if the applicant is working with artists or makers (weavers, embroiderers, dyers)
- Letters of support

Application Materials
- Completed 2026 Application form. Please stay within the space provided. The full application should not exceed 7 pages.
- 2-page resume for the lead applicant(s). If more than one lead applicant, please designate who will be responsible for communication, reporting, and budget.
- Supporting letter(s) from institutions, organizations, or individuals with whom you plan to carry out the project. If working with makers, you must co-produce the project with them, and include letters of support from them.
- 2 reference letters in support of the project and lead applicant(s). Reference letters must be confidential and emailed directly by the referee to iarts@rom.on.ca. They must be received by May 15, 2026.

DEADLINE: May 15, 2026

- January 1, 2026, Call for proposals open
- May 15, 2026, Deadline to submit proposals
- June 15, 2026, Notice of decision
- July 2026 Funds made available

Part I: Applicant Information (You may not exceed space provided below – The maximum is 7 pages for full application)

Name of Applicant:
Mailing Address:
Telephone:	Email:

Project Title:
Summary of Project (100-150 words)
Please list names of 2 referees – their letters should be confidential and emailed directly to iarts@rom.on.ca by the deadline

Funding ($CAD)	
Total Costs of Project:	$
Funds Available from Other Sources (if none, enter 0):	$
Total Funding Request to IARTS:	$

Applicant Signature:	Date:

Part II: Project or Program Description

General Instructions:
- Use full sentences
- Include up to 5 Images (does not count toward the 7-page maximum)
- An applicant may submit only one application

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1. Project (1000 words max)

Project Description: Describe in sufficient detail the project objectives (what you propose to do), context, significance, and methodology (how you will carry out the project).

Additional Information Required:

If a Research Project: provide the background of existing knowledge on the topic and explain how the project advances the field. Include a list (bibliography) of related existing studies

If a Creative Project: explain benefit to artist/community/society and how it is different from other creative works.

If a Designer and Artist or Maker Collaboration: indicate the nature of the collaboration, how they are to be acknowledged and recognized in final product, and any commercial considerations. If involving revival, explain why it is important beyond only preservation, why now.

If involving a Private Collection or a Family Project: describe how knowledge will be shared with wider audiences.

If including Professional Fees or Applicant Stipend: explain the need and how rates are calculated.
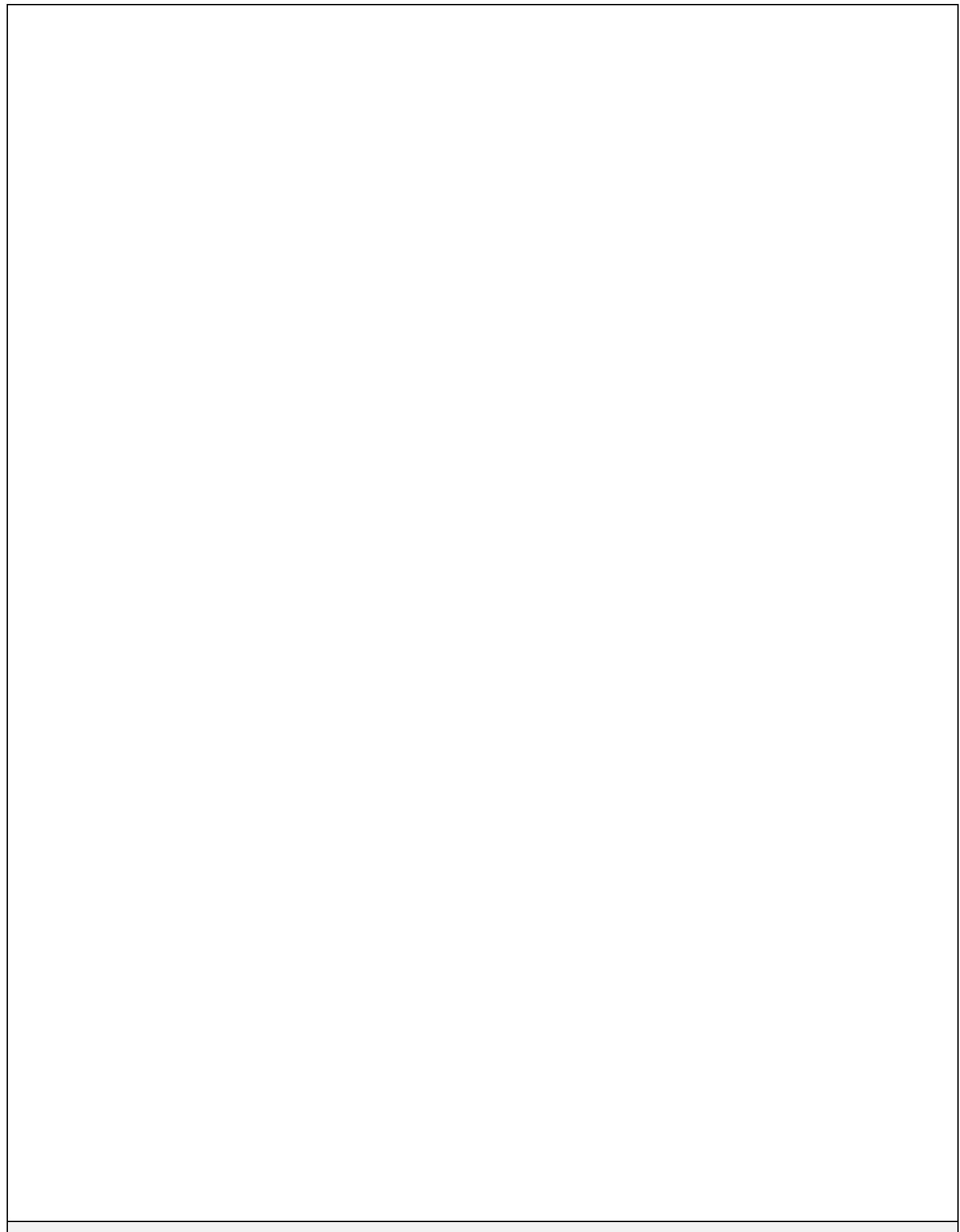
Proposed Timeframe: How long will the project take, and when do you propose to carry it out? What is the timeline? Projects including the program must be completed by July 2028.

Participants: Who is involved in the project, and what are their qualifications to conduct the work? If an Artist/Designer Collaboration: indicate how artists are to be acknowledged and recognized in the final product, and any commercial considerations. If the project proposes engagement with a maker or group of makers (e.g. weavers, dyers, embroiderers), team members must include someone from that community; explain how you will co-produce the project with them; remember to include a letter of support from the maker or group leader.

Results: What are the intended results and products? (Outcome examples may include but are not limited to: publications, installations, webinars, databases, websites. Grant funds may not be used toward a physical exhibition)

Permissions: Do you have the required permissions and authorizations to carry out the work? You must provide supporting letters from institutions (e.g. museums, including the ROM), organizations or individuals with whom you propose to do your project. This includes any makers (weavers, dyers, embroiders) involved in the project. Please elaborate on any possible challenges to carrying out the project.

2. Associated Public Program

Program Description: Please describe in sufficient detail your vision for a public outcome that can be put together by the end of the grant period including details on when, where and how you would carry it out, or how it might be done virtually if you encounter travel restrictions. It can include a lecture or workshop, a publication, an online exhibition or resource, an installation, a performance, or any combination of these. The available budget is around $7,000 CAD. This amount is administered by ROM and is separate from the $15,000 grant received by the successful applicant. (Note that ROM cannot host an exhibition or printing and dyeing demonstrations.

Part III: Budget

PLEASE USE CANADIAN DOLLARS FOR CALCULATING YOUR COSTS. A final financial accounting will be required with the submission of receipts; all non-expended funds must be returned to IARTS.

Allowable Expenses:

- Direct expenses related to the project and program, such as transportation, visas, accommodation, supplies
- Professional fees up to $5,000
- Applicant stipend up to $5,000
- Hard equipment such as a camera up to $2,000

Non-allowable Expenses:

- Travel for applicant's students
- Exhibition costs

Project or Program Budget (provide details and calculation in space below headings)	($CAD)
Transportation (e.g. airfare, local transportation, e.g. flight Mumbai - Jaipur @ $200):	
	$
Accommodation (e.g. 4 nights @ $200):	
	$
Meals (e.g. 4 days @ $50 per day):	
	$
Supplies:	
	$
Equipment up to $2,000:	
	$
Professional Fees (e.g. videographer, translator, digitization) up to $5,000, or Other Expenses:	
	$
Stipend for Applicant(s) if not permanently employed, up to $5,000 (indicate the time period and rate):	
	$
Total (not to exceed $15,000):	$