



**Creative Climate Showcase**  
Youth Artist Application Guide  
2024-25



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## What is the Creative Climate Showcase?

The Creative Climate Showcase provides youth artists **ages 14 to 24** from across Nova Scotia with an opportunity to receive grants to create and present a piece of art tied to this year's theme of **Net-Zero 2050**. This event will take place in March 2025, with youth artists staging their creative projects to an audience of their peers and the public.

The Creative Climate Showcase is a youth micro-granting initiative of the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council, administered by Clean Foundation.

## About the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council

The [Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council](#), established in 2023, is comprised of young Nova Scotians ages 14-24 who provide ideas, advice, and recommendations to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change on how to take climate action that is aligned with youth priorities. The Council also engages youth across Nova Scotia in climate action through programs, events and opportunities.

The Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council is funded by the province of Nova Scotia through the Department of Environment and Climate Change. The Council and its initiatives are administered by Clean Foundation, a non-profit organization that works to address climate change challenges and opportunities in Nova Scotia, PEI and the Atlantic region.

## Why apply to the Creative Climate Showcase?

If you are selected to participate, you will...

- receive a **Youth Artist Grant (\$500 individual or \$1000 for group of 2-4 people)**
- be eligible for a **Youth Artist Materials Grant (up to \$200)**;
- be invited to a **celebratory dinner** and Youth Artist meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025;
- attend the Creative Climate Showcase at the Youth Climate Summit in May 2025;
- have **travel and accommodation expenses for up to four group members covered**, if needed

## Who can apply?

To participate in the Creative Climate Showcase, you must meet the following criteria:

- You are an individual or group of up to four youth who will be between **14 and 24 years old** on May 1, 2025.
- You are **currently living in Nova Scotia**.
- You are a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, refugee or international student with a valid Canadian study permit.
- You aim to use your art to educate or inspire others about taking action on climate change and/or environmental stewardship.



## Accepted art formats

Art submissions may be completed individually or as a group, and may take the form of:

- a piece of visual art, such as a drawing, painting, sculpture, textiles, ceramics, pottery, etc;
- a piece of live or recorded performance art, such as a song or other piece of music, or a dance, theatre performance;
- a piece of creative writing or poetry;
- a video or short film; or,
- another artistic medium may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Please note:** Artwork submitted by Youth Artists for inclusion in the Creative Climate Showcase may be photographed or recorded for feature on Clean Foundation and the Department of Environment and Climate Change websites, social media accounts and/or reports.

## Application and creation periods

Youth artist proposal applications open on **January 10, 2025**. The application deadline is **February 9, 2025**, at 11:59 p.m. Successful recipients will be notified by **February 28, 2025**.

Apply via the [online application form](#).

If you are selected as a youth artist, you will be notified by February 28, 2025, and be invited to join an in-person Youth Artist meeting on Friday March 21, 2025, in Halifax. Following this meeting, you will have between mid-March and mid-April (approximately 5 weeks) to complete your artwork before submitting it for final review to the selection committee by April 23rd.

## This year's theme: Net-Zero 2050

“Net-zero” is when greenhouse gas emissions are either not produced at all or are balanced by offsets such as tree planting or technologies used to capture carbon before it ever enters our atmosphere. In October of 2021, the Nova Scotia Legislature passed the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act (EGCCRA). This Act outlines a set of targets and goals that will allow the province to reach net-zero by 2050. You can learn about EGCCRA and read the quarterly Progress Reports tracking the actions taken on it, [on the Government of Nova Scotia website](#).

**Imagine that we made it!** The year is 2050. You're 40 or 50 years old, and Nova Scotia has reached its goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. Using the artistic medium of your choice, consider what life is like in a net-zero Nova Scotia. Some artistic prompts that may help guide you are:

1. What do you wish we had known 25 years ago (i.e. today) to help us achieve net zero?
2. What does a net-zero or sustainable community look like to you?
3. When you think about a net-zero future, how do you feel?
4. What will a net-zero Nova Scotia look like seven generations from now?
5. How can our appreciation and connection with nature guide our actions as humans?

## Selection process

Eligible applications will be reviewed by a committee composed of Youth Climate Council members, Clean Foundation staff and Department of Environment and Climate Change staff.

Youth Artists will be selected based on the following criteria. Applications will be scored out of **100 points**.

- **Impact and message (20 points)** – Reflect on how art can be used as tool to educate others, encourage people to connect with nature or inspire environmental action. What are your objectives with this project?
- **Personal reflection on the theme (10 points)** – What is your personal connection to the theme of the Showcase. How does it serve as motivation for your art or creative project?
- **Equity of opportunity (20 points)** – What barriers have you faced when working on creative projects and/or showcasing your work? Barriers may be identity-based, financial, geographic or based on personal circumstances and lived experiences. Applicants from equity-deserving groups will be prioritized and regional equity across Nova Scotia will also be considered.
- **Artistic merit (20 points):** Is the project creative, innovative and shows originality of concept?
- **Relevance to theme (15 points):** Does the project adhere to the Showcase theme?
- **Realistic plan (15 points):** Is the project feasible given the time available and materials outlined in the budget? Are the materials you plan to use sustainably sourced where possible?
- **Portfolio of previous work (up to 5 bonus points):** Please share examples of some of your previous creative projects!

## How to apply

Your application must be submitted through [the online form](#).

**NOTE:** It's a good idea to prepare your written responses and your artistic proposal before beginning the online application form. In the form, your answers **cannot** be saved to return to later, and your application **cannot** be edited after submission.

Here are the questions you can expect on the application form:

### Personal Information

- Name(s), pronouns, and contact information
- What region of Nova Scotia are you from?
- How old will you be on May 1, 2025?



## Short-Answer Questions

1. **Impact and message:** What are your objectives with this project? For example, do you want to educate others about this topic, or is your goal to encourage people to take action on climate change or another environmental issue? How will your project accomplish this? (maximum **300 words**).
2. **Personal reflection on the theme:** Please share what the theme of the Showcase means to you. How do you feel this theme will guide or inspire you through your creative process? (maximum **100 words**).
3. **Equity of opportunity:** How will being able to showcase your work in a public setting impact you? Tell us about any barriers or challenges you have faced in the past when creating an artistic project or showcasing your work (maximum **250 words**).

## Artistic proposal

Youth artists must submit an original artistic proposal, outlining how their creative project will address the theme of “Net-Zero 2050”. As part of this proposal, you must outline a brief estimated budget for your project, including where you intend to source materials or equipment (if any).

This proposal is meant to provide the selection team with an outline of your project but does not require you to present a finished version of your creative piece.

- *If you intend to use AI (artificial intelligence), please explain how you will manipulate the AI output to make it your own, and if you are selected to showcase your piece, you must clearly indicate where and how AI was used.*

For your artistic proposal, choose **one** of the following submission formats, which you will be asked in the application form to share using a Google Drive, Dropbox, or YouTube link that can be accessed by the selection committee:

### Option #1: Visual mock-up draft or prototype

- Make a visual representation of your proposed creative project (a sketch or draft, enough to give us an idea of how it will look/work). Use any medium of your choice (drawing, painting, textiles, sculpture, digital art, poster, photography, etc.) and please include a short description of your project (maximum **100 words**)
- *Please provide a link to either Google Drive or Dropbox with accessible permissions with a **maximum of five** image files (**JPG** or **PNG**).*

### Option #2: Written

- Write a short piece describing your project.
- All writing styles are accepted (letter, speech, poetry, prose, etc), maximum **300 words**.
- *Please provide a link to either Google Drive or Dropbox with accessible permissions with a single **PDF** document.*

### Option #3: Video

- Film a short video describing your project. All types of videos are accepted (speech, conversation, interview, live action, animation, musical, etc.) Maximum **2 mins** in length.
- *Please provide a link to either Google Drive, Dropbox or YouTube with accessible permissions.*

### Option #4: Another form of media

- Please contact the Youth Climate Council through email at [YCC@cleandation.ca](mailto:YCC@cleandation.ca) if you would like to discuss alternative methods of presenting your artistic proposal.

In addition to presenting your proposed project, you will be asked to outline how you intend to meet the following points:

1. How does your project relate to the **Net-Zero 2050** theme? Which, if any, artistic prompt did you choose as your guide? (maximum **100** words)
2. Where and how will you source your materials and equipment (if any)? How much time do you estimate the completion of this project will take? (maximum **50** words)
3. To be considered for the Youth Artist Materials Grant (up to \$200), please outline your estimated budget. This Materials Grant is intended to support the purchase of equipment or materials to complete your creative project.
4. *Optional* - Finally, we would love to see any creations you have made already. Please include a “portfolio” of your previous work, sharing two to four previous artistic projects.

## **Alternative ways to apply**

Accessibility and inclusivity are important to us. If this application process presents any barriers for you, please **email us** and we would be happy to offer support or work with you to find an alternative application format that is more accessible: [YCC@cleanfoundation.ca](mailto:YCC@cleanfoundation.ca)

Some examples of possible alternative application formats include (but are not limited to):

- Responses could be given (over the phone to the online application form questions.
- A recorded video call with one of our team members. You will be asked to provide responses to the application questions, as well as a description of your artistic proposal.
- We can give you a printable copy of the application form to complete handwritten and mail to us.

## **Questions? Contact Us**

If you still have questions or need assistance with your application, please **email us** and we will do our best to assist you: [YCC@cleanfoundation.ca](mailto:YCC@cleanfoundation.ca)

