



Creative Climate Showcase

Youth Artist Application Guide

2025-26

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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 **Preparing for the Clean Economy**. This event will take place in May 2026, 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.

What is 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 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 for individuals or \$1000 for groups);
- be eligible for a **Youth Artist Materials Grant** (up to \$200, though our team will do our best to accommodate individual Youth Artist's needs);
- be invited to a **celebratory dinner** and Youth Artist Meeting in February 2026;
- attend the Creative Climate Showcase in May 2026;
- 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 youth who will be between **14 and 24 years old** on Jan 1, 2026.
- 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.

- You are not a current or former member of the NSYCC, or an employee of Clean Foundation or the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

If you were previously selected as a Youth Artist, you are still eligible to apply, but a minimum of two thirds of the Grant funds will be reserved for new applicants.

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 or 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. *(All rights rest with the artist or creator.)*

Application and creation periods

Youth artist proposal applications open on **December 1, 2026**. The application deadline is **January 11, 2025**. Successful recipients will be notified by **February 2, 2026**.

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

If your application is successful, you will be notified by February 2, 2026 and invited to join an in-person Youth Artist Meeting in February 2026 in Dartmouth. If you applied as part of a group, up to four group members may attend the Youth Artist Meeting. You will have between mid-February and mid-April (approximately 8 weeks) to complete your artwork before submitting it for final review to the selection committee by **April 13th**.

Creation of your artistic piece(s) is expected to take 20-30 hours. You may spend more or less time on your piece(s); however, we encourage you to tailor your artistic proposal to this time frame.

This year's theme: Preparing for the Clean Economy

The clean economy refers to sectors and jobs that have positive impacts on the environment, like reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency or supporting sustainable practices. As the clean economy grows, one of the key goals of Nova Scotia's climate plan is to help people prepare for jobs in this space. That means developing new skills or adapting existing ones. At the same time, businesses and industries are being supported to offer training and job

opportunities. Clean economy jobs can include skilled trades like electricians and HVAC technicians, as well as office-based jobs like sustainability managers and policy advisors.

What does a clean economy look like to you, and what will it take to get there?

Using any artistic medium you like, imagine life in a thriving clean economy. What kinds of jobs, training opportunities, or skills will it take to get there? Some artistic prompts that may help guide you are:

- How is your community moving towards a clean economy?
- Where do you see life blooming in the clean economy?
- What is your dream climate-related job? Or, in what ways could you change your dream job to become more sustainable?
- What skills should be developed to become more sustainable and support a clean economy?
- Where do you see yourself in the clean economy?

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 (10 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 or reflection on previous experience (5 points):** Does your previous work demonstrate the ability to complete artistic projects relating to a theme? Is your previous work reflective of a commitment to educating or inspiring others about climate change and/or environmental stewardship? Or, do you clearly describe your previous artistic experience and explain why you do not have a portfolio of previous work that meets the above criteria? While we will not be judging your previous work, we would like to learn about your progression as an artist.

The strongest applications will clearly reflect your own personal artistic style and draw on your beliefs and/or life experiences.

Bearing in mind the different levels of experience and opportunity between youth in high school and youth who are in university or working, at least one third of the grant funding will be reserved for youth ages 14-18 to ensure equity in the application selection process.

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
- Birthdate (for you and all group members, if applicable)
- What region of Nova Scotia are you from?

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:** Tell us about any barriers or challenges you have faced in the past when creating an artistic project or showcasing your work. How will the Showcase help you to overcome these barriers or challenges? (maximum **250 words**).

Artistic proposal

Youth artists must submit an original artistic proposal, outlining how their creative project will address the theme of Preparing for the Clean Economy. 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.

- *You will be asked to disclose if you have used or intend to use AI (artificial intelligence) for any part of your creative process, including writing the application or creating the artwork. If using AI, you must explain how you have and/or 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. Heavy use of AI without modification will negatively impact our assessment of your application.*

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@cleanfoundation.ca at least one week before the application deadline 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 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)? Bearing in mind the recommended time frame of 20-30 hours, 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, though our team will do our best to accommodate individual Youth Artist's needs), please outline your estimated budget. This Materials Grant is intended to support the purchase of equipment or materials to complete your creative project. If you receive a Materials Grant, you will be required to provide receipts for your expenses.
4. Finally, we would love to see any creations you have made already. Please include a "portfolio" of your previous work, sharing two to five previous artistic projects, or provide a brief explanation of your previous artistic experience instead of a portfolio. Your previous work does not need to be in the same medium as your artistic proposal.

Alternative ways to apply

Accessibility and inclusivity are important to us. If this application process presents any barriers for you, please **email us at least one week before the application deadline** 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.

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

- A recorded phone call.
- A recorded video call.
- A printed copy of the application form that you mail or scan to us (please note, we must receive your application on or before the deadline).

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