



**Saskatchewan
Arts Alliance**

ENVISIONING A FULLY-FUNDED SK ARTS

Prepared by the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance

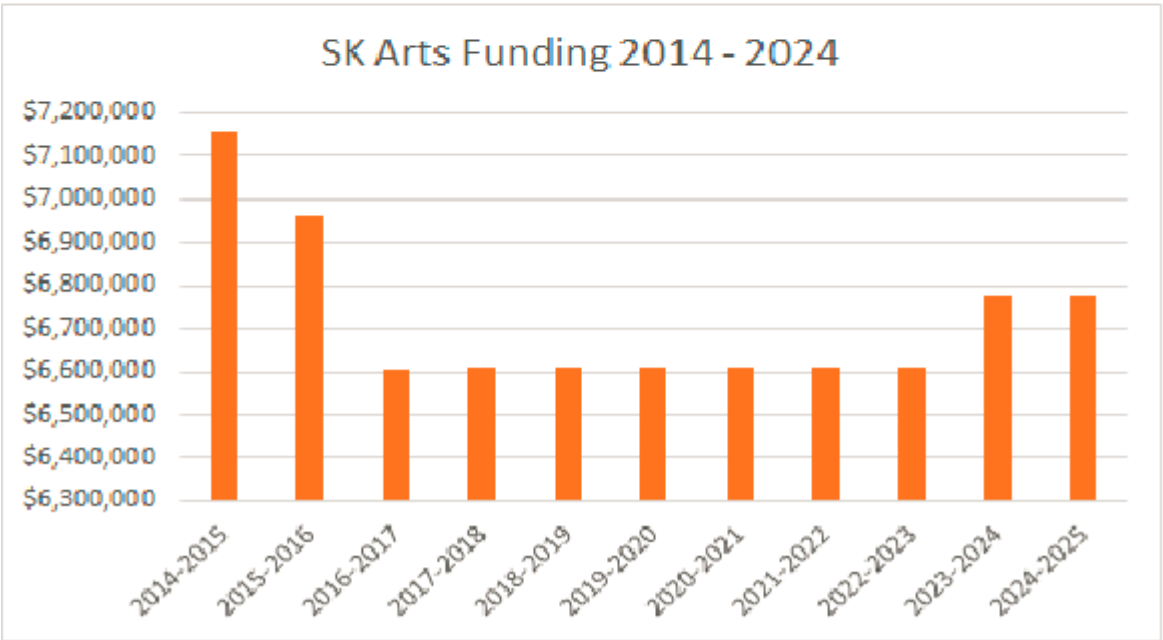
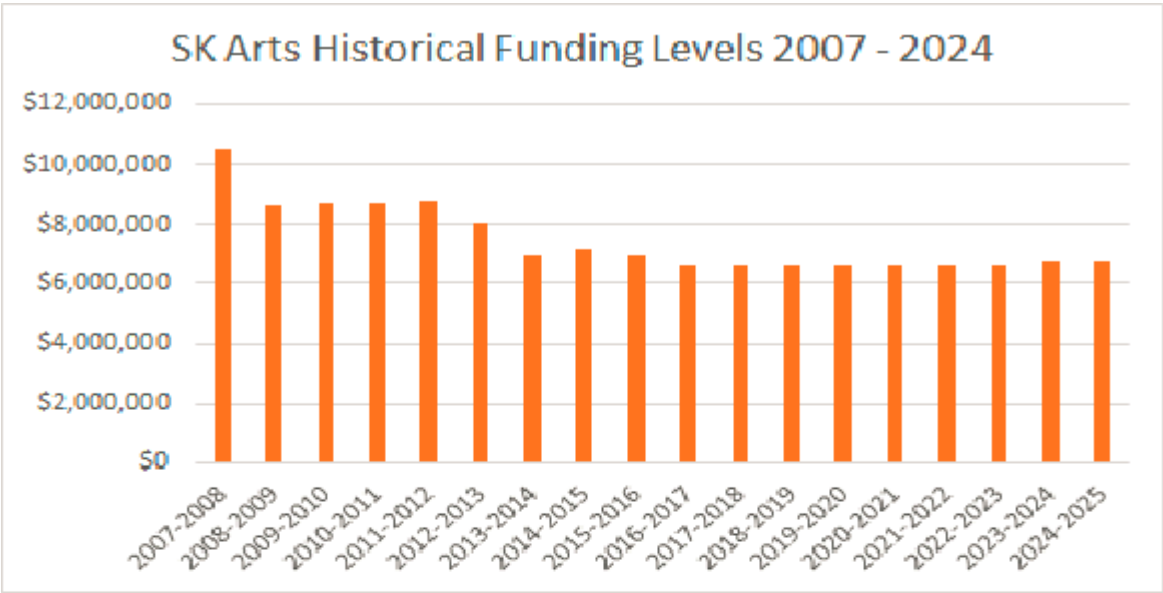
**Prepared by:
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Updated May

2025



As part of the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance’s ongoing efforts to advocate for increased funding to SK Arts, the SAA engaged in a consultation with SK Arts’ staff to determine what were their operational needs, and what it would look like if SK Arts were to be funded to a sufficient level.

SK Arts funding is deficient. At its peak in 2007, SK Arts received \$10.5 million in funding from the provincial government, with funding remaining above the \$8 million mark until 2014, when it dropped to \$6.955 million. Ten years ago, in 2015 funding was at \$7.158 million before dropping below \$7 million, where it has remained ever since.



Saskatchewan has not been immune to the rising cost of living and significant inflation that has been seen worldwide. Indeed, according to the Bank of Canada, SK Art's current funding levels of \$6.775 million is equivalent to \$5.263 million in 2014 dollars. If SK Arts funding had kept up with the rate of inflation, their funding would currently be \$9.213 million, compared to 2014 dollars.

Not only has the numerical value of SK Arts' funding decreased in the past 10 years (by 383,000) but the fiscal value of SK Arts funding has decreased 22%.

By both metrics, SK Arts has seen their funding decline in the past decade. As one of the major arts funding bodies in the province, this is unacceptable.

Although the SAA has continued to advocate for increased funding, of account of this stagnation, the SAA felt that it would be more effective to first determine what SK Arts' financial needs are, to better inform our advocacy work and our communications with the government.

At present, SK Arts receives \$6.775 million in funding from the provincial government. The SAA has previously demonstrated that organizations funded by SK Arts generate \$74 million in economic output for the province, but this does not include SK Arts itself.

Following the same methodology previously applied, and utilising the Statistics Canada Multipliers, the SAA has determined that SK Arts on its own, at its current operating level, generates \$17.6 million in economic output, \$9.7 million in GDP and supports the equivalent of 194 full-time jobs in Saskatchewan.

Despite this significant contribution to the overall provincial economy, SK Arts remains underfunded. As part of our consultation with SK Arts, two speculative budgets were created: one that addresses the current needs of SK Arts, that would allow them to operate at their full-capacity, and a second that would enable SK Arts to expand and grow beyond its current operations.

For both, SK Arts identified three major areas in which they would invest the additional funding. The first, was that of grant amounts. SK Arts would like to be able to better fund their granting programs. Increasing these granting amounts would be a significant boost to the artists and arts organizations funded by SK Arts, and would additionally result in an increased economic impact from those organizations.

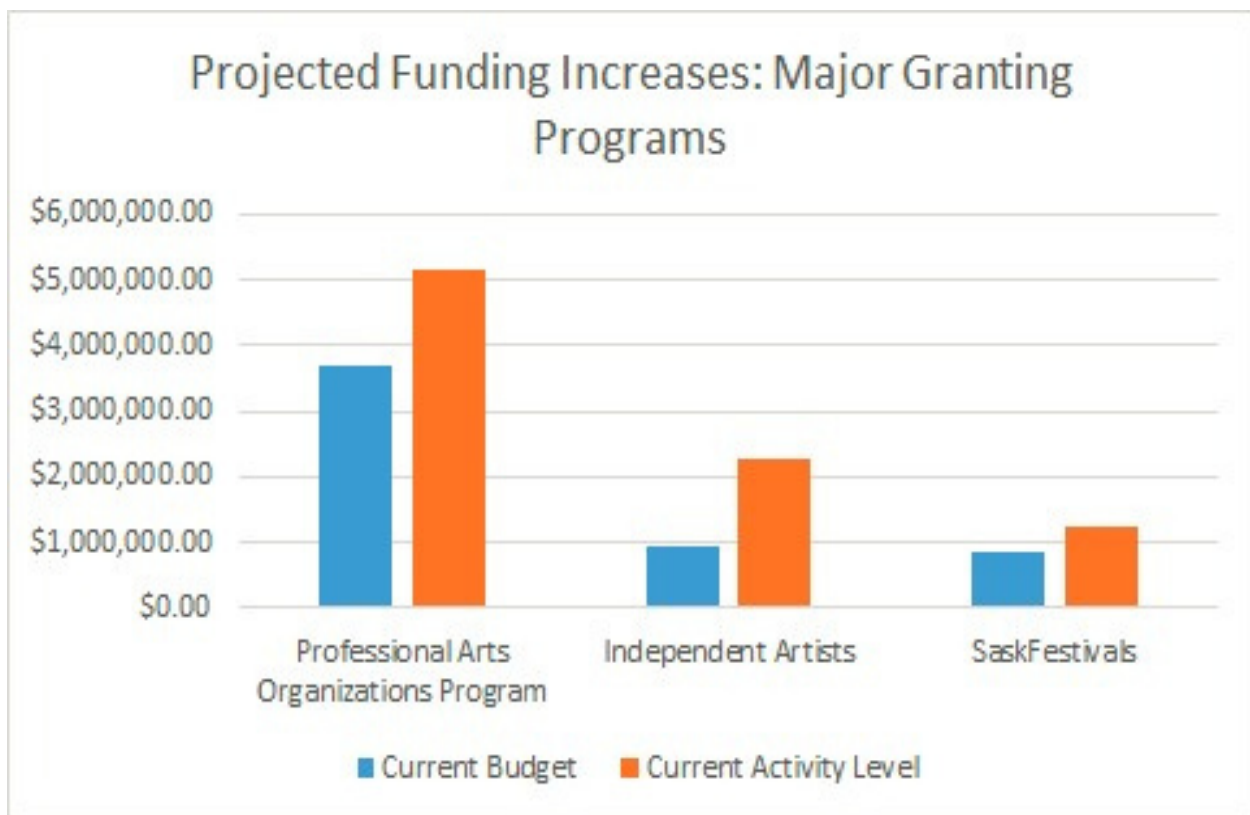
SK Arts would increase their granting in the following ways:

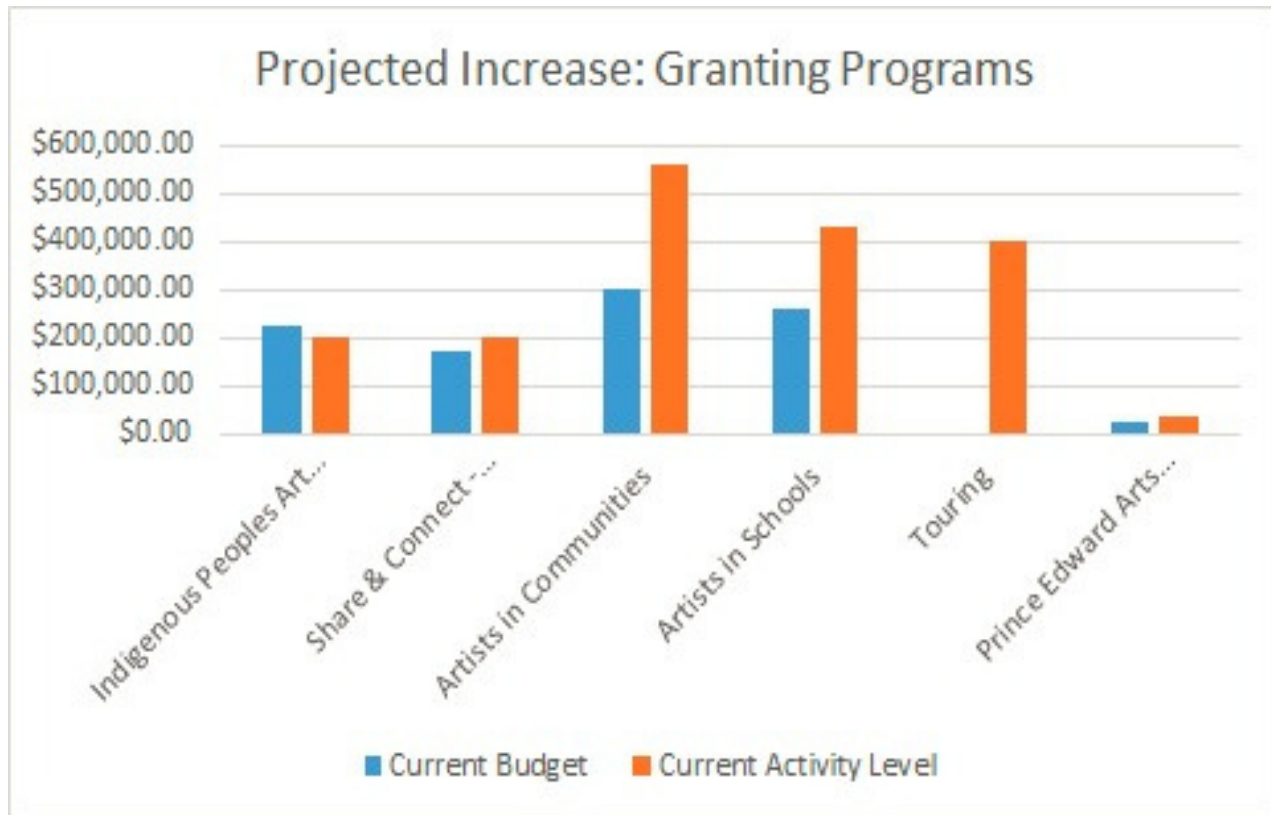
- Increase funding to PAOP and SaskFestivals by 40%
- Increase funding to IA, setting the success rate at 55% of last years' total requests
- Double the funding for BAE, to reflect two deadlines of the same level as opposed to one
- Increase funding for both IPAA and S&C to reflect a 75% success rate
- Increase funding for AiC to reflect a 75% success rate
- Increase funding for PEAS to reflect a 85% success rate
- The creation of two new programs: an Equipment Purchase Fund and a Touring Fund

Outside of granting, SK Arts would address deficiencies in the storage and care of their permanent art collection. SK Arts currently owns 3,700 art pieces representing 850 artists, however, SK Arts currently does not have adequate facilities for housing and caring for this collection. Concerns over the fire alarm system, security, public access to the building, and the inability to independently transport art were all raised in our consultations. Increased funding to SK Arts would allow them to better care for, maintain and display this substantial, and important collection.

SK Arts additionally would address areas of their operations, in order to increase capacity of overburdened staff, increase professional development opportunities as well as to better manage their existing programs, services and outreach. One of the main ways in which SK Arts would address these issues would be through the creation of the equivalent of 10 full-time positions, such as an Indigenous Consultant for their permanent collection and a dedicated Director of Programs. SK Arts would additionally increase the fees paid to panelists, and higher prize levels for the Arts of Celebration events, among other activities.

In this Current Levels budget, SK Arts would require a funding increase to \$11,783,172 from the provincial government, a 74% increase. With this increased funding, the projected economic output of SK Arts would be \$25.8 million in economic output, \$14.4 million in GDP and the equivalent of 286 full-time equivalents in Saskatchewan.





SK Arts additionally prepared an Envisioned Budget, that would allow SK Arts to expand its operations beyond its current level. This Envisioned Budget would allow for an increase to all grant programs, an increase to the accessibility as well as the creation of 3 further full-time equivalents on top of the 10 from the Current Levels budget. Professional development for staff was additionally increased, as well as an increase in funding for Ask Arts in addition to the existing LIVE Arts, as well as five new outreach events located around the province.

This budget would necessitate \$12,863,586 in funding from the provincial government, a 90% increase from current funding levels. At this level, the economic impact of SK Arts would be \$27.5 million in economic output, \$15.3 million in GDP and the equivalent of 305 full-time jobs in the province.

In the proposed Current Levels budget, SK Arts would require a nearly 74% increase in funding from the provincial government to \$11,783,172. With this increased funding, SK Arts' projected economic output would be \$25.8 million, \$14.4 million in GDP, and the equivalent of 286 full-time equivalents in Saskatchewan.

SK Arts additionally prepared an Envisioned Budget that would allow the agency to expand its operations beyond its current level. This Envisioned Budget would allow for an increase to all grant programs, an increase to the accessibility fund, increased outreach and the creation of 3.5 further full-time equivalents on top of the increase from the Current Levels budget: two additional Program Consultants with a primary focus on outreach, a Policy and Planning Advisor, and the part-time Administrative Coordinator position above would be increased to full time. The part-time Finance/Administrative Assistant position would be made full-time, and a part-time social media staff position would be implemented. Professional development for staff was also increased, as well as increased funding for Ask Artists in addition to the existing LIVE Arts and five new outreach events located around the province.

This budget would necessitate \$12,863,586 in funding from the provincial government, a 90% increase from current funding levels. At this level, SK Arts's economic impact would be \$27.5 million in economic output, \$15.3 million in GDP, and the equivalent of 305 full-time jobs in the province.