



2026 Performing Arts Bursary Program Guidelines

The Vernon & District Performing Arts Centre (VDPAC) Society's annual Bursary Program is part of the Society's ongoing Youth Engagement Program to promote and assist students from Greater Vernon in their pursuit of post-secondary education and careers in the Performing Arts or Performing Arts Management.

1. Application Guidelines for up to Five \$3,000 Bursary Awards in 2026 are as follows:

Bursary applicants must:

- Submit a completed Application Form, including all required supporting documentation as listed, c/o the VDPAC Administration Office, received by the application deadline of **Monday, April 13, 2026**.
- Have a family home address within the boundaries served by the City of Vernon, the District of Coldstream, or Electoral Areas B or C.
- Be an applicant to, accepted to, or currently enrolled in, an accredited program at a university, college or technical school, majoring in Performing Arts or Performing Arts Management programs; or in a recognized apprenticeship program in the Performing Arts*

* Please Note: Students applying for a 1st Year post-secondary Performing Arts program may not have received an official Letter of Acceptance from the institution to which they have applied, by VDPAC's Bursary Program's earlier **Monday, April 13, 2026, deadline**. These students may still apply for a VDPAC Bursary on or before this deadline, but MUST include: "**Formal confirmation of acceptance from [Institution's Name] pending**" in their application's covering letter, with their completed Application Form.

Applications will be reviewed by the VDPAC Board of Directors' Bursary Program Committee, however, applicants will be required to **submit a copy of their formal acceptance confirmation letter from their institution** as received, preferably by **Friday, July 24, 2026**. VDPAC staff may be in contact with applicants for program acceptance status updates before bursaries are awarded.

- Demonstrate a commitment to pursuing a career in the Performing Arts or Performing Arts Management.

Applicants may not receive more than two VDPAC bursaries over the course of their post-secondary career.

A maximum of **five (5)** selected applicants will be directly notified pre-graduation in June 2026. Bursaries will be issued in September 2026 upon VDPAC's receipt of copied formal confirmation of acceptance and enrollment from the recipient's chosen Institution.

Formal public announcement of all VDPAC Performing Arts Bursary recipients will be made as part of VDPAC's 25th Anniversary Birthday Bash celebration in early-October 2026.

2. Categories to be Considered for VDPAC's Performing Arts Bursaries:

- A. Grade 12 students accepted into a recognized university or college Performing Arts program or technical theatre school, and/or with formal acceptance pending, (See above).
- B. Students enrolled in 1st, 2nd, 3rd or final year of university, college or technical theatre school.
- C. Students enrolled in a recognized apprenticeship program in the Performing Arts.

3. Bursary Program Committee:

Each year, the Society's Board of Directors will confirm the number of bursaries to be made available; the amount of each bursary, and strike an ad hoc Bursary Program Committee to review applications and make award recommendations for approval by the VDPAC Board of Directors.

The Bursary Program Committee, in conjunction with the Society's Executive Director, sets each year's application deadline with the goal to make a public announcement of bursary recipients, and if possible, as part of the Society's annual, public Birthday Bash celebration (traditionally in late-September).

The Bursary Program Committee may award fewer bursaries than first made available by the Board, but not more without the expressed approval of the Board of Directors, subject to the number and quality of applications, as well as the current Bursary Fund resources.

4. Funding Sources:

Funding for the Society's Performing Arts Bursaries typically comes from patron gratuities collected over the preceding year at the Vernon & District Performing Arts Centre's Bar & Concession and Coatcheck Gallery. Individuals may also make tax deductible personal donations, or personalized bequests to the Society specifically for the Bursary Program Fund. Organizations, foundations, businesses, corporate entities, and individual or family philanthropists may also make donations to the Society expressly for this purpose. Corporate and/or private (i.e.. legacy) named sponsorships of annual bursaries will also be considered.

At its discretion, the VDPAC Board of Directors may top up or match funding from the Society's own funds.

The Society may also make specific application(s) to external funding sources that endow or otherwise financially support bursary award programs. All funds received by the VDPAC for the purpose of awarding bursaries are securely held in a restricted "Bursary Fund" reserve.

The Bursary Program Committee, from time to time, may make recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval of updates or revisions to the VDPAC Society's Performing Arts Bursary Program guidelines and/or application format.

Updated: February 27, 2026.

See also accompanying "VDPAC Performing Arts Bursary - Application Form"