

Metis Women's Arts and Culture Program

Program Outline for Funding Requests



Every year, about 20 percent of our program participants are funded to join our Metis Women's Program through their employers, community associations, local Metis groups, and charitable grant/award organizations. We have created this letter to support their applications for funding.

Why support Metis culture reclamation?

As an employer, community organization, or organization supporting Indigenous people, supporting cultural reclamation programs can be an important step in reconciliation, having a vibrant Indigenous engagement policy, and can support your Metis community to revive connections to our history, traditions and arts.

What does our program offer to participants?

Beyond the learning outcomes associated with our program, the aim of the Metis Women's Program is to instill a sense of confidence, pride, and connection in participants as they step into their rightful place as Metis women. We have found over 2 years running this program that many of our participants join us on day one with apprehension, knowing they want to connect with their culture, but feeling unsure of how to step into that identity. They feel like an imposter and don't know how to connect within the Metis community. In contrast many of our program participants who have started at that point have gone on to hold positions within Metis Provincial Bodies, to share their knowledge of arts and culture in the community, initiate community arts projects, take positions within Metis culture focused companies, and to build their own businesses focused on their art skills. Our culture is beautiful and powerful...and so are our women.

What is included in the Women's Program?

- Level 1 Beading Class
- Level 2 Beading Class
- Moccasin Making Class
- Octopus Bag Making Class
- Mitasses Making Class
- Shawl Making Class
- Ribbon Skirt Making Class

Participants also gain access to free cultural content along with their classes. Some of these resources include;

- Weekly Michif words lessons using online resources and monthly speaking circle
- Access to the Metis Women's Circle
- Access to readings
- Access to Monthly Live Online Zoom Gatherings
- Access to weekly cultural teachings

They also receive;

- Recipes for traditional foods
- Online events notifications
- Curated content from across the web including songs and stories

Metis Women's Program Outline Continued...



How does learning happen?

Our full program occurs online using multiple teaching tools including;

- Our online classroom where we host weekly written and video lessons, chats, and arts classes
- Live online on Zoom for our monthly Michif and Women's Circles along with optional live one on one support on arts projects
- Self-paced and cohort paced learning allows for the program to work for many different work/life schedules
- Hands on learning through arts projects and trying out traditional foods recipes
- Personal reflection through a program progress journal
- Learning language through online resources such as classes, dictionaries, lessons and live practice speaking in our monthly Michif circle

What does the program cost?

Our program registration fee includes the cost of the arts classes which are the foundation of our program. All other cultural components are free to access for participants. We highly suggest that participants be encouraged to offer protocol for the cultural components of the program. The program registration fee does not include the cost of materials for participating in arts projects throughout the program.

Please refer to the program materials list for an outline of the materials used in our arts classes, however, you will see an estimate of the cost of all materials (purchased from a store near you). From time to time, we also have materials kits available for our arts classes.

Program Fee: 320 CAD / 250 USD

Estimate of Materials Cost: 250 - 500 dollars

What is the time commitment for the program?

This program is highly customizable based on the participants schedule and interests. However, this estimate of time investment would include for all aspects of the program.

- Weekly lessons 1-2 hours per week (self-paced 3 times a week)
- Monthly live gatherings on Zoom 3-5 hours per month (first and second Thursdays of the month)
- Watching and reading arts class lessons 2-4 hours per week (self-paced)
- Participating in assignments and implementing teachings 2-3 hours per month (self-paced)

How does registration work?

Participants register on our website at www.meetingmyancestors.com and are sent a link to access our full program online. Payments are required before the program begins and payments can be made by e-transfer, credit card, cheque or cash. Organizations who are registering multiple participants can pay for their registration fees (and materials if applicable) all at once by combined invoice then have their participants register online indicating their fees are being paid by the organization in the registration notes.

Have more questions about offering funding to participants?

Email Natalie@meetingmyancestors.com

www.meetingmyancestors.com