



ITC

SheTrades



**OPEN CALL FOR
CARIBBEAN WOMEN IN MUSIC
MARKET ACCESS PROGRAMME FOR WOMEX 2026**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 7, 2026 @ 11:59 p.m. AST

WHO WE ARE

The Cultural and Creative Industries Innovation Fund (CIIF) and SheTrades Caribbean Hub are programmes within the Private Sector Division of the Caribbean Development Bank.

CIIF was established in 2017 with an initial USD2.6 million in capitalisation from the Caribbean Development Bank. It is intended to be a multi-donor fund, which will support the development of the Creative Industries (CI) sector in the Caribbean. CIIF's goal is to enable the Region's cultural and creative industries to be globally competitive.

CIIF's Technical Assistance and Grants are disbursed under three main streams and focus on five main subsectors: Audiovisual (incl. animation, gaming and film), Fashion and Contemporary Design, Festivals & Carnivals, Music and Visual Arts.

The She Trades Caribbean Hub: Established in 2023 under a Collaboration Agreement between the CDB and International Trade Centre (ITC), the SheTrades Caribbean Hub is a regional resource centre for Caribbean women-led businesses, providing members with a range of technical and financial assistance to increase their participation in international trade and to export.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

To support a select group of women-led music businesses to attend the World Music Expo (WOMEX) from October 21 to 25, 2026 in Gran Canaria, Spain. In order to achieve programme goals of improving the competitiveness of women-led business entities in the music industry, this opportunity will also provide market entry preparation through training and capacity building. We are specifically looking for business managers, publishers, songwriters, music technology developers, and producers.

This opportunity is not open to recording or performing artistes.

FUNDING INFORMATION

CIIF is providing a total of USD75,000 in funding via its Improving Competitiveness of MSMEs Grant stream to support the programme's implementation; Businesses selected to travel to WOMEX 2026 should be able to cover individual expenses related to visas/travel documents, mandatory travel insurance, daily subsistence for meals, and ground transport.

WHAT IS BEING FUNDED

Direct participation in the World Music Expo 2026 will be facilitated for a group of eight (8) participants successfully completing the training, via the following funded activities:

- **WOMEX 2026 ACCESS PASS:** All-access participant pass which provides access to all WOMEX events including Trade Fair, Conference, Films and Showcases, plus a 1-year membership to virtualWOMEX database and online platform.
- **ROUNDTRIP ECONOMY TRAVEL TO WOMEX 2026:** Economy airfare coverage to Gran Canaria, Spain via most direct, economical flight route from home country, and hotel accommodation for the period of travel. *All flight and hotel arrangements will be made by the Caribbean Development Bank.*
- **ADDITIONAL PREPARATION SUPPORT:** 3 hours virtual training dedicated to pre-travel preparations
- **WOMEX ACADEMY FACILITATED ON-SITE SUPPORT & NETWORKING FORUM:** On-site support hours including WOMEX Academy networking session
- **POST-WOMEX DIAGNOSTICS:** Virtual post-event evaluation of activity impact and diagnostics of support needed for activation of leads/learnings.

OTHER ACTIVITY COMPONENTS

This opportunity also provides fully funded access to the following activities which support enhanced capacity of a cohort of fifteen (15) women-led music business entities to participate effectively in international market opportunities:

- **MARKET READINESS DIAGNOSTICS:** Diagnostic of market readiness to inform targeted training support
- **MARKET ACCESS PREPARATION:** 12 hours of virtual market preparation training led by WOMEX Academy covering topics including: Analysis of Different Music Conferences and Music Markets, How to Prepare for International Professional Music Industry Events, Opportunities in Europe for Caribbean Artists and Music Professionals, Developing Networking Skills in International Contexts, Mental Health for Music Professionals, Good Practices of Sustainability in Music Projects and Post-Event Evaluations.
- **MARKET ACCESS VIA BUSINESS CATALOGUE FEATURES:** Business feature in a digital catalogue to be promoted and disseminated at WOMEX 2026.

- **ACCESS TO VIRTUAL WOMEX:** Subscription access to virtualWOMEX database and online platform for a period of one (1) year to facilitate continued independent learning through curated content such as selected music documentaries, films, interviews and 1 music industry information.

TIMELINE

The project activities span a period of 3-6 months from July – December 2026:

- **FULL COHORT TRAINING** – July, August, September 2026
- **TRAVEL COHORT ACTIVITIES** – October – December 2026

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applicants should have a formally registered business and operating in at least one of CDB's Borrowing Member Countries for no less than two years
- Businesses should be able to evidence at least one (1) active music industry project at the time of application (in areas such as artiste management, publishing, songwriting, music technology development, and production)
- Lead applicants should be citizens of [CDB's Borrowing Member Countries](#)
- Applicants should have at least five (5) years' operational experience in music business and related activities.
- Applicants are required to commit to 3-6 months of virtual capacity-building

Successful applicants must be willing to participate in the CDB's monitoring and evaluation of enterprise for impact assessment for a period of 24 months after the close of the programme and permit publishing of non-sensitive business information for programme promotional purposes. All information provided by applicants will be treated with strict confidentiality by the CDB and will be used solely for analytical purposes. Management of all application and project data adheres to CDB's Data Privacy Guidelines.

EVALUATION, AWARD & CONTRACT INFORMATION

Applications will be assessed at least four (4) weeks after the submission deadline. Shortlisted applications will be evaluated by an independent panel consisting of industry professionals/experts who will recommend the most suitable candidates for selection. Application decisions will be communicated by the CDB in the final week of July 2026.

APPLY NOW: <https://bit.ly/3SaAmce>