

Project Assistance Guidelines



The City of Richmond allocates grant funding for arts and cultural organizations that provide programming and activities for the benefit of Richmond residents.

This support acknowledges that the work of these organizations contributes to Richmond's quality of life, identity and economy and is extended to recipients who demonstrate vision, accountability and spirit of community service in their operations.

These guidelines incorporate recognized best practices and are designed to ensure accountability for use of public funds; **read through carefully before you make an application.**

If this is your first time making an application to the City of Richmond, or if you require further assistance, we encourage you to speak with or meet with a staff member of Arts, Culture and Heritage Services to ensure that your proposal is eligible and to ask any questions that may assist you in putting together an application.

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This information and other information on our programs and services are available on the City website at www.richmond.ca/artists.

2023: Arts and Culture Grants Program Objectives and Description

The Arts and Culture Grants program is intended to support a range of artistic and cultural activity including literary, visual, media, dance, theatre, music, multi-disciplinary, inter-disciplinary, and community-based arts, reflecting different cultural traditions as well as contemporary art forms and practices.

The program provides grants to support organizational capacity through Operating Assistance as well as one-time or time-limited initiatives through Project Assistance. Organizations may not apply for more than one City of Richmond grant per year.

Operating Grants are provided to support the annual programming and operating activities of eligible organizations. All grants are reviewed on a yearly basis and are not to be viewed by applicants as an on-going source of funding.

Organizations already receiving City funding that represents the equivalent of operating funds are not eligible for Operating Assistance. They are eligible for Project Assistance funding if their project is outside the scope of their normal operations.

Application Forms

New applicants are encouraged to read through the Guidelines first to obtain a general understanding of the program and then contact staff at Arts, Culture and Heritage Services to discuss your proposal and confirm your eligibility.

- The application form is available online at www.richmond.ca/citygrants
- Applications must be received on or before the submission date. Late applications will not be accepted.
- Answer all the questions on the form concisely, and include all requested supporting materials.

Project Assistance Eligibility Criteria

- Project Assistance is available for new and/or developing arts and culture organizations, or established arts and culture organizations working on a project basis or undertaking a special one-time initiative.
- Applicants must be registered as a non-profit society in good standing within the Province of BC, having been legally established and in operation for at least 6 months at the time of application deadline.
- Applicants must be active in Richmond and may be based outside of Richmond so long as their project takes place in Richmond, serves the Richmond community and employs Richmond artists (program may include some artists that are not local). For example, an art installation in Richmond organized by a Vancouver-based arts organization that employs Richmond artists and involves community engagement with Richmond residents would be eligible, but a concert in Richmond presented by a Burnaby-based organization would not be eligible.
- Programming and services must be accessible to the public and publicized citywide, or in the case of umbrella organizations, must further the interests of artists, creators, arts organizations and elements of the arts community. The organization's activities can include policy development, provision of professional services, and production of collective projects.
- Applicants must be independent organizations with clear mandates that include the provision of public programs and/or services with an arts and culture focus.
- All principal professional artists should be compensated for their participation commensurate with industry standards. For more information about these standards, please refer to the following organizations:
 - American Federation of Musicians: www.afm.org
 - Canadian Actors Equity Association: www.caea.com
 - Canadian League of Composers: www.clc-lcc.ca
 - Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists: www.cadadance.org
 - Professional Writers Association of Canada: www.pwac.ca
 - Canadian Artists Representation/Le front des artistes canadiens/CARFAC: www.carfac.ca
- Applicants should have stable administration and artistic leadership, directed by recognized arts/culture professionals and/or experienced volunteers.
- Applicants must have other cash revenue sources for their activity that may include self-generated or earned revenue (ticket sales, concession, memberships), funding from other levels of government (provincial, federal) and private sector support (fundraising, foundations, sponsorship, cash and in-kind donations).
- Applicants must provide independently prepared financial statements for the most recently completed fiscal year: an un-audited statement endorsed by two signing officers (with balance sheet and income statement, at minimum), review engagement or audit.
- Project grant funds may be requested for up to 50% of the total cost of the project, to a maximum of \$5,000.

Examples of Eligible Activity

- The development of arts and cultural activity that reflects cultural traditions or contemporary artistic practices that will result in some form of dissemination or presentation to a broad public audience. Public dissemination may include exhibitions, performance, publications, presentations, video, film, new media, radio, or web-based initiatives (not the development of organizational/program websites.)
- Artisanal projects that include manual work of a high standard to create items that may be functional and/or decorative, including furniture, clothing, jewellery, watercraft, etc.
- Collaborative and creative initiatives between professional artists and community members that will result in some form of public presentation and which clearly express community interests and issues and demonstrate a strong collaborative process.
- Special requests for audio recordings, publications, film, video or web-based unique initiatives.
- Artistic Residencies that facilitate learning, development and cultural exchange between professional artists or artisans and qualified host organizations. See Artistic Residencies, below

Ineligible Organizations

- Organizations which do not meet eligibility criteria and requirements
- Other City of Richmond departments or branches
- Social Service, Political, Religious or Sports organizations

Ineligible Activities

- Core-training, in-class or curriculum-based training, conferences, mentorships
- Bursaries or scholarships
- Contests or competitions
- Activity that is not artistic or cultural
- Fundraisers
- Deficit reduction
- Activity outside of Richmond
- Activity which has started prior to the application deadline
- Capital projects
- Delivery of services and resources by Service Organizations

Individual artists cannot apply on their own but may make an application in partnership with a qualifying organization for artistic or skill development through an **Artistic Residency**:

Artistic Residencies

Artistic Residencies facilitate learning, development and cultural exchange opportunities between professional artists or artisans, qualified host organizations, and/or the community.

- Residency candidates must be Richmond-based professional artists. The City's definition of a professional artist is one that has:
 - completed basic training (university or college graduation or the equivalent in specialized training, such as two or three years of self-directed study or apprenticeships);
 - is recognized as such by peers; and
 - is committed to devoting time to artistic activity, if financially feasible.
- Applications may be made by a non-profit organization to either:
 - host a residency, or
 - sponsor a Richmond-based artist to be hosted by another organization (which may or may not be a non-profit but where the residency supports the program objectives and the Artist's residency objectives.)
- Applicants may apply to host consecutive residencies in the second year; however, priority will be given to new applicants each year. An applicant may sponsor more than one artist at a time within the same project.
- The organization must demonstrate the capacity to host or sponsor a residency and must meet the General Eligibility criteria.
- There must be clear artistic development objectives for both the artist and host organization.
- The residency should provide opportunities for development and creation of the artist's work and if possible, some form of presentation of the artist's work either in progress or at completion.
- There should be some public engagement component of the work during the residency that would offer learning opportunities for the artist, related staff, the arts and cultural community and/or the general public.
- The residency and work created therein must be in addition to the regular activities of the Host organization.
- The grant is applicable to project costs: artist fees, materials, presentation costs and project administration costs born by the host organization.

Artistic Residencies (cont'd)

A Residency Agreement should address the points below (4 pages max, min 11 pt font):

- Artist Letter of Intent demonstrating the residency objectives and how it will further the development of the artist or artistic practice
- Organization Letter of Intent indicating the residency objectives
- A work plan (including timelines, activities, milestone dates, etc.)
- Financial obligations of both parties
- How the project will be evaluated
- A contingency plan (addressing potential changes, conflict or non-compliance)
- Signatures of all parties involved agreeing to the terms
- Budget of revenues and expenses

Assessment Criteria

There are three key areas of evaluation that are weighted equally: merit, organizational competence and community impact. The organization's recent activities (as outlined in the previous year's Grant Use Report, for example) as well as proposed ones are taken into consideration when assessing an application.

Programming/Merit

- Quality of the organization's creation, production, presentation, dissemination and service activities (strength of intention, effectiveness of how it is put into practice, degree to which it enhances or develops a form, practice or process and impact on the creative personnel involved)
- Clear articulation of mandate/vision and degree to which the activity supports the mandate/vision
- Distinctiveness of the organization's activities in relation to comparable activities in Richmond. Does it provide unique opportunities for artists, other arts organizations and the public?

Organizational Capacity

- Evidence of clear mandate, competent administration, functional board and an appropriate administrative and governance structure
- Evidence of financial stability and accountability as demonstrated through prior financial performance, achievable and balanced budgets, and financial management practices and plans
- Evidence of planning in place to support the proposal and/or ongoing organizational capacity (as per realistic schedules, timelines, planning practices, etc.)

Impact

- Level of public access to the work, activities or services
- Evidence of growing interest and attendance
- Level of engagement with other arts organizations, artists and community groups from all of Richmond's communities
- Evidence of promotional and/or outreach strategies in place to encourage wide public participation, awareness and engagement
- Demonstrated support from the community as evidenced through partnerships, collaborations, sponsorship support, in-kind support, volunteers, etc.

Assessment and Awarding of Grants

Complete applications are assessed by an Assessment Committee made up of City staff. A report on the Assessment Committee recommendations is written and submitted to City Council for their consideration and approval.

Council will make the final grant decisions, at its sole discretion, based on the program goals, criteria, policies, requirements and a review of City staff recommendations.

Council may:

- Approve a funding application:
 - in total, with or without conditions (i.e., subject to a mid-year review)
 - in part, with or without conditions
- Ask for more information
- Issue dollars in phases with conditions
- Deny an application

Council has final approving authority.

Funds will be dispersed as soon as possible after Council approval. The objective is to have all funds disbursed within 60 days of approval.

Grants are awarded on an annual basis. Applicants must re-apply each year. Continued funding is not guaranteed.

Conditions of Assistance

Please note that if your organization receives a civic grant, the following conditions will apply:

- Grant funds must be applied to current expenses, not used to reduce or eliminate accumulated deficits. Activities cannot be funded retroactively.
- The Society will make every effort to secure funding from other sources as indicated in its application. It will keep proper books of accounts for all receipts and expenditures relating to its activities and, upon the City's request, make available for inspection by the City or its auditors all records and books of accounts.
- If there are any changes in the organization's activities as presented in this application, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services Division must be notified in writing of such changes immediately. In the event that the grant funds are not used for the organization's activities as described in the application, they are to be repaid to the City in full. If the activities are completed without requiring the full use of the City funds, the remaining City funds are also to be returned to the City.
- The City of Richmond requires organizations receiving a civic grant to appropriately acknowledge the City's support in all their information materials, including publications and programs related to funded activities (i.e., brochures, posters, advertisements, websites, advertisements, signs, etc.). Such recognition must be commensurate with that given to other funding agencies. If the logos of other funders are used in an acknowledgement, the City should be similarly represented. Acknowledgement is provided by using the City of Richmond logo in accordance with prescribed standards. City of Richmond logo files and usage standards will be provided to successful applicants. Failure to acknowledge the City's support may result in the inability of an organization to obtain grant support in future years.
- Receipt of a grant does not guarantee funding in the following fiscal year.
- Successful applicants will complete a Grant Use Report online as a pre-condition for consideration of an organization's future grant applications. If the Project has not been completed at that time, an updated Grant Use Report must be submitted upon completion.

Confidentiality

All documents submitted by Applicants to the City of Richmond become the property of the City. The City will make every effort to maintain the confidentiality of each application and the information contained within except to the extent necessary to communicate information to staff and peer members of the Assessment Committee for the purpose of evaluation and analysis, as well as to Council for recommendation report. The City will not release any of this information to the public except as required under the Province of British Columbia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act or other legal disclosure process.