

Operating 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/culture/citygrant

2024: 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 ongoing source of funding.

Organizations already receiving City funding that represents the equivalent of operating funds (e.g. ongoing yearly facility subsidies) are not eligible for Operating Assistance. They are eligible for Project Assistance funding if their project represents a new initiative and/or an outreach program that is not otherwise supported by existing City funding.

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/culture/citygrant
- Applications must be received on or before the submission deadline. Late applications will not be accepted.
- Answer all the questions on the form concisely, and include all requested supporting materials.

Operating Assistance Eligibility Criteria

- Operating Assistance is for established organizations that have an ongoing presence in Richmond and a track record of quality public programs and services. Applicant must be based in Richmond, registered as a non-profit society in good standing with the Province of BC, having been established legally and in operation for at least two (2) years prior to the application deadline and have recently received City Grant funding and successfully completed the projects.
- Applicants must be based and active in Richmond and provide programming and services that are open 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, advocacy, 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. Presented work must be primarily with and/ or by local artists/performers/artisans (amateur and/or professional); activities may include some artists who are not Richmond residents.
- 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 operate year-round in a fiscally responsible manner.
- Applicants must have other cash revenue sources for their activity that may include self-generated revenue (ticket sales, concession, and memberships), funding from other levels of government (provincial, federal) and private sector support (fundraising, foundations, sponsorship, cash and in-kind donations).
- Applicants must provide internal prepared financial statements endorsed by two signing officers (with balance sheet and income statement, at minimum), or independently prepared financial statements (review engagement or audit endorsed by two signing officers). Financial statements provided should represent the most recently completed fiscal year. For Operating grants:
 - *If your total operating budget is \$100,000 or more per year, you are required to submit an audited financial statement.*
 - *If your total operating budget is between \$50,001 and \$99,999 per year, you are required to submit a review engagement or an audited financial statement.*
 - *If your total operating budget is \$50,000 or less per year, you may submit an internal financial statement.*

Operating grants are awarded up to a maximum of 30% of the annual operating budget, to a maximum request of \$10,000.

Ineligible Organizations

- Organizations which do not meet eligibility criteria and requirements
- Other City of Richmond departments or branches
- Organizations already receiving City funding that represents the equivalent of operating funds including ongoing yearly facility subsidies
- Social Service, Religious, Political or Sports organizations

Ineligible Activities

- Fundraisers
- Deficit reduction
- Activity outside of Richmond
- Activity which was started prior to the application deadline
- Capital projects
- Activity that is not artistic or cultural
- Start-up costs
- Seed money for projects or events
- Showcases or recitals for schools/organizations with an educational mandate

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.

Use of Funds

The following guidelines and limitations are designed to meet best practices and to ensure accountability for use of public funds:

- It is expected that applicants will combine the Operating Assistance support they receive with other sources of revenue and financial investment (grants, donations, earned revenues) as well as in-kind support and contributions.
- Operating grants are provided to support the annual programming expenses and annual operating costs of the Society.
- Eligible use of Operating Assistance funds include, but are not exclusively limited to:
 - Fees and related expenses for artists, musicians, programming staff, cultural workers
 - Volunteer expenses (recruiting, training, support, etc.)
 - Production expenses (installation of artwork, equipment rental, costumes, sound, lights, etc.)
 - Marketing, community outreach and promotional expenses
 - Operating overheads (insurance coverage, rent, etc.)
 - Operating and administration expenses (insurance coverage, rent, equipment, software, etc.)
- Ineligible uses of Operating Assistance support include but are not exclusively restricted to:
 - Deficit reduction
 - Capital expenditures (i.e. construction, property renovations, equipment purchase, software, etc.)
 - Organizations that forecast a deficit budget must describe a clear plan to eliminate the deficit within two years of the grant application year.

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.