

Arts, Culture and Heritage Community Investment Program

Purpose:

To enable and encourage the community not-for-profit arts, culture and heritage organizations to collaborate, enhance their services and provide innovative programming to the residents of Strathcona County.

Assistance Categories:

The New Arts Development/Program Grant Fund is to assist local not-for-profit arts and culture organizations in the development of arts activities that support, encourage and promote community based arts, cultural and heritage programs and activities in Strathcona County.

To be considered for funding under this category, the organization must meet the eligibility criteria:

- Not-for-profit; must have been registered as a Society for one year.
- Projects are to be carried out within the funding year and consist of either a single activity or a series of activities in Strathcona County.
- The primary purpose of the organization is for the delivery/development of arts and/or cultural activities in Strathcona County.
- The programs and services provided by the organization must be available and of value to the clients.

Who may apply for the Arts and Culture funding?

- Not-For-Profits registered under:
 - Societies Act
 - Libraries Act
 - Agriculturals Act
- Community organizations that are not registered may have a sponsor apply on their behalf. The sponsor must be eligible under the Arts Funding Program funding criteria, and must take full legal and financial responsibility for the grant funds approval.

What Projects Might Be Funded?

- Workshops
- New initiatives in art, culture and heritage

What is considered to be an arts and cultural activity? Examples are:

Visual Arts: painting drawing, calligraphy, fabric arts, ceramic arts, multimedia, sculpture, and crafts

Performing Arts: drama, music, dance, choral, theatre, and film arts

Literacy Arts: reading, storytelling, writing, and poetry

Heritage or historical activities

Multimedia presentations

What is not eligible for Funding?

- Direct grant to individual artists
- For-profit organizations
- Fundraising costs
- Travel expenses
- Capital expenditures
- Liquor license
- Liquor
- Food
- Re-applying for additional grant funds for the same project/event/program

Financial:

Approved funding can only be used as detailed on the application. In the case of a change to the original application, such as a cancellation or change in programming, the applicant must submit a letter of explanation.

Strathcona County Recreation, Parks and Culture may request access to all financial statements and records of the applicant organization should the need arise.

New Arts Development/Program Grant Fund:

Applicants may apply for new arts development funds or new programs to a maximum of \$5,000. For a collaborative program/workshop only one application can be submitted.

Allocation of Fund:

Funds must be spent in the year they are awarded.

Evaluation Criteria

The following factors are considered in evaluating grant requests:

- Clearly articulated artistic program plan which reflects and fulfills the organizations mandate.
- A workshop, new initiative in art, culture and/or heritage that is of community value and encourages the development of arts, culture and/or heritage to a broad base of citizens in Strathcona County
- Organizational competence that is demonstrated through the application process and past history of the community.

How will my Application be evaluated?

Applications for Arts, Culture and Heritage Community Investment Program Funding will be evaluated by independent jurors in a peer assessment system. Peer assessment implies the use of practicing artists, arts professional and others who are knowledgeable and active in the local/regional arts community within the particular discipline they are asked to jury. Each committee will consist of three to five members who will assess the applications according to the Juror Handbook that outlines the criteria and establishes funding priorities. By consensus, jurors will arrive at recommendations on the amount of grants.

Strathcona County Recreation, Parks and Culture will be responsible for the selection of jurors and will be continually researching and adding names of qualified people to the juror database. The arts community, organizations and individuals are encouraged to recommend qualified names to the database.

Conflict of Interest

As the purpose of the peer assessment is to recruit qualified and knowledgeable jurors and evaluators from the local/regional arts community, these individuals may have relations with the applicants that could lead to conflict of interest. As a part of the process in recruiting jurors to evaluate applications, jurors will be asked to declare any potential conflicts of interest prior to being appointed to a committee.

Reporting

Within 30 days of the completion of the project or program, the organization must submit a final accounting report to Strathcona County. Applications for funding of a new project or event will be denied if accounting is outstanding.

Public Acknowledgement

Strathcona County must be given recognition for its funding support in all publicity. Visual identity guidelines must be followed at all times. Strathcona County logo and other promotional materials are available upon request.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

To request funding, groups must submit a complete application consisting of a fully completed grant application form and the required support documents. The original, signed grant application must be submitted to Strathcona County Recreation, Parks and Culture by **November 30, for Phase I**, January to June and **May 8, for Phase II** July to December.

Recreation, Parks and Culture is located at: 2025 Oak Street, Sherwood Park, AB, T8A 0W9.

Questions may be directed to Chris Munn, Cultural Development Liaison by telephone at 780 464-8058, or by email at: munn@strathcona.ab.ca