

Arts, Culture and Heritage Community Investment Program

Purpose

To enable, encourage and assist the community not-for-profit arts, culture and heritage organizations to produce or enhance multi-faceted arts and/or cultural events on one or more days 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.
- Events or festival with an arts, culture or heritage focus.
- Consideration/and or preference will be given to an event or festival that collaborates with other not-for-profit arts and culture organizations.
- The inclusion of a heritage/ethnic component where and when applicable would be considered a strength.

Who may apply for Arts and Culture funding?

Not-for-profits registered under:

- Societies Act
- Libraries Act
- Agricultural Societies Act

Community organizations that are not registered may have a sponsor apply on their behalf. The sponsor must be eligible under the program funding criteria, and must take full legal and financial responsibility for the grant funds approved.

What Projects Might Be Funded?

- Art exhibitions
- Festivals/Special Event

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

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

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

Literary Arts: reading, storytelling, writing, and poetry

Heritage or historical activities

Multi-media presentations

What Is Not Eligible For Funding?

- Direct Grants to individual artists
- For-profit organizations
- Fundraising costs
- Travel expenses
- Capital or equipment 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.

Special Event or Festivals Grant Fund

Applicants may apply for up to \$5,000 of their event or festival expenses budget. For events of regional, provincial or national significance, higher maximums may be considered on a one time basis if funds are available. For a collaborative project (or event) only one application can be submitted.

Allocation of Funds

Funds must be spent in the calendar 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 organization's mandate.
- An exhibition, special event or festival 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 in 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 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