

Purpose

To enable, encourage and assist Strathcona County not-for-profit arts, culture and heritage organizations to purchase essential capital equipment that will enhance and develop their delivery of services to residents of Strathcona County.

Capital equipment is defined as having a life span of at least 5 years.

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

1. Organization must be a Strathcona County-based, not-for-profit; must have been registered for one year under one of the following:
 - Societies Act
 - Libraries Act
 - Agricultural Societies Act
2. Community organizations that are not registered may have a sponsor apply on their behalf. The sponsor must be eligible under the Arts, Culture and Heritage Community Investment Program funding criteria, and must take full legal and financial responsibility for the grant funds approved.
3. The programs and services provided by the organization must be of value and available to the residents of Strathcona County.
4. Only one application per category can be submitted at one time.

What might be funded? (Note: these are examples only)

- Display systems
- Instruments
- Sound equipment
- Lighting equipment

What is not eligible for funding?

- Equipment with a lifespan of less than five years
- Equipment that is owned by individuals and not the organization
- Equipment installed in a privately owned facility
- Direct grants to individual artists
- For-profit organizations
- Fundraising costs
- Re-applying for additional grant funds for equipment already funded during the same calendar year

What is an arts and culture activity? Examples are:

- Visual Arts: painting drawing, calligraphy, fibre arts, ceramic arts, mosaics, sculpture, crafts
- Media Arts: Film/video, photography, sound recording, multi-media, publishing
- Performing Arts: drama, music, dance, choral, theatre, opera, comedic, puppetry, mime, performance art
- Literary Arts: storytelling, creative writing, prose, poetry
- Environmental Arts: architecture, urban design, landscape design, environmental installations
- Multicultural Arts: ethnic celebrations, festivals, fairs, ethnic-specific performing, visual, literary, crafts, folk tales, culinary traditions
- Heritage Arts: protection, restoration, display and interpretation of heritage archives and materials, artifacts, archeological and heritage sites.
- Educational Arts: summer camps, youth festivals, youth and adult training programs in any of the arts or heritage forms

Capital Equipment Grant - Guidelines

Grant Amounts

Applicants may apply for up to 50% of the cost of the equipment to a maximum of \$5,000. Proof must be given that matching funds are “in place” before grant funds will be paid to the organization. For a collaborative project, only one application can be submitted. Funds must be spent in the year they are awarded.

Evaluation Criteria

The following factors are considered in evaluating grant requests:

- Need for the equipment as related to the fulfillment of the organization’s mandate;
- Benefit to the community and impact on the development of arts, culture and/or heritage to a broad base of citizens;
- Lack of overlap with existing services;
- Viability of the project (realistic goals, appropriate planning, effective budgeting, cost-effectiveness);
- Organizational competence that is demonstrated through the application process and past history in the community;
- Organizations whose primary purpose is for the delivery/development of arts, heritage and/or cultural activities in Strathcona County will receive higher priority.

How will my application be evaluated?

Applications for Equipment Grants will be evaluated by independent jurors in a peer assessment system. Peer assessment implies the use of practicing artists, 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 grant criteria. 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.

Prior to being appointed to a committee, jurors will be asked to declare any potential conflicts of interest due to relations with the grant applicants.

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, the applicant must submit a letter of explanation requesting approval of a change in use of the grant. In the event that an approval is not received, the funding or balance of funding must be returned to Strathcona County.

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

Capital Equipment Grant - Guidelines

Reporting

Within 30 days of the purchase of the equipment, the organization must submit a final account report to Strathcona County. Any new applications for funding under the Arts, Culture & Heritage Community Investment Program will be denied if accounting is outstanding.

Groups must report annually for 5 years on the location and condition of the equipment purchased under the grant program.

Public Acknowledgement

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

First Time Applicants

To support the grants process and timeline, organizations applying for funding to the Arts, Culture and Heritage Community Investment Program for the first time should contact Cultural Services prior to submitting an application. Please reach out well in advance of the deadline by email or phone to Jenny Willson, Community Liaison Officer

- Culture, at:

Telephone: 780-464-8058

Email: jenny.willson@strathcona.ca

Application Deadlines

To request funding, artists must submit an application consisting of a fully completed grant application form and the required support documents. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. The original, signed grant application must be submitted to Strathcona County Recreation, Parks and Culture by:

- **November 1** (Spring/Summer)
- **May 8** (Fall/Winter)

You may submit your application using one of these three ways:

EMAIL:	Signed applications may be scanned and emailed to: culturegrants@strathcona.ca When submitting by email you must ensure receipt at Strathcona County through reply by County staff or by autoreply from the culturegrants@strathcona.ca mailbox.
DROP OFF:	Recreation, Parks and Culture Administration Building Cultural Services 2025 Oak Street Sherwood Park, AB Monday – Friday from 8:30 am – noon, 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm (except on Statutory Holidays)
MAIL IN:	Strathcona County Recreation, Parks and Culture Cultural Services 2001 Sherwood Drive Sherwood Park, AB T8A 3W7

If you have any questions, please direct them to Jenny Willson, Community Liaison Officer, at:

Telephone: 780-464-8058

Email: jenny.willson@strathcona.ca