

Culture Days Microgrant 2026 Guidelines and Application Form

A thriving arts and culture scene makes Calgary a more livable city by strengthening the local economy, enriching cultural diversity, supporting well-being and fostering social connection for all Calgarians.



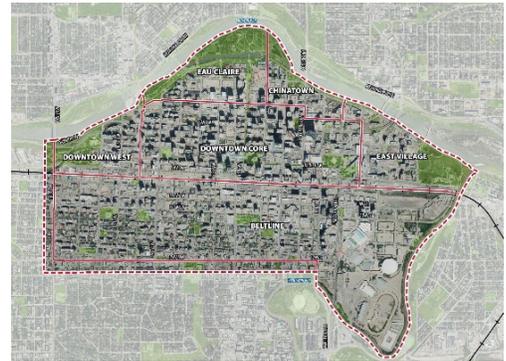
Culture Days takes place every year from September 1 – 30. It celebrates arts, culture, heritage, diversity and community spirit.

The City of Calgary's **Culture Days Microgrant** supports organizations in delivering **artistic and cultural collaborations during September**, helping to energize Calgary's greater downtown.

Is your idea eligible?

Your initiative must meet **all** of the following requirements:

- Take place in **September**
- Take place in **Calgary's greater downtown***
- Be **free or low-cost** for public
- Be open and accessible so that **anyone can participate**
- Increase **access to and visibility of arts and cultural groups**
- Be a **new initiative or value-added enhancement** to an existing project
- Foster **creative exchange** among artists, communities and cultural groups by creating unique artistic and cultural programming through new collaboration



**The greater downtown is located on the south side of the Bow River and bordered to the east by the Elbow River, to the south by 17 Ave. S.W. and to the west by 14 St. S.W.*

Some ideas to spark your thoughts:



- Cultural festivals
- Learning experience
- Cultural workshops
- Cultural film screening
- Temporary interactive artwork or installation
- Collaborations that lead to an extra day of programming that add value to your initiative/project
- Pop-up activities, such as performances, exhibitions, art walks, backstage tours of creative space, etc.
- And many more!

*The Culture Days Microgrant supports initiatives that uphold the respect and dignity of all people regardless of race, culture, national or ethnic origin, religion, education, age, ability, sexual orientation, gender expression, or socio-economic status. **We do not fund** political initiatives, rallies, protests, proselytizing, fundraising, annual general meetings, potlucks, banquets, illegal activities, or events that take place in private residents.*

Who can apply?

Registered non-profits, charities, Community Associations and Business Improvement Areas that:

- Are in good standing with The City of Calgary with no outstanding reports and/or payments
- Play an active role in the initiative (cannot apply on behalf of another organization)
- Obtain the required insurance, permits, permissions and approvals

What is the funding model?

With total funding of \$100,000, this grant supports **new small-scale** initiatives **or the enhancements** of existing initiatives that create spaces for creative artistic and cultural exchange.

- **Maximum of \$5,000** available per initiative.
- Initiatives must take place between **September 1 – 30, 2026**.
- Each initiative may receive only one *Culture Days Microgrant* per intake.
- Each organization may receive only one *Culture Days Microgrant* per intake.

What can I use the grant for?

This grant funds only specific **costs related to the enhancements of an existing initiative or the proposed new initiative**. It does not fund your overall project. Eligible expenses may include, but are not limited to:

- Production and technical costs
- Equipment, materials and supplies (including transportation of these items)
- Artist and performer fees and honorariums
Note: The City of Calgary Culture Days Microgrant supports the [CARFAC-RAAV Minimum Recommended Fee Schedule](#) and the [Dance · Opera · Theatre Policy \(caea.com\)](#), which provides guidelines on what artists should be paid for their copyright and other professional services.
- Wages for contractors, technicians, and workers who are not already employed as staff
- Permitting fees and other expenses for City services (i.e., parks permit, road closure permit, Calgary Police Services, etc.)
- Safety costs, during setup, take down, and initiative operations (i.e., increased cost of security)
- Marketing and communication costs
- Training and support for volunteers.
- Other expenses and supplies that the Arts and Culture Division deems reasonable and necessary.

What cannot be covered by the grant?

This grant does not cover capital projects or operational costs associated with your organization's day-to-day functions. Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Expenses incurred before application approval
- Expenses that are not directly relevant to the initiative being applied for
- Expenses that are already covered by other funding sources
- Office and administration costs, including office supplies, bookkeeping, postage, etc.
- Overhead costs such as utilities, rent, mortgage, etc.
- Travel, accommodation and meal allowance costs
- Capital investments (i.e. building permanent infrastructure, construction, renovations, repairs, or significant equipment for other projects such as computers, video recorders, power tools, etc.)
- Prize monies, trophies, or medals
- Fundraising activities, donations, contingency funds, or repayment of deficits or debts
- Alcohol or cannabis

- Compensation for existing staff, grant writers, reporters or key volunteers
- Payments to the applicant’s organization, its directors, staff, their family members, or related businesses
- Expenses and supplies deemed unreasonable and unnecessary by the Arts and Culture Division

How to apply?

Share your idea by completing this application form and submit it to culturedays@calgary.ca by **11:59pm on March 30, 2026** to be considered.

How are the applications reviewed?

Your application will be reviewed by a committee formed by internal City staff. The review committee will focus on how well the idea aligns with the funding priorities and your demonstrated ability to carry out the initiative. We may reach out during the review stage if we have questions about your application. The result will be **announced by mid-May of 2026**. The decision is final.

How to provide updates and report back?

A project update is required for a change in date, time, venue, partners, program or budget. A **final report is required by October 8, 2026**. Reporting instructions will be provided upon grant approval and on the website. We may visit your initiative and provide feedback for future funding eligibility.

Questions? Email culturedays@calgary.ca or visit the Frequently Asked Questions on [our website](#).

SECTION A – Applicant			
Organization Legal Name			
Type of Organization	Registered Non-Profit	Registration #	
	Registered Charity	Registration #	
	Community Association	Business Improvement Area	
Mailing Address			
Postal Code			
Project Contact		Signing Authority for funding approval process	
Name		Name	
Position		Position	
Email		Email	
Phone Number		Phone Number	

SECTION B – Initiative <i>(Optional: attach any additional documents about your initiative.)</i>	
Initiative Title	
Initiative Location(s)	
Initiative Date(s)	
<p>1. Is this a new initiative or an enhancement of an existing/recurring project? Please select one.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This is a new initiative.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This is an enhancement of an existing/recurring project.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This is an existing/recurring project without any enhancement.</p>	

2. Describe your initiative. *If this is a recurring project/event, share your overall project, explain the enhancements and how it will add value to the overall project.*

3. How does this initiative culturally or artistically benefit Culture Days and the cultural sector?

4. Who can participate in this initiative? *Are there any restrictions on participation?*

5. Is there a fee to attend your initiative and the overall project? *Share the ticket/cost details and any discount offered. If yes, please describe.*

Yes

No

Pay-what-you-can

6. How does your initiative demonstrate a commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, belonging, and/or a commitment to truth and reconciliation? *Describe specific actions, not just intentions.*

Note: *Equity-deserving groups are communities that experience significant collective barriers in participating in society. This could include attitudinal, historic, social, and environmental barriers based on age, ethnicity, disability, economic status, gender, nationality, race, sexual orientation, transgender status, etc. For example, a commitment to truth and reconciliation reflects an intention to strengthen understanding, relationships and opportunities with Indigenous communities.*

7. Who are your key collaborators? *This includes any artists, community groups or organizations. Describe their roles and how the collaborations create new or added cultural or artistic exchange.*

SECTION C – Implementation	
<p>8. What steps will you take to implement the initiative? Include key milestones, timeline, roles and responsibilities.</p>	
<p>9. How will you promote the initiative? Describe your marketing plan, including strategies for reaching and engaging your targeted audience.</p>	

SECTION D – Impact	
Expected number of participants.	
Expected number of local creative professionals (e.g. artists, performers)	
Expected number of community partners with an active role	
Expected number of sponsors and local businesses with an active role	
Expected number of volunteers supporting the initiative	
Expected number of organizations that are part of the event site by default (i.e. brick and mortar businesses that are within the area of the initiative)	

SECTION E – Full Budget of your initiative		
If you are applying for a new initiative , include the full budget of your initiative.		
If you are applying for an enhancement of an existing project , include the budget of the enhancement.		
Revenues	Description	Amount (\$)
Funds requested from The City	Culture Days Microgrant	
Other Funding/Sponsors/Donations		
Contributions from your organization		
	Total Revenue	\$

