



Historic Firehall #1 Courtyard Activation Grant 2026 Guidelines

Description

The City of Calgary, in partnership with cSPACE, is calling on arts and cultural organizations and collectives to help transform the Historic Firehall #1 courtyard into a lively cultural hub. Activation grants will fund multiple community-driven initiatives that deliver inclusive, family-friendly programming and foster meaningful connections. Initiatives may be single-day or multi-day activations, including consecutive or recurring programming, provided they take place within the Historic Firehall #1 courtyard between June 1 and September 30th, 2026.

Program Goals

- Activate the Historic Firehall #1 courtyard as a lively, welcoming cultural space through summer programming designed specifically for the outdoor site.
- Provides free or low-cost, family-friendly programming that encourages broad community participation and removes barriers to access.
- Fosters meaningful community connections by creating shared cultural experiences where people can gather, participate, and engage with one another.
- Supports creativity and cultural engagement through interactive, community-driven programming led by local artists and collaborators.
- Embeds principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion through accessible design, intentional outreach, and representation of diverse voices.
- Reinforces the Historic Firehall #1 courtyard as a shared civic space that brings together culture, creativity, and community.

Eligible Initiatives

Funding is available for events and activations that:

- Are free or low cost (suggested max ticket price: \$15).
- Encourage family-friendly or broad community participation.
- Demonstrate creativity and cultural engagement.
- Occur within the Historic Firehall #1 courtyard between June 1 – August 31, 2026.
- Align with principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Examples: cultural festivals, live performances, interactive art installations, workshops, markets, and community gatherings.

Who can apply?

Non-profit organizations or collectives that:

- Have proven experience activating spaces.
- Can demonstrate community support for the proposed initiative.
- Are in good standing with The City of Calgary.
- Obtain required insurance, permits, and approvals.

Funding Details

- **Maximum Grant:** Up to **\$20,000 per initiative**.
- **Matching Requirement:** Applicants must contribute at least **25% of the total project cost** (cash or in-kind).
 - *Example:* For a \$10,000 project, the grant would provide \$7,500, and the applicant would contribute \$2,500.

Total Funding Available: \$70,000 will be distributed across multiple initiatives.

Timeline

- February 15th, 2026: Applications open
- March 31st, 2026: Application deadline
- April 30th, 2026: Funding decisions are made and successful applicants are notified.
- May 2026: Site visits & contracts
- Activations: June 1 – September 30th, 2026.

Eligible expenses

Funding may be applied to costs that directly support the delivery of your initiative. Examples include:

- Honorariums and fees for artists, performers, and volunteers. **Note:** The City of Calgary Arts and Culture Chinatown Activation 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.
- Production and technical costs related to artistic programming.
- Marketing and communication costs associated with promoting the initiative.
- Initiative-specific equipment, materials, and supplies (including transportation of these items).
- Tobacco products and accessories used for Elder offerings and Truth and Reconciliation activities.
- Training and support for volunteers.
- Development and implementation of health, safety, and accessibility plans.

- Permitting fees and other expenses for City services (i.e., parks permit, road closure permit).
- Other expenses and supplies that the Arts and Culture Division deems reasonable and necessary.

Ineligible expenses

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

- Office and administration fees, including office supplies, bookkeeping, postage, etc.
- Overhead costs such as utilities, rent, mortgage, etc.
- Travel, accommodation and meal allowance costs.
- Compensation for existing staff, grant writers, reporters.
- Payments to the applicant organization, its directors, staff, their family members, or businesses they own.
- Capital investments (i.e., building permanent infrastructure, construction, renovations, repairs, or the acquisition of significant equipment such as computers, video recorders, or power tools).
- Expenses incurred prior to the application approval.
- Expenses that are not directly relevant to the initiative being applied for.
- Expenses that are already covered by other funding sources.
- Prize monies, trophies, or medals.
- Fundraising activities, donations, contingency funds, or repayment of deficits or debts.
- Commercial activities.
- Alcohol or cannabis.
- Expenses and supplies deemed unreasonable and unnecessary by the Arts and Culture Division.

Historic Firehall 1 Courtyard Information

Address: 104 6 Avenue SE, Calgary, AB T2G 0G2

Site Description: The site is an outdoor courtyard and is the only area available for public events and programming. Indoor spaces are available for storage purposes only and are not accessible for programming or public use.

Programmable Area: Approximately 725 square metres of outdoor programmable space.

Washroom Facilities: The site includes a seacan washroom with two stalls. Grantees may use the washroom during their event but are responsible for all cleaning, restocking, and maintenance for the duration of the event.

Reviewing your application

Applications will be adjudicated by a jury, including a representative from cSPACE for transparency. Funding decisions are based on:

- Alignment with program goals.
- Demonstrated experience and capacity.
- Community support and inclusivity.

Reporting back to us

Historic Firehall #1 Courtyard Activation Grant recipients will be required to share their success by providing a final report within 60 days after the initiative is completed. The reporting template will be provided upon microgrant approval. We may visit your initiative and provide feedback for future funding eligibility.

We ask that recipients acknowledge the City of Calgary as a funder in any related digital or print advertising, promotional materials and public communication. The City of Calgary will publish a list of grant recipients, and the funding amount awarded.

How to Apply

- Complete the Historic Firehall #1 Courtyard Activation Grant application form
- Email the completed application form to microgrants@calgary.ca with the subject line: HF1C26- [Insert your initiative title]

Questions?

If you need additional support to complete your application, email [**microgrants@calgary.ca**](mailto:microgrants@calgary.ca)