

# Celebration Grants



Office of Cultural Affairs  
City of Vancouver

## Program Objectives

This program is for community-based festivals, cultural celebrations and large parades, in recognition of the entertainment they offer and their contribution to a sense of community among residents of diverse cultures, ages and interests.

Assistance with specific costs is available to help community-based not-for-profit societies to present these cultural events, which may include programs of music and performance, crafts, exhibits, culinary and other cultural expressions of the community.

## Who can apply?

Applicants must be:

- registered as not-for-profit societies in British Columbia for at least six months
- located in the City of Vancouver (not in other Lower Mainland municipalities or the University Endowment Lands)
- have a cultural mandate which includes organizing festivals, celebrations or large scale parades in Vancouver

*Examples of organizations that can apply include neighbourhood houses, resident associations, community service groups, ethnocultural societies, or arts and cultural organizations.*

*The following are ineligible to apply:*

- civic departments or branches (i.e. community centres, libraries)
- organizations receiving Civic cultural grants.

## What types of events are eligible?

Three types of events, organized for the purpose of building and celebrating a sense of community and held primarily for the benefit of Vancouver residents, qualify for assistance:

- Festivals:** annual or biannual events of at least two days, actively programmed around a theme related to cultural expression in the broadest sense, for example, through music or other performances, crafts, displays, cooking, or demonstration of cultural traditions.
- Celebrations:** one-day events, generally held outdoors, and actively programmed around a theme, anniversary, or other occasion, with a significant cultural component in the broadest sense.

- ❑ **Major parades:** generally one-day events with a large audience and a significant cultural component, broadly defined to include music and other performances, costumes, floats, banners, arches and installations, or other pageantry elements.

*Please note: To qualify as “major” a parade must have an event budget of over \$15,000; attract, or have the potential to attract, an audience of over 10,000; and have 20–25 organizations registered as entrants.*

*Ineligible activities:*

- ❑ sports and athletic events, runs, walks
- ❑ competitions
- ❑ demonstrations, marches, rallies
- ❑ block parties, picnics, garden shows, street markets, carnivals
- ❑ religious rites and ceremonies, small parades and processions
- ❑ events for marketing, promotional, or commercial purposes
- ❑ events whose purpose is primarily fund-raising

## What can grant funds be used for?

Applicants are expected to generate revenues from sources other than the City of Vancouver. These may include earned income from tickets and concessions, sponsorships, donations from individuals, businesses or community groups, memberships, in-kind donations, and support from foundations and government agencies.

The City’s Celebration Grants may be applied toward one or more of the following:

- ❑ **Programming costs:** for example, performers’ fees; display and exhibit costs; equipment rental; production technician’s fees; costume creation, rental or cleaning; site decoration; parade floats and other pageantry elements.
- ❑ **Staff and administrative costs:** for example, planning and co-ordination, fundraising, and event management.
- ❑ **Publicity and marketing:** for example, development of marketing strategies, press kits, design and production of advertising for print, radio, television, and web sites; and purchase of advertising in mainstream and/or ethnic media.

*Please note: The total annual budget for Celebration grants is limited to \$75,000. Individual grant amounts are most likely to range from \$500 - \$5,000, depending on the scale of the event. No event may receive a grant over \$10,000 per year.*

*Grants funds may not be applied to:*

- ❑ retroactive expenses or accumulated deficits
- ❑ costs of police or other civic services
- ❑ capital projects

## How to apply

The Celebration grants program is managed by the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA). Please contact OCA staff to obtain a form. Organizations must establish their eligibility for funding with OCA staff prior to submitting an application.

- ❑ To be considered for a grant, an organization must complete and submit the appropriate, signed, original application form, together with one copy, and the required supplemental documents indicated in the application form.
- ❑ Organizations planning events on City streets or in parks must apply through the FEST Committee or Park Board for approval to hold their event in these locations.
- ❑ Under normal circumstances, the application, review and decision process takes seven weeks, and successful applicants will generally receive payment within two and a half weeks of Council approval.

## How will applications be evaluated?

Since funds are limited, not all organizations meeting the eligibility criteria can be supported. This is a competition, based on the following process and criteria:

### Review process

- ❑ Cultural Affairs staff ensure that applications are eligible. City staff on the FEST committee and/or Park Board are consulted on operational impacts, site issues and permits. Interviews with applicants are arranged as needed.
- ❑ A grant program advisory committee of community members and individuals with event management experience reviews the proposals and provides comments. Staff then submit a report with recommendations for Council's approval, and notify applicants of the recommendations and the Council meeting date on which grants will be considered.

### The evaluation criteria

- ❑ Does the event provide unique opportunities for the public?
- ❑ What is the quality of the programming? Does it demonstrate creativity, the involvement of persons with appropriate expertise, authenticity in presentation of cultural traditions, or uniqueness in expressing the character of a community or neighbourhood?
- ❑ How complete is the plan for delivering the event, including site or venue requirements, and engagement of key organizers? How complete is the budget; are there commitments from other sources of support? Is there a demonstrated need for a grant?

- If the application is for marketing assistance, what are the plans, resources and capabilities of the applicant for reaching a city-wide public, including diverse communities? Does the event have the capacity to attract and engage an audience and/or develop a new audience?
- How successful were previous events?
- Is there adequate administration, a functional Board of Directors and financial accountability?
- What is the level of community support and involvement, for example, public attendance, number of volunteers, and donation levels?
- Have impacts on the surrounding neighbourhood been considered and addressed?
- How will grant funds support the growth and sustainability of the event?

## Conditions of Assistance

- Societies must provide their most recent financial statement within six months of their fiscal year end.
- Voting members of the applicant's Board of Directors must not concurrently hold paid staff positions, nor be paid for their services to the society. They may be reimbursed for expenses.
- The organizers must develop and promote the event and extend its services to the general public in the City of Vancouver in a non-discriminatory way.
- Support from the City of Vancouver must be appropriately acknowledged on all promotional materials related to the funded event, including brochures, print ads, programs, posters, signs, and media releases.
- The term of the grant is one year, and only one Celebration grant application per City fiscal year can be submitted. Previously funded projects must be completed before a new application can be accepted.
- Receipt of a grant does not imply funding in the following fiscal year.

## For Grant Information

More information and application forms are available from:

Lorenz von Fersen  
Cultural Planner  
604.871.6005  
lorenz\_von\_fersen@  
city.vancouver.bc.ca

Grant information is available on the City's web site at:

[www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/oca](http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/oca)

**DEADLINES: March 31 and September 15, 2003.**

**Completed applications must be received before 5 PM.**

Mailing address:

Office of Cultural Affairs, City of Vancouver  
453 west 12th ave, vancouver, bc v5y 1v4

Office located at:

suite 100 -515 west 10th ave, vancouver