



**Inspire
Vancouver**

2026 Application Workshop

How to prepare your Inspire Vancouver
grant application



What we'll learn

- Grant program goals and values
- Grant process from application to final report
- Tips for your application



About Inspire Vancouver

What do these grants support?



2026 Inspire Vancouver Grants

Grants that invest in cultural programming for our community

- Helps local nonprofit arts, culture, heritage, and science groups bring programs to more neighborhoods and more people in Vancouver.
- This year we are offering grants in three categories, ranging from \$5000-\$150,000.
- Grants can be used to create and support public programming and/or support operating costs for an organization.
- Grant funds are paid at award.
- Applications will close at 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 10, and awards will be announced mid-October.





Inspire Vancouver Goals

- Increase access
- Strengthen community connection
- Invest in the cultural ecosystem
- Encourage creativity and learning



Who Can Apply for Inspire Vancouver Grants?

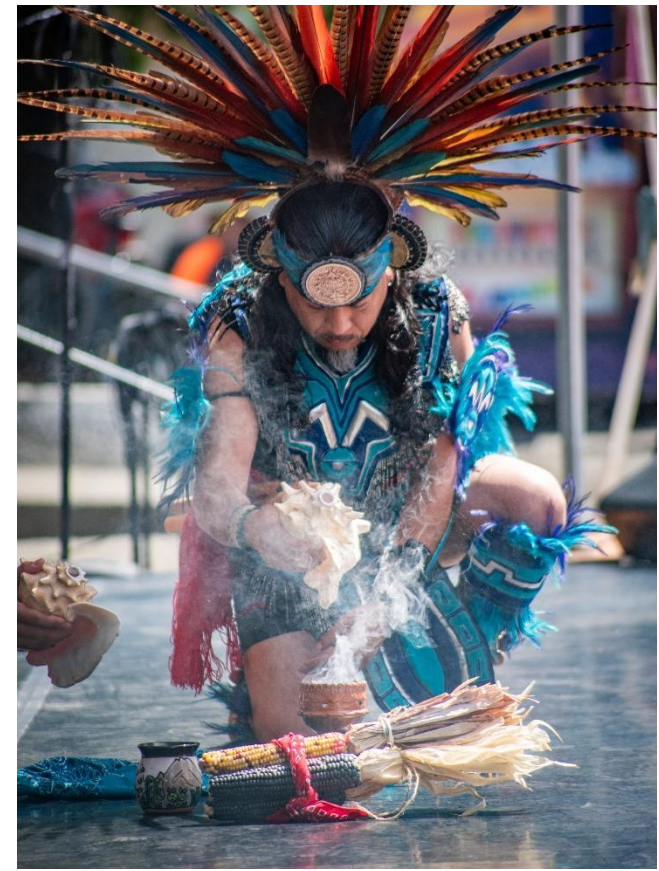
Understanding Basic Eligibility

- Provide public programs or experiences for Vancouver residents
- Primary purpose to advance or preserve arts, culture, heritage or science
- Located within Vancouver city limits or provide at least 55% of your programs within Vancouver city limits
- Nonprofit or group/individual with a nonprofit fiscal sponsor



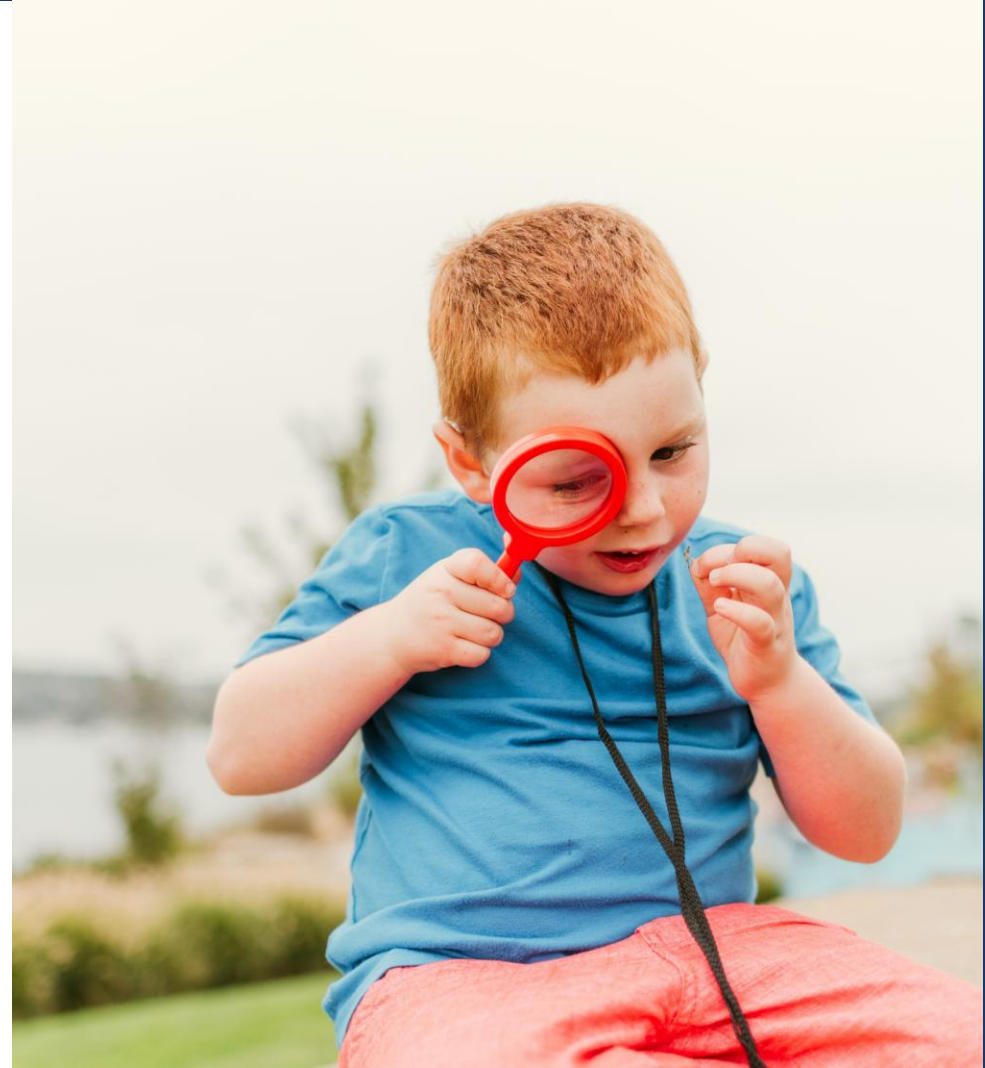
Inspire Vancouver Grant Pool

- **Innovation Grants**
\$350,000
- **Impact Grants**
\$700,000
- **Comprehensive Grants**
\$700,000
- ***Flexible, based on demand***
\$700,000
- ✓ Apply in multiple categories



Grant Process: Application to Final Report

**The full picture and
what's to come**



Process overview

How do the grants work?

1. Plan a scope of work and budget for your grant proposal.
2. Use the application to tell us about your organization, audience, scope of work, deliverables, and budget.
3. If awarded, you will sign a Grant Agreement that works like a contract for services. The scope of work section will include deliverables you listed, plus reporting requirements from Inspire Vancouver.
4. You will receive funding once the contract is signed.
5. You will complete your self-assigned deliverables and our reporting deliverables to the best of your ability or return any unused funds.



Application Process

What you'll need to apply for an Inspire Vancouver grant

To apply you will need:

- Proof of your organization's primary purpose
- A work-sample that represents your organization
- 1-year attendance history*
- Organization budget*
- A list of programming deliverables you hope to achieve
- A budget for your grant funds
- Answers to the narrative questions



Scoring and Selection Process

How your application will be scored

- The Grant Review Committee will use a two-part score card.
 - **Alignment section:** Public benefit, proposal feasibility, community trust, equitable access, sustainable operations and management
 - **Impact section:** Community need, youth focus, priority audience, geographic
- The Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission will decide which applications will be funded.



Award and Reporting

Requirements for receiving funds and reporting on your grant

1. If awarded, grantees will sign a grant agreement with the City of Vancouver and provide proof of insurance and payment information.
2. Grantees will receive their payment once the initial paperwork is turned in.
3. Grantees will complete quarterly progress reports and one final report. The report will ask about:
 1. What programming or other deliverables were completed.
 2. The location of and attendance at your programming.
 3. How grant funds were used (but receipts not needed).



The Application

**Tips for program planning
and a strong application**





Inspire Vancouver

All

INFORMATION

Grantee Portal

Apply for Funding

FAQs

ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations

PEOPLE (1)

1 People (1)

APPLICATIONS

Draft Applications

Invited to Apply

Clarification Requested

Submitted Applications

GRANTS (1)

Active (1)

Closed

REPORTS

Due

Clarification Requested

Submitted

PAYMENTS

Scheduled

Paid

Welcome to the
-- **City of Vancouver WA** --
Online Grants Portal

Welcome

Through sustained public funding, Inspire Vancouver supports arts, culture, heritage and science organizations that bring people together, spark curiosity and create meaningful opportunities for connection and learning. By expanding access to cultural experiences, Inspire Vancouver helps ensure everyone in our community can participate, belong and thrive.

HOW TO USE THE PORTAL

Using the left-side menu, you can access:

Information

This section contains information for using this portal and navigating the grants process.

- **Apply for Funding:** This section lists our open grant categories, including their programming goals, funding limits, and timing.
- **Resources and FAQs:** This section contains FAQs for technical questions related to the grantee portal. For general Inspire Vancouver program FAQs, please visit <https://www.inspirevancouver.org/resources/faqs/>

Fluxx: Our Grant Portal

1. Create an account at inspirevancouver.fluxx.io
2. Click the link in your email to verify and set up a password
3. Use the menus in the sidebar to apply for grants and make account updates



Application Budget

Steps to fill out your budget

1. Set budget periods to match your quarterly report periods
 - Impact and Comprehensive: Nov. 1, 2026 to Dec. 31, 2026; Jan. 1, 2027 to March 31, 2027; April 1, 2027 to June 30, 2027.
 - Innovation: Use the same dates as above, but skip any quarters without activities/expenses.
2. Name your line-items and select a budget category.
3. Enter the grant-funded cost in Request column, leave Recommended blank.
4. Enter total project budget and specify how much of that will be cash or in-kind in the following columns.



Questions about access and equity

Resources available on website

- Access could include physical space, cost, sensory, language, transportation, disability, and more
- A strong answer will be specific to:
 - Your programming
 - Your current participants
 - Future participants



Questions



inspirevancouver.org | inspirevancouver@cityofvancouver.us



Thank you!

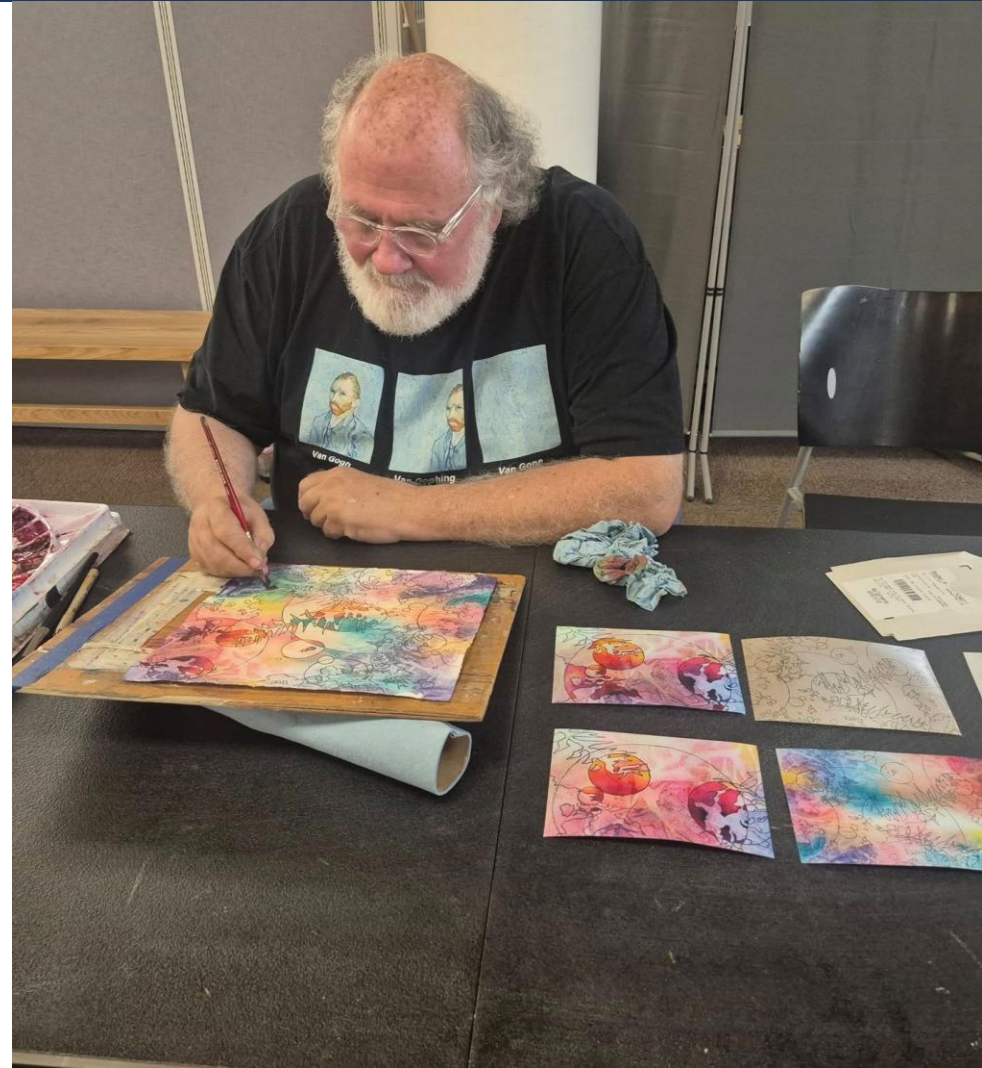


inspirevancouver.org | inspirevancouver@cityofvancouver.us



Extra Slides

Answers to specific questions



Innovation Grants

Supporting Bold Ideas and Creative Risk-Taking

Details

- Award: \$25,000 or less
- Open on an annual cycle
- 8-Month grant window
- Unrestricted funds to try new things

Examples

- Pilot a new program
- Collaborate with a new partner
- Reach a new audience
- Explore an untested approach



Impact Grants

Strengthening and scaling what's already making a difference

Details

- Award \$75,000 or less
- Open on an annual cycle
- 8-Month grant window
- Unrestricted funds to support your work

Examples

- Offer more programs
- Expand your work to a new area
- Host an event or festival
- Cover the cost of program materials



Comprehensive Grants

Building Stronger Organizations and a Thriving Cultural Community

Details

- Award: \$150,000 or less
- Open on an annual cycle
- 8-month grant window
- Unrestricted funds to sustain and build capacity

Examples

- Support operating costs
- Upgrade technology
- Invest in research
- Maintain and expand free and low-cost programs



Fiscal sponsor overview

What does a fiscal sponsor do?

The fiscal sponsor organization:

- Holds primary responsibility for grant administration
- Receives the grant funds as their own income then issues the funds to the sponsored group/individual
- Oversees and manages records including the grant agreement and reporting requirements
- May retain a fee of up to 10% for their fiscal and administrative services
- Can access their grantee's application and reports in the grant portal



Fiscal sponsor eligibility

Which organizations can be a fiscal sponsor?

- Organizations must have a mission aligned with the projects they sponsor
- Organizations must be a 501(c)(3) incorporated in WA and recognized by IRS
- Organizations must have a primary purpose to advance or preserve arts, culture, heritage, or science.

How does the fiscal sponsor impact grant eligibility?

- Eligibility is determined by the organization/applicant, not the project
- The sponsored organization/applicant must meet ALL other eligibility criteria (i.e., primary purpose, location, public programming, non-commercial activity)



How is Inspire Vancouver Funded?

Cultural Access Tax

- 0.1% sales tax adopted by City Council in December 2024
- 1 cent for every \$10 spent, \$30 a year for average household
- Collection started May 2025
- Unspent funds stay in the program
- Estimated \$7 million a year





Who is Not Eligible?

- State and local government agencies
- Organizations that redistribute funds
- TV, radio, newspapers, magazines and internet-based media

