

NO: R040

COUNCIL DATE: March 10, 2025

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **March 6, 2025**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **0550-20-06**  
**General Manager, Finance**

SUBJECT: **Recommendations for 2025 Cultural Grants Program Allocations**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department and the Finance Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Approve 94 Cultural Grants and eight Surrey Civic Theatres rental subsidies totaling \$617,125.00 for 2025 in accordance with the Surrey Cultural Grants Program (Appendix "I"), pending Council approval of the forthcoming 2025-2029 General Operating Financial Plan.

## INTENT

The intent of this report is to obtain approval for the issuance of 94 Cultural Grants and eight Surrey Civic Theatres rental subsidies (as shown in Appendix "II") recommended for 2025 under the Cultural Grants Program Guidelines and to report out on the supplemental grants awarded in 2024 (as shown in Appendix "III").

## BACKGROUND

On November 5, 2012, Council approved the Surrey Cultural Grants Program ("the Program"), a key recommendation of the Surrey Cultural Plan (2012-2016). The Program is intended to support a wide range of arts and cultural activity in Surrey.

### 2024 Summary

In 2024, the Program provided funding to support a diverse range of cultural activities across the City. The Program's impact was significant, fostering community engagement and cultural enrichment through the following achievements:

- 87 Cultural Grants awarded;
- 500+ Events/Programs across Surrey; and
- 370,000+ attendees.

These figures highlight the Program's role in enhancing cultural vibrancy, fostering inclusivity, and strengthening community connections throughout Surrey.

## DISCUSSION

### 2025 Application Process

Not-for-profit arts, culture, and heritage groups were invited to submit applications for the 2025 Cultural Grants Program by the October 3, 2024 deadline. Prior to the deadline, City staff also held multiple grant orientation workshops to support local organizations.

### 2025 Cultural Grants Evaluation Process

An Evaluation Committee composed of City staff representing performing arts, literary arts, heritage, and finance, and one member of the local arts community, reviewed the applications, applying a point rating system to the following criteria:

- Artistic merit of the initiative for which grant funding is requested;
- Community impact of the initiative; and
- Organizational health of the applicant organization and feasibility of the initiative.

The Evaluation Committee met on February 5, 2025, to discuss the merits of each application and reach consensus on funding recommendations. Based on the Program funds available for 2025 (pending Council approval of the 2025-2029 General Operating Financial Plan), the Evaluation Committee recommends awarding 94 cultural grants and eight Surrey Civic Theatres rental subsidies.

### Supplemental Grants

In 2024, Council delegated authority to the General Manager of Parks, Recreation & Culture and the General Manager of Finance to approve supplemental cultural grant requests up to a value of \$10,000.00 per grant until the unallocated funding balance is depleted. There were nine supplemental grants awarded in 2024 (as shown in Appendix "III"), in addition to the 78 regular intake applications approved by Council.

## FUNDING

The following is a summary of the 2025 Cultural Grants Program funding:

2025 Cultural Grants Budget (pending Council approval)	\$500,000.00
Unallocated Grant Funding Carried forward from Prior years	\$132,280.00
2025 Available Funding*	\$632,280.00
2025 Grant Funding Recommendations	\$617,125.00
Unallocated Balance	\$15,155.00

## CONCLUSION

The City's Cultural Grants Program continues to be received very positively by the local arts and culture community. Based on the above discussion, staff recommend that Council approve the 2025 Cultural Grants as documented in Appendix "II", pending Council approval of the forthcoming 2025-2029 General Operating Financial Plan.

*Original signed by*  
Laurie Cavan  
General Manager,  
Parks, Recreation & Culture

*Original signed by*  
Kam Grewal, CPA, CMA  
Chief Financial Officer/General Manager,  
Finance

Appendix "I" Surrey Cultural Grants Program Guidelines  
Appendix "II" 2025 Cultural Grants Program Funding Recommendations  
Appendix "III" 2024 Supplemental Cultural Grants Awarded

[https://surreybc.sharepoint.com/sites/prcadmistration/corporate reports regular/2025/2025 cultural grants program recommendations.docx](https://surreybc.sharepoint.com/sites/prcadmistration/corporate%20reports%20regular/2025/2025%20cultural%20grants%20program%20recommendations.docx)

**Surrey Cultural Grants Program Guidelines**

The Cultural Grants Program (the “Program”) is intended to support a wide range of arts and cultural activity in Surrey, including artistic practices (music, dance, theatre, literary, visual, media, inter-disciplinary, community-based, and Indigenous arts) and cultural celebrations and events that reflect Surrey’s diverse heritage and community.

The vision of the Program is to support and enhance Surrey’s arts and cultural sector through:

- Building organizational capacity and sustainability in each of existing and new local cultural organizations;
- Investing in community-based cultural activities that promote awareness, access, participation, and appreciation of arts and heritage; and
- Encouraging collaborative opportunities and partnerships.

**PROGRAM GENERAL GUIDELINES**

- All grant-funded events must be welcoming and accessible to the public.
  - Grants will be awarded annually for Cultural Celebration, Project, or Operating Support.
  - Only one application for each organization will be accepted per year.
  - Grants will be awarded based on the number of eligible applicants and the available funding for each year.
  - The City does not fund projects for 100% of funding. Organizations should review guidelines for specific grant types to see how much the City will support.
  - Grants may be awarded for less than requested, based on the merit of the application and available funding.
  - The City reserves the right to retain up to twenty percent (20%) of the available grant funding as contingency funds.
  - City cultural investment strategies outlined in City planning documents will be taken into account when determining grant awards.
  - Grant recipients must still comply with all relevant regulations and procedures, including securing the appropriate permits for park use. Receiving a grant does not automatically confirm the approval of a City rental or event venue, including running programming or events in a City park.
  - Grant funding cannot support events hosted at private residences.
  - Grant recipients are responsible for obtaining their own insurance, permits, and any other necessary approvals required to carry out their programs or activities.
  - All recipients must complete a final report at the end of their project in order to maintain good standing.
  - Groups who are not in good standing are ineligible to receive future Cultural Grants.
  - Grant recipients must report to Cultural Grants City Staff (referred to as “City Staff” in guidelines below) any changes to the scope and scale of proposed projects  
Email: [culturalgrants@surrey.ca](mailto:culturalgrants@surrey.ca) for more information.
  - Organizations are required to submit information on all of their funded events to the [City of Surrey Event Page](#). and
  - Organizations hosting ticketed events are requested to provide City staff with two complimentary tickets for attendance.
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## Grant Recognition

- Grant recipients must not use the City of Surrey logo on promotional material unless they have written permission from the City.
- Instead, grant recipients must use the following phrase where possible when promoting programming:

“Funded in part with the support of a City of Surrey Cultural Grant”

## The following will not be funded through the Program:

1. Activities that principally take place outside the City of Surrey.
2. Projects that, in the opinion of the City, may be contrary to the public interest to approve for financial assistance.
3. Ongoing core operations for Cultural Celebrations and Project grant recipients.
4. Capital Projects (equipment, new buildings, facility upgrades) will generally not be funded through the Program.
5. Individual applicants. Payments cannot be made directly to individuals. Artists can apply with organizations, as funding will only be provided to groups or organizations.
6. Educational institutions, including SD36 (“School District 36”) and post-secondary institutions. Not-for-profits that work within schools are eligible to apply for funding.
7. Religious groups and political groups.
8. For-profit organizations and business groups.
9. Deficit reduction.
10. Fundraisers.
11. Contests. Contest funding refers to a scenario where grant funding is used to purchase prizes. Juried art shows where artists pay to participate are also not eligible for funding.
12. Bursaries and scholarships.
13. Art therapy, as defined as clinical psychotherapy involving expressive arts.
14. Student projects.
15. Travel.

## **PROGRAM GRANT TYPES**

There are three types of Cultural Grants in the Program.

### Cultural Celebrations Grants

Under this category, grants will be provided to eligible groups to support the organizations’ initiative to provide audiences with an original artistic experience as part of a larger event.

*Costs funded in this category may include any of the following:*

- National standard artist fees paid to eligible artists.
- Honorariums paid to cultural professionals who may not meet the eligibility criteria of national standard artist fees.
- Supplies, materials, and services necessary for the artist’s performance.
- Liability insurance and WorkSafeBC coverage, specifically to protect the artist.

### *Funding Levels:*

- Registered not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply for up to \$3,000, not to exceed 50% of eligible costs.
- Non-registered not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply for up to \$2,500, not to exceed 50% of eligible costs.

### *Cultural Celebrations Grants Eligibility Criteria*

To be eligible under this category, the applicant must be:

1. A not-for-profit organization (registered or non-registered).
2. Based in the City of Surrey; however, non-resident organizations may still be considered for projects that take place within the City of Surrey's municipal boundaries and directly benefit Surrey residents. Priority will be given to projects that fulfill the following conditions:
  - Employ and utilize a majority of Surrey-based artists for the project.
  - Where there is no comparable organization based in Surrey.
  - Avoid duplication of projects already offered by other organizations in Surrey.
3. Requesting a grant to support hiring an artist or artistic group to provide a cultural celebration experience.
4. Able to demonstrate how the proposed cultural celebration is accessible to the public and how the presentation of the artistic component benefits residents of Surrey. Organizations are asked to promote their Cultural Grant-funded event(s) on the [City of Surrey events calendar](#).

### Project Grants

Under this category, grants will be provided to encourage partnerships and collaborations that result in cultural programs and initiatives.

*Costs funded in this category may include any of the following:*

- The grant award may contribute up to fifty percent (50%) of the project budget on a matching basis.
- Matching funds can be a combination of cash and in-kind contributions, with in-kind volunteer hours limited to thirty percent (30%) of the overall project budget.
- Organizations can apply for up to \$10,000 annually for upcoming projects. Grant funding from multiple years cannot be combined to produce a single project.

### *Project Grants Eligibility Criteria*

To be eligible under this category, the applicant must be:

1. A not-for-profit organization (registered or non-registered).
2. Managing projects that are based in the City of Surrey. Non-resident organizations may still be considered for projects that take place within the City of Surrey's municipal boundaries and directly benefit Surrey residents. Priority will be given to projects that fulfill the following conditions:
  - Employ and utilize a majority of Surrey-based artists for the project.
  - Where there is no comparable organization based in Surrey.

- Avoid duplication of projects already offered by other organizations in Surrey.
- 3. Managing projects that start and finish within the project period. The project period lasts for 16 months, starting within the grant year.
- 4. Demonstrating matching funds and/or in-kind contributions equivalent to the grant amount requested.
- 5. In good standing with the Cultural Grants Program. Returning applicants must submit all outstanding final reports from previous years to the satisfaction of the City before the final report deadline. The final report deadline is 60 days following the conclusion of the project.

### Operating Grants

The operating grant aims to support and sustain the work of mature, registered not-for-profit arts and cultural organizations that deliver consistent, meaningful, and original local programming, demonstrate sustainable administrative practices and organizational structures, and play a leadership role in enriching and enlivening Surrey's cultural landscape.

- Under this category, Surrey resident organizations that employ and compensate professional staff (i.e., executive director and/or artistic director) whose role is to enable the organization to plan, develop, and ensure its ongoing resilience, and who pay artists fees meeting national standards can apply for up to 25% of their annual operating budget to a maximum of \$25,000 (previously \$15,000).
- Organizations must apply each year.
- A funding approval in any given year should not be viewed as an ongoing source of funding.

### *Operating Grant Eligibility Criteria*

To be eligible under this category, the applicant must:

1. Have a clear and relevant mandate with a primary focus on arts and culture programming in Surrey.
2. Demonstrate a significant history of arts and cultural programming in the City of Surrey with proven community impact.
3. Based in the City of Surrey; however, non-resident organizations may still be considered for projects that take place within the City of Surrey's municipal boundaries and directly benefit Surrey residents. Priority will be given to operations that fulfill the following conditions:
  - Employ and utilize a majority of Surrey-based artists.
  - Where there is no comparable organization based in Surrey.
  - Avoid duplication of services already offered by other organizations in Surrey.
4. Deliver a minimum of 75% of their programs to Surrey residents while ensuring programming is accessible to and prioritized for Surrey residents.
5. Have received at least two (2) project grants from the City of Surrey, and are in good standing with the Cultural Grants Program.
6. Be committed to providing arts and culture experiences that are open and accessible to all Surrey residents.
7. Demonstrate financial stability:
  - Provide evidence of diversified cash revenue including earned revenue, fundraising, donations, other grants.
  - Provide externally produced financial statements.
8. Demonstrate organizational capacity and sustainability.

- Have been operating for 5 (five) years as a registered not-for-profit society in good standing.
  - Be supported by an active volunteer Board of Directors.
  - Hire experienced and capable creative/artistic senior leadership and senior administrators, at least one of whom must be a paid Artistic Director, Managing Director, Managing Artistic Director, Executive Director or General Manager, compensated at industry standards comparable to similar-sized arts and culture organizations, and must maintain effective organizational structures.
9. Demonstrate a commitment to compensating professional artists commensurate with fees that meet national industry standards.

#### *Operating Grant Enhanced Funding Eligibility Criteria*

In 2023, the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee approved the enhanced funding model to shift from a pilot to a permanent part of the Program. The enhanced funding model is an increased grant amount for eligible organizations applying for operating grants that meet additional criteria with the intention to help support organizations fully based in Surrey who provide year-round cultural programming to Surrey residents and are seeking to develop as organizations to also meet eligibility criteria for BC Arts Council and Canada Council grants for their field of practice.

Not all City of Surrey Cultural Grants applicants are expected to meet all the criteria for the enhanced amount of the operating grants (maximum \$25,000) but may still be deemed eligible for regular operating grant funding (maximum \$15,000) if they meet all but the enhanced grant criteria.

In order to meet criteria to receive enhanced operating funding, organizations must meet all of these criteria:

1. Have a permanent address in Surrey from which the organization operates.

This is indicated by:

- They operate a permanent facility with a Surrey address.
- If they don't operate a facility, the majority of their board have Surrey resident addresses.

2. Demonstrate arts and cultural programming for Surrey audiences year-round.

Programming for Surrey audiences is demonstrated by:

- Programming is offered at a verified Surrey address.
- The Surrey public is invited, and the programming is not limited to members.
- Programming is expected to be delivered in person and primarily advertised to Surrey residents.

Year-round programming is demonstrated by:

- Monthly programming such as artist talks, or workshops.
- An event series, such as a season of performances.



3. Have arts/cultural-based programming that primarily benefits Surrey residents.
  - Programming that is hosted within a facility/venue with a Surrey address is considered to primarily benefit Surrey residents.
  - Programming, and/or the invitation to participate in programming, is advertised and/or promoted to Surrey residents.
  - Those organizations offering some or most of their programming in a location outside of Surrey (e.g., in Langley, Delta, or White Rock) or online may not be given preference.
  - The programming does not present barriers to Surrey residents (e.g., programming is not offered to the public and may be restricted to those with memberships).
  
4. Employ/compensate professional staff (e.g., artistic director, executive director).
  - Professional staff are those who contribute directly to the artistic production and artistic programming that ensures the organization produces high quality experiences for audiences and contributes to the cultural development of Surrey.
  - Professional staff are those whose contributions to programming, including original content (program development, conducting, theatre production) and whose work is primarily credited for additional grants received by the organization (e.g., BC Arts Council or Canada Council).
  - Compensation includes:
    - Hourly wages.
    - Benefits, including EI, insurance, WCB.
    - Compensation rates to be considered professional are those guided by national guidelines for artistic compensation.
    - Consideration to be given when this appears to apply; there is demonstrated merit for or a potential conflict of interest for an individual claiming multiple sources of compensation. An example would be a combination of the following.
      - board member, and/or;
      - administrator and/or;
      - artistic director, and/or;
      - performer.
    - Those whose paid work is fully dedicated to producing the cultural and artistic events which qualify for cultural grants funding and who are recognized as peers with others in their field of artistic practice will be considered in the category of professional artistic staff.
    - Those who serve as staff for an organization, but whose work supports the organization, but who do not directly provide professional artistic services (such as bookkeepers, cleaners, administrative staff) will not be considered in this category.
  
5. Pay national standard artist fees to professional artists.
  - Artists, when they are recognized as professionals by peers within their field of practice, are entitled to receive compensation for the services they provide.
  - The grant application demonstrates to whom and what fees were paid in the past, and a budget that demonstrates the fees to be paid for proposed programming.

- Compensating artists on a sliding scale may be considered, although not as high as full professional fees. For example, lead artists in a theatre production may receive full fee, while those in an intern capacity may receive lower fees.
  - While honorariums demonstrate understanding of the importance of paying artists, this will not be scored as high.
  - Those who serve as staff, on the organization's board or the organizing committees, who receive fees for these services, are not to be included here.
6. Receive funding from BC Arts Council and/or Canada Council for the Arts for artistic productions.

### **Surrey Civic Theatres ("SCT") Rental Subsidy**

This funding opportunity will only consider those cultural organizations who apply for a City of Surrey Cultural Grant in the same year they are awarded the SCT rental subsidy.

*This funding opportunity will prioritize those cultural organizations:*

1. Who have not rented the Surrey Civic Theatres stages (Main Stage at Surrey Arts Centre, Studio Theatre at Surrey Arts Centre, or Centre Stage at City Hall) for their events ever, or in the past three years.
2. Whose organization or artists would benefit from the experience of renting a professional theatre, to develop their art practice, build their audience, and qualify for support to continue their artistic work (i.e., qualify to submit grant applications to other funders, and to be competitive in a peer jury environment);
3. Whose event is primarily presenting artists;
4. Who have already booked or plan to book at Surrey Civic Theatres for their event, as indicated on the application form.

*Costs funded in this category may include any of the following:*

- Council-approved rental rates;
- Front of House labour (Front of House Supervisor, ushers, concession staff).
- Technical labour (Civic Theatres technicians).
- In-house technical equipment.
- Box office staff.

*If your organization receives a SCT rental subsidy, the following conditions will apply:*

- Receiving the SCT Rental Subsidy does not guarantee a rental. Organizations must contact Surrey Civic Theatres staff to arrange booking.
- The requested SCT venue(s) are operational and available on the date requested. For inquiries and to book your venue, please contact SCT venue Staff here:
  - Surrey Civic Theatres Main Stage and Studio Theatre at Surrey Arts Centre: 604-501-5574 or [artscentrerentals@surrey.ca](mailto:artscentrerentals@surrey.ca).
  - Surrey Civic Theatres Centre Stage at Surrey City Hall: 604-598-5769 or [cityhallrentals@surrey.ca](mailto:cityhallrentals@surrey.ca);
- The subsidy for the SCT venue is limited to one rental agreement only.
- The organization will be required to enter into a SCT rental agreement based on set rates and terms of use for the booking.

## *Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines*

Organizations/artists will be required to familiarize themselves with City of Surrey safety plans, policies, and protocols.

### Application Processing Procedures

The following is a description of the procedure for interested parties to make application under the Program:

- Eligible applicants are required to submit a completed program application form to the City which demonstrates that the related eligibility criteria are met.
- Eligible applicants will be invited to an information session where application forms will be available, information will be provided about how to fill out the application form, and questions will be answered.
- The deadline for applications will be shared. All applications received by that date will be evaluated with the results of the evaluation and the related grants announced.
- Each year there is a main intake period for cultural grant applications where the majority of grants are evaluated.
- The Program will also consider supplemental grant requests, outside of the main intake period, should there still be funding to allocate for that given year.
- In order to receive the funding for the year in which the organization is applying for, all prior year(s) final reports must be received and processed to the satisfaction of City staff. Permissible exceptions will be for organizations that have fall/winter event(s) which occur after the grant submission deadline, and that will require time upon the completion of the event(s) to submit final reports in a timely manner to be mutually agreed upon between the applicant and the City;
- Each application will be reviewed by City Staff to ensure that it is complete and meets the Program criteria.
- Each complete and eligible application will then be evaluated by a Grant Evaluation Committee comprised of representatives from: Arts, Heritage, Library, Economic Development and Finance. The Committee will recommend the grant amount for each eligible applicant that will then be forwarded to Council for approval.
- Applicants are invited to indicate interest in the Surrey Civic Theatres Rental Subsidy by checking the checkbox in either the Project Grant or Cultural Celebrations Grant application form. Eligible applications will be reviewed as part of the evaluation process, and subsidies will be awarded based on availability.
- City Staff will notify all applicants of Council's decision, and if applicable will advise them of the Appeal Procedure.

### Appeal Procedure

Appeals will be considered from organizations that have been:

- denied funding, or;
- where their final reports have not been approved

These are the general guidelines of the appeal procedure:

- In order to appeal, applicants are encouraged to email City staff to notify them of their intention to appeal. Email us at [culturalgrants@surrey.ca](mailto:culturalgrants@surrey.ca). Staff will then advise on the next steps for the appeal process.
- Appeals will be considered when significant new information is presented that was not available during the original review process.

- Appellants must notify City Staff in writing of their intention to appeal within twenty-five (25) business days of the date that they receive notification of the City's decision regarding their application or final report;
- The person appealing must clearly identify the additional information that they view as being important to their appeal of the decision.
- City staff will review all appeals and may refer the appeals to the evaluation committee and/or Council if deemed warranted.

### Grant Payments

- Organisations will receive their grant funding in the form of a cheque. This cheque will be made out to the organisation and mailed to the address identified on the application.
- Organizations that are still completing projects from previous grant cycles must complete their projects and receive confirmation that their final reports are approved, before receiving any further funding;
- For all grants, 80% of the grant amount will be sent to the organisation. The remaining 20% will be released after City staff have approved the final report.

### Final Reports Process

Organizations need to send in final reports and receive confirmation of report approval in order to:

- Receive the remaining 20% of grant funding;
- Be in good standing in order to apply for future Cultural Grant funding.
- Final reports are due within sixty (60) days following the completion of the proposed Cultural Grant funded activities.
- Final report packages are emailed to all Cultural Grant recipients early in the year and can be requested at any time during the year by emailing [culturalgrants@surrey.ca](mailto:culturalgrants@surrey.ca);
- Final report packages must be complete in order to be reviewed by City Staff.
- Organizations must receive confirmation that their final reports from previous grant applications are approved in order to be in good standing and be eligible to apply for future funding.
- Failure to submit final reports may render the applicant ineligible to apply for future funding.

**2025 Cultural Grants Program Funding Recommendations**

**Grant Funding Available:**

2025 Proposed Budget	\$500,000
Unallocated Grant Funding Carried forward from Prior years	\$132,280
<b>Total Available Grant Funding</b>	<b>\$632,280</b>

**Total Grants Recommended:**

Operating Grants	\$195,000
Project Grants	\$391,565
Cultural Celebrations Grants	\$14,560
Surrey Civic Theatre Rental (max. \$2,000/applicant)	\$16,000
Unallocated Grant Funding Balance	\$15,155

*Operating Grants*

#	Organization	Funding Amount	Purpose of Funding	About the Organization
1	Arts Council of Surrey	\$15,000	Operating Support	Umbrella organization offering year-round programming serving artists and supporting cultural activities in Surrey.
2	Fraser Valley Gilbert and Sullivan Society	\$15,000	Operating Support	Delivers musical theatre performances and provides an opportunity for community members to participate in performing arts in Surrey.
3	Royal Canadian Theatre Company	\$25,000	Operating Support	Delivers professional quality theatre performances to audiences in Surrey and surrounding communities.
4	Sanjh Foundation	\$15,000	Operating Support	Non-profit dedicated to preserving and promoting the culture, traditions and heritage of music, dance and literature.
5	Semiahmoo Arts Society	\$25,000	Operating Support	Umbrella organization for the arts serving the Semiahmoo Peninsula, fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable arts community.
6	Sher Vancouver LGBTQ Friends Society	\$15,000	Operating Support	Sher Vancouver promotes intersectional diversity, human rights, inclusivity, empathy, and the arts in their community.
7	Surrey Art Gallery Association	\$7,500	Operating Support	Serves as a partner to the Surrey Art Gallery to advance community engagement with the visual arts, and to support contemporary artists

8	Surrey Festival of Dance	\$12,500	Operating Support	Provides a high-quality forum for dancers to perform, and helps promote and expand dance awareness in the community.
9	Surrey Symphony Society	\$15,000	Operating Support	Fosters, encourages, and supports the advancement of musical culture in musical art.
10	Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration	\$25,000	Operating Support	Hosts initiatives to support progressive South Asian artistic expression; organizes the 5X Fest, a multi-day, multi-venue festival encompassing music, visual art, fashion, and culture.
11	VISAFF South Asian Film Festival Society	\$25,000	Operating Support	A film festival that showcases authentic South Asian storytelling. This festival takes place in Surrey.

*Project Grants*

#	Organization	Funding Amount	Purpose of Funding	About the Organization
12	Aequitas Singers Society	\$1,450	Make a Difference: An evening concert in Fleetwood	A non-auditioned community choir based in Surrey with a social justice focused mandate.
13	Arts Umbrella Association	\$10,000	Act Your Art Out: Free after-school activities in art, dance, and theatre instruction	Supports young artists cultivate their creativity in art & design, dance, theatre, and music & film.
14	Bhangra Revolution Dance Competition Inc.	\$3,500	Bhangra Revolution Competition: Competition that highlights the rich tapestry of Punjabi culture	A music and dance programming that celebrates the vibrant artistry of Bhangra and Punjabi culture.
15	Canada Chinese Performing Arts Society	\$2,000	Celebration of Golden Autumn: A concert to celebrate autumn, featuring a Chinese traditional instrument, the Gu Qin	Promotes performing arts based on Chinese culture and cultural exchange between Canada and China.
16	Canada Nepal Friendship and Cultural Society	\$2,000	Community Art and Cultural Exchange Program: Multicultural program including indigenous artists, sharing and	A non-profit organization aimed at encouraging cultural and socio-economic exchange between Canada and Nepal.

			appreciating their roots	
17	Canadian Music Centre in BC	\$3,000	Casse-Tete: A Festival of Experimental Music 2025 - Three-day festival in Surrey and White Rock featuring experimental music	The Canadian Music Centre British Columbia purpose is to encourage and promote the awareness, appreciation and study of Canadian contemporary music.
18	Cedar Hills Caledonian Pipe Band	\$2,000	Learning Program: Provide a structured and comprehensive approach to bagpipe and drum education	Promote Great Highland Bagpipe, pipe band music and traditions, and instill good values through community activities.
19	Chetna Association of Canada	\$6,000	Dalit Equity Dialogues- Diasporic Voices Towards Equality Through Art: A monthly reading group about casteism	A community-based organization that works towards building casteless and equitable diaspora of South Asian communities and democracies.
20	Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra & Chorus	\$6,000	CSO 2025 Concerts in Surrey: Concerts in Surrey featuring Cantare Super Orchestra	Professional classical orchestra and chorus.
21	CityHive Youth Engagement Society	\$7,000	CityShapers in Communities: Community workshops for youth to connect with their City	A youth-run not-for-profit in Metro Vancouver that engages young people in civic education and climate innovation.
22	Cloverdale Arts and Entertainment Association	\$8,500	Cloverdale Market Days: An open-air market with a focus on community enhancement, supporting and fostering the arts.	Hosts several summer market days to promote arts, culture and small business in Cloverdale.
23	Cloverdale District Chamber of Commerce	\$5,500	Taste of Cloverdale: To highlight the culinary arts in east Surrey.	Provide leadership, advocacy, and networking to benefit and support businesses in Cloverdale, Clayton, and Campbell Heights.
24	Community Living Society Studio 73	\$2,800	Free fused glass classes: Classes for underserved community members at Studio 73 and other accessible venues.	Studio Seventy-Three is an art studio and gallery that provides accessible and inclusive experiences to the Surrey community

25	Crescendo Operatic Society	\$6,500	The Merry Widow: Franz Lehar's The Merry Widow, in English	Presents performances of opera with people of all ages.
26	Culture Chats BC Association	\$625	Folk Performing Arts: Workshops and Presentation - Folk dance, music workshops and a sharing event in 2025	Facilitates innovative programming, engaging community and building connection through intercultural arts.
27	Dance West Network	\$7,500	Re-Centering / Margins Creative Residency in Surrey, 2025 - Supports Surrey-based IBPOC emerging contemporary dance artists	Connects BC communities with dance artists and fosters an appreciation of contemporary dance through its collaborations.
28	Darts Hill Garden Conservancy Trust Society	\$7,000	Artist in Residence and Temporary Art Installations Program - Provide venue for artists to create and/or display their art	Provides a botanical garden as a public amenity in Surrey.
29	Diwali Celebration Society	\$10,000	Diwali Fest 2025: a multidisciplinary South Asian festival at City Hall	Celebrates the spirit of Diwali by embracing diverse art forms.
30	EJS School of Fine Arts	\$6,000	Bright Stars Program: Help low-income students participate in the Arts	Provides Musical Theatre, Dance and Visual Arts mentorship and training to under-resourced and vulnerable students in Surrey.
31	Fil-Can Cultural Heritage Society (FCCHS)	\$3,500	Surrey Fiesta Extravaganza 2025: A free 2-day event at the Surrey Civic Plaza showcasing Filipino culture	A non-profit organization established to celebrate, promote, and preserve Filipino cultural heritage, traditions, and values.
32	Folk Star Arts Academy Society	\$6,500	Folklore Festival 2025: Celebration of Dance, Music, Culture, and Visual Arts in Surrey	Creates opportunities for meaningful engagement, understanding, and appreciation of Punjabi Folk Art.
33	Foolish Operations Society	\$4,000	Stars and Constellations - A new Dance and Music Babytime workshop in Surrey Libraries	Creates dance experiences for families, fostering togetherness through performances and workshops.
34	Fraser Region Aboriginal	\$10,000	Surrey National Indigenous Peoples'	An organization that fosters the health and well-being of urban



	Friendship Centre Association (FRAFCA)		Day Celebration & Wellness Event: Free event for National Indigenous Peoples' Day	Indigenous people in the Fraser Salish Region by providing culturally relevant services, support and advocacy.
35	Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society	\$9,000	Cloverdale Station Summer Music Festival: Free entertainment for the public at the Station Patio, featuring local musicians	Restores and operates electric heritage railcars at Cloverdale Heritage Train Station, promoting B.C. Electric Railway history
36	Fraser Valley Neighbourhood Association	\$3,000	2025 Surrey Moon Festival Celebration: A performance event to celebrate Moon Festival	A nonpartisan, nonreligious, and neutral association with free membership that unites residents to build a safe, multicultural community.
37	GenConnect	\$1,000	Threads of Time: A Cultural Journey Through Generations - Collaborative show uniting youth and seniors to celebrate cultural heritage	A non-profit organization focused on fostering intergenerational connections between Punjabi-speaking youth and seniors.
38	Ghazal Manch Surrey Cultural Association	\$3,500	Shairaana Shaam 2025: Annual Poetry recital event	An organization of writers associated with Punjabi poetry.
39	Handel Society of Music	\$5,000	A concert series taking place in Spring and Fall	Music concerts performing classical choral music with orchestra
40	Healthy Women Association	\$1,500	International Day for the African Child an annually celebration and expression of artistic practices	A non-profit organization that empowers women and youth, especially immigrants, through education, personal development, and job opportunities.
41	Indian Classical Music Society of Vancouver	\$2,000	A Tale of Two: A Concert of North and South Indian Classical Music - A musical exchange and concert with local Indian classical musicians	Promotes Indian classical music and dance in the Lower Mainland and building a community of artists and art-lovers.
42	Indian Summer Arts Society (ISAS)	\$7,500	Alam Khan In Concert: World-renowned sarode maestro Alam Khan alongside Eman Hashimi on tabla	ISAS aims for an inclusive, diverse society through high-quality South Asian multi-arts experiences and global impact.

43	Kara-Kata Afrobeat Society of Canada	\$2,500	NaijaFest 2025 – An annual Cultural event celebrating the Nigerian community in BC	Kara-Kata creates community events to bring all people together to share and educate about African culture.
44	Kohinoor Folk Arts Club	\$7,500	KFAC - Culture Showcase: Empowering youth with free Bhangra classes and major showcase opportunity	Promotes Punjabi culture and health through Bhangra, offering fun classes and top-tier musicians.
45	Latincouver Cultural & Business Society	\$7,500	Carnavalito on the Road: Surrey - Celebrating Latin American culture through music, food, and dance	A non-profit organization that promotes Latin American culture in BC through cultural, business, and community initiatives, including Carnaval del Sol.
46	Mha Puja Cultural Society of BC	\$1,000	Yoma Panchak: a 5-day festival celebrating Newar culture	Preserves Newar heritage, promotes cultural traditions, and fosters cross-cultural harmony in BC
47	Mother Language Lovers of The World Society	\$5,000	11th Annual Mother Language Festival: A Global Celebration of Linguistic and Cultural Diversity	Promotes various linguistic and cultural origins to celebrate their heritage and enrich multiculturalism and intercultural harmony.
48	NAAD Arts Centre Society	\$6,000	Vasantotsav: NAAD Spring Festival of Music & Dance 2025: Dedicated to preserving and promoting the culture, traditions and heritage of music, dance, and literature.	Dedicated to preserving and promoting the culture, traditions and heritage of music, dance, and literature.
49	Naked Stage Productions Society	\$4,000	Naked Stage 2024-2025 Season: NSPS will perform four plays in 2024-2025 at the Newton Cultural Centre	Produces stage and musical productions using the stage as a blank canvas on an amateur basis in Surrey
50	Nepali Literary Society	\$1,000	Multicultural Art and Cultural Show: Multicultural Arts including Indigenous artists performance	Integrate Nepali diaspora, preserve and teach Nepali language, literature, culture, and traditional festivals through various cultural activities.
51	New Vision Music Society	\$5,000	ACCESS - Afro Caribbean Cultural	Promote inclusivity and diversity through cultural experiences,

			Summerfest of Surrey: A 2-day cultural celebration festival in the City of Surrey	elevate the music industry, and stimulate the local economy with the Afro Caribbean Cultural Summerfest of Surrey
52	Pivot Theatre Society	\$4,000	Pivot Theatre 2025 Season: 2025 will feature at least five plays and community collaborations	Provide inclusive theatre experiences, nurture creativity, and support all artists in a diverse and safe community space.
53	Poetic Justice Foundation	\$5,000	Anti-Caste Vaisakhi: Celebrating Dalit History Month and Sikh Heritage Month Together - Day-long Vaisakhi celebrations with anti-caste education uplifting Dalit Sikh history	Challenge oppression through political education, grassroots advocacy, and coalition building, focusing on marginalized South Asian communities.
54	Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS)	\$5,000	Harmony in Heritage: Cultural Connect - Celebrating diversity & fostering unity	Foster harmony and intercultural understanding through diverse programs, promoting unity, cultural appreciation, and sustainable employment.
55	Punjabi Resilience and Empowerment in Mental Health (PREM)	\$7,000	Unsung Heroes: The Coast Salish and the Komagata Maru Incident - Research/engagement with Indigenous and Punjabi community for a graphic novel	Empower youth to tackle mental health challenges in the Punjabi community through creative expression and cultural identity.
56	Royal Academy of Punjab Society	\$8,000	3 major events each year: the Folk Lok Series, Summer Exhibition and Annual Holiday Event - all events held in Surrey and have over 900 attendees	Non-profit that focuses on creating an understanding and appreciation for the Punjabi performing art form of folk-dance bhangra and folk music in the Diaspora.
57	Royal City Youth Ballet Company Society	\$5,000	The Royal City Youth Ballet's Nutcracker - 5 performances of the Nutcracker at the Surrey Arts Center	Promote and develop ballet among youth, enhance performance standards, communicate its beauty, and support dancers through scholarships and opportunities.
58	Rungh Cultural Society	\$2,000	Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon 2025: 2025 Wikipedia arts project	Foster dialogue, preserve South Asian culture, develop traditional and non-traditional arts skills

			for artists and the public	
59	Salaam Events Management Group	\$4,000	BC Halal Food Fest: Celebrating diverse halal cuisine, culture, and communities in BC	Create inclusive multicultural events, celebrate diversity, foster community connections
60	Semiahmoo Family Place Association	\$5,000	Creative Cottage: Intergenerational family theatre program connecting families/seniors through creative performances	Create inclusive, nurturing environments for families, providing resources, support, and innovative programs.
61	Sikh Heritage Society BC	\$10,000	Sikh Heritage Opening Ceremony and 'Sikhs Speak' Event - Two events focusing on celebrating art and culture	Highlight Sikh heritage in BC, celebrate local talent, and promote youth leadership.
62	Soundscape a Cappella Chorus Society	\$7,500	2025 Spring and Winter Concerts: Soundscape's annual Spring and Christmas concerts	Surrey's premier amateur a cappella chorus, enriching cultural experiences with diverse and engaging performances.
63	South Asian Arts Society	\$10,000	Monsoon Festival of Performing Arts: Annual multidisciplinary festival showcasing local, national, international South Asian artists	Creates performance and educational opportunities for professional and amateur artists.
64	South Rock Comedy Society	\$5,000	South Rock Comedy Festival: A 3-day comedy festival in South Surrey-White Rock	Use comedy for positive community impact, inclusivity, and collaboration through diverse and unifying festivals.
65	stałəw' Arts and Cultural Society	\$10,000	stałəw' Pow Wow at the Rodeo: Promotion for Indigenous Village at the Rodeo	Empower Indigenous artists, support arts and culture, and promote social and economic wellbeing.
66	Surrey Artswest Society	\$3,815	Artswest Program for 2025/2026: Provide a full Calendar of Events for Artists	Artists helping artists by providing connections, demonstrations, show opportunities, and a professional stepping stone.
67	Surrey Black Futures Society	\$7,000	Visualizing a Black Counter Culture: Exploring counter	Community space supporting Black art, hosting diverse programs, and serving as a hub for artists.

			cultural history and futures through art	
68	Surrey Board of Trade	\$4,000	Music City Surrey Showcase - Part 5: To highlight Surrey based artists in online interviews and performances	Growing Surrey's music economy to make it a destination city with the core values of inclusion and diversity.
69	Surrey City Orchestra Society	\$10,000	Brain Storm: The orchestra will present music and studies concerning brain injury	Presents professional live music that engages Surrey's diverse population.
70	Surrey Firefighters Pipes and Drums Society	\$2,000	City of Surrey Performances: Provide high-level highland music performance to the COS	Provide ceremonial performances, represent Surrey Fire Service, promote highland music, and foster fire-community relations.
71	Surrey German Language School Society	\$500	Year-end Christmas Celebration: We celebrate the end of the year with Christmas performances	To teach the German language and educate about German heritage and culture.
72	Surrey International Writers' Conference	\$10,000	Surrey International Writers' Conference (SiWC) 2025: 3-day learning and development writers' conference, plus 2 masterclass days	Encourage and inspire writers with workshop-based conferences by experienced presenters.
73	Surrey Jazz and Arts Society	\$4,000	Surrey Jazz Nights Emerging Artists Series: 10 monthly shows presenting emerging and pre-professional artists in Surrey	Build community by celebrating artists, providing opportunities, collaborating, and ensuring accessible events.
74	Surrey Muse Arts Society (SMAS)	\$6,120	Surrey Muse Gatherings and Writing Workshops: To present 13 in-person events- 8 gatherings and 5 workshops	Promote inclusivity in arts, support diverse artists, and encourage art and literature appreciation.
75	Surrey Photography Club	\$1,255	Photographic Artists Speaker Series: A series of artists' discussions about	Inclusive photography club fostering artistic vision and achievements through learning and support.

			their work and techniques	
76	Surrey Pride Society	\$10,000	Surrey Pride Festival 2025: Music festival & drag, public event, family friendly, all ages	Produces the annual Surrey (LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit) Pride Festival in Surrey.
77	Surrey Urban Farmers Market Association	\$7,000	2025 Market Entertainment: Present local performing artists to the community free of charge	Provide a weekly community event offering local produce, promoting Surrey, and fostering a sense of community.
78	Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Society	\$9,000	2025 Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival: Community connection of Taiwanese arts and heritage in Surrey	Facilitate cultural exchange, promote understanding and harmony, and foster multiculturalism in Canada.
79	TheaTERRA Productions Society	\$3,000	Drop by Drop – Creation/Production Process & Pilot Performances: A live theatre show for kids about our water system	Dedicated to sustainability, inclusivity, and accessibility, building on the legacy of DreamRider Productions to deliver enviro-educational live theatre shows.
80	Time Will Tell Arts Society	\$2,500	Samar: Bharatanatyam with live musicians - A presentation of South Indian classical dance	Promote diverse artistic expressions, support workshops and collaborations, and showcase underrepresented cultural expressions.
81	Transformational Theatre Society	\$6,500	Music and Meditation Festival 2025: Festival showcasing local and visiting talent specializing in meditative arts	Offer uplifting theatrical and musical presentations, nurture artists through mentorship, and share sacred teachings via expressive arts.
82	Vancouver Cantonese Opera	\$10,000	2025 Surrey Chinese Cultural Festival: To celebrate and promote the rich heritage of Chinese culture	Preserve and promote Cantonese opera with performances, workshops, outreach, and training.
83	Vancouver Chinese Film Festival	\$5,500	13th Vancouver Chinese Film Festival: The VCFF comprises masterclasses, workshops, film screening and award ceremony	Promote Chinese culture and films, enhance community engagement, and raise awareness of arts, culture, and heritage.

84	White Rock City Orchestra	\$6,500	Ken Lavigne Christmas and Paparazzi: Opera on the Rocks – Concert and musical comedy show	Long established community orchestra that performs exclusively in Surrey.
85	Z. inc Artist Collective	\$2,000	“Tangled Thicket” Artist Networking Projects: Z.inc and invited artists collaborate on projects enhancing SAG exhibition	Contemporary art collective in South Surrey.

*Cultural Celebration Grants*

#	Organization	Funding Amount	Purpose of Funding	About the Organization
86	Edgewood Multi-cultural Society	\$1,500	1) Lantern Festival 2) Mid Autumn Festival 3) Chongyang Seniors Festival: Promoting different cultural understanding	Build an active multicultural community, enhance mutual understanding and cultural diversity.
87	Golden Autumn Choir	\$560	Cultural Rhythms: Voices of the Golden Autumn Choir - Performances at senior-residences, participation in local festivals, and street parties	A non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of Chinese immigrant seniors in Surrey through music.
88	Great Zimbabwe Cultural Society of British Columbia	\$2,000	ZICUSO BC Cultural Connect: African national dress show and cultural performers	Uplift individuals and families through empowering programs, valuing respect, compassion, accountability, and inclusiveness.
89	Greater Vancouver Bangladesh Cultural Association (GVBCA)	\$2,500	Bengali New Year Celebration (Boishakhi Mela): Celebration of the Bengali New Year	Promote social, cultural, and general welfare of the Bangladeshi community, preserving heritage and fostering goodwill.
90	Jamaican Canadian Cultural Association of British Columbia	\$3,000	Jamaica Day Festival: A day-long cultural engagement with food, arts and music	Act as a hub for the Jamaican community in BC, promoting culture, and fostering strong relationships.
91	Kerala Cultural Association of British Columbia	\$1,000	Onam Cultural Fest: Cultural Fest by local	Preserve and promote Malayalee culture, assist new immigrants, and

			artists and traditional food	serve the Malayalee community in BC.
92	Lower Mainland Bengali Cultural Society of BC	\$1,000	An Evening with Anjan Dutta: Melodies of Bengal - An event celebrating Bengali music and culture	Promote Bengali culture, engage in community outreach, and host socio-cultural events for unity and inclusivity.
93	Muslim Food Bank and Community Services Society	\$2,000	Cultural Party: Celebrating Surrey's diversity through arts, food, fashion, and cultural connections	Combat hunger, provide social support, and foster self-sufficiency through food assistance and holistic services
94	Pinoy Pride Vancouver Society	\$1,000	Special Film Screening: Canadian Adobo - Film Screen of Canadian Adobo at Surrey Centre Stage Theatre	Celebrate and support the Filipino-Canadian LGBTQ+ community through education, advocacy, events, and support services.

Surrey Civic Theatres Rental Subsidy

1. Nepali Literary Society
2. Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra Society ("VICO")
3. Canada Nepal Friendship and Cultural Society
4. GenConnect
5. Kohinoor Folk Arts Club
6. The Ghanaian-Canadian Association of British Columbia
7. Lower Mainland Bengali Cultural Society of BC
8. Pinoy Pride Vancouver Society



## APPENDIX “III”

### 2024 Supplemental Cultural Grants Awarded

2024 Total Supplemental Grants Awarded

\$67,750

#	Organization	Funding Amount	Purpose of Funding	About the Organization
1.	Penmar Community Arts	\$10,000	Salmon Sessions Music Festival	A music festival celebrating music, community and fun.
2.	Staʔwʔ Arts and Cultural Society	\$10,000	Pow Wow Promotion for Indigenous Village at the Rodeo	Staʔwʔ Arts and Cultural Society supports the creation and transmission of contemporary and traditional Indigenous art, language and cultural practices
3.	Semiahmoo Potters Society	\$850	Wading into Community Programming	Semiahmoo Potters Society is to foster, encourage and develop the ceramic art of pottery in the Semiahmoo Peninsula communities
4.	Nigeria-Canada Association of British Columbia	\$3,000	Tapestry of Traditions: Celebrating Nigerian-Canadian Cultural Exchange	Nigeria-Canada Association of British Columbia (NCABC) is a non-profit dedicated to fostering cultural exchange and philanthropy, especially for new immigrants in Canada
5.	NaijaFest Association	\$7,500	NaijaFest 2024 – An annual Cultural event celebrating the Nigerian community in BC	Kara-Kata creates community events to bring all people together to share and educate about African culture.
6.	Fil-Can Cultural Heritage Society	\$10,000	Surrey Fiesta Festival: Festival of Smiles showcasing multicultural performances	A non-profit organization established to celebrate, promote, and preserve Filipino cultural heritage, traditions, and values.
7.	Ballet BC	\$10,000	Ballet BC presents the timeless Holiday classic, Nutcracker, at the Bell Centre	Ballet BC is a creation-based contemporary dance company led by Artistic Director Medhi Walerski.
8.	Surrey Historical Society	\$1,400	James McMillan Expedition 200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration. To	The Surrey Historical Society aims to preserve and promote the history of Surrey, BC.

			recognize and commemorate this historic event in Surrey's history	
9.	VISAFF South Asian Film Festival Society	\$15,000	Annual Surrey-based film festival	A film festival that showcases authentic South Asian storytelling. This festival takes place in Surrey