SQUAMISH ARTS

Squamish Arts
Arts & Culture Grant Guidelines 2027

About the Arts & Culture Grant
Squamish Arts adjudicates the ACG for local arts and culture projects that seek to provide community enhancement. This funding is awarded by the District of Squamish to Squamish Arts through the Community Enhancement Grant Program.

For individuals and groups, please use **this form** to apply.

The ACG has specific eligibility criteria. Please read the guidelines to know how to best ensure the success of your application.

Funding is available to individuals, groups or organizations with arts and culture projects comparable to the goals and mandate of Squamish Arts. For those applying as a group, note that priority will be given to established non-profit societies, but unincorporated groups may apply. SA will provide funds to pay specific expenses for approved projects that seek to enhance arts and/or culture activities in Squamish. Project expenditures and activities must take place between January 1, 2027 and December 31, 2027.

Squamish Arts's Mandate

Squamish Arts is a non-profit society established for the purposes of:

- Providing support for the arts and culture in Squamish;
- Providing local residents, visitors, organizations, and members from all walks with opportunities to participate in arts and culture in Squamish;
- Providing support for local artists at all levels and disciplines;
- Providing access to local arts and culture for those in our District;
- Supporting youth in artistic expression, creative exploration and curiosity;
- Supporting the genuine recognition and expression of the rich culture of the Skwxwú7mesh peoples;
- Act as an advocate for the arts and culture sector within Squamish.

The Squamish Arts mission is to raise awareness of and improve access to arts and culture in Squamish, while supporting local artists.

Program Objectives

The Arts & Culture Grant recipient programs should support the DOS's objectives:

- Arts and culture
- Community and neighborhood events
- Decolonization and reconciliation initiatives
- Intergenerational programming
- Neighbourhood connectivity
- Public space activation
- Environmental stewardship
- Social wellbeing
- Youth-led initiatives

The recipient programs should also support the Squamish Arts objectives:

- Enhance local arts and/or cultural activities in Squamish;
- Strengthen community connections and engagement in Squamish arts and/or culture;
- Promote collaboration between arts groups, artists, other local non-profits, volunteers, businesses, and the community;

Successful applicants will clearly identify how their project meets one or more of the program objectives.

Funding

There is no official project maximum, however average grants vary year-to-year depending on the number of applications received, local impact of the project, and how well it meets the objective of community enhancement through arts and culture. Typical project awards range between $1,000 - $5,000, but can be awarded less or more. Our goal is to fund as many high-quality projects as possible.

SA is under no obligation to fund a project for its full request and will base its adjudication on how the project meets the criteria, program objectives, and mandate of the Council alongside a number of equally eligible applications. Groups may receive zero, full, or partial funding based on these criteria.

Your request should therefore take into consideration that we are unlikely to fund the entire amount to one project, and we do encourage you to source multiple revenue streams for your project.

Applicant Eligibility

- If applying as a group: priority will be given to established societies but unincorporated groups may apply.
- SA will provide funds to pay specific expenses for projects. Projects eligible for funding include: assistance with programming/productions in the performing or literary arts; art exhibitions; purchase of sheet music; project related costs (venue/equipment rental, etc.)

- <u>Funding is not available for:</u>
    - General operating expenses;
    - Deficits;
    - Capital or equipment purchases;
    - Festival sponsorship – applicants can apply for specific projects that meet program objectives within a festival but funds will not be given to general festival operations, sponsorship, or projects that do not meet the program objectives;
    - Projects whose sole project proposal is public art;
    - Retroactive funding (expenses incurred prior to grant application);
    - Projects with unbalanced budgets (expenses = revenues with no surplus or deficit);
    - Funding is also not available for library stock (books, CD's, videos) or school art supplies;

Who Cannot Apply?

- For-profit entities;
- Groups who have outstanding final reports for projects previously funded by the Squamish Arts Community Arts & Culture Enhancement Grant;
- Festivals for sponsorship;

- Applicants outside the District of Squamish;

The Application Process

Applications are juried annually in the fall and approved projects must occur between January 1, 2027 and December 31, 2027.

All eligibility criteria must be met to be considered for grant funding.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure applications are complete and all application requirements are included. Squamish Arts will not contact applicants to address errors in applications or missing application requirements, including support material, other than that required to determine eligibility. Eligible applications and any supporting material will be assessed as they have been submitted.

Funding decisions are based on the number and quality of requests received by the deadlines. Projects must pass each of the evaluation sections in order to be funded. The jury will base their evaluations on how well the applicant answers the questions and how well their project meets the program goals utilizing an evaluation sheet – provided below.

After a grant has been approved:

SA will announce grant recipients in December, 2026. Grant recipients are expected to sign an acceptance letter with a confirmation of understanding that conditions in which grant funding is provided for approved projects.

All payments of grant monies to the grant recipient are subject to an authorizing appropriation under the Financial Administration Act. Squamish Arts reserves the right to redistribute, delay or suspend payments if the successful applicant:

- Does not carry out its planned program of activities.
- Undergoes major changes in artistic or administrative direction.
- Does not meet its obligations as a grant recipient, including submission of final reports to Squamish Arts.

No Squamish Arts Board Member, who is affiliated with an applicant Community group, will be involved in administering this Grant nor be selected for the Jury of. Their affiliated group must have a separate group representative handling all aspects of the application and reporting. Board Members are not to benefit personally from any funding that the group they are affiliated with may receive.

Squamish Arts expects the following from grant recipients:

- Approval from SA before any alterations to the project scope;
- Proper fiscal management;
- Thorough and well-planned project evaluation;
- Final report (financial and descriptive) submitted within the same fiscal year the grant was issued;
- Public recognition of the support received as required by SA; as well, funded organizations with a website are encouraged to add a link to the Squamish Arts site.

Squamish Arts Assessment Criteria

	Criteria	Weighting
1	Maximizes positive impact for local artists experience, exposure, etc and/ or raises the profile of the local arts and culture sector.	15%
2	Identified capacity to ensure project success and feasibility	15%
3	Leverages resources (in-kind, sponsorship, other grants, etc) to achieve desired outcomes	10%
4	Fills community need(s) by strengthening community interaction and engagement with art/culture;	10%
5	Includes reasonable and achievable targets and results	10%
6	Involves a diverse representation of community including Squamish's vulnerable, marginalized, or underrepresented populations;	10%
7	Includes reasonable steps towards a low barrier and accessible project when ticket sales are present	10%
8	Supports the DOS OCP and Strategic Priorities: decolonisation and reconciliation, intergenerational programming, neighbourhood connectivity, environment, equity and diversity, physical and mental health, social wellbeing, youth led initiatives, vulnerable populations and recreation that are based in education, recreation, the environment, or alternative programming	10%
9	Supports the SA mandate, mission, and program objectives	10%
	Total (max. unweighted Score of 45)	*100%*

SAMPLE BUDGET (for BIG HAPPY ART SHOW at the FUN TIMES RESTAURANT):

	BUDGET DESCRIPTION:	**DOLLAR FIGURE (Submit with application):**	**CONFIRMED/ PENDING (C/P):**
REVENUE:			
Earned revenue:	*eg. Ticket sales, sponsorship, donations*		
1. Tickets	Art show ticket sales	$1,200	P
Grants (Cash):			
1. SA ACG (this grant)	Grant received from SA	$4,500	P
In-kind contributions:	*These must also be listed/included within your expenses so that your budget is net zero.*		
1. Fun Times	Location rental in-kind	$925	C

Restaurant			
2. John Smith	Donation of time to administer project	$275	C
3. Installation hardware	Donation of nails from Construction Store	$100	C
Other Revenue:			
1. Jane Doe	One-off donation	$500	C
2. Sponsorship	Sponsorship from Frank Arts	$100	C
TOTAL REVENUE:		$7,400	

Expenses continued below

EXPENSES (eligible):			
Artist Fees	Artist commissions	$4,000	
Materials and Supplies	Canvases and paints, and nails (partial in-kind)	$500	
Printing and Communications	Posters and t-shirts	$310	
Event Insurance	SLRD Permit	$20	
Rental of Premises	Fun Times Restaurant Rental	$925	
Equipment Rental or Purchase	Drill rented with Frank's Art sponsorship money	$100	
Advertising and Promotional Costs	Facebook and Instagram Ads	$120	
Other (List):			
1. Volunteer Costs	Food	$530	
2. Photography/ Videography	Photographer	$720	
EXPENSES (ineligible):			
General Operating Expenses	Administrative work - John Smith	$275	
Capital/Equipment Purchases			
Library Stock/ School			

Art Supplies			
TOTAL EXPENSES:		$7,600	
REVENUE MINUS EXPENSES:		$0	
(Your budget cannot have a surplus or deficit- revenue minus expense must equal zero)			
Please note that this grant can only cover eligible expenses. Please refer to the guidelines for more information. Find the downloadable template here.			

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I applied for a grant last year with SA, can I apply this year?
Yes, the granting cycle will open annually in the fall for the next calendar year. You can apply every year, however, this grant is meant to fund a project, not operational funding.

Does my project have to meet all of the DOS/SA objectives?
No, however, the better the project aligns with the mission and vision of DOS/SA, the higher likelihood that it will be approved!

When is the application due?
The application is due November 16, 2026.

Where is the application?
You can find the application on our website, www.squamisharts.com/grants.

What does it mean that the budget has to balance, including expenses (eligible) and expenses (ineligible)?
This means that your revenues and expenses need to balance to zero. The ACG committee expects that the project has taken into reasonable consideration both the expenses that are eligible to be covered by the grant (see eligibility guidelines above) as well as the expenses that are ineligible, and has thought about revenue sources to cover the ineligible expenses. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to info@squamisharts.com.

What is a typical grant amount?
The typical grant funding amount awarded is $1,000 - $5,000. Squamish Arts aims to award funds to as many meaningful projects as possible, and therefore does not often give out the entirety of the requested grant award to one project.

What if I have a project that does not involve arts and culture?
Please note that this grant is specifically geared towards projects that seek to enhance the community of Squamish through an arts and culture initiative, and can include objectives pertaining to decolonization and reconciliation, intergenerational programming, neighbourhood connectivity, environment, equity and diversity, physical and mental health, social wellbeing, youth led initiatives, vulnerable populations and recreation that are based in education, recreation, the environment, or alternative programming,

For projects that align with these objectives and that are NOT specifically arts and culture focused, please refer to the Community Enhancement Grant provided by the Squamish Community Foundation.

Please note that you can only receive either the Squamish Arts *Arts and Culture Grant* OR the Squamish Community Foundation's *Community Enhancement Grant*. If you believe that your project could feasibly apply to both, please email info@squamisharts.com to determine which grant you should apply to.

Do I have to be living in Squamish in order to qualify for the grant?
Ultimately, because the ACG is looking to benefit, support, and uplift local artists and the local community, the project needs to be Squamish-centered. However, if you are an artist based in the Squamish Lillooet Regional District and would like to do an arts project based in Squamish, please feel free to reach out to clea@squamisharts.com to discuss your ideas and feasibility.