Neighbour Grants Guidelines

Strengthening the Ordinary Bonds of Neighbourliness

Contact us to talk about projects you have in mind!
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People of a place or community have great ideas for how to make things better. **Neighbour Grants** helps people implement their own *small acts of community* right in the neighbourhoods and communities where they live by offering up to $5,000 for project expenses.

The *small acts of community* we support tend to be projects where people:

- **Build** gathering spaces, such as community gardens and naturalized areas
- Engage people in **creative ways to address concerns**, such as community-created street murals, anti-racism arts festivals, and non-partisan discussions on the importance of voting
- Foster a sense of **pride and presence**, such as cultural sharing events and achievement celebrations of local youth and seniors
- Give people the **chance to get involved in community life**, such as book- or tool-sharing libraries, new kinds of neighbourhood festivals, and skills-sharing events
- **Plan and guide** neighbourhood and community development, such as resident-driven design or sustainability workshops and Reconciliation-themed learning initiatives

To qualify, the *small acts of community* must:

- Help people be **leaders** within the everyday life of their own communities
- Form new or stronger **connections** between local people, groups, and organizations
- Create or strengthen people's sense of **belonging** and **inclusion**

Who can apply?

Registered charities and other qualified donees[i] can apply for projects that take place in Calgary and area[ii]. If your group is not a registered charity, call us to discuss grant options.

Is Neighbour Grants a one-time only grant?

No. We're happy to hear from past grantees about next steps in their project that make it more meaningful, more welcoming to isolated or diverse parts of their community, or more economically or environmentally sustainable. Look too at Calgary Foundation's Vital Priorities, areas that we identify as needing greater community leadership and attention, found here: http://calgaryfoundation.org/impact/vital-priorities/ However, a group can only have one Neighbour Grant at a time.

Is Neighbour Grants only about grants?

No. We can help you think through your project ideas, connect with peers who've done similar projects, develop strategies to involve a wider diversity of your neighbourhood and community, consider project sustainability, and how to tell your project story.

What can Neighbour Grants be used for?

Typical costs are for volunteer and community involvement. Examples include: Event space rental, refreshments, supplies that people will use to build or offer something for the community, and fees for artists who will help people participate and create something great.

Neighbour Grants **cannot** be used for: Debt retirement, expenses that have already been spent, facility improvements, fundraising projects, ongoing operating expenses, or for projects with costly ticket prices.

Who evaluates Neighbour Grants applications?

A Calgary Foundation volunteer committee of local leaders who believe in active citizenship and inclusive welcoming community life review eligible applications.

If you are awarded a Neighbour Grant, then what?

- Acknowledge the support of the Calgary Foundation Neighbour Grants in project materials
- Use our logo on your flyers and websites and borrow our banner to display at your events.
- Invite us to key project events. We like to attend and see your project in action.
- Consult us **first** if you think of changing the project or how you spend the grant. We do our best to help you respond to changing circumstances.
- Tell us your project story through the Neighbour Grants Final Project Report Form. (Look at the form if you receive a grant to know what data to collect as your project unfolds.)

How do you apply?

Contact us to discuss your initiative, eligibility, and upcoming deadlines before working on an application.

Get the application form from our website, fill it out, and submit it by:

- Mail or in person – 1180 105 12 Avenue SE, Calgary AB T2G 1A1
  OR
- Email – NGP@CalgaryFoundation.org

Note: If you contact us early enough, we can review a draft.

Neighbour Grants applications are accepted four times a year. Watch our website for exact deadlines. You will know if you are awarded a grant within 2 to 4 weeks of an application deadline.

Is Neighbour Grants the Foundation's only grant for projects like these?

No. For smaller projects, you might want to apply to Stepping Stones instead for a micro grant of up to $600. Or check out our annual *PITCH NIGHT: A Neighbour Grants Live* event where the grant maximum rises to $10,000.

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[i] *Go to Canada Revenue Agency's Charities Listings website to see if your organization is a qualified donee: http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charitylists/*

[ii] *Calgary and area includes: Calgary, Banff National Park, Canmore, Rocky View County, and the Municipal Districts of Big Horn, Foothills, Kananaskis and Wheatland, and the surrounding First Nations.*