

Neighbour Grants Guidelines

We have 10 deadlines a year. Please ensure 8+ weeks between the application deadline and the start of your project.

CONTACT

Julie Black, Citizen Engagement Associate

ngp@calgaryfoundation.org

403-802-7720

WHAT IS A NEIGHBOUR GRANT?

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 \$10,000 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.

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR A NEIGHBOUR GRANT?

To qualify, the small acts of community must:

- Help people be leaders within everyday life of their own communities.
- Form new or stronger connections between local people, groups, and organizations.
- Strengthen people's sense of belonging within the diversity of neighbourhood or community.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Registered charities and other qualified doneesⁱ can apply for projects that take place in Calgary, Banff National Park, Canmore, Rocky View County, the Municipal Districts of Big Horn, Foothills, Kananaskis and Wheatland (including towns and hamlets), and the surrounding First Nations of Treaty 7 territory.

If your group is not a registered charity, call us to discuss grant options.

IS NEIGHBOUR GRANTS A ONE-TIME ONLY GRANT?

No. While groups can only have one grant at a time, it's not a one-time-only grant. We're happy to hear from past grantees about new projects or about next steps in a project we supported that make it more meaningful, more welcoming to isolated or diverse parts of their community, or more economically or environmentally sustainable.

Look at Calgary Foundation's [Vital Priorities](#), areas that we identify as needing greater community leadership and attention, and [our commitment to racial equity](#).

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 community involvement. Examples: Event space rental, refreshments, supplies people will use to build or offer something for the community, and fees for artists who will help people participate and create something great, or honoraria to Indigenous Elders who teach and guide a project in a good way.

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](#).

HOW TO APPLY

Contact us to discuss your initiative, eligibility, and upcoming deadlines before working on an application. Find the application form [on our website](#), fill it out, and submit it by fax, mail or email:

Email: ngp@calgaryfoundation.org

Mail: 1180 105 12 Avenue SE, Calgary AB, T2G 1A1

Fax: 403-802-7701

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

Neighbour Grants applications are reviewed approximately ten times a year. Watch our website for exact deadlines. Please give us at least 8 weeks between our deadline and your project.

IS NEIGHBOUR GRANTS THE CALGARY FOUNDATION'S ONLY GRANT FOR PROJECTS LIKE THESE?

No. For smaller projects, you might want to apply to our Stepping Stones program instead for support of up to \$1,000.

Please note: If we give your project a Neighbour Grant, we will list that information on website and in our other public records.

¹ Go to [Canada Revenue Agency's Charities Listings](#) website to see if your organization is a qualified donee.