



Museum Grant Program – Guidelines

Application deadline: **Stream 2 & 3 - November 10, 2025**

Stream 1 - December 1, 2025

Please read the Guidelines carefully before starting the grant application. Applicants should contact Consultant Tomasin Playford at tplayford@saskculture.ca before submitting an application to check if this grant program is the best fit.

If you face any barriers (language, technology, accessibility challenges, etc.) in navigating the criteria, application questions, and the application process, please reach out to the Consultant for details about the [Accessibility Fund](#).

Purpose

The Museum Grant Program (MGP) provides operational funding to help foster strong, vibrant, community-based Saskatchewan museums that are valued and supported by society. This funding enables applicants to focus on excellence in their programs and operations and to contribute to the understanding of the world and our place in it - our past, our present, and our future.

MGP supports applicants who demonstrate:

1. Strong Governance and Strategic Development

- Follow good governance practices;
- Develop and monitor long-term goals;
- Demonstrate a link between public consultation, planned programs, their impact, and the results of the evaluation;
- Value training and learning opportunities for staff and volunteers;
- Follow the *Standards for Saskatchewan Museums*;

2. Valued Programming

- Deliver meaningful activities, programs and services that are valued by the public;

3. Community Connections

- Are welcoming and inclusive;
- Collaborate through networks and partnerships;
- Value community involvement and actively engages the public;

4. Responsible Use of Resources and Risk Management Practices

- Demonstrate a realistic and responsible use of resources (funds, volunteers, etc.); and
- Demonstrate a link between planned activities and the museum's budget.

Priorities

Priority will be given to:

- The equitable distribution of MGP funds across the province;
- Museums that provide increased participation opportunities for people who live in rural areas and the Northern District for Sport, Culture and Recreation;

- Museums that provide increased participation opportunities for First Nations and Métis peoples, young people, and Newcomers;
- Museums that are implementing UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People) and supporting Indigenous self-determination in museums;
- Indigenous, ethno-cultural or multicultural museums.

If you are unsure if your museum fits the purpose and priorities of this grant, please contact SaskCulture.

Applicant Eligibility

The Museum Grant Program provides operational funding for Museums. Please refer to the [2025 MGP Information for Applicants](#) for more definitions on the kinds of museums that the MGP supports, and for information on the 3 different Streams of the Museum Grant Program.

Museums must be either:

- **An Incorporated Non-Profit** organization, registered and based in Saskatchewan.

A non-profit museum applicant must:

- be in existence as a registered non-profit for at least one full fiscal year;
- be in good standing with Information Services Corporation (ISC);
- have no outstanding grant follow-ups due to SaskCulture; and
- provide a copy of the organization's signed annual financial statement that was most recently submitted to the Information Services Corporation (ISC). Ensure the financial statement has been signed by **two** authorized signatories (i.e. board members).

OR

- **A Saskatchewan museum that was established through a Municipal Bylaw or Band Council Resolution.**

Applicants established through a Municipal Bylaw or Band Council Resolution must:

- ensure that the responsible First Nation or Municipality is in good standing with the Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program;
- have no outstanding grant follow-ups due to SaskCulture;
- provide a copy of the museum's most recent annual financial statement. Ensure the financial statement has been signed by **two** authorized signatories. A representative from the First Nation or Municipality who has the authority to sign on behalf of your organization should provide an authorization; and
- provide a copy of the Municipal Bylaw or Band Council Resolution that established the museum, if one is not already on file with SaskCulture.

Ineligible Applicants are:

- Part of a federal or provincial corporation and/or Crown Corporation.
- Organizations that receive more than 50 percent of their total revenues from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund (SLTF). **Exception:** Stream One funding applicants may receive up to 100% of their funding from the SLTF to a maximum of \$5,000.

- Organizations that receive operational funding directly from the Culture Section of Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund.
- Organizations that receive funding directed by the Government of Saskatchewan.
- Organizations that exclusively promote definable religious or political viewpoints.
- Businesses.
- Unincorporated groups.
- Schools and post-secondary institutions.
- Libraries.

Eligible Expenses

The grant is intended to provide funds to support eligible operating activities. Eligible expenses for the MGP grant include costs related to:

- Salaries and Benefits, including honorariums, wages and contract agreements for both regular and contract staff.
 - Please see note under Ineligible Expenses regarding the duplication of grant funding.
- Training, including workshop and conference fees, training materials, and travel costs (i.e. gas, car rental, and hotel accommodation) for staff and volunteers.
- Administration, including office supplies, postage, insurance, office technology and software.
- Building rent, utilities and taxes.
- Minor maintenance and repairs (paint, cleaning supplies, light bulbs, etc.).
- Collections costs, including documentation, cataloguing, deaccessions, repatriation, conservation and research.
- Governance costs, including board meetings, evaluations, strategic and succession planning.
- Programming, including costs related to activities, services and exhibit development, community outreach, Culture Days and other festivals and events.
- Technology costs, including website development costs, software, data storage, laptops, tablets, printers, tech support and training, etc.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff, volunteers and visitors, including masks, hand sanitizer, signage, plastic barriers, etc.
- Communications, including material costs, advertising costs, and event promotion.
- Operational costs (excluding ineligible expenses) related to the development of a new museum, the transition of an existing museum into a new format (e.g. from building-based to virtual) or for the permanent closure of an existing museum.
- Consultative and community expenses like Elder and/or Knowledge Keeper engagement, protocol-tobacco, cloth, etc.
- Fees associated with engagement of newcomers/2SLGBTQIA+/ other equity groups.

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses and in-kind contributions will not be considered as matching grant funds for Streams 2 and 3.

The grant cannot be used for:

- Capital expenditures, including shingles, windows, C-Cans, the purchase of land or buildings, or any major renovations or repairs that would significantly increase the value of the property.
- Purchase of artifacts or collections.
- Activity that exclusively promotes definable religious or political viewpoints.
- Fundraising costs, including the purchase of gift shop items, food to sell, etc.
- Non-museum related expenses. If your museum is involved with multiple ventures, (tourism centre, campground, restaurant, tea room, etc.), the MGP funds can only go towards eligible museum expenses.
- Cash prizes, gifts, or the purchase of alcohol.
- Duplication of expenses that are covered by other grant sources. For example: If you receive a grant for a summer student or other specific cost, that expenditure cannot be included in your eligible expenses as that would be a duplication.

Application Process

Applications are due **November 10, 2025 (Stream 2 & 3)** and **December 1, 2025 (Stream 1)**. **Late applications will not be considered for funding.** If you experience technical difficulty with the online system, you must contact SaskCulture prior to the deadline.

Application Assessment

SaskCulture will review applications to confirm basic eligibility requirements have been met. Eligible applications are assessed by a panel of volunteer peer assessors and applicants are expected to be informed of results by Spring 2026. Funding decisions are final and will not be revisited or appealed.

Selection of Peer Assessors: To ensure objectivity, each assessment panel will be comprised of individuals who are not affiliated with a grant application in that stream. If you are interested in volunteering as a peer assessor for SaskCulture, please contact the Consultant to learn more.

Adjudication Process: The volunteer peer assessors will assess applications based on the following criteria:

- Extent to which the museum addresses the purpose of the MGP grant; and
- Extent to which the museum aligns with the priorities of the MGP grant.

The amount granted to museums also depends on the number of applicants applying for funds and the total funds available in the program. Funding for the Museums Grant Program is provided through the Culture Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation and may vary year to year.

Please note that receiving MGP funding in the previous funding cycle **does not guarantee future funding**. Each funding round is competitive, and there are generally more requests than available funding.