



2024- 2025

Year in Review

Sask *Culture*

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Land acknowledgement:

We are Treaty people

SaskCulture's work and support reaches lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Saulteaux peoples, as well as homeland of the Métis.

Message from *the Chair*



This past year has reminded us of the importance of listening, not only within SaskCulture, but also to the cultural communities we serve and belong to, to one another, and to the changing world around us.

As we navigate shifting social, economic, and community landscapes, we are reminded of the importance of staying responsive, open, and grounded in our values.

The Board remains deeply committed to our current Strategic Plan, with a strong focus on advancing Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility, and Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. These values are not only central to our daily work, but they are also shaping the direction of our Funding Program Renewal Project, which is now in the consultation phase. Feedback gathered during this phase will help inform how we continue to serve and support the cultural communities in the future.

We are especially grateful to the cultural communities, who have not only provided numerous opportunities for all people to experience arts, heritage and multiculturalism throughout this province, but have also been a vital part of this work, sharing concerns and perspectives in conversations that are helping us move forward with greater awareness and understanding.

At the Board level, we have taken meaningful steps to ensure our leadership reflects the diversity of the communities we serve. I am truly honoured to work with these dedicated volunteers, who pour their hearts and souls into ensuring that we have a strong, inclusive, and thriving cultural community.

There is still much to learn and do. As we continue to listen, evolve, and lead with care, I believe that, together, we are building something that will have a positive impact on generations to come.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank the amazing SaskCulture staff for all their great work over the past year. Thank you as well to our partners, the cultural communities, and everyone who continues to show such dedication, passion, and trust. The path ahead is bright, and I look forward to walking this journey with you all.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Hotzak

Message from *the CEO*



As we do our daily work and try to keep up, as well as attempt to respond to all the needs and issues facing the cultural sector, it sometimes does not leave us much time to reflect on the work that has been done. Yet reflection is important, not only to celebrate our accomplishments, but also to honour the people and partnerships that make that progress possible.

This past year, we celebrated several milestones. Culture Days celebrated its 15th year! In Saskatchewan, we once again surpassed attendance records at Culture Days events with over 120,000 Culture Days participants attending 315 different events in 52 communities.

Creative Kids has funded over 16,000 applications in nearly 300 communities in our province since its start nearly 15 years ago. That put \$7.6 million dollars in the pockets of cultural workers in our province.

On the granting side, we saw historic levels of uptake in SaskCulture's programs. In 2024, the Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership Grant received 38 applications — a 46.2 per cent increase from the 26 received in 2023. The Métis Cultural Development Fund also saw an increase, with 37 applications submitted in 2024, a 32 per cent increase from the previous year. We launched an Accessibility Fund to ensure lottery funds are accessible to as many organizations as possible. SaskCulture provided ten lunch and learn webinars — over 400 people tuned in to learn with us!

As part of our Funding Program Renewal Project, our staff was busy working with consultants to launch the largest consultation in our organization's history. This marked a significant milestone in our efforts to listen, learn, and better understand the evolving needs of Saskatchewan's cultural community. This consultation is the first of more to come, as we

continue to work toward a funding system that is more inclusive, responsive and sustainable. None of this would be possible without funding provided through the Sask Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

The past year was definitely one that required all hands on deck. I want to thank our partners and the SaskCulture staff for their dedication and seemingly endless levels of passion and energy. Of course, I need to thank our Board of Directors for their leadership and insight as we move forward to build a more culturally vibrant Saskatchewan!

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, flowing 'D' followed by a series of loops and a final horizontal stroke.

Dean Kush

Staff 2024/25



Row 1 (L-R): Abiodun Oyelami, Alejandra Coronel, Alex Rogalski, Ana Cristina Camacho, Busayo Osobade.

Row 2 (L-R): Catherine Folstad, Damon Badger Heit, Dean Kush, Elizabeth Akinyemi, Gloria Walsh.

Row 3 (L-R): Jackie Ledingham, Leo Keiser, Lorelie DeRoose, Nichole Williams, Paul Gingras.

Row 4 (L-R): Shawn Bauche, Shelley Fayant, Tara-Leigh Heslip, Tomasin Playford, Diane Ell (retired April 2025).

Board 2024/25



Row 1 (L-R): Christine Ruys, Jan Seibel (Past Chair), Jenni Lessard, Joanne McDonald, Kayla Ironstar.

Row 2 (L-R): Lamarr Oksasikewiyin, Larry Pearen (resigned April 2025), Les Oystryk, Sekwun Ahenakew, Yvonne Hotzak (Chair).

SaskCulture has a Vision for a

Culturally Vibrant Saskatchewan

Vision

SaskCulture strives to build a culturally vibrant future in which all people in Saskatchewan, individually and collectively, celebrate, value and support participation in, and access to, cultural experience.

Mission

SaskCulture unites the cultural community and works to advance the cultural vibrancy of the province.

Principles and Values

SaskCulture supports engagement in cultural experience.

Cultural activity. Experiences. Engagement. Revitalization.

SaskCulture recognizes strength in common purpose.

Cohesiveness. Collective effort. Advocacy. Cooperation. Partnership. Volunteerism. Cultural work. Treaty peoples.

SaskCulture provides equitable and fair access to resources.

Sask Lotteries. Transparency. Accountability. Effectiveness. Delivery. Cultural impact. Accessibility. Unique service.

SaskCulture will be responsive to people within Saskatchewan.

Diversity. Accessibility. Inclusivity. Equity. Democratic process. Multiculturalism. Reconciliation.

SaskCulture Ends

SaskCulture works to build a culturally vibrant Saskatchewan, where...

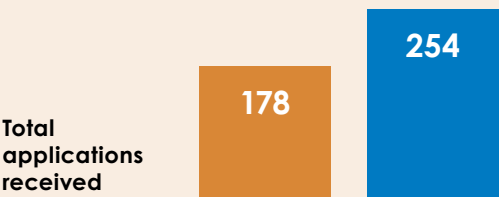
- People of Saskatchewan actively value, support and participate in culture; and
- The cultural eco-system in Saskatchewan is accessible, inclusive and sustainable.



Increasing Reach and Access

Over the past year, SaskCulture reach and impact have increased. More community groups are accessing funding, building partnerships, and engaging youth. This increase highlights SaskCulture's commitment to ensuring that cultural experiences are accessible, inclusive, and impactful for communities across Saskatchewan.

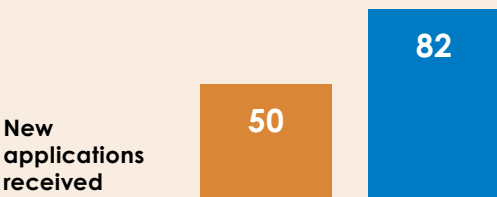
Increase in project grant applications



43% increase

In 2024-25, 254 applications were submitted to SaskCulture's project grants in 2024-25 — a 43% increase.*

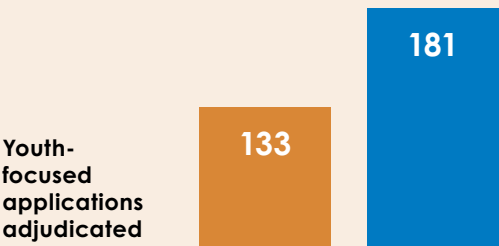
Reaching new groups



64% increase

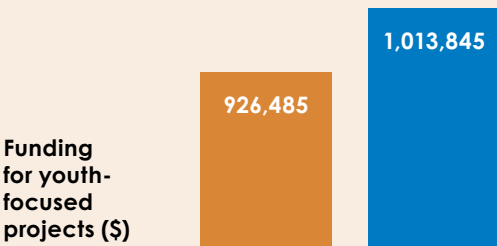
In 2024-25, 82 groups applied for the first time, compared to 50 in 2023-24.*

Increase in support for youth-focused initiatives



36% increase

More youth-centered initiatives are being supported across the province.*



9.4% increase

2023-24 2024-25

*These numbers do not include operational grants.

Increasing cultural connections

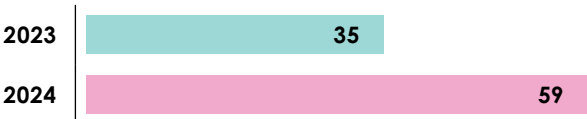


Culture Days Hub Sponsorship partnerships



41% increase

Culture Days Hub Sponsorship partnerships supporting Truth and Reconciliation



69% increase

More partners are supporting Culture Days hubs and advancing Truth and Reconciliation through their events.

Photo by FSI Studio.

Increasing impact and sustainability of funding

Shaping equitable funding through continuous learning



Consultants from Ivy + Dean presented the findings from consultation reports to SaskCulture staff.

Creating a more equitable system is essential to shaping a funding model that is both inclusive and sustainable. Over the past year, research and consultations from SaskCulture's Funding Program Renewal Project have guided ongoing efforts to reflect, reassess, and implement small but meaningful changes along the way.

"This work is grounded in ongoing learning and engagement, ensuring that the evolving funding model better responds to the diverse needs of communities across Saskatchewan," says Dean Kush, chief executive officer, SaskCulture.

Several recent reports, such as the *Leading Funding Practices to Support People with Disabilities* by

Left Turn Right Turn, Funding the Rainbow: Informing Queer and Trans Inclusive Funding Practices at SaskCulture by Ivy + Dean Consulting, and *Leading Equity Funding Practices in Support of IDEA* by Praxis Consulting, have played a key role in helping SaskCulture better understand gaps in funding, particularly those affecting people with disabilities, 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, and other



SaskCulture worked with Ivy + Dean Consulting, Left Turn Right Turn, and Praxis Consulting to explore leading funding practices to help guide its strategic direction.

equity-denied groups. These reports have already helped in shaping small but impactful changes.

"We are making the connection between the research that we've done and some initial consultations, and making small improvements," says Catherine Folstad, supervisor, granting and technology, SaskCulture. "With each of the reports, we are learning and finding ways to connect with previously unreached groups and better serve communities."

One example is the adjustments to existing SaskCulture grants, including the Multicultural Initiatives Fund – Project (MIF-P) grant and the Community Cultural Engagement and Planning (CCEP) grant, to improve accessibility.

For the MIF-P grant, the program was expanded to include two levels of funding — Small and Major projects. This allows groups with different capacities and project types, especially those that did not previously meet the original criteria, to apply for the stream that best suits their needs. Another key change includes

more trauma-informed language in the application form, which helps applicants recognize and avoid potentially triggering content in their projects or events while also encouraging thoughtful and respectful ways to describe their work.

The change for the CCEP grant focused on improving access by expanding eligibility to include non-profit organizations applying for the grant. Previously, only municipalities, First Nations, Tribal Councils, Métis Locals and Métis Regions could apply. This change allows more grassroots and community-driven initiatives to receive support and engage in meaningful cultural planning.

While changes were made to existing programs, some focused on creating entirely new ones. An example is the Accessibility Fund, designed to support organizations led by individuals who experience barriers.

"This work is not only about rethinking access, but about creating conditions for people to lead, shape, and grow spaces within their own communities," says Kush.

Currently, the Funding Program Renewal Project is in the consultation phase. To support the consultation process, SaskCulture enlisted the expertise of Ivy + Dean Consulting and Common Ground Consulting to engage with cultural communities through surveys, one-on-one conversations, and focus groups. These consultants are connecting directly with cultural leaders, grant applicants, and community organizations to better understand how funding programs can be more inclusive and accessible.

"We're not rushing to conclusions. We can't do this work without listening to the people we serve," Kush explains. "We know we don't have all the answers, and that's why we want people to participate in these consultations and share their thoughts."

SaskCulture encourages individuals and groups in the cultural community to share their thoughts. Visit the SaskCulture website to learn more about the Funding Program Renewal Project.

Improving access and building capacity

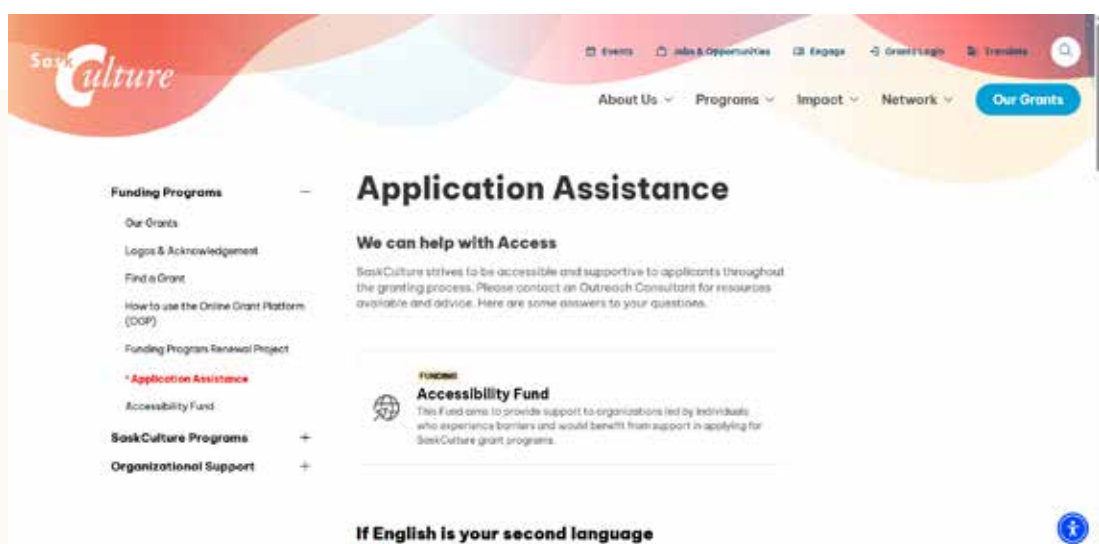
New fund supports access to grants

Barriers to accessing funding for arts and culture projects remain a challenge for many individuals and organizations, but a recently introduced support fund is helping change that. Launched in January 2025, SaskCulture's Accessibility Fund is designed to support applicants throughout the granting process, helping them address communication and other accessibility needs that might otherwise stand in the way.

Tara-Leigh Heslip, outreach consultant, SaskCulture, says that the idea for the Accessibility Fund came from SaskCulture research projects over the years as part of the ongoing Funding Program Renewal Project. The Fund was developed as a way of meeting the needs of applicants, in response to the growing recognition that "everybody is coming to grant writing from a very different place."

"This is a way to level the playing field," Heslip says. "It is needed, to address the barriers for people to have the best outcome possible in their grant applications, and better support all of the groups that are doing incredible work in this province."

The Accessibility Fund provides support to organizations led by individuals who face barriers and would benefit from assistance in applying for



The new Application Assistance page on the SaskCulture website connects potential applicants with information and resources, including the Accessibility Fund.



Launched in early 2025, SaskCulture's Accessibility Fund supports individuals and organizations facing barriers to accessing its grant programs.

SaskCulture grant programs. It is intended to help those who may experience challenges related to disability, neurodiversity, language, technology access, or communication, including people who are deaf or hard of hearing, blind or partially sighted, or who experience other accessibility needs. Applicants can use the fund to cover the direct costs of hiring someone to assist with tasks such as creating an account, completing and submitting an application, or preparing a follow-up report on the Online Grant Platform.

To develop the Fund, the SaskCulture team researched similar supports offered by other organizations, most notably, the Accessibility Fund from SK Arts, which served as a key reference point, says Heslip. The draft

program was then sent out for external review, with adjustments made based on the feedback received. Before the Fund officially launched, all SaskCulture staff participated in Accessibility Awareness Training to ensure they were prepared to support its delivery.

"As part of our research, we identified that there was a huge benefit to ensuring that the staff had education and understanding of the barriers that people face, to give them the tools to have those discussions," Heslip says. "We have had interest and are really looking forward to seeing uptake increase over the coming year."

By supporting organizations with accessibility needs when applying for or reporting on SaskCulture's grants, the Fund strengthens

their capacity to deliver arts, heritage and cultural programs. Heslip notes that ongoing efforts are in place to ensure the Fund continues to meet this goal while remaining responsive to evolving needs and feedback.

"We'll be evaluating and adjusting processes as we go," she says, "We are always looking for feedback from applicants, as well as our staff, to make sure that it is a smooth process for everybody."

The Accessibility Fund is available on an ongoing basis for all grant programs delivered by SaskCulture.

Reactivating cultural connections

Celebration returns stronger after pandemic pause

Five years after its last major cultural gathering, the Burundian community in Regina came together once again to celebrate culture and heritage, marking the first time the community hosted its New Year's celebration since the pandemic.

Bertrand Ninteretse, communications and visibility coordinator, Burundian Community of Regina (BCR), says there have been many newcomers to the community, but the members of the Association have not had the opportunity to gather again, despite a demand for it. This is why the group applied to the Small Grant Accessibility Program (SGAP).

"It's important for our community to stay connected with one another to teach our future generations our identity and our history before and after we came to Canada," Ninteretse says. "You know us Burundians, we love to meet, share food, and dance to music."

The event successfully brought together over 260 people, surpassing the group's expectations, mostly from the Burundian community, but also from other local French-speaking African cultural communities. Ninteretse says support from SGAP helped make this possible.



The Burundian Community of Regina's New Year's event was a chance to gather, celebrate culture, and strengthen community connections. Photos courtesy of the BCR.

The Association is now looking into organizing a future event together with other French-speaking groups to further strengthen these relationships. There are plans to hold the New Years event annually once again, and to potentially gather to celebrate Burundi Independence Day in July.

"We are planning to organize a big event in the summer that will bring people back together and celebrate our culture, history, and heritage together outside under the sun," Ninteretse says.

Bringing back in-person events aligns with the BCR's mission

of ensuring visibility and representation. According to Ninteretse, maintaining a strong public presence has helped the community build relationships, partnerships, and even donor relations. Most importantly, it provides Burundian newcomers with a welcoming space where they can feel supported as they begin to build their lives in Canada.

"Our goal as a community is to create a strong relationship between our members in order to help them get opportunities in the future," Ninteretse says.



Strengthening support for repatriation

MAS builds relationships and capacity in repatriation work

Understanding that authentic, trust-based relationships are at the heart of meaningful repatriation, the Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS) is working to remove long-standing barriers to repatriation in the province. Guided by the knowledge of Elders and Knowledge Keepers, MAS is moving forward at the “pace of trust”, prioritizing respect, collaboration, and Reconciliation every step of the way.

Emma Morris, executive director, MAS, says forming the Elders Circle was key to moving forward. “We’re trying to inform and educate and do this in a good way. As the Elders have told me again and again, ‘We move at the pace of trust,’” she adds. “Not every Rights Holder is going to be immediately ready to take these cultural belongings back, and that’s up to each museum to navigate that. But the important piece is that museums need to be ready to respond to what Rights Holders need.”

Forming the Elders Circle to seek advice was one of the first steps MAS took toward building resources to help its members learn how to approach repatriation. Sitting in the Circle currently are Knowledge Keeper Dr. Linda Young, Cy Standing and Sid Fiddler. “Having that high-level guidance



Gabriel Essaunce Lamarche works with museums across Saskatchewan to identify items for repatriation and build relationships with Indigenous communities. Photo by Amber Hanover.



LEFT To support museums across the province, MAS released a film in May 2025, titled *Finders Keepers: In the Spirit of Repatriation*, offering guidance on how to approach repatriation. Photo by Sawyer Morris.

BELOW The Museums Association of Saskatchewan created an Elders Circle to help guide respectful repatriation efforts across the province. Photo by Sawyer Morris.

from Elders and Knowledge Keepers has been so necessary for this work," Morris says.

Knowledge Keeper Dr. Linda Young agrees. "Inviting Elders and Knowledge Keepers who can provide guidance by sharing their collective knowledge gleaned from lived experience, oral history and ceremony honours First Nations and Métis traditions when handling sacred objects," she says. "For me, the pace is a reference to protocol, the offering of tobacco when seeking knowledge, and trust from both parties emerges from this process."

Other steps MAS has taken over the past two years included hiring Gabriel Essaunce Lamarche in the new role of repatriation and community liaison this past September, as well as establishing online educational resources for repatriation, developing a database to house all of the materials that should be repatriated, and creating a film on the process and power of repatriation, entitled *Finders Keepers: In the Spirit of Repatriation*, which was launched in May 2025.

"My role includes helping museums develop repatriation policies, to identifying artifacts and connecting with communities," says Essaunce Lamarche. "From my upbringing as a member of Beausoleil First Nation in Ontario, I understand the protocols around caring for these items. It's really important that museums do build

a good ongoing relationship with nearby Indigenous communities to ensure the items are handled with respect."

With an understanding of the history of colonialism, he approaches his work with respect for each community's perspective on how items should be repatriated. "Previously, there was a provision in the Indian Act that expressly prohibited traditional ceremonial practices, so a lot of traditional ceremonies had to go underground and be kept secret to keep them alive between about 1890 and 1950," he explains. "Because of this, there is still a hesitancy in a lot of Indigenous communities to share the traditional knowledge they carry. It's important for me and for museums to be open and create a safe space where communities feel comfortable coming forward."

Some of Essaunce Lamarche's priorities moving forward are to "get sacred ceremonial items that are in museums back under the care and authority of Indigenous Elders," he says. "The next highest priority is dealing with archeological materials. There needs to be more Indigenous input in how these items are displayed and the interpretive story we tell about the past through these items, to frame it in a much more respectful way."

A lot of repatriation has already happened quietly across the province without media coverage, says Morris. "It's private and based in ceremony in some cases, and so it's not something that can be shared, but witnessing that and being a part of that is so powerful."



Deepening understanding of Truth and Reconciliation

Guiding change through relationships and shared learning

The release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Call to Action in 2015 marked a defining moment for SaskCulture's commitment to listen deeply, confront difficult truths, and take meaningful steps toward change.

Through ongoing staff training, community engagement, and support for Indigenous-led initiatives, SaskCulture has been on a learning journey rooted in building respectful relationships and turning its commitment into action.

Damon Badger Heit, supervisor, partnership and inclusion, SaskCulture, notes that SaskCulture had already begun some work towards supporting both Indigenous-led cultural initiatives and cross-cultural awareness activities prior to the release of the TRC report, but the framework offered by the Calls to Action report made it clear — there was still so much more to be done.

"The first thing we learnt as an organization is that it is everyone who has responsibilities to take meaningful steps forward, both as individuals on a personal journey of Reconciliation, as well



Current and former SaskCulture staff attend the Wîcihitowin Indigenous Engagement Conference, taking part in shared learning and reflection as part of ongoing Truth and Reconciliation efforts.

as contributing to advancing the work of SaskCulture as a whole," says Badger Heit. "Truth and Reconciliation touches on all facets of society and at all levels of an organization. It is not a First Nations person's or individual staff role to lift on behalf of the entire organization. It's everyone's responsibility."

One of the first key changes SaskCulture made was to support ongoing learning opportunities for both staff and Board members. Attending conferences such as Wícihitowin, participating in First Nations and Métis awareness training, engaging with Elders and residential school Survivors, and watching films such as *Nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* by Tasha Hubbard together as a staff and holding space for difficult dialogues all contributed to a deeper understanding of the histories and lived realities of Indigenous peoples, and the ongoing impact of colonial systems on their inclusion and engagement.

Taking part in truth-telling opportunities helped create the space for honest conversations and enabled the Board and staff, who will be involved in this work, to better understand the importance of building relationships and advancing Reconciliation within the cultural sector and beyond.

"SaskCulture created space for us to have difficult and emotional conversations with one another. It wasn't easy, but it became a meaningful part of our work," says Lorelie DeRoose, granting and evaluation coordinator, SaskCulture, who joined the organization just weeks before the release of the TRC report in 2015.

She continues, "Having Elders such as Eugene Arcand guide us through those moments brought a depth of understanding we couldn't have reached on our own."

Busayo Osobade, communications manager, SaskCulture, shares a similar experience. "My first experience with the KAIROS Blanket Exercise was at SaskCulture, and it was facilitated by Elder Lillian Piapot," she recalls. "Physically stepping through the history and lived realities of Indigenous peoples made it real.

It brought the impact of colonization to life in a way that reading never could. That, along with other learning opportunities, helped us see why this understanding must be at the heart of the work we do."

Over time, several key moments have paved the way for meaningful change. From 2016 to 2018, SaskCulture coordinated a *Reconciliation and Respect: Canada*

150 and Beyond project — an initiative aimed at creating long-term partnerships with organizations such as the Buffalo People Arts Institute, Gabriel Dumont Institute, Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre, Saskatchewan Aboriginal Writers' Circle Inc. and SK Arts, which led to reimagining new modes of sustained partnerships and ultimately gradual change to funding processes and programs that includes Indigenous leadership working directly with SaskCulture.

In 2018, SaskCulture amended its Principles and Values within its Constitution to include a formal commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. This shift embedded Reconciliation into the very foundation of the organization, not as an add-on but as guiding principles to its work. And more recently, the Funding Program Renewal Project reflects a deep commitment to Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility, including Truth and Reconciliation, ensuring that SaskCulture's funding system better reflects the diverse histories, voices, and needs of Indigenous peoples and communities across Saskatchewan.

"Including Truth and Reconciliation in our Constitution was a moment of deep reflection for us. It signaled



a shift in how we see our role," says Dean Kush, chief executive officer, SaskCulture. "It challenged us to look inward, to acknowledge where change was needed, and to move forward with greater care and responsibility."

SaskCulture continues to work closely with Indigenous partners and community leaders to help guide its path. The generosity of Indigenous Elders, leaders, volunteers and partners continues to be instrumental on this journey, which still has a long road to travel.

"These changes would not have been possible without the many meaningful relationships we've built with First Nations and Métis peoples and organizations, whose guidance, trust, and honesty have helped shape our understanding and direction," says Badger Heit.

Kush agrees, adding that SaskCulture recognizes Reconciliation as an ongoing journey — one rooted in continuous listening — and is committed to walking that path with open ears, minds, and hearts.

Investing in youth to build lasting impact

Creating lifelong opportunities for youth

Supporting children and youth's access to life-changing cultural activities is an important investment in any community. Creative Kids has made a lasting impact by helping thousands of young people across Saskatchewan communities, who face financial and social barriers, to participate in meaningful arts and cultural experiences.

Since 2010, the program has funded over 16,000 applications, creating opportunities for youth to grow, connect and thrive.

Keegan and Taegen Isaac, two brothers from the North Battlefords area, are an example of this impact. Taking violin lessons as children, thanks to Creative Kids funding, put them on a path to becoming active members of their community. After sharing their love for music by performing at care homes for years while growing up, today, Taegen is studying to become a doctor, and Keegan is studying to teach music.

"Studying music made me feel unique as a kid. It gave me a sense of confidence. It led to some of my greatest



Keegan and Taegen Isaac fell in love with music thanks to the violin lessons they accessed through Creative Kids funding as children. Photos courtesy of Keegan Isaac.



friendships and to many learning opportunities," Keegan says. "It taught me that music education is so important, and that's why I am studying education now."

As the cost of living continues to rise, more families are turning to Creative Kids for support, resulting in a record number of applications. Now more than ever, children and youth need support accessing the benefits of arts, cultural and creative activities, and that's where Creative Kids comes in.

Shawn Bauche, program consultant, Creative Kids, says

that program costs should never be a barrier to kids experiencing the benefits of cultural or creative activities.

"Removing financial barriers to participation in creative activities puts children and youth on a path of success into adulthood," Bauche says. "We are seeing this impact in real time — now that Creative Kids has been in operation for almost 15 years, more and more past funding recipients, now adults, are coming forward to share how much this support has made an impact in the trajectory of their lives."

Keegan is one of many young people whose lives have been shaped by support from Creative Kids. Reflecting on his experience, he says he's "thankful for everyone" who has made the program possible. His words echo the many heartfelt testimonials Creative Kids has received since 2010.

"I am thankful for their support. Their contributions are an investment in the future of children in Saskatchewan, and that is something that never goes to waste," Keegan says. "Creative Kids makes access to art more equitable across the province, and that is so vitally important."

Help us meet the need of every deserving child or youth by providing them with the opportunity to creatively engage their minds.

Make a donation at CreativeKidsSask.ca or call toll free 1-855-277-9469.

Our impact since 2010

15,928

Applications funded

282

Communities supported

6,293

Social media followers

\$7.61

Million granted

602

Registered music, dance, theatre, art, and cultural instructors

Sustaining cultural engagement across communities

Event organizers reflect on the benefits of ongoing participation

Since 2010, Culture Days has helped highlight the powerful role that arts, culture, and heritage play in bringing Saskatchewan communities together. The national celebration has become a key part of community life in the province, helping to build a shared understanding of how *Culture Builds Community*. In 2024, Culture Days marked its 15th year, celebrating continued growth, engagement, and lasting community impact.

Each year, more events are held, participation grows, and the range of cultures represented continues to increase. Behind that growth are dedicated organizers who return year after year, motivated by the positive change they see in their communities. Since 2015, the City

of Prince Albert has participated in Culture Days Saskatchewan, consistently accessing SaskCulture's support to bring cultural programming to life each fall.

Tia Furstenberg, arts and culture coordinator, City of Prince Albert, says they continue to organize Culture Days Hubs because their community members and partners are both enthusiastic and dedicated to the yearly celebration.

"They return every year with fresh ideas and a commitment to building on the past year's successes. We want to continue because community connections and shared experiences matter," she says. "Culture Days strengthens our relationship with local artists, organizations and our residents,

as well as fosters a great sense of belonging and civic pride."

Furstenberg says Culture Days continues to provide opportunities to make the public aware of the incredible arts and cultural programs that are already free and accessible throughout the year.

"Key comments that come up from participants include how Culture Days helped our residents discover new cultural experiences that they wouldn't have sought out on their own. They also say it helped them feel more connected to the community."

The Art Gallery of Regina also began organizing Culture Days events in 2015 and has seen firsthand how it continues to grow each year. Sandee Moore, director

Saskatchewan 2024

**CULTURE
DAYS
SK**

39

hubs were
sponsored.

200,000+

participated
digitally and in
person.

26

hubs focused
on Truth and
Reconciliation.

15,000
(estimated)

people attended
National Day
for Truth and
Reconciliation
events.



Culture Days events have helped the Art Gallery of Regina to make their events more experiential. Photo courtesy of the Art Gallery of Regina.

and curator, Art Gallery of Regina, says the Gallery's participation in Culture Days has allowed for strong partnerships and inspired more people to become year-round participants.

"What is important about becoming a part of Culture Days is that it really allows us to create active ways for people to engage with artwork. It supports the work that artists do that is interactive, participatory and community-based. We can be a part of something greater than we could achieve on our own as a small gallery with two staff."

For Moore, participation in Culture Days helps increase the visibility and accessibility of the Gallery's events, while also offering other benefits. "The Hub Sponsorship from SaskCulture, for instance, allows us to enrich programming that we don't always have the funds to

support," she explains. "For example, it helps us hire someone to provide American Sign Language interpretation during artists' talks, or bring in people from specific knowledge areas such as Elders or Knowledge Keepers."

Furstenberg adds that Culture Days really does help build community. "The 2024 Prince Albert National Attendee survey results say it all," she says. "74 per cent of participants said they were more likely to seek out cultural events after attending, and 90 per cent of participants expressed a deeper appreciation for local arts history and cultural diversity."

That growing impact was reflected nationally, with the cities of Prince Albert, Regina and Yorkton recognized among the top participating communities in Canada in 2024.

The 2024 Culture Days Hub Sponsorship recipients

Art Gallery of Regina	Melfort & District Museum
Azerbaijani Cultural Association of Regina	Nuit Blanche
Buffalo Narrows Friendship Centre Inc.	Nutrien Wonderhub
City of Humboldt	Oxbow & District Recreation Board Inc.
City of Lloydminster	Regina Public Library
City of Prince Albert	Rise Up Community Foundation
City of Swift Current	Saskatchewan Craft Council
City of Warman	Saskatchewan Mongolian Community
City of Weyburn	Sri Lankan Association of Regina Inc.
City of Yorkton	Town of Arcola
Climax Community Museum	Town of Gravelbourg
Free Flow Dance Theatre	Town of Gull Lake
Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre Inc.	Town of La Ronge
Indian Head Public Library	Town of Lumsden
Last Mountain Lake Cultural Centre Inc.	Town of Porcupine Plain
Leader & District Chamber of Commerce	Town of Rosthern
Listen to Dis' Community Arts Organization Inc.	Town of Wynyard
Meadow Lake Library	The Reading Place Inc. (Battleford)
Métis Nation SK Queen City Local #34 Inc.	Wheatland Regional Library
	Village of Hazlet

315+

registered activities offered in person, online and outdoors.

52,000
(estimated)

attended in person.

\$104,900.00
in support

Building equity through participatory grant-making

Involvement in grant assessment builds shared understanding



Sonia Reid hosted a Gospel Choir workshop in Saskatoon, which culminated on a Finale Concert performance, thanks to BAE funding. *Photo courtesy of Sonia Reid.*

Since the Building Arts Equity: BPOC (BAE) program was launched in 2023, the grant has engaged around 50 applicants in participatory grant-making, with an application review process that involves local artists, community members, and experts to review and provide feedback on applications.

For Saskatoon-based artist Sonia Reid, a past applicant and peer-assessor, being part of the participatory adjudication process was "introspective." The experience was an opportunity for her to gain valuable insight into how others structure their proposals, and what makes one stand out.

"You have to get clear about your 'why' — why this matters, why now, and why it helps the community," she says. "The most compelling ones were the ones where you could feel the heart... This isn't just about art for art's sake — it's about building something bigger."

SaskCulture partnered with SK Arts and the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan to develop the BAE program. The Program supports many artists from African, Black, Asian, Latin American, Caribbean and Middle Eastern descent in Saskatchewan who want to pursue projects that celebrate cultural diversity and promote inclusion in the arts.

Damon Badger Heit, supervisor, partnerships and inclusion, SaskCulture, says that sitting in on the BAE Program adjudications in February, now two years after the program launch, was "inspiring."

"People are taking ownership of the process. I learnt much from listening to people from different nationalities, backgrounds and artistic practices, share a deep level of understanding with each other — of their shared



Reid gained insight into the granting process through the BAE Program, as an applicant and peer-assessor. Photo courtesy of Sonia Reid, www.gcxye.com.

experiences and barriers," Badger Heit says. "That shared understanding leads to applicants supporting each other and supporting the projects that could have a big impact on a community."

Reid applied to the BAE Program to help bring an idea to reality: a Gospel Choir workshop that blended performance, education and community.

"I was missing gospel music, specifically Black gospel, the kind I grew up with," she says. "What if we could create something immersive? Just one weekend, full-on music, joy, and celebration."

In 2024, over 30 singers of all backgrounds came together on a weekend in Saskatoon, many of whom had never sung gospel before. The workshop blended performance and education into a whirlwind two-day experience, which ended with a live

performance that left everyone, including Reid, awestruck.

As the population of Saskatchewan continues to grow and change, Reid says that grants such as the BAE Program are a springboard that ensures artists who identify as Black or persons of colour have the tools, resources, and recognition they need to step into the spotlight.

"This is about more than just music," she says. "It's about creating spaces where people can come as they are and find joy, expression, and belonging. That's what the arts are supposed to do."

The BAE program received 64 applications in 2024 and is on track for increased submissions in 2025.

Increasing cultural programming in the North

Library art program fills community gap

While there are many opportunities for youth to get involved in sports in La Ronge, arts and cultural activities are few and far between. It's not due to a lack of demand, though, which is why the Alex Robertson Public Library approached local artist Annalisa Heppner to get involved. She was initially asked to paint a mural in the library, but ongoing discussions led to the idea of also holding art classes for children.

The resulting Arts in the Library project was funded through the Northern Youth Cultural Fund and aims to improve the accessibility of cultural programming and activities in the area.

The classes, held in fall 2024, were incredibly popular, reaching full capacity with wait lists. Twenty-four children aged seven to 12 grew their art-making skills over eight weeks. While Heppner does not have a background in teaching, she soon discovered she has a knack for it. She engaged the students with a variety of media, including acrylic paint markers, chalk pastels, and mixed media.

"I was proud to see the growth that took place over the course of eight weeks, particularly in the older kids' confidence levels and the younger students' engagement and focus levels," Heppner says.



"Providing creative opportunities for youth is a great way to strengthen their connections with community, and more art is always a good thing."

Sean Stares, library administrator, Alex Robertson Public Library, says the program was a rare opportunity for youth in the area to receive quality instruction in the arts.

"Children's arts programs are usually on the simplistic side, but this was definitely on the art side," says Stares. "Annalisa is a fantastic mentor to these children. She's very patient and gives them quality advice and techniques you don't usually get in a children's art program."

The kids loved the program and participated fully, with near-perfect attendance. More than 60 people attended. An open house was held at the end of the program to present the resulting artwork to parents, friends, and members of the community. "Everybody loved it. The children had a great time, and their parents were all very complimentary of the space and the incredible art projects," says Stares.

The La Ronge Arts Council also invited the art program students to display work in their annual Student Art Show. "It's important to show kids that it's a viable option to pursue art, whether professionally or non-professionally," Heppner says.

The Arts in the Library program was so successful that parents started asking them to provide art programs for adults. Due to community demand, the library held another session of kids' classes with Annalisa and has plans for more programming with her. "The Northern Youth Cultural Fund is such an amazing grant," says Stares. "It's a great opportunity for us, and we're going to continue to apply for new and unique arts programming."



Families and friends attended the student art show opening reception to see the students' progress at the end of the Arts in the Library course. Photos by Annalisa Heppner.



Building capacity in the cultural sector

Lunch and Learns support member growth

SaskCulture's support of a culturally vibrant province is not just about providing funding or supporting event organizers; it's also about equipping cultural leaders with the knowledge and tools they need to thrive. One of the ways it is helping build capacity is through its ongoing Lunch and Learns.

In 2024, over 400 members of the cultural community accessed learning opportunities through SaskCulture's Lunch and Learn webinars, building on the initial success of its webinars in 2023. The sessions reached around 70 registrations each, with the most popular sessions engaging over 100 people at a time.

Nichole Williams, executive assistant, SaskCulture, who also coordinates the webinars, says the interest in the webinars has grown significantly with more cultural leaders tuning in for quick introductions to emerging topics and actionable ideas to take back to their teams. She notes that the online format of the sessions has received positive feedback, as it offers participants greater flexibility and easier access to the learning opportunities.



"People really appreciate that they can access the recordings afterwards, so even if people are not able to attend the actual day, they can still access it when it works for their schedule, and share it with their staff and Board," Williams says.

The year kicked off with *Governance Basics* in April 2024, presented by Dawn Martin, which shared an overview of non-profit governance fundamentals. In August, the *Informing Queer & Trans Inclusive Funding Practices* webinar, presented by Ivy + Dean, shared key findings from

a secondary research project commissioned by SaskCulture. Also in August, SaskCulture launched a five-part webinar series focusing on the Nonprofit Lifecycles approach to highlight the key capacity areas of governance, management, administrative systems, and financial resources. The series provided participants with tools to assess their organizational sustainability and align resources with their mission.

Other highlights included *Identifying Leading Equity Funding Practices to Support People with Disabilities* in January 2025,

Media Relations for Non-profits in February, and *Trauma-Informed and Cultural Sensitivity Training* in March, presented by Eliza Doyle and Holly Rae Yuzicapi of the Community Arts Mentorship Program.

Looking ahead, Williams says SaskCulture will continue to offer webinars that share insights and emerging ideas with the cultural community, further strengthening the province's cultural network.



Management's Responsibility

To the Members of SaskCulture Inc.:

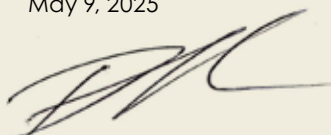
Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the accompanying financial statements, including responsibility for significant accounting judgments and estimates in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. This responsibility includes selecting appropriate accounting principles and methods and making decisions affecting the measurement of transactions in which objective judgment is required.

In discharging its responsibilities for the integrity and fairness of the financial statements, management designs and maintains the necessary accounting systems and related internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded and financial records are properly maintained to provide reliable information for the preparation of financial statements.

The Board of Directors is composed of Directors who are neither management nor employees of SaskCulture. The Board is comprised of community volunteers elected by the membership who review the financial statements in detail with management prior to their publication. The Board is also responsible for recommending the appointment of SaskCulture's external auditors.

MNP LLP is appointed by the members to audit the financial statements and report directly to them; their report follows. The external auditors have full and free access to, and meet periodically and separately with, both the Board and management to discuss their audit findings.

May 9, 2025



Dean Kush, CEO

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Members of SaskCulture Inc.:

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2025, and the summary statements of operations for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of SaskCulture Inc. (the "Organization") for the year ended March 31, 2025.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial statements.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated May 9, 2025.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance on the basis described in Note 1.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standards (CAS) 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Regina, Saskatchewan
May 9, 2025



Chartered Professional Accountants

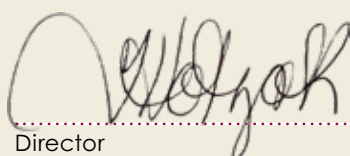
SaskCulture Inc. | Summary Statement of Financial Position | As at March 31, 2025

	March 31, 2025	March 31, 2024
Assets		
Cash and short-term investments	2,952,369	2,460,366
GST receivable	11,861	8,564
	2,964,230	2,468,930
Intangible assets	121,818	154,292
Capital assets	43,334	123,950
	3,129,382	2,673,063
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accruals	176,161	160,695
Due to Sask Lotteries Trust Fund – Operations	192,915	300,366
Holdbacks payable	868,974	379,847
Due to Sask Lotteries Trust Fund - Programs	100,238	207,852
Due to Creative Kids	5,625	-
	1,343,913	1,048,760
Net Assets		
Invested in capital and intangible assets	165,152	204,133
Unrestricted	1,620,317	1,420,170
	1,785,469	1,624,303
	3,129,382	2,673,063

SaskCulture Inc. | Summary Statement of Operations | For the year ended March 31, 2025

	March 31, 2025	March 31, 2024
Revenue		
Grants from Sask Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation	9,912,827	8,891,274
Grants – other	2,581	-
Self-generated	161,166	174,324
	10,076,574	9,065,598
Expenses		
Operations	3,235,466	2,937,634
Program initiatives	6,679,942	5,953,640
	9,915,408	8,891,274
Excess of revenue over expenses	161,166	174,324

Approved on behalf of the Board


Director


Director

SaskCulture Inc. | Note to the Summary Financial Statements | For the year ended March 31, 2025

1. Basis of the summary financial statements

Management has prepared the summary financial statements from the March 31, 2025 audited financial statements, which are in conformity with the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The audited financial statements can be obtained from SaskCulture Inc. The detailed notes included in the audited financial statements are not included in these summary financial statements.

The criteria developed by management for the preparation of the summary financial statements is as follows: that the information included in the summary financial statements is in agreement with the related information in the complete financial statements, and that the summary financial statements contain the information necessary to avoid distorting or obscuring matters disclosed in the related complete financial statements, including the notes thereto, in all material respects.

SaskCulture Board and Committees

Board of Directors

- Yvonne Hotzak, *Chair*
- Jan Seibel, *Past Chair*
- Sekwun Ahenakew
- Joanne McDonald
- Kayla Ironstar
- Jenni Lessard
- Les Oystryk
- Christine Ruys
- Lamarr Oksasikewiyin
- Larry Pearen (*resigned March 2025*)

Creative Kids Committees

Provincial Committee

- Kerri Hill
- Lindsay Manko-Bauche
- Rickee-Lee Webster

Battlefords

- Siobahn Gormely
- Elaine Poirier
- Cindy Tymoruski
- Kerilyn Voigt

Kindersley

- Mei Shan Wan
- Melanie Ward
- Devon Coles
- Lindsay Johnson
- Pam Sawatzky

Lakeland

- Cheryl Bauer Hyde
- Erin Standish
- Crystal Clarke
- Melissa Sisson
- Erica Cochrane
- Marion Conway

Big River

- Paulette Atchison
- Charlene Puddicombe

Saskatoon

- Jacquie Thomarat
- Jody Hobday
- Alex Brooks

Regina

- Jessica Elsaesser
- Alice Samkoe
- Jason Sylvestre
- Don List

Board Committees

Eligibility Committee

- Christine Ruys, *Chair*
- Jan Seibel
- Joanne McDonald
- Lamarr Oksasikewiyin

Nomination Committee

- Jan Seibel, *Chair*
- Sekwun Ahenakew
- Kayla Ironstar
- Joanne McDonald
- Ingrid Cazakoff, *Heritage Saskatchewan*

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Committee

The full Board acts as this committee.

COI Review Committee

- Christine Ruys, *Chair*
- Yvonne Hotzak
- Les Oystryk
- Joanne McDonald
- Peter England, *Past Chair*

Investment Policy Development Committee

- Yvonne Hotzak, *Chair*
- Jan Seibel
- Joanne McDonald
- Larry Pearen (*resigned March 2025*)
- Sekwun Ahenakew

CEO Review & Succession Planning Committee

- Yvonne Hotzak, *Chair*
- Jan Seibel
- Jenni Lessard
- Lamarr Oksasikewiyin

Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program & Community Development Fund

- Christine Ruys
- Les Oystryk

Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture & Recreation

- Jan Seibel, *Past Chair*

Culture Section of the Sask Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation



Photo by Kevin Hogarth.

Sask Lotteries is an Important Fundraiser

Sask Lotteries is an important fundraiser for more than 12,000 sport, culture and recreation groups in Saskatchewan. Backed by the strength of a volunteer network, these groups provide quality activities that reach more than 1,000 Saskatchewan communities, rural municipalities and First Nations, and benefit approximately 600,000 registered participants within every demographic of the province. Sask Lotteries is the marketing organization for Western Canada Lottery Corporation products, such as LOTTO 6/49, LOTTO MAX, EXTRA, DAILY GRAND and SCRATCH N' WIN tickets, sold by retailers in Saskatchewan. Proceeds from the sale of these products are placed in the Sask Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

Established in 1974, the Sask Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation is a unique partnership of SaskCulture Inc., Sask Sport Inc. and Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc., designed to deliver funding throughout the province. These three non-profit organizations work in partnership with the provincial government, under a multi-year agreement that grants Sask Sport Inc. a licence to operate a major lottery corporation in the province, as well as ensuring that the net proceeds go to support the development of sport, culture and recreation throughout Saskatchewan. The Tri-Global partners share responsibility in the overall governance, policy direction and various joint programming initiatives, as well as managing their respective sections of the

Sask Lotteries Trust Fund. SaskCulture manages the Culture Section of the Trust Fund (CST).

The Lottery Licence Agreement, signed by the global partners and the Government of Saskatchewan, sets the fee paid to government and outlines the strategic funding priorities of: engaging diverse populations and creating inclusive communities; increasing accessibility; contributing to quality programs and safe, welcoming and well-run facilities; supporting and promoting capacity and leadership; recognizing excellence and celebrating achievement; and encouraging individual well-being and healthy, active lifestyles.

SaskCulture is pleased to partner with Sask Sport, Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association and the Government of Saskatchewan to ensure that proceeds from Sask Lotteries support a wide range of sport, culture and recreation programs throughout the province.

Managing the Culture Section of the Trust Fund

Through its management of the Culture Section of the Trust (CST), SaskCulture supports a wide range of cultural activities and diverse cultural organizations and groups throughout the province, in addition to its own operations. SaskCulture's ten-member, volunteer Board of Directors has overall responsibility for the strategic direction, development of policy, and determining annual spending plan allocations for the CST. Spending decisions are done by the Board between January and March of each year, in accordance with the fiscal year of the Trust.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

SaskCulture ensures that arms-length adjudication processes are used to support all funding decisions for the CST. Funding decisions are guided by the Sask Lotteries Trust Fund Agreement and SaskCulture's Cultural Policy.

The overarching purpose of the Trust Fund is to effectively and efficiently allocate Trust funds to achieve maximum benefits for the beneficiaries and the public. In achieving this, the Trust Fund is guided by the following principles and goals:

- Saskatchewan residents enjoy a quality of life through the provision of quality sport, culture and recreation programs and services that contribute to a healthy province;
- Sport, culture and recreation programs strengthen the cultural, economic and social viability of communities in Saskatchewan;
- The Trust Fund promotes inclusion, access, equity and fairness for all within the sport, culture and recreation sectors;
- Volunteer involvement and sector capacity are recognized as a cornerstone for sustainable sport, culture and recreation sectors; and
- The Globals will act in good faith, with honesty, and in the best interests of Saskatchewan residents and will be accountable for the sound management and responsible use of lottery proceeds.

In managing the Culture Section of the Trust, SaskCulture aims to deliver fair, equitable and accountable funding throughout the province. It relies on its own Cultural Policy to help guide volunteer peer assessment panels in making funding decisions. SaskCulture's Cultural Policy places emphasis on:

- Cultural impact;
- Participation and access;
- Organizational effectiveness; and
- High standards of accountability.

SaskCulture relies on its beneficiary groups and volunteers to assist with actively promoting lottery ticket sales to preserve this lottery system.

Update on the Sask Lotteries Trust Fund

The lottery system in Saskatchewan is unique and envied across Canada. For many decades, besides offering the chance to win prizes, Sask Lotteries has served as a successful fundraiser for sport, culture and recreation in the province. It continues to help ensure funds are available to deliver sustainable programs, services and events that provide opportunities for the people of Saskatchewan, and it aids in building active, healthy, vibrant communities throughout the province.

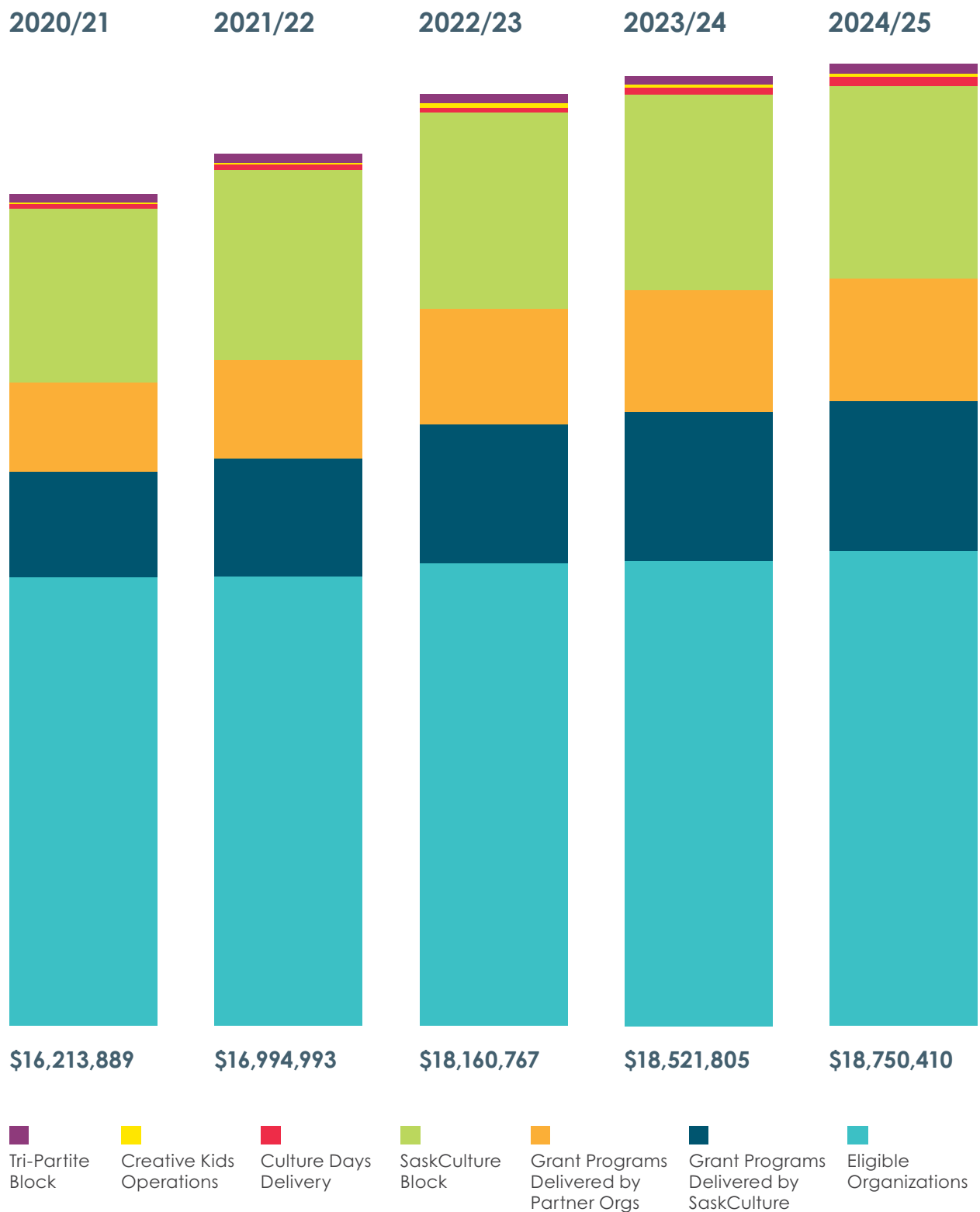
Over the past five years, the Culture Section of the Trust distributed over \$88.6 million dollars to support Saskatchewan cultural activities. In 2024/25, Sask Lotteries reached over \$252 million in ticket sales, which provided approximately \$21.2 million to the Culture Section of the Trust. The six-year Lottery Licence Agreement (2024-2029), signed in May 2023 with the Government of Saskatchewan, maintains the licence fee at 3.75 per cent of annual net lottery ticket sales. Another year of positive sales has contributed to the health of the Sask Lotteries Trust Fund, enabling the fundraiser to continue providing stable and consistent support to volunteer-led groups going forward.

There is never any guarantees on funding available. In general, the gaming environment is volatile and competitive, and the proceeds generated for the Trust Fund are difficult to predict from year to year. The Trust Fund bases its annual spending on future projected ticket sales, while maintaining a healthy reserve to protect against a decline in revenues. Even when ticket sales are strong, the Tri-Global partnership remains cautious and focused on ensuring the stability of funding going forward.

It is important to remember that the maintenance of lottery funding levels depends on the continued efforts of beneficiary groups to promote Sask Lotteries and encourage lottery ticket sales. Beneficiary groups also play an important role as advocates in support of the benefits of sport, culture and recreation for the people of the province. It is incumbent upon the lottery-supported cultural network to reach out with innovative ways to engage new participants, and support cultural activities at the local level. The continued support of volunteer organizations in Saskatchewan through the Lottery Licence Agreement is highly based on the recognition of the importance of sport, culture and recreation to community life.

The volunteer sector has been entrusted and empowered to develop and deliver a cost-efficient system of cultural activities at the grassroots level in communities throughout the province, as well as providing access to quality, inclusive activities that enhance lives and energize communities. This volunteer-driven system is one of the most successful lottery delivery networks in the country. The work of these volunteer groups also significantly impacts the provincial economy as Saskatchewan sport, culture and recreation activities generate billions of dollars in labour income and support thousands of full-time jobs.

Culture Section of the Trust Funding – 5 Year Trend



Funds Allocated from the Culture Section of the Trust

For the fiscal period ending March 31, 2025

FUNDING BLOCK	CATEGORY	ALLOCATION NET OF RETURNS (IN \$)	
		2024/25	2023/24
Eligible Organizations	Annual Global Funding & Special Initiatives	9,246,867	9,063,968
	Subtotal	9,246,867	9,063,968
Grant Programs	Delivered by SaskCulture:		
	Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership Grant	315,102	310,559
	Métis Cultural Development Fund	162,031	187,909
	Multicultural Initiatives Fund	723,653	665,856
	Museum Grant Program	808,690	806,639
	Community Cultural Engagement and Planning	28,750	25,000
	Small Grant Accessibility Program	60,000	60,931
	Creative Kids and Northern Youth Cultural Funds	823,750	840,000
	Subtotal	2,921,976	2,896,894
	Delivered through SK Arts partnership:		
	Artists in Community	305,000	304,000
	Artists In Schools	344,660	347,473
	Festivals Grant Program	655,536	660,000
	Gallery Grant Program	315,000	315,000
	Media Arts Grant	262,500	262,500
	Building Arts Equity Grant	160,000	160,000
	Share & Connect Grant	170,000	170,000
	SK Arts Program Delivery & Creative Kids Support	180,000	165,000
	Subtotal	2,392,696	2,383,973
SaskCulture Block	SaskCulture & Creative Kids Operations	2,654,739	2,710,806
	Culture Days Delivery	174,982	140,758
	Global Functions	50,000	(5,139)
	Communities of Interest	1,125,000	1,150,000
	Subtotal	4,004,721	3,996,425
Tri-Partite Block (Culture's share)	Administration Centre for SC&R	184,150	180,545
	Subtotal	184,150	180,545
TOTAL		18,750,410	18,521,805

Programs and Services Supported by the Culture Section of the Trust

A

Annual Global Funding Program

Lottery funding is an important part of the public resources used to support volunteer, non-profit organizations and groups involved in delivering sport, culture and recreation programs and services to the people of Saskatchewan.

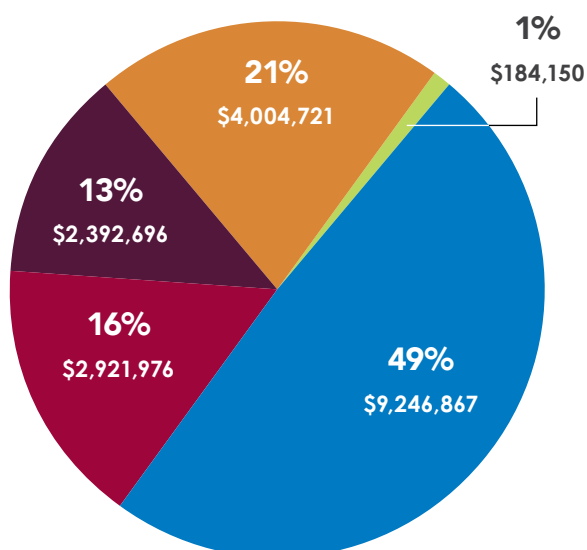
The majority of the funds from the Culture Section (approximately 50 per cent) are distributed to Eligible Cultural Organizations (ECOs) through SaskCulture's Annual Global Funding (AGF) program. The AGF program supports the annual operations of 30 provincial cultural organizations, which are designated as eligible by the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, as well as over 400 associated groups at provincial, regional and local levels through project and member funding programs delivered through the ECOs.

In 2024/25, the Sask Lotteries Trust Fund provided over \$9 million to ECOs, with allocations recommended by a five-member, volunteer, peer assessment panel who have a diverse knowledge of the cultural community of Saskatchewan.

AGF is a multi-year operational grant that provides eligible organizations with a broad base of financial assistance, while allowing a high degree of freedom as to how funding is spent. The flexibility of this grant program has been instrumental in fostering the growth of many diverse cultural activities throughout the province. Besides supporting the continued stability of cultural programming in the province, the funding has also enabled many of these organizations to leverage additional grants and corporate funds to support cultural programming for Saskatchewan residents.

AGF supports a tremendous infrastructure that empowers a large portion of Saskatchewan's volunteer-driven, cultural community. These diverse cultural organizations are rooted in community involvement and volunteer efforts. The ECOs are part of a network that bring together a membership of over 150,000 individuals who are actively supporting cultural activities throughout the province.

CULTURE SECTION ALLOCATIONS



- Eligible Organizations AGF
- Program Funds (SC Delivered)
- Program Funds (SK Arts Delivered)
- SaskCulture Block
- Tri-Partite Block (Culture's Share)



Photo by Kevin Hogarth.

B

Funding Programs Delivered by SaskCulture

Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership Grant

The Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership (AACL) Grant supports the sharing of cultural skills and knowledge to young people through participatory cultural activity with First Nations or Métis arts and culture leaders. In 2024/25, AACL held one deadline and 24 initiatives were supported.

AACL – April 2024

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
4 Directions Child and Family Services Inc.	15,000
B.R. Métis Local #59 Incorporated	15,000
Beardy's and Okemasis Cree Nation	9,000
Beauval Minor Sports and Recreation	10,000
Bird's Culture Camps Corp.	12,500
Daywalker Homefire Family Centre	5,050
Gabriel Dumont Local #11 Inc.	11,250
Gordon Tootosis Nīkānīwin Theatre Inc.	30,000
Haven Family Connections Incorporated	24,000
Horse Spirit Healing & Wellness Inc.	15,000
Île-à-la-Crosse Friendship Centre Incorporated	15,000
La Ronge Arts Council Corp.	13,500
Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples Inc.	18,000
Muskoday First Nation Elders Assembly	15,000
North Central Family Centre	15,000
Northern Prairie Indigenous Peoples Collective Inc.	9,000
One Arrow First Nation	9,400
OUTSaskatoon Inc.	13,000
Saskatoon Survivors Circle	7,500
Star Blanket Cree Nation	10,000
Street Culture Kidz Project Inc.	12,500
The Key First Nation	18,000
The Mann Art Gallery Inc.	4,800
White Bear First Nations	12,500
TOTAL	320,000

Community Cultural Engagement and Planning Grant

The Community Cultural Engagement and Planning Grant (CCEP) aims to support research, community engagement, cultural planning, community investment and development. Collaborative partnerships between cultural organizations and community sectors that promote cultural vitality and economic sustainability is another focus. CCEP is accessible by municipalities, First Nations, Tribal Councils, Métis Locals, Métis Regions, and non-profits in Saskatchewan to plan for the cultural life of a community. In 2024/25, eight communities in Saskatchewan received this grant.

CCEP – August 2024

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
Fishing Lake First Nation	20,000
Red Circle Planning Group Inc.	10,000
Town of Wolseley	5,000
White Bear First Nations	5,000
Yorkton Métis Local 13	5,000
TOTAL	45,000

CCEP – February 2025

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
Buffalo People Arts Institute Inc.	5,000
CPL Recreation	5,000
Town of Wolseley	5,000
TOTAL	15,000

Métis Cultural Development Fund

The Métis Cultural Development Fund (MCDF), offered in partnership with Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), supports community-based cultural activities and initiatives that preserve, strengthen and transmit Métis culture and traditions in Saskatchewan. In 2024/25, 24 initiatives were supported through this program.

MCDF – April 2024

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
B.R. Métis Local #59 Incorporated	10,000
Beauval Minor Sports and Recreation	10,000
Bresaylor Heritage Museum Association Incorporated	10,000
Chitek Lake Métis Local #97 Inc.	5,000
Community Arts Mentorship Program Incorporated	10,000
Duck Lake Historical Museum Society	1,800
Île-à-la-Crosse Friendship Centre Incorporated	10,000

La Loche Friendship Centre	5,000
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Eastern Region III Inc.	5,000
Moosomin and District Arts Council Inc.	4,000
North Sask. River Métis Nation Local 269 Inc.	10,000
St. Louis Métis Local 28 Inc.	10,000
Willow Bunch Métis Local #17	10,000
TOTAL	100,800

MCDF – October 2024

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
Beauval Minor Sports and Recreation	10,000
Biggar Métis Local #53	9,408
Carrot River Métis Local #137	8,000
Chitek Lake Métis Local #97 Inc.	10,000
Gabriel Dumont Local #11 Incorporated	10,000
Île-à-la-Crosse Friendship Centre Incorporated	8,000
Kinistino Métis Local 43 INCORPORATED	9,742
New Southern Plains Métis Local #160 Inc.	10,000
Town of Turtleford	8,900
Wascana Winter Festival Incorporated	6,250
Yorkton Métis Local 13	8,900
TOTAL	99,200

Multicultural Initiatives Fund

The Multicultural Initiatives Fund (MIF) aims to advance cross-cultural understanding, as well as supporting work that aligns with the principles of Truth and Reconciliation in Saskatchewan. MIF supports organizations that encourage people to share, learn, appreciate and respect cultural diversity. This program offers both annual operational funding and project funding. In 2024/25, 53 project applications were approved. Additionally, funding for 12 annual funding recipients was extended for a third year.

MIF-Project April 2024

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
Afro Tribes Festival Incorporated	9,000
Association of Nigerians in Northern Saskatchewan	4,500
Battlefords Immigration Resource Center Inc.	5,000
Beauval Minor Sports and Recreation	9,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yorkton and Area Inc.	15,000
Canadian Friends of African Immigrants INC	6,620
Circle Project Association Incorporated	10,000
City of Weyburn	10,300

Community Arts Mentorship Program Incorporated	14,000
Dog Patch Music Festival	3,875
Doukhobor Dugout House Inc.	3,200
German-Canadian Society Harmonie	1,500
Heritage Community Association Inc.	5,000
La Fédération des Francophones de Saskatoon	6,000
Lii Bulo Métis Local #35 Inc.	5,000
Listen to Dis' Community Arts Organization Inc.	14,000
Mounted Police Heritage Centre	10,000
MyHumanitas Family Services Inc.	12,000
North Central Community Association Inc.	5,000
Northern Lakes Economic Development Corporation	5,000
On Cue Performance Hub Incorporated	12,000
Oxbow & District Recreation Board Inc.	3,000
Philippine Association of Saskatchewan Regina Corp.	4,776
Prince Albert Chuckwagon and Chariot Assoc Inc.	9,000
Regina Dragon Boat Festival Incorporated	5,000
Regina Hungarian Cultural & Social Club	5,000
Regina Multicultural Council	14,000
Regina Open Door Society Inc.	14,500
Rusyn-Saskatchewan Ruthenian Culture Association, Inc.	10,000
Saskatoon Folkfest Inc.	5,000
Saskatoon Open Door Society Inc.	13,000
Southdove Training Services Inc.	3,149
Sri Lankan Association of Regina Incorporated.	6,000
St. Louis Métis Local 28 Inc.	7,000
Summer Bash – Albert Park Community Association Inc.	5,000
The People Bridge Advocacy Inc.	12,000
Treaty Land Sharing Network (in partnership with the Yorkton Tribal Council)	14,580
Truly Alive Youth and Family Foundation Inc.	10,000
Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Saskatoon Branch Inc.	5,000
Yorkton Business Improvement District	5,000
Yoruba Community Association Saskatoon	5,000
YWCA Prince Albert Inc.	15,000
YWCA Regina Inc.	13,000
TOTAL	350,000

MIF-Project October 2024

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
Beauval Minor Sports and Recreation	10,000
Burnt Thicket Theatre Society	6,984
File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council Inc.	14,918
Free Flow Dance Theatre Inc.	10,000
Growing Young Movers Youth Development Inc.	12,735
Heritage Regina	2,185
MyHumanitas Family Services Inc.	15,000
The Reading Place, Child and Youth Development by Reading Inc.	10,000
The wākhōhtowin project	13,178
Ukrainian Museum of Canada of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada	15,000
TOTAL	110,000

MIF-Annual January 2022

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
Buffalo People Arts Institute Inc.	20,000
Common Weal Community Arts Inc.	20,000
Gordon Tootoosis Nīkāniwin Theatre Inc.	20,000
La Communauté des Africains Francophones de la Saskatchewan Inc. (CAFS)	19,000
La Société historique de la Saskatchewan Inc.	20,000
Nipawin Oasis Community Centre Co-operative Ltd.	20,000
Prince Albert Multicultural Council	20,000
Sākwēwak First Nations Artists' Collective Inc.	20,000
Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum Inc.	18,000
Saskatchewan Intercultural Association Inc.	20,000
Teaching English as a Subsequent Language Saskatchewan Inc.	18,000
Uganda Canadian Association of Saskatchewan Inc.	20,000
TOTAL	235,000

Museum Grant Program

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 museums 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. The Museum Grant Program deadline for applications is every two years. A total of 113 museums received operational funding from the Museum Grant Program in 2024/25.

MGP – Stream I – December 2023

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
Abernethy Nature - Heritage Museum Inc.	5,000
Allan Community Heritage Society and Museum Inc.	5,000
Assiniboia and District Historical Society	5,000
Bell Barn Society of Indian Head Inc.	5,000
Birch Hills Historical Society Inc.	4,000
Borden & District Museum	4,250
Bresaylor Heritage Museum Association Incorporated	5,000
Briercrest and District Museum Corp.	2,500
Broadview Historical and Museum Association, Inc.	3,500
Canora Ukrainian Heritage Museum Inc.	1,150
Chief Poundmaker Museum	5,000
Climax Community Museum	5,000
Cudworth Heritage Museum	2,250
Deep South Pioneer Museum	4,000
Dysart & District Museum	3,500
Eastend Historical Museum & Culture Centre Inc.	5,000
Elbow and District Museum and Historical Society	3,500
Esterhazy Community Museum Society	1,500
Fort Pelly-Livingstone Museum	5,000
Fort Qu'Appelle Museum Inc.	4,000
Friends of St. Victor Petroglyphs Co-operative Ltd.	2,000
Friends of the Ridge Tourism Inc.	5,000
Goodsoil Historical Museum Inc.	2,000
Govan and District History Museum Inc.	4,500
Gravelbourg & District Museum Inc.	5,000
Great Sandhills Historical Society Inc.	4,000
Harris Heritage and Museum Society Incorporated	4,000
Hudson Bay & District Cultural Society	5,000
Hudson Bay Heritage Park Inc.	4,250
Indian Head Museum Society	5,000

Kamsack Power House Museum Inc.	1,500
Kaposvar Historic Site (1975) Society	1,550
Kipling District Historical Society	4,500
Lafleche & District Museum	3,000
Langham & District Heritage Village & Museum Inc.	4,000
Lumsden Historical Society, Incorporated	3,800
Luseland and Districts Museum	4,000
Manitou Pioneers Museum Inc.	3,500
McCord and District Museum	500
Moosomin Regional Museum Inc.	1,800
Mortlach Museum and Drop-In Centre Club	2,500
Mossbank & District Museum Inc.	4,000
Naicam and District Heritage Society and Museum	3,500
National Doukhobour Heritage Village Inc.	1,500
Nipawin & District Forestry Museum Inc.	2,250
Northern Gateway Museum	2,500
Outlook and District Heritage Museum and Gallery Inc.	5,000
Pangman & Area Historical Society Inc.	1,750
Prairie West Historical Society	3,500
Preeceville and District Heritage Museum Inc.	3,000
Prud'homme Multicultural Providence Museum Inc.	4,250
Ralph Allen Memorial Museum Association	2,100
Reynold Rapp Museum	750
Rocanville and District Museum Society Inc.	4,000
Rose Valley & District Heritage Museum Inc.	1,000
Rosthern Museum and Mennonite Interpretative Centre Incorporated	1,750
Saskatchewan River Valley Museum Inc.	1,750
Saskatoon Museum of Military Artifacts Incorporated	5,000
St. Walburg & District Historical Museum Inc.	3,500
Star City Heritage Museum	1,000
Strasbourg & District Museum	2,250
The Grenfell Museum Association Inc.	1,600
The Nokomis District Museum and Heritage Co-operative	4,000
Tourism Radville, Inc.	4,000
Unity & District Heritage Museum	3,500
Val Marie Heritage, Culture, and Youth Elevator Committee	5,000
Watrous Manitou Beach Heritage Centre Inc.	5,000

Watson & District Heritage Museum Corp.	1,250
Wawota & District Museum	5,000
Whitewood Tourism & Heritage Association Inc.	5,000
Yorkton Brick Mill Heritage Society Inc.	5,000
TOTAL	244,250

MGP – Stream II – November 2023

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
Ancient Echoes Interpretive Center Inc.	15,000
Biggar Museum and Gallery Inc.	15,000
Clayton McLain Memorial Museum Incorporated	15,000
Doc's Town Heritage Village	7,500
Estevan Art Gallery & Museum Inc.	15,000
Fred Light Museum	2,500
Frenchman Butte Museum Society Inc.	7,500
Heritage House Avonlea & District Museum Inc.	4,000
Kronau Bethlehem Heritage Society Inc.	15,000
Lanigan and District Heritage Association	2,500
Lashburn Centennial Museum Inc.	7,500
Melville Heritage Museum Inc.	15,000
Morse Cultural and Heritage Association Inc.	4,000
Museum of Natural Sciences	15,000
Prairie Wind & Silver Sage - Friends of Grasslands Inc.	15,000
Rusty Relics Museum Inc.	10,000
Saskatchewan Aviation Historical Society Inc.	15,000
Saskatchewan Railroad Historical Association Inc.	7,500
Souris Valley Museum Inc.	10,000
Southwestern Saskatchewan Oldtimers Museum Inc.	15,000
Sturgis Station House Museum Incorporated	5,500
The Soo Line Historical Society Inc.	3,500
Tisdale & District Museum	7,500
Wadena & District Museum & Nature Centre	7,750
Waskesiu Heritage Museum Inc.	10,000
Weyburn Area Heritage Corporation	3,500
Wilkie and District Museum and Historical Society Inc.	5,000
Willow Bunch Museum & Heritage Society Inc.	15,000
Wood Mountain Historical Society Inc.	5,000
TOTAL	275,750

MGP – Stream III – November 2023

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
City of Lloydminster	15,000
Diefenbaker Canada Centre	18,000
Duck Lake Historical Museum Society	30,000
Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre Inc.	30,000
Humboldt & District Museum & Gallery	30,000
Jasper Cultural and Historical Board 1986 Inc.	20,000
Melfort & District Museum	18,000
Moose Jaw Art Museum Incorporated	30,000
Museum of Antiquities, University of Saskatchewan	29,000
Prince Albert Historical Society	28,000
Swift Current Museum	11,000
The Regina Plains Museum Inc.	5,000
Ukrainian Museum of Canada of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada	26,000
TOTAL	290,000

Northern Youth Cultural Fund

The Northern Youth Cultural Fund (NYCF), delivered in partnership with the Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District (NSCRD), provides funding for cultural, artistic or creative interactive activities for children and youth in Northern Saskatchewan. In 2024/25, the NYCF fund supported 19 applications.

NYCF – May 2024

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
Beauval Minor Sports and Recreation	5,000
Bird's Culture Camps Corp.	5,000
Common Weal Community Arts Inc.	5,000
Community Arts Mentorship Program Incorporated	5,000
Creighton Community School	5,000
Creighton Recreation Culture and Tourism	5,000
Flin Flon Aboriginal Friendship Centre	5,000
La Loche Sport Recreation and Culture Board Inc.	5,000
La Ronge Library Board o/a Alex Robertson Public Library	5,000
Lakeview School	5,000
Montreal Lake Cree Nation	5,000
Pinehouse Wellness Centre Corp.	5,000
TOTAL	60,000

NYCF – October 2024

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
Beauval Minor Sports and Recreation	5,000
Bird's Culture Camps Corp.	5,000
Community Arts Mentorship Program Incorporated	5,000
Father Megret High School (Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation)	5,000
Minahik Waskahigan Highschool	2,581
Northern Village of Denare Beach - Recreation Board	5,000
Tri-Community Dance Club Incorporated	5,000
TOTAL	32,581

Small Grant Accessibility Program

The Small Grant Accessibility Program (SGAP) aims to support grassroots, unique and innovative cultural initiatives, particularly those that respond to emergent needs or changes in the cultural sector, and create access for first-time and under-served applicants. In 2024/25, the program supported 49 applications.

SGAP – May 2024

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
Battlefords Area Pride	2,000
Bengough & District Museum Inc.	2,000
Black Donors Save Lives	1,700
Cambodian-Canadian Association of Saskatchewan Inc.	2,000
Cote First Nation	2,000
Heart of Treaty Six (HOT 6) Reconciliation	2,000
Kaleidoscope Youth Camp	2,000
Lebret Museum, Inc.	2,000
Melfort Public Library	2,000
Our Children - Indigenous Therapeutic Services Incorporated	2,000
Prince Albert Concert Choir	2,000
PRISM Choir	2,000
Saskatoon Council on Aging, Inc.	2,000
SKLATAM Latino-Canadian Business Community Ltd.	2,000
Wascana Women and Children Centre Inc.	2,000
Wynyard Community Access, Respite, Rehabilitation and Education Services Inc.	2,000
TOTAL	31,700

SGAP – September 2024

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
Buffalo Culture Collective	2,000
Camponi Housing Corporation	2,000
Heritage Regina	1,255
Nipawin Vesellii Dancers	1,619
Normanview Residents Group Inc.	2,000
Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation	2,000
Muthamizh Sangam of Saskatoon (MSoS)	2,000
TOTAL	12,874

SGAP – December 2024

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
Association of Manitou Arts & Cultures Inc.	2,000
Azerbaijani Cultural Association of Regina	2,000
Burundian Community of Regina Inc.	2,000
Lumsden Public Library	2,000
Nirvana dance Creations	2,000
Noopura- A Women Talent Initiative	2,000
Saskatoon Iranian Cultural Association Corp.	2,000
The Stand Community Centre	2,000
Thunderchild Wellness Centre	2,000
TOTAL	18,000

SGAP – February 2025

ORGANIZATION	ALLOCATION
Casta Latina Network Chapter SK	2,000
Concordia Junior Alpenrose Dancers	2,000
Cultural Connections, Regina Inc.	1,700
Homa Civic Association	2,000
Music4souls	200
Northern Village of Green Lake	2,000
Pangman Public Library Branch	555
Polonia Polish Folk Dance Ensemble of Regina, Inc.	2,000
Prairie Music Hall	2,000
Prairie Roots 'n' Dancing Boots	2,000
sīhtoskātowin Supporting Each Other Inc.	2,000
Southeast Regional Library	910
Southeast Regional Library – Ogema Branch	2,000
The 525 Art Pop-Ups Inc.	2,000
Town of Carrot River	1,425
Town of Ituna	1,500
Town of Ogema	2,000
TOTAL	28,290



Creative Kids Grant

Creative Kids Canada Inc. is a charitable-giving program designed to help children and youth, whose families are facing financial barriers, participate in arts and culture programming. The program primarily relies on funding from sponsors, donors and fundraising initiatives. SaskCulture, through the Culture Section of the Trust, provides an annual grant to this program, as well as covering administrative costs so that 100 per cent of donations go directly to helping Saskatchewan children and youth.

Since 2010, Creative Kids has granted over \$7.61 million, helping over 15,928 kids from 282 Saskatchewan communities. In addition to helping kids, this program results in a huge investment to the cultural community, by supporting hundreds of cultural workers — including 602 music, dance, theatre, art and cultural instructors, as Creative Kids service providers.

Visit creativekidssask.ca for more information.



Funding Programs Delivered by SK Arts

SK Arts receives funding from Sask Lotteries to offer programs that support the arts at the community level.

Artists in Schools

Artists in Schools programming provides schools opportunities to offer enhanced arts-related activities that are linked to defined curricular outcomes through partnerships with professional artists and arts organizations. The aim of this funding is to expand access to meaningful artistic activities, increase student engagement in learning, cultivate cross-disciplinary learning skills and attitudes, and foster a life-long interest in the arts. In 2024/25, 29 partnerships were supported in the communities of Cumberland House, Delisle, Estevan, Fillmore, Prince Albert, Punnichy, Regina, Saskatoon, Sturgeon Lake, Yorkton, and Zehner.

Funding also supports the LIVE (Live Interactive Video Education) Arts education program that engages teachers and students in all corners of Saskatchewan in an interactive distance learning

experience where professional artists broadcast grade-specific programs in dance, drama, music and the visual arts through the Ministry of Education's LIVE satellite Network; and the Ask Artists video series providing opportunities to build artistic skills in various disciplines, as well as address a variety of social topics such as racism, personal identity, embracing failure, and breaking stereotypes. LIVE Arts is presented in both English and French and reached 37,057 students in 135 communities in the school year.

Full program information can be found at liveartsaskatchewan.com

Artists in Communities

Artists in Communities funding provides community-based applicants with opportunities to offer arts-related activities that are linked to local community objectives through partnerships with professional artists and arts organizations. The aim of the program is to contribute to the cultural life of a community and its engagement with the arts. In 2024/25, 30 applicants were supported in the communities of Asquith, Buena Vista, Fond du Lac, Forget, La Ronge, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Willow Bunch, and Wynyard.

Gallery Grant Program

Resources from Sask Lotteries funding are pooled with funding in SK Arts' Professional Arts Organizations Program (PAOP) to provide 15 galleries with annual funding to support both their professional arts programs and services as well as governance, management, administrative and operational functions. Community-based galleries were supported in Assiniboia, Estevan, Humboldt, Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Regina, Regina Beach, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Weyburn and Yorkton.

Festivals Grant Program (SaskFestivals)

The SaskFestivals program provides funding support to professional festivals organizations and presentation series across the province. The funding supports both artistic and administrative costs of a festival organization's annual operations, as well as supporting artistic programs and/or events that connect and engage professional artists and the community in a festival setting. In 2024/25, a total of 21 festival organizations were provided operational support and an additional 22 projects were funded. Successful communities included Bengough, Biggar, Forget, La Ronge, Langham, Loon Lake, Moose Jaw, Outlook, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Waskesiu Lake and Yorkton.

Media Arts Grant

The Media Arts Grant is also delivered by SK Arts under the auspices of the Professional Arts Organizations Program (PAOP), and provides operational support to non-profit, community-based film, video and new media organizations throughout the province. In 2024/25, a total of six media arts organizations were supported.



Photo by Kevin Hogarth.

Share and Connect: Indigenous Community Arts Program

The Share and Connect: Indigenous Community Arts program supports Indigenous artists and communities through projects that contribute to arts and cultural revitalization, the intergenerational transfer of knowledge, contemporary, traditional, and non-traditional cultural practices and art forms, as well as promoting Truth and Reconciliation. Share and Connect provides different streams of funding for planning, exhibitions, performances and presenting, mentorships, and artist and community partnership projects. In 2024/25, a total of 12 applications were funded. Successful communities were Big River, Cowessess, Duck Lake, North Battleford, Raymore, Regina, Saskatoon, and Sturgeon Lake.

Building Arts Equity: BPOC Program

The Building Arts Equity: BPOC Program seeks to increase accessibility and connections to arts and cultural resources by people of colour, specifically people of African, Black, Asian, Latin American, Caribbean, and Middle Eastern descent. The fund supports BPOC artists to create and develop new work within traditional, contemporary and non-traditional art forms; connect with communities; and support the sharing of their artistic knowledge and cultural practices across generations. In 2024/25, 25 artists from Regina and Saskatoon were supported through this grant program.

SK Arts Program Delivery

SK Arts delivers the preceding six programs through a partnership agreement with SaskCulture. An operational grant is provided to SK Arts to assist with the costs associated with the adjudication, administration and overall program delivery of these funding programs. In addition, through this partnership, SK Arts provides administration services for the Saskatoon Creative Kids Committee.

For more information on these grants, visit www.sk-arts.ca

D

SaskCulture Block

SaskCulture Operations

SaskCulture receives an annual operating grant to support ongoing and new initiatives, as well as its own general operations. Creative Kids and Culture Days administration costs are also covered within this area. In 2024/25, SaskCulture employed 20 full-time staff positions, with remote offices in Saskatoon and Indian Head.

Global Functions

This fund gives SaskCulture the capacity to respond to opportunities and build partnerships that will benefit the cultural community as a whole. This past year, Global Functions provided interim funding to the Uganda Canadian Association of Saskatchewan.

Communities of Interest (COIs)

In order to ensure SaskCulture is fully representative of, and informed by, the cultural community as a whole, SaskCulture provides support and/or contracts services from identified COIs from the areas of arts, heritage, First Nations and Métis, and Cultural Industries. In 2024/25, these funds provided support to the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance, Heritage Saskatchewan, Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Gabriel Dumont Institute, and the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre.

E

Tri-Partite Block

Administration Centres for Sport, Culture and Recreation

Operated by Sask Sport Inc., four Administration Centres for Sport, Culture and Recreation, located in Regina and Saskatoon, provide non-profit sport, culture and recreation organizations with comprehensive business services, such as a full-service print shop, postal service, web site development and maintenance, bookkeeping, payroll services, 51,000 square feet of office, and storage space and multiple boardrooms with video conferencing services. The level of support paid from the Culture Section, based on usage of the centre by member organizations, including SaskCulture, is 25 per cent.

F

Other Shared Funding Initiatives with Sask Sport and Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association

Community Grant Program (CGP)

The Community Grant Program assists in the development of sport, culture and recreation activities by providing lottery funding to non-profit community organizations, operated by volunteers, to over 1,000 communities throughout Saskatchewan. CGP funding is available to all communities in Saskatchewan including 79 First Nations, 35 Northern settlements, 296 rural municipalities, 147 towns, 291 villages, 145 hamlets, and 16 cities. This program enables communities to address the needs of their population and provide programs that are inclusive and increase participation for Indigenous peoples, newcomers, seniors, the economically disadvantaged, persons with disabilities, and single-parent families. This funding also supports 11 Dream Brokers working in Regina, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Prince Albert and Yorkton who provide approximately 1,200 culture programs and services each year, with funding allocation decisions made at the community level. The Culture Section of the Trust contributed 35 per cent of the approximately \$7.7 million dollars allocated to the CGP this past year.

Community Development Fund (CDF)

The Community Development Fund provides funding to seven Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts, as well as 22 Northern Community School Recreation Coordinators, to facilitate community development through enhanced access to sport, culture and recreation programming throughout the province. The Culture Section of the Trust contributes 30 per cent of the approximately \$4 million dollars allocated annually to the Community Development Fund.



Photo by FSI Studio.

