City of Vancouver 2024 SOCIAL INNOVATION PROJECT (SIP) GRANTS
Call for applications

The City of Vancouver is accepting applications for the 2024 Social Innovation Project (SIP) Grants program. The Social Innovation Project Grants aim to provide funding to non-profits to create viable innovative projects that address social change, create inclusion and belonging. **The key area of focus this year's SIP grant is anti-Black racism. Deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, October 4, 2024**.

2024 SIP Grants

Based on the recommendations outlined in the interim anti-Black racism report and learnings from the Equity Framework, the primary focus for this year's SIP grant is supporting Black-led and Black-serving organizations to build capacity within this NPO sector in the city.

Achieving systemic change requires different ways of thinking and acting to significantly make progress on complex issues. This grant is an early step in addressing current and historical discrimination towards Black and African diasporic communities and resulting inequities, and is happening alongside other work the City is undertaking. To learn more about the steps being taken to address anti-Black racism, please visit this link.

The goal of this year's SIP grant is to contribute to responding to the following relevant recommendations from the interim report:

> 1.1: Review and adjust grant objectives, criteria, application and disbursement processes and create inclusive policies that value and recognize Black experience and leadership to reduce barriers to equitable funding for social, cultural and recreational programs.

> 1.2: Provide financial support to Black and African diaspora-led organizations, local business and/or social enterprise economic development programs focused on youth, including, but not limited to, Black queer youth.

> 1.3: Use City tools including granting and advocacy with other levels of government to support agencies that advance community economic development in Black and African diaspora communities, starting with the City's 2023 grant cycle.

Focus: ANTI-BLACK RACISM

The primary focus of this year's SIP pilot grant program is supporting Black-led and Black-serving non-profits in building their own organizational capacity.

The City is working to better support Black NPOs in Vancouver. As such, Social Innovation Projects for this year will focus on supporting capacity building projects within Black-led

organizations, as defined by the organizations themselves. We ask that Black NPOs look at what gaps exist within their structures and decide on what the most helpful use of funds will be.

Examples may include:

- hiring a consultant to address strategic planning needs,
- mentoring Black youth,
- addressing Black erasure,
- strengthening organizational structures,
- workshops or leadership development components for staff,
- streamlining governance issues, etc.

As experts in their own lived experiences and reality, the Black community is well-suited and positioned to understanding what their needs are. If you have an idea, or are not sure if your project/organization will be eligible, please get in touch with the City planner listed below after reviewing this document.

The timeline to conduct the project will be 6 to 8 months, and applicants are encouraged to consider how their organizational needs and desires align with the goals of the SIP grant. For other opportunities for core organizational funding, please visit our Core Support Grants page, along with the other community grants we offer.

Definitions

What is Black-led?

For the purpose of this grant, we are defining Black-led organizations as organizations that have significant leadership of Black-identifying individuals. Leadership is defined as both Board and staff composition. Black-led, for the purpose of this grant refers to organizations of "individuals and communities that include, but are not limited to Black Canadians, African-Canadians, African Caribbean, Black Africans, and Black Vancouverites".[1]

What is Black-serving?

For the purpose of this grant, we are defining Black-serving as organizations that are mandated and in practice serve primarily Black-identifying individuals. Black-identifying individuals and communities, as previously mentioned, include "but are not limited to Black Canadians, African-Canadians, African Caribbean, Black Africans, and Black Vancouverites".[2]

What is a capacity-building project?

We are defining a capacity-building project as any project that a Black-led organization is hoping to work on, develop, create or further, which aids in their own sustainability/ability to exist, and to continue to operate, or to move along a piece of larger work or foundational piece that the organization needs support to focus on.

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[1] Drawn from the Addressing Anti-Black Racism and Historic Discrimination: Interim Report, September 15, 2022.
[2] Drawn from the Addressing Anti-Black Racism and Historic Discrimination: Interim Report, September 15, 2022.

A Black-led organization considering applying for this grant may want to consult a 'to-do list' of outstanding projects that are stalled or not able to launch due to funding or capacity issues.

If you have an idea, or are unsure of what a capacity-building project could look like, please consult the planner listed below before applying.

What is the Amount of the SIP Grant?

The total budget for the 2024 SIP grant streams is $125,000.

Projects Must:

- Be one-time only (6 to 8-month duration);
- Be from Black-led and Black-serving organizations;
- Advance City priorities and strategies; and,
- Be able to clearly articulate the needs and/or gaps to be addressed with the funding.

Eligibility Criteria

1. The Lead Organization is a registered non-profit society, community service co-op or social enterprise wholly owned by a non-profit and in good standing with the Registrar of Companies; OR a registered charity, in good standing with the Canadian Revenue Agency

2. The Organization has an independent, active governing body composed of volunteers. No staff member can be a voting member of the Board or Executive.

3. The Organization's by-laws must have provisions preventing Board members from being remunerated for serving as directors.

4. The organization must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted.

5. The Organization shall not act in the capacity of a funding body for, or make grants to, other groups or organizations.

6. The Organization must have the demonstrated functional capacity and sufficient financial resources to deliver the services or programs for which funding is sought.

7. The Organization will agree to participate in learning, community building and convening opportunities.

What Will The City Not Consider Funding?

- Projects led by non-Black organizations, or not primarily serving or mandated to serve Black populations.
- Projects that primarily serve residents living outside of Vancouver.
- Housing
- Direct welfare supports (distribution of goods and food), including food banks, meal programs and the provision of clothing or equipment,
- Legal fees;
- Payment of: City property taxes; capital expenses, operating or capital deficits;

- Projects that are clearly wholly or primarily within the mandate of another level of government or funder (e.g., medical system, etc.).

What Will the City Be Prioritising When Reviewing Your Application?

Post meeting the eligibility criteria, here are the priorities reviewing planners will be assessing applications on:

- Black-serving and Black-led organizations mandated to serve Black residents of Vancouver
- Black youth mandate/serving organizations
- Black queer youth mandate/serving organizations
- A clear, simple and concise description of the approach and activities your project will take to achieve its goals.
- Evidence of how you have and will continue to engage people who will be most impacted by the project.
- Openness to changing work culture, structures and activities based on learnings through the project.

How to Submit Your Application:

All applications are now being accepted online via VanApply. We estimate that that the application should take about an hour to complete. The application will request information in the following areas:

- Organization Information
- Description of project idea and proposal
- Brief project budget
- Identification of communities served through this grant
- Organization budget: An upload of financial statements for the most recently completed fiscal year (i.e., audited, review engagement, notice to reader or some other type of financial statement).
- Additional supporting materials are required are as follows:

  o Annual General Meeting minutes

  o Annual Report (if available)

  o Board of Directors List

  o Incorporation Documentation

  o Minutes of the Most Recent Board Meeting

  o Organization By-law/Constitution (optional)

  o Organization's Policy on Diversity (optional)

Please ensure you have all required documents at hand to upload, as you will be unable to submit an incomplete application. We have included a general list of questions you can expect in the application, below. If you have questions or need assistance completing your application, please do not hesitate to contact us. Contact information is noted below.

General Questions

Here are some of the questions you will be asked to respond to in your application. You will also be asked to provide some statistics of populations your organizations serve, and to upload

documentation regarding your organization and its incorporation (please note that these are general questions meant to serve as a guide, and some questions will vary):

- What is your organization's mandate, and how do you serve the Black and African diasporic communities residing in Vancouver?
- Can you please define how your organization is Black-led?
- How will you use the proposed grant funds for your organization's needs and capacity-building?
- What communities or demographics will you support/serve through the use of this grant?

What Happens Next?

Applications will be reviewed and assessed by City staff throughout October 2024. If a reviewing planner has questions, they may contact an organization for clarification. City staff will bring recommendations forward to City Council on 26 November 2024. Applicants are notified of staff recommendations via email one week prior to the meeting at which Council considers the grant recommendations. As the review and recommendation approval process leading up to the final decision by Council is extensive, there is no appeal process for grant decisions.

Final Reporting/Closing out the Grant

Please note that once grants are made, you will have about 6-8 months to complete the project, and the grant will need to be closed by submitting a simple final report which details how you used the funds and what demographics you served.

Questions?

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