

Rise and Report (Items Released from Closed Meeting)

On July 24, 2026, the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Board of Directors authorized the following information to be released to the public:

2026 Regional Cultural Projects Grants

Report dated June 20, 2026, titled "2026 Regional Cultural Projects Grants", including attachments 1 to 4.

See attached.

Released: August 4, 2026



metrovancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

CLOSED MEETING

To: Performance and Audit Committee

From: Lucy Duso, Division Manager Collaboration and Engagement, External Relations
Sarah Faucher, External Outreach Coordinator, External Relations

Date: June 20, 2026 Meeting Date: July 9, 2026

Subject: **2026 Regional Cultural Project Grants**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the MVRD Board:

- a) approve the allocation of Metro Vancouver's 2026 regional cultural project grants as follows:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Grant</u>
DANCE	
Dancers of Damelahamid Society	10,000
Foolish Operations Society	5,000
Pacific Ballet British Columbia Society (Ballet BC)	10,000
Seismic Shift Arts Society (DanceHouse)	10,000
FESTIVALS AND EVENTS	
Alliance Française Canada Pacific (Alliance Française Vancouver)	5,000
Folk Star Arts Academy Society	8,000
Greater Vancouver Society to Bridge Arts and Community	10,000
Langley Arts Council	7,000
Latincouver Cultural & Business Society	10,000
Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre	8,000
North Vancouver Community Arts Council (North Van Arts)	8,000
Port Moody Arts Centre Society (PoMo Arts)	10,000
PuSh International Performing Arts Festival Society	10,000
Richmond Arts Coalition	3,000
stól'əw Arts and Cultural Society	7,000
United Scottish Cultural Society	10,000
Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival Society	6,000
Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society	10,000
VISAFF South Asian Film Festival Society (iSAFF International South Asian Film Festival)	10,000
MUSIC	
Music on Main Society	3,000
Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra Society	7,000
Vancouver Bach Choir	10,000
Vancouver Chamber Music Society	8,000

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Performance and Audit Committee Closed Meeting Date: July 9, 2026

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Vancouver Opera Association	10,000
Vancouver Symphony Society	10,000

THEATRE

Electric Company Theatre Society	3,000
Green Thumb Players Society (Green Thumb Theatre)	3,000
Richmond Gateway Theatre Society	7,000
Ruby Slippers Theatre	3,000
Some Assembly Arts Society (Some Assembly Theatre Company)	5,000
Théâtre la Seizième	5,000
Urban Ink Production Society	5,000
Vancouver Improv Centre Society (The Improv Centre)	8,000
Vancouver International Children's Festival Society	10,000

VISUAL ARTS

Arts Umbrella Association	5,000
BC Society for the Museum of Original Costume	10,000
British Columbia Photography and Media Arts Society (The Polygon Gallery)	10,000
Italian Cultural Centre Society	5,000
Richmond Art Gallery Association	6,000
Vancouver Art Gallery Association	10,000

Total 2026 Regional Cultural Project Grants	\$300,000
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- b) authorize the Corporate Officer to release to the public the report dated June 20, 2026, titled "2026 Regional Cultural Project Grants" including attachments 1 to 4; and
- c) authorize staff to release the names of the successful organizations and the amount of the grant awards.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the projects recommended to receive funding through Metro Vancouver's 2026 annual regional cultural grants. These grants support arts and culture non-profit societies delivering projects throughout the region. For 2026, Metro Vancouver received 129 applications with a total request of \$1,107,729. Staff screened submissions for eligibility and assessed proposals against set criteria (**Attachment 1**). These include the regional impact of each proposed project, merit, budget, delivery plans, and each applicant's demonstrated success and resilience. This year, grant funding is recommended for 40 non-profit societies. Together, these projects are expected to reach over 300,000 people. The 2026 grants provide a contribution towards total project values of about \$6.5 million. Grants are specifically for projects, and not operational or general expenses. Many projects tour around the region or draw audiences from multiple member jurisdictions.

Funded by the Grants Reserve Fund, the budgeted 2026 allocation is \$300,000. Each project can receive up to \$10,000. The funds are provided through the Grants Reserve Fund and do not draw from annual tax revenues. MVRD Board authorization is required to distribute funds from the Grants Reserve Fund as external contributions. If approved by the MVRD Board in July, grants will be announced and distributed in August.

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PURPOSE

To recommend an allocation of the Metro Vancouver 2026 regional cultural project grants in accordance with grant eligibility and selection criteria.

This matter is being presented at a closed meeting pursuant to section 226 (1) (a) of the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* provisions as follows:

- 90 (1) A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:
- (b) personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for a municipal award or honour, or who has offered to provide a gift to the municipality on condition of anonymity; and
 - (j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

BACKGROUND

Each year Metro Vancouver administers a process to determine the disbursement of regional cultural project grants. The project grants support creation, production, dissemination, audience development, research, project staff, and/or administrative capacity building. Project grants are awarded to a maximum of \$10,000 each. Grants are for projects, and not operational or general expenses. Many projects tour around the region or draw audiences from multiple member jurisdictions.

In addition to a strong proposal submission, applicants must be in good standing with respect to any previous grants received through this program. Recipients are required to complete a project report (**Attachment 2**). Receipt of progress updates and/or a final report is a pre-condition for consideration of an organization's future grant applications.

Intake of Applications

The 2026 application intake was announced on March 3, starting with a media release (**Attachment 3**). The grants were promoted through social media, the *Metro Vancouver Update*, and a mailing list (**Attachment 4**).

Staff hosted an information session on April 8 to provide an overview of the application and adjudication process, offer guidance and tips for submitting a stronger application, review common errors seen in the past, and answer questions from interested applicants. Approximately 63 arts and culture organizations participated in the webinar. The video of the session was posted to the webpage to help others through the remainder of the application intake. The webpage also provided guidance for applicants and an offer to discuss proposal ideas or answer questions directly with staff.

The deadline for submissions was 4:00 pm on Monday, April 27, 2026. All applications were submitted electronically.

Review of Project Proposals

Staff reviewed all submissions, screened them for eligibility, then assessed eligible applications based on the set criteria. These are regional impact, merit, budget plans, timing, organizational capacity, and resilience. Staff also considered reporting history from previous grants where applicable.

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A total of 129 applications were received in 2026. Of the 129 applications, 21 were from new applicants. Submissions were disqualified if they were received late (eliminating four), were incomplete (eliminating 13), or did not meet the established grant criteria (eliminating 13). Organizations that had previously received a grant were only considered for 2026 if their reporting history was in good standing. Staff eliminated submissions that were missing key information, such as other confirmed funding sources, and any project plans outlining timing that misaligned with the grant distribution. Using the established selection guidelines, staff have narrowed the applications down to 40 grant recommendations for 2026 (Attachment 6).

The projects recommended by staff were of good caliber overall, representing a range of arts and culture disciplines from across the region. From the list of recommendations, seven are new applicants or previous applicants that have not received a Metro Vancouver regional cultural project grant in the past. For reference, three years of grant application history is included in this report package.

Announcement of Successful Applicants

Following approval by the MVRD Board for the 2026 grants, the names of the successful organizations and the amount of the grant awards will be announced to the public via media release and other communications. Notification letters will be sent to all applicants, including an offer to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

ALTERNATIVES

1. THAT the MVRD Board:
 - a) approve the allocation of Metro Vancouver's 2026 regional cultural project grants as follows:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Grant</u>
DANCE	
Dancers of Damelahamid Society	10,000
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Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society	10,000

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VISAFF South Asian Film Festival Society (iSAFF International South Asian Film Festival)	10,000
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MUSIC

Music on Main Society	3,000
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Vancouver Bach Choir	10,000
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Vancouver Improv Centre Society (The Improv Centre)	8,000
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Italian Cultural Centre Society	5,000
Richmond Art Gallery Association	6,000
Vancouver Art Gallery Association	10,000

Total 2026 Regional Cultural Project Grants	\$300,000
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- b) authorize the Corporate Officer to release to the public the report dated June 20, 2026, titled "Metro Vancouver 2026 Regional Cultural Project Grants" including attachments 1 to 4; and
- c) authorize staff to release the names of the successful organizations and the amount of the grant awards.

2. THAT the MVRD Board:

- a) approve the allocation of Metro Vancouver's 2026 regional cultural project grants as recommended in the report dated June 20, 2026, titled "2026 Regional Cultural Project Grants", with the following changes: _____.
- b) authorize the Corporate Officer to release to the public the report dated June 20, 2026, titled "2026 Regional Cultural Project Grants" including attachments 1 to 4; and
- c) authorize staff to release the names of the successful organizations and the amount of the grant awards.

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3. THAT the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated June 20, 2026, titled “2026 Regional Cultural Project Grants”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cultural project grants are funded from the Grant Reserve Fund established in 1991. The 2026 allocation of \$300,000 is fully supported by the reserve and does not have an impact on the tax requisition. As of May 31, 2026, the reserve balance was \$1.6 million.

In 2026, \$39,546 applied to the MVRD General Government Administration Requisitions to account for 0.3 FTE staff time to administer this program.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Together, the recommended projects are estimated to reach over 300,000 people. Metro Vancouver’s grants provide a contribution to total project values of about \$6.5 million, leveraging support from member jurisdictions, other arts and culture funding agencies, and other contributions collaborating to deliver proposed programming. A total of 8,938 people (staff, artists, and volunteers) worked with the 40 recommended grant recipient organizations over their last fiscal year, according to application data. The offerings of arts and culture organizations support the economy and enrich communities in many ways, with broader examples including tourism impacts, job creation, and social cohesion.

CONCLUSION

The MVRD Board awards regional cultural project grants annually to region-serving arts and cultural organizations. Applications seeking 2026 grants have been reviewed based on established criteria including regional impact, merit, and budget, as well as consideration for organizational resilience and previous funding. For 2026, 40 regional cultural projects are recommended to receive a grant, with grant distribution capped at \$10,000 for each project and to a total of \$300,000 for all grants. The funds are provided through the Grants Reserve Fund, do not draw from annual tax revenues, and require MVRD Board approval as external contributions. Following final approval by the MVRD Board on July 24, grants will be distributed in August to fund programming beginning in September 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Eligibility & Selection Criteria – Metro Vancouver 2026 Regional Cultural Project Grants.
2. 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grant Reporting and Evaluation Form.
3. Media Release: “Apply Now for Regional Cultural Grants up to \$10K”, issued March 3, 2026.
4. Sample Mailing List Notice – Deadline Reminder, dated April 20, 2026.
5. ~~2026 Regional Cultural Project Grants – Projects Recommended by Staff.~~
6. ~~2026 Regional Cultural Project Grants – Grant Application Submissions.~~
7. ~~Presentation re: Metro Vancouver 2026 Regional Cultural Project Grants.~~

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ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION CRITERIA

2026 Metro Vancouver Regional Cultural Project Grants

The regional cultural project grants support arts and culture organizations with creation, production, dissemination, audience development, research, project staff, and/or administrative capacity building. Project grants are awarded to a maximum of \$10,000 each.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To qualify for a 2026 grant, the applicant must:

- Promote arts and culture as its primary purpose (as opposed to an organization whose function or purpose extends beyond an arts and culture mandate);
- Produce and present arts and culture on a regular basis within the Metro Vancouver region;
- Be a non-profit society registered under the *BC Societies Act* or a non-profit community service cooperative registered under the *Community Service Co-operatives* section of the *BC Cooperatives Act* for at least two fiscal years;
- Demonstrate stability and resiliency, operating with an annual budget exceeding \$75,000 and paid staff;
- Be requesting funding for a project where programming will be touring or attracting audiences from across multiple Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions;
- Provide a letter of support for the project; and
- Obtain project funding from diverse sources, whereby:
 - No more than 30% of the total project budget is to come from Metro Vancouver; and
 - At least two other sources of project funding have been identified, including one that is confirmed.

Project marketing timelines and project delivery must occur between September 1, 2026 and August 31, 2027. Pre-production planning and work may take place before September 2026.

Grants are intended to support regional arts and culture projects, not ongoing operational/general expenses.

Organizations may only apply for one grant per year.

Late and incomplete applications will be disqualified. Applications will only be considered if all required materials are received and time-stamped in Metro Vancouver's system before the application deadline: 4:00 pm on Monday, April 27, 2026.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection of 2026 projects will be based on the following assessment criteria. The relative weight given to each criterion is indicated in brackets.

Regional Impact (20%)

- Significance of the project in serving and attracting audiences from across the Metro Vancouver region
- Significance of the project in its unique offering to the region's arts and culture

Merit (50%)

- Merit of the project, strengthened by the applicant's record of excellence and their demonstrated capacity to deliver projects effectively and achieve meaningful outcomes
- Clearly communicated project goals and relevance to arts and culture in the region
- Demonstrated support of the project (i.e. partnerships, collaborations, sponsorships or in-kind support, staff and volunteers, etc.)
- Marketing, promotion and/or outreach plan to encourage regional participation, awareness and engagement
- Project delivery with resilience to reasonably adjust as necessary

Budget Plan (30%)

- Clear and concise budget plan for reasonable use of grant funding
- Other sources of realistic funding support identified and/or in place
- Requested funds are specific to the proposed project, and are not intended for ongoing operational/general funding

CONDITIONS

Grant recipients must adhere to the following:

- Acknowledge the support of Metro Vancouver on all promotional materials related to the funded project.
- Organizations making significant changes to the information provided in their application must discuss such changes with Metro Vancouver staff prior to implementation.
- Grant recipients are required to complete a follow-up report for Metro Vancouver. Receipt of this report will be a precondition for consideration of the organization's future applications.
- Information provided in this regional cultural project grant application may be subject to disclosure under the *BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

2025 Regional Cultural Project Grant

REPORTING AND EVALUATION

All regional cultural project grant recipients are required to complete a project report for Metro Vancouver. Receipt of a project report is a precondition for consideration of the organization's future grant applications. Reporting history may impact how your future applications are evaluated. Please aim to submit a final report within approximately eight weeks following project completion. A call for project reports, including a report deadline, will be sent to outstanding grant recipients in early 2026. If the project has not yet been completed by this deadline, an interim project report must still be provided outlining progress and status to date. You may use your own format(s) to prepare your project report package covering the content outlined, and must include the signed declaration page when submitting your package to Metro Vancouver.

Email project report packages to CulturalGrants@metrovancover.org
including the components listed below.

If you have any questions, please email this mailbox or call Sarah Faucher at 604-456-8828.

- ☐ **Project report.** Answer the following questions in your project report, referring to your original grant application in your responses. For projects still underway, interim reports should include a progress update based on the work completed to date and the current status of the project, with the rest of the detail to be provided later in your final report. Aim for a maximum 500-word count for each response.
 1. ***Briefly describe the completed project or progress to date, explaining notable adjustments made from the original proposal (if any) with associated reasons.***
 2. ***Highlight the project's successes and achievements. Include metrics such as performance dates, number or list of shows, venues or locations, estimated attendance or viewership, and other measurements of reach and impact as applicable and possible for your type of project.***
 3. ***What was Metro Vancouver's cultural grant money specifically used for? For projects still underway, how is the grant intended to be applied in the budget. Explain any significant changes from what was proposed in your application.***
 4. ***Did the project achieve its overall objectives? If yes, what factors do you feel contributed to the success? If no, what prevented a more successful project?***
- ☐ **Comparative revenue and expense statement** showing the project's original proposed budget versus actuals. This may be provided in your own format.
- ☐ **Samples of marketing and promotion materials, website screenshots, and/or programmes** demonstrating the required use of Metro Vancouver's logo to acknowledge the funding received.
- ☐ **(Optional though strongly encouraged) Photo(s) and/or video footage** from the regional cultural grant project. These would potentially be included in Metro Vancouver reports and/or promotion of the cultural grants program in the future.
- ☐ **Signed declaration form** provided below.

2025 METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL CULTURAL PROJECT GRANT REPORT

The report date for the purpose of Metro Vancouver's project report tracking will be based on the date and time your report package is received via email to the CulturalGrants@metrovanancouver.org mailbox.

REPORT TYPE

- ☐ **Interim Report** – *This is a progress update as the project is still underway. We will send another report later.*
- ☐ **Final Report** – *Our grant project is now complete.*

Organization

Project title

\$

%

Grant amount received

Percentage of project budget

Report author

Contact information (*phone or email*)

Project completion date or anticipated project completion date

DECLARATION

By signing this form, we solemnly declare that, to the best of our knowledge, the information provided in this project report package is complete, honest, and accurate.

Submitted by (*full name*)

On behalf of (*organization*)

X

Signature of report author

Date

X

Signature of Chair/President of the Board of Directors

Date

Sarah Faucher

From: Metro Vancouver <MetroVancouver_Media@metrovancover.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 9:01 AM
To: Sarah Faucher
Subject: Media Release - Apply Now for Regional Cultural Grants up to \$10K



MEDIA RELEASE

March 3, 2026

Apply Now for Regional Cultural Grants up to \$10K

Metro Vancouver's 2026 regional cultural grant application intake for local arts and cultural organizations opens today.

Funding up to \$10,000 per project is available to help organizations deliver arts and culture projects within the region.

"Our annual grants help arts organizations develop new ideas and reach new audiences, allowing more people to create, share, and experience the arts in our region," said Mike Hurley, Chair of the Metro Vancouver Boards of Directors. "Additionally, investment in the arts is an investment in small businesses and lively communities."

The grants support programs delivered throughout the region, and in many cases allow organizations to expand their arts and culture programs to reach audiences outside their home municipality. The grants provide support for expenses related to project creation, production, dissemination, audience development, research, project staff, and administrative capacity building.

Completed applications must be received **by 4:00 pm on Monday, April 27, 2026.**

The application form, eligibility and selection criteria, and details about an online information session can be found at <https://metrovancover.org/cultural-grants>.

Metro Vancouver's cultural grants program was created in 1988 to support regionally significant cultural institutions and recognize their broader economic impact on tourism and job creation. The program continues to be funded by interest earned in a Cultural Grant Reserve Fund, with no impact on Metro Vancouver's tax requisition.

Media contact:

[Metro Vancouver Media Relations](#)

Metro Vancouver is a diverse organization that plans for and delivers regional utility services, including water, sewers and wastewater treatment, and solid waste management. It also monitors and regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, provides affordable rental housing, and serves as a regional federation. The organization is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation located in the region of the same name. The organization is made up of four separate legal entities, each governed by its own Board of Directors. Board directors are elected officials from member jurisdictions.

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Sarah Faucher

From: Metro Vancouver <CulturalGrants@metrovanancouver.org>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 4:02 PM
To: Sarah Faucher
Subject: Final Week to Apply for a Metro Vancouver 2026 Regional Cultural Project Grant



Final Week to Apply!

Deadline Monday, April 27 at 4:00 pm

Metro Vancouver is now accepting applications for the annual regional cultural project grants.

Funding is available to help arts and culture organizations deliver their projects throughout the region. The grants provide support for expenses related to project creation, production, dissemination, audience development, research, project staff, and administrative capacity building. A maximum of \$10,000 will be awarded per project.

Complete applications must be received by 4:00 pm on Monday, April 27, 2026.

Find the application form, eligibility and selection criteria, along with applicant guidance at [Regional Cultural Project Grants webpage](#).

Questions may be emailed to the program coordinator, Sarah Faucher, at culturalgrants@metrovanancouver.org or by calling 604-456-8828.

Contact us:

Phone: 604-456-8828

Email: culturalgrants@metrovanancouver.org



Metro Vancouver is a diverse organization that plans for and delivers regional utility services, including water, sewers and wastewater treatment, and solid waste management. It also monitors and regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, provides affordable rental housing, and serves as a regional federation. The organization is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation located in the region of the same name. The organization is made up of four separate legal entities, each governed by its own Board of Directors. Board directors are elected officials from member jurisdictions.

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