

Culture Strategy

Host Your Own Engagement Conversation Toolkits & Grants

Want to Host Your Own Culture Strategy Discussion? Grants Available!

Help us hear from you!

We invite individuals, organizations, businesses and collectives of diverse histories and practices to play an active part in the process of shaping the Culture Strategy by "Hosting Your Own Engagement" event with your staff, board, volunteers, members or the general public.

Do you want to deepen the discussion? Do you want to ensure your group's needs are communicated? Are you looking for methods that better suit your area of interest? Your input can inform key changes to the community's arts and culture investments that can have significant impacts on the culture in Abbotsford.

The conversation you host can get into the details of a topic of vital importance with a small group of people, or it can be broad, involving a larger group of people brought together to generate conversation. The choice is yours!

The Host Your Own Engagement Grants are intended to support you in hosting these conversations and reporting the findings back to us for inclusion in the Culture Strategy consultation.

Timeline
Optional Information Session: March 3rd, 2020
Applications Open: February 21, 2020
Application Deadline: March 5th, 2020
Selection Review: March 6th, 2020
Funding Notifications: March 6th, 2020
Engagement must be completed: April 20th, 2020
Final Report Due: April 24, 2020
Grant Amounts: $250 - $500



CULTURE STRATEGY

Background:

What is a Culture Strategy?
A culture strategy is a plan that informs the City on the resident's priorities, municipal best practices, and on how to create a robust cultural vibrancy in Abbotsford. Your input will inform the future of culture in Abbotsford.

Why does Abbotsford need a Culture Strategy?

As Abbotsford continues to grow, cultural vitality will be critical to create a sense of place and identity, enhance quality of life, and contribute to economic prosperity. Culture has more to offer than just its intrinsic value; as one of the four key pillars of community, it is an important pillar. In order for the city to create the best environment for culture to flourish, a city must have a framework that will map out how it will manage and support its cultural assets, to ensure the benefits of cultural assets and services are realized to the benefit of all.

The Culture Strategy will build on previous City plans, strategies and policies and will provide a vision and an action plan for strengthening culture delivery and services in Abbotsford.

How to get Involved:

- Take the online survey (www.letstalkabbotsford/culturestrategy)
- Attend one of our Community Workshops (www.letstalkabbotsford/culturestrategy)
- Host Your Own Engagement (Grants available)

1.1 Host Your Own Engagement Conversations

This is where we need the support of local organizations like you.

We are looking for local organizations and residents to host a conversation. We have a toolkit which we will provide, as well as some tools to make it easier will be provided. If you need assistance beyond that, our staff is happy to answer any of your questions, or even attend your conversation if you prefer.

More information on the Conversation Toolkit can be found at:
www.letstalkabbotsford/culturestrategy



ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Objectives of Host Your Own Engagement Events

Host Your Own Engagement grants will be assessed based on their likelihood to meet the objectives of the program including:

- deepen existing community consultation,
- broaden representation of typically underrepresented peoples and disciplines,
- provide meaningful ideas on potential actions and future priorities, and
- build new connections across artistic, cultural and creative communities and with the general public.

2.2 Eligibility

To participate in this program, you must:

- be a non-profit society, a registered charity, a for-profit business or an individual or a group of individuals willing to host a conservation about arts, culture and heritage in Abbotsford,
- be physically located in Abbotsford,
- either solely, or in partnership with others, propose a conversation which is consistent with the objectives of the Host Your Own Engagement program,
- be committed to carrying out the conversation for the benefit of Abbotsford residents without exclusion of anyone by reason of religion, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, language, disability or income.

2.3 Eligible Activities

Host your own engagement events are intended to appeal to your audience, in your way. Eligible activities are intentionally vague. Eligible activities could include:

- Stand-alone meetings, gatherings, and sessions or those within existing meetings that have an interactive engagement around the subject,
- Focus groups or workshops including but not limited to world cafes, labs, and talking circles,
- Roundtable discussions, panels or presentations with interactive engagement, or
- Another method that encourages engagement and results in recommendations.

2.4 Priority Organizations and Activities

Should requests exceed funding, applications will be assessed with priority consideration for the following priorities:

- activities that provide meaningful opportunities for underrepresented groups in the community consultation process

2.5 Available Funding

Successful Host Your Own Engagement applicants will receive a grant of $250 - $500.

Events that are open to and widely promoted to the general public could be eligible for up to $500. If you would like to host a general public session, please contact City staff to discuss.

There will be no need to submit a budget or provide receipts. Requirements for funding involve committing to the criteria in Final Report 2.6

2.6 Final Report

The final report should include and present content that best reflects the insights and recommendations of your Host Your Own Engagement Event. For example, if you are writing a final report, it could be in point form, the form of an Executive Summary or a mix of qualitative and quantitative findings.

At minimum the final report should include:

- A sign in sheet of everyone in attendance including their postal code
- Whether you targeted a specific group of people or it was open to the general public
- The date, time and location of the engagement event
- A brief understanding of how the event was conducted
- A written report of the findings. (You may submit your findings through different outputs and mediums as long as the recommendations and findings are clear to understand for someone who was not there).
- 1-3 photographs of the event in progress that can be used in conjunction with the Cultural Plan work. Photo waivers are available in the Conversation toolkit.
- Any additional thoughts or feedback you had on the event and how it went

There is no need to filter the results or come to a consensus among the group on an idea or topic. Please record all ideas that are presented.

Finally, there is no need for graphic design work or extensive formatting of the report, we are looking for your ideas in a simple to understand way. The report should not take considerable time to complete, spend your time in the conversation.



2.7 Information Session

Interested organizations are invited to attend an information session about the Host Your Own Engagement program on Tuesday, March 3rd at Matsqui Centennial Auditorium, 32315 South Fraser Way from 5:00pm – 6:30pm. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the program, the funding opportunity, and try-out some of the conversation starter activities you may employ with your own group. This is also an excellent opportunity to ask questions and see if this is the right opportunity for your organization.

To register for the information session email the Culture and Community Services Manager at sfederspiel@abbotsford.ca

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SUBMISSIONS
DEADLINE: MARCH 5th 2020

Interested organizations must submit an Expression of Interest form prior to the deadline.

Expression of Interest forms are available here: www.letstalkabbotsford/culturestrategy

Organizations considering Hosting their Own Engagement events are encouraged to do the following:

- Review these guidelines,
- Review the Frequently Asked Questions,
- Attend the information session on Tuesday, March 3rd at the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium, 32315 South Fraser Way from 5:00pm – 6:30pm.
- Contact City staff if you need more information

Submission of an application does not guarantee funding. Obtaining a Host Your Own Engagement grant is a competitive process and demand may exceed available resources.

Even if you are not selected for a Host Your Own Engagement Grant, we hope you will still consider participating in the variety of engagement activities being offered.

Check out: www.letstalkabbotsford/culturestrategy