

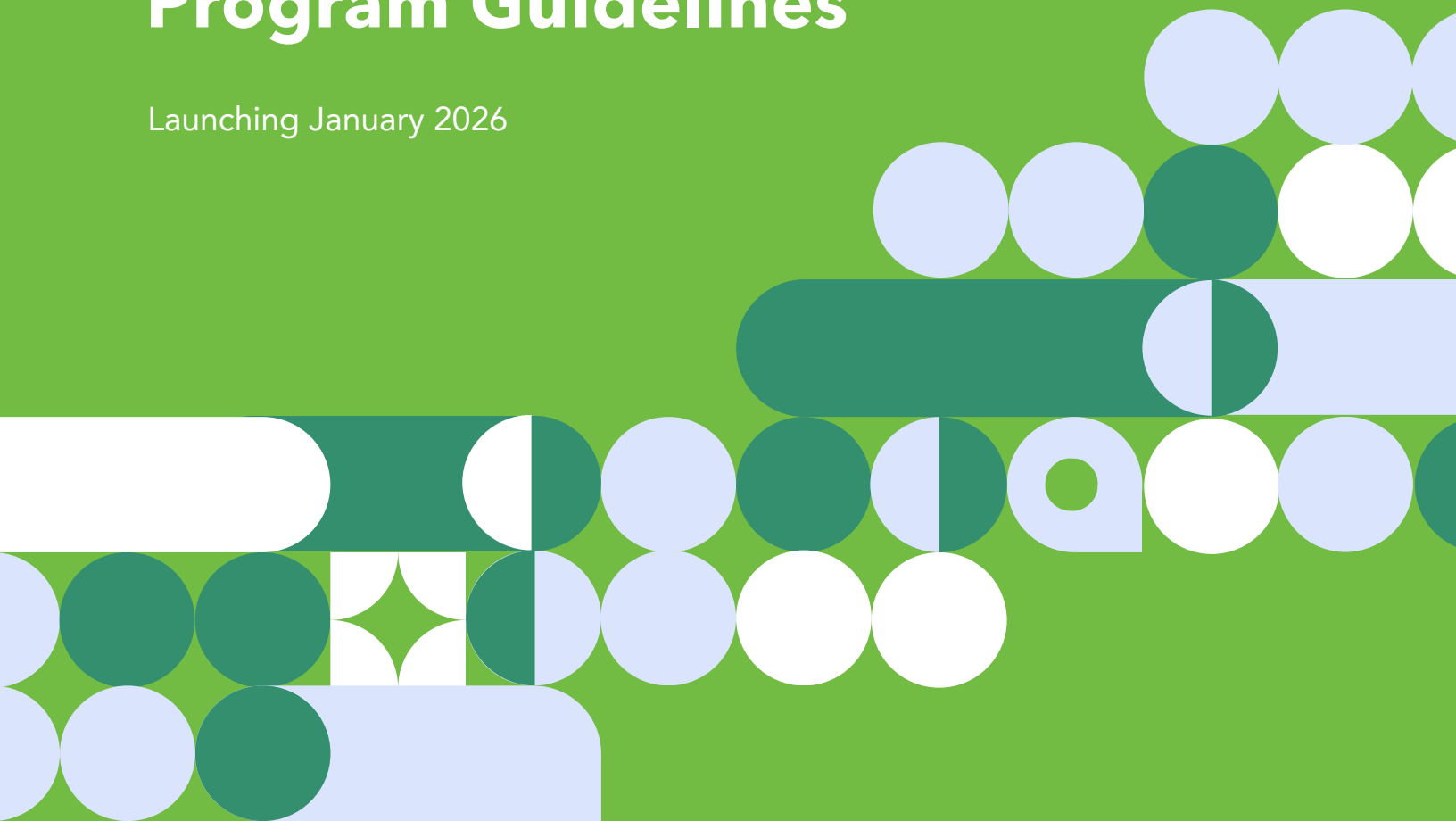


FEDERATION OF
CALGARY COMMUNITIES

Good Places Grant

Program Guidelines

Launching January 2026



Overview



The Good Places Grant program, operated by the Federation of Calgary Communities, funds placemaking initiatives. Placemaking is defined as “a collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm in order to maximize shared value” (Project for Public Spaces, 2007) and involves both the physical transformation of public spaces—like adding seating, recreation, or murals—and the ongoing programming that keeps them active, such as events and community gatherings. By supporting both infrastructure and ongoing programming, it helps create inclusive, vibrant places where everyone feels at home.

The program empowers Community Associations, non-profits, and local citizens to create inclusive, vibrant, and well-used public spaces that reflect their community’s identity and needs. The program will distribute \$400,000/year over 3 years (2026-2029).

\$500-\$15,000 Grants

For placemaking initiatives, community-building projects and engaging programming—like murals, seating, recreation, concerts, markets, and gatherings—that activate and bring life to publicly-accessible spaces.

Placemaking Workshops

Open to all potential applicants and project leaders, we are offering exciting new placemaking workshops to strengthen applications and act as a support for project implementation!

The workshops take place every second Wednesday night during application periods, and are available online or in-person.

Who is Eligible?

- Community Associations (CA’s)*
- Business Improvement Areas (BIA’s)
- Non-profit Organizations (NPO’s)
- Charitable groups
- Social Rec Organizations (SRO’s)

*Please note Community Association applicants will receive priority during application selection.

Application Periods

Winter

Open January 1, due February 28

Spring

Open April 1, due May 30

Fall

Open September 1, due October 30

Need more info? Ready to apply?



goodplaces.calgarycommunities.com



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Background



Building on the success of ActivateYYC, which has supported more than 180 local placemaking projects since 2017, the Good Places Project goes a step further—offering more support, robust funding, mentorship, and learning opportunities to help projects thrive long-term.

Through placemaking, neighbours gain hands-on experience while making their communities stronger, safer, and more connected. The Good Places Project is more than a grant—it's a way to build pride, creativity, and lasting change in Calgary's neighbourhoods.

Funding & Eligibility



Groups can apply for **\$500-\$15,000** towards initiatives that physically improve public spaces through community-led projects and/or inclusive activities and programming that engage with the public realm.

All projects must:

- Be located within City of Calgary boundaries
- Be Publicly Accessible: Must be in a public space open to everyone.
- Involve new project or program ideas: Existing initiatives are only eligible if they include new elements—such as a new space, audience, or activity—that have not been part of the program previously.
- Engage with Community: Must involve community (volunteers, participants).
- Be Free: Must be freely accessible for public participants.
- Ensure Safety: Must ensure public safety and follow local regulations.
- Think about Operations: Must be able to be operated by project applicants.
- Align with Placemaking: Must align with grant program goals.
- Be Executed Efficiently: Must be completed within the grant timeframe (12 months).
- Comply with Guidelines: Must follow all grant terms and conditions.

Eligible Applicants:

Community Associations (CA's), Business Improvement Areas (BIA's), Non-profit Organizations, Charitable Groups, and Social Rec Organizations (SRO's) and any groups registered under the Societies Act are eligible to apply.

Any other groups (schools, businesses, individuals, artists, etc.) are encouraged to reach out to a Community Association or non-profit to collaborate on a project idea!

Matching Funds:

If you are utilizing our grant in combination with other funding for larger-scale projects, please reach out to discuss your project prior to applying.

Eligible Expenses



You can use this grant for a wide range of project and program-related costs, including but not limited to:

Public Space Improvements

- Seating & Tables – Benches, picnic tables, or movable public seating
- Non-permanent lighting – decorative, functional, or display.
- Murals & Public Art – Artist fees, paint, and supplies for murals or installations
- Landscaping & Greening – Planters, soil, mulch, trees, shrubs, and flowers
- Small structures - Little libraries, pantries, or shades.
- Signage & Wayfinding – Directional signs, interpretive panels, or community message boards
- Recreation & Play – Basketball hoops, chess tables, small play features
- Construction Materials – Paint, hardware, tool rentals, and materials for semi-permanent features
- *Contractor or Builder Fees – Design, building, or installation costs.
 - **Remember to find creative ways for volunteer opportunities.*

Programs & Events

- Event Supplies – Craft materials, sports gear, gardening tools, etc.
- Program Materials – Handouts, worksheets, or printed guides
- Space rental - parks permits, venues, etc.
- Promotions & Marketing – Posters, flyers, social media ads, signage
- Rental Equipment – Tents, tables, chairs, sound systems, etc.
- Food & Refreshments – Snacks or drinks (no alcohol) for event participants

People & Support

- Facilitator or Instructor Fees – Payments for those leading workshops or activities
- Honorariums – For guest speakers, or volunteers (up to \$500 per person).
- Local artist fees (refer to CARFAC rates).
- Entertainment – Musicians, performers, or other live entertainment
- Ceremonial Tobacco, honoraria to Indigenous Elders.
- Admin or Staffing Support directly related to project – **Up to 15% of the total project budget*

Operational Costs

- Permits & Licensing – Required permits for public events or construction.
- Insurance – Coverage for events or installations

Ineligible Expenses

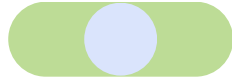


Grant funding cannot be used for:

- Staffing not directly involved in running the program or project
- Fundraising or marketing that isn't tied to the initiative
- Rent, utilities, or overhead not directly related to the project
- Travel, accommodation, or meal costs (unless essential to the program)
- Debt payments or covering past deficits
- Capital purchases like office equipment, computers, or power tools
- Permanent infrastructure or major construction not part of the proposed project
- Prize money, trophies, or giveaways
- Alcohol or cannabis
- Expenses already funded through other sources
- Costs incurred before approval of the application
- We are unable to fund Stampede breakfasts
- Unreasonable or unrelated expenses, as determined by the Federation of Calgary Communities

If you have any questions or need clarification on any items listed eligible/ineligible, please reach out to our grants team before purchasing or expensing items.

Application Process



The Placemaking Grant program will include 3 cycles annually, each with a 2 month application window, and a 4 part application support workshop series to enhance the capacity and quality of applications.

Winter Intake

Applications Open: January 1 - February 28

Workshops: Every second Wednesday evening of application period.

Review Period: March 1 - 14

Approval Notification: End of March

Spring Intake

Applications Open: April 1 - May 30

Workshops: Every second Wednesday evening of application period.

Review Period: June 1 - 14

Approval Notification: End of June

SUMMER BREAK

Fall Intake

Applications Open: September 1 - October 31

Workshops: Every second Wednesday evening of application period.

Review Period: November 1 - 14

Approval Notification: End of November

Placemaking Workshops



Support Workshops are hosted throughout the application period, to support in the process of ideating and planning a placemaking initiative. These workshops are centered around sharing, networking and collaborating on best practices between communities. The proposed workshop themes are (but may not be limited to):

IDEATION & VISIONING

Participants will explore placemaking principles, identify their community needs, and co-develop bold ideas that reflect local identity and aspirations. This workshop focuses on how to build on existing ideas, finding solutions to community problems, and transforming them into a clear project vision.

BUDGETING & DESIGN

Learn how to create a realistic project budget, understand cost-saving strategies, and explore basic design tools and materials suited for public space interventions. Participants will get hands-on with examples of past projects and practice building a simple project plan.

ENGAGEMENT & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Discover how to meaningfully engage neighbours, volunteers, and interested parties while keeping your project on track and on time. This session will cover outreach strategies, task delegation, and tools for managing timelines and logistics.

REPORTING & SUSTAINABILITY:

Participants will learn how to evaluate their project's impact, prepare final reports for funders, and explore ways to maintain momentum beyond the initial intervention. This workshop emphasizes storytelling, documentation, and sustaining long-term community benefit.

Application Scoring



Projects are scored in four main categories, and will be assessed by a grants selection committee made up of Federation staff, City of Calgary representatives, and engaged citizens.

Choice of Space (1-10): Does the selected location have strong potential to benefit from activation? Ideal projects make thoughtful use of underused or meaningful spaces in the community.

Community Collaboration (1-10): How well does the initiative invite participation, partnerships, or input from neighbours, groups, or organizations? How well does this idea reflect, celebrate, and enhance community identity? Strong proposals show how they'll bring people together to bring life to a space.

Project Planning and Feasibility (1-10): Is the initiative realistic in scope, timeline, and budget? Are the necessary permits, approvals, and partnerships feasible? We're assessing whether the team has a clear, practical plan to carry out their idea successfully.

Impact and Outcomes (1-10): Does the application clearly describe how this project will benefit the community? Will there be lasting benefits once the initiative is complete?

***Our grants selection committee will also be working to equitably distribute projects geographically across the city and wards. Priority will be given to projects led by or partnering with Community Associations.**

Reporting & Fund Distribution



Once projects are approved, groups will sign a grant agreement and provide their banking information, and receive 80% of their funds up front.

Projects should be completed within 12 months of grant approval, followed by a final report no later than 30 days after project completion. After submitting the final report, groups will receive the final 20% of their grant.

Final reports will include opportunities for groups to report on success stories, key learnings, final budgets, and photos.

Timeline Overview



Application

Can be submitted during 3 application periods each year.



Review Period

The review process takes place within 3–4 weeks after the application period closes.



Approval

We'll notify you of our decision, and provide feedback for all applications—approved or not.



Sign Agreement

You'll have one year to complete your project after the agreement is signed.



Receive 80% of Grant

Provided upfront.



Complete Project

Within 12 months of signing agreement.



Complete Final Report

Within 1 month after completing project.



Receive Final 20% of Grant

Provided after final report is completed.

Need Ideas?



Check out our [placemaking playbook](#):

a guide to inspire placemaking projects that shape public spaces and build community.

We encourage all community members, groups, and organizations—whether you have a fully formed idea or just the seed of one—to apply and get involved. As part of the Federation of Calgary Communities, this placemaking program is more than just funding; it's about empowering residents to lead meaningful change in the spaces they care about. We're here to support you every step of the way, from brainstorming to budgeting. If you have questions or ideas, don't hesitate to reach out.

Together, we can create a more vibrant, connected, and community-driven Calgary—one project at a time.



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REACH OUT!

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