

Economic Development and Culture Grants - 2025 Funding Allocation and Museums and Heritage Grants

Date: April 20, 2026

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The City of Toronto has a long-standing commitment to strengthening the city's cultural vibrancy and economic prosperity through Economic Development and Culture (EDC) grant programs, directed grants, and event sponsorships. These investments are aligned with City priorities and support programs, projects, operational needs, and events that foster collaboration and innovation across Toronto's cultural sector and the broader economy. In accordance with City Council direction, this staff report provides an overview of EDC's annual grant-making activities, including a list of all grant recipients.

This report also presents the final phase of the Economic Development and Culture (EDC) multi-year grant reform, which started in 2018 to make all EDC funding opportunities more transparent, equitable, and aligned with the 2019 City of Toronto Community Grants Policy. This final phase includes the establishment of the Heritage Organization Operating Partnership and the Museums and Heritage Microgrant Programs, which will enable museums and heritage spaces to serve as accessible hubs for storytelling, learning, and civic engagement. Through these programs, the City will demonstrate equity, access, and transparency in museums and heritage funding, strengthening inclusive participation, supporting diverse cultural expression, and reinforcing Toronto's cultural infrastructure. No new funding is being requested, and the program will leverage funds currently provided as directed grants, already accounted for within EDC's existing operating budget allocation.

The completion of EDC's grant reform is an important step to advancing the Council-approved strategies outlined in the Division's two guiding strategic plans: *Sidewalks to Skylines: An Action Plan for Toronto's Economy* and *Culture Connects: An Action Plan for Culture in Toronto*.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to establish the Heritage Organization Operating Partnership program to provide operating funding to not-for-profit heritage organizations in accordance with the City of Toronto's Community Grants Policy and the City of Toronto Heritage Organization Operating Partnership Program Guidelines as outlined in Attachment 4 to this report from the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, with implementation commencing in 2026.
2. City Council authorize the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to negotiate and execute single- and multi-year contribution agreements for not-for-profit heritage organizations funded through the Heritage Organization Operating Partnership program, with funding recipients and grant amounts to be determined annually by the General Manager within the budget allocation for the program, and on such terms satisfactory to the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.
3. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to establish the Museums and Heritage Sector Development Program to fund heritage activities across Toronto, substantially in accordance with the City of Toronto's Community Grant Policy and the City of Toronto Museums and Heritage Grant Program Guidelines as outlined in Attachment 5 to this report from the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, with implementation commencing in Q4 2026.
4. City Council authorize the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to negotiate and execute single- and multi-year contribution agreements for not-for-profit heritage organizations funded through the Museums and Heritage Sector Development Program, with funding recipients and grant amounts to be determined annually by the General Manager within the budget allocation for the program, and on such terms satisfactory to the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.
5. City Council authorize the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to negotiate and execute one-time and multi-year agreements with not-for-profit organizations funded through the Cultural Hotspot program and Youth Cultural Incubators Stabilization Initiative program, with funding recipients and grant amounts to be determined annually by the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, within the budget allocation for the program, and on such terms satisfactory to the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no current year financial implications resulting from the adoption of the recommendations contained in this report. The Museums and Heritage Funding Program will be funded through \$100,000 in reallocation within EDC, with no net new financial impacts.

Any future year financial impacts arising from the recommendations in this report will be accommodated within the Operating Budget of the Economic Development and Culture Division.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on May 21 and 22, 2025, City Council approved the 2025 Economic Development and Culture (EDC) grants allocations and EDC's approach to provide more predictable and structured funding support for creative industries through the establishment of the Creative Industries Grants Program.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.EC20.2>

At its meeting on November 13 and 14, 2024, City Council adopted Culture Connects: An Action Plan for Culture in Toronto (2025-2035), affirming the City's commitment to continue investing in the culture sector, strengthening access and funding opportunities for artists, culture workers and historically underrepresented population groups.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EC16.1>

At its meeting on November 13 and 14, 2024, City Council adopted Sidewalks to Skylines: An Action Plan for Toronto's Economy (2025-2035), committing to providing a roadmap to guide and shape Toronto's economic development decision making over the next 10 years. Among others, planned actions include maintaining a competitive mix of taxes, development incentives and grants for commercial and industrial activities, and expanding opportunities for startups.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EC16.2>

At its meeting on May 22 and 23, 2024, City Council approved the 2022 and 2023 Economic Development and Culture (EDC) grants allocation.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EC12.3>

At its meeting on October 11 and 12, 2023, City Council approved the establishment of the Cultural Hotspot and the Youth Cultural Incubator Stabilization Initiative (YCISI) grant programs, in alignment with the Community Grants Policy.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EC6.4>

At its meeting on May 10, 11 and 12, 2023, City Council approved the establishment of the Cultural Organization Operating Partnership (COOP) program to provide operating support to not-for-profit cultural organizations, replacing the former Major Cultural Organizations (MCO) and Specialized Collections Museums (SCM) grant programs, which were discontinued based on Council direction.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EC3.12>

At its meeting on February 7 and 8, 2023, City Council approved the 2020 and 2021 Economic Development and Culture (EDC) grants allocations and EDC's approach to a grant reform to modernize and update its funding structures to improve transparency, accountability, and achieve greater outcomes for the community.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EC1.4>

At its meeting on July 19, 2022, City Council adopted the Museums and Heritage Services' Strategic Plan: Advancing Reconciliation, Equity and Inclusion - Re-imagining a New Future for Toronto History Museums outlining the future strategic direction of several programs and remove barriers to provide equitable access to Museums and Heritage programming and services.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EC31.23>

At its meeting of April 6, 7, and 8, 2022, City Council updated Toronto's Business Incubation and Commercialization Grant Program and directed the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to review program design and to ensure alignment with the Toronto Community Grants Policy.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EC28.5>

At its meeting of October 29 and 30, 2019, City Council adopted amendments to the agreement between the Sir William Campbell Foundation and the City of Toronto to operate the Campbell House at 160 Queen Street West as a public historical museum

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.EC8.9>

At its meeting of July 16, 17 and 18, 2019, City Council adopted the City of Toronto Community Grants Policy to provide a transparent process for the issuance of community grants by the City.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.EC6.19>

At its meeting on July 10, 1998, the Special Committee to Review the Final Report of the Toronto Transition Team recommended the adoption of the report on Heritage Governance, which created the Closed Museum Grant currently administered by Museum and Heritage Services.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/1998/agendas/council/cc/cc980729/tr10rpt/cl001.htm>

COMMENTS

Background

The City of Toronto, through the Economic Development and Culture Division (EDC), plays a pivotal role in enhancing the city's cultural vibrancy and fostering economic vitality through a variety of funding streams, including program grants, directed grants, and event sponsorships. As a major supporter of local arts and culture, EDC provides funding to non-profit arts groups, artists, and small businesses, managing a wide-ranging portfolio that strengthens Toronto's lively cultural scene and economic landscape. This support extends to:

- local arts initiatives, arts and cultural festivals, public art projects, and cultural organizations;
- activities focused on business retention and expansion, business improvement area programs, sector development, and international trade;
- tourism, along with the film, music, and interactive digital media industries; and
- local museums and heritage sites.

Through its grant reform efforts started in 2018, EDC worked to bring greater clarity and coherence to its portfolio of grant programs using definitions approved by City Council:

- *Program Grants* – structured funding approved by Council delegated authority that include a formal application, review and allocation process, as required under the City's Community Grants Policy.
- *Directed Grants* – one-off, targeted investments that do not involve an application process and are not part of a Council-approved program. They are issued in a timely manner to address an urgent need or immediate opportunity that is aligned with City and divisional priorities.
- *Event Sponsorships* – financial support to events in exchange of significant value to the City through an arrangement with an external event host/organizer. As an event sponsor, the City receives benefits from the sponsored entity to advance strategic priorities and key communications objectives, such as marketing considerations, visibility at the event and, often, an opportunity to present.

In November 2024, City Council adopted two forward-looking ten-year strategies: [Sidewalks to Skylines: An Action Plan for Toronto's Economy \(2025–2035\)](#) and [Culture Connects: An Action Plan for Culture in Toronto \(2025–2035\)](#). By approving these plans, the City reinforced its dedication to ongoing investment in Toronto's cultural and business sectors, including continued funding. EDC's funding portfolio is aligned with both strategies and with the overall goal to address changing needs and create opportunities for Toronto to maintain its role as Canada's leading economic hub and a global centre for culture.

The following sections outline: 1. EDC's total funding allocation in 2025, including program grants, directed grants and event sponsorship funding; and 2. The Heritage Organization Operating Partnership and Museums and Heritage Microgrant Programs

1. EDCs 2025 Funding Allocation

In 2025, EDC issued a total of \$55,931,065 (including \$1,728,418 transferred from other orders of government) to 616 funding recipients.

1.1 Program Grants

In 2025, EDC issued \$50,399,168 to 549 eligible organizations and individuals across 18 grant program areas. A total of 681 grants were distributed (some organizations and individuals accessed more than one grant - hence the higher number of grants than recipients). EDC's 2025 allocation, with a breakdown of the grant funding allocation by programs, number of grant recipients, and the total funding amount was as follows:

EDC Development and Culture Grant Program Allocation 2025		
2025 Grant Programs	Number of Grant Recipients	Funding Amount
Arts and Culture Services		
Toronto Arts Council*	1	\$29,221,947
Cultural Organization Operating Partnership (COOP)	9	\$4,567,547
Cultural Festivals Funding Program (CFFP)	65	\$2,634,107
Local Arts Service Organizations (LASO)	6	\$2,333,407
Cultural Hotspot	31	\$363,300
Youth Cultural Incubators Stabilization Initiative (YCISI)	14	\$635,000
Special Events Stabilization Initiatives (SESI)	97	\$2,230,196.
Indigenous Arts & Culture Partnership Fund	3	\$48,900
Toronto Significant Event Investment Program (TSEIP)	2	\$305,000
Economic Development		
Business Incubation and Commercialization Grant Program	45	\$1,204,061

EDC Development and Culture Grant Program Allocation 2025		
SBEC Core, Starter Company Plus & Summer Company	169	\$802,500
BIA Capacity Development Grant	13	\$818,131
Mainstreet Recovery & Rebuild Initiative**	35	\$915,918
Transit Construction Mitigation Fund	19	\$1,055,587
CafeTo	48	\$184,411
Dining Districts Grant Program	10	\$538,970
Film and Creative Industries		
Creative Industries Grant	53	\$879,644
Strategic Policy and Management Services		
Community Celebration and Support Fund Grant	61	\$1,660,542
Total	681	\$50,399,168

*Toronto Arts Council uses this funding to distribute grants to close to 900 artists and organizations on the City's behalf.

**Toronto's Main Street Recovery and Rebuild Initiatives (MRRI) is federally funded by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

The funding recipients of EDC's program grants include not-for-profit organizations, small businesses, and individual artists and cultural workers. The administration and allocation of EDC's grant programs are regularly reviewed and assessed to ensure responsive programming and alignment with Council priorities and grant policies. Details of funding amounts and recipients of all EDC 2025 program grants can be found in Attachment 1.

The Cultural Hotspot Program celebrates Toronto's outside-the-core communities through programs that are delivered in collaboration with local arts and community organizations. Grants are valued at \$5,000 for the Ignite funding stream, \$9,900 for the SPARK funding stream and up to \$22,000 for the Signature Project funding stream. Grants provided through the YCISI program support capacity-building and development of youth-led or youth-serving arts organizations. Mentor organizations receive up to \$12,000 for mentorship of an organization, and are matched with a mentee, working collaboratively to identify learning objectives and engage in regular meetings to advance these goals.

Through the consultations to inform Culture Connects, funding recipients called more streamlined funding agreements, aligned with funding values and risk. This concern was most pronounced for equity-led, grassroots, and emerging organizations, including many first-time City funding recipients. As a result, EDC is working with City Legal Services and other grant-making Divisions in the City to developing funding agreements that better balance recipient accountability for the use of taxpayers' funds, organizational capacity, and grant-specific risk assessment.

1.2 Directed Grants

In 2025, targeted investments in the form of directed grants provided EDC with the ability to act quickly in times of need, to make small investments in promising ideas and support community-led initiatives aligned with the City of Toronto's strategic goals. In 2025, examples of directed grants issued include:

- Through EDC's Film Office, the City of Toronto, supported local screen sector training organization, POV, to partnership with the Screen Industry Training Hub to launch a free, hands-on Real-Time 3D Training Program helping emerging creatives to develop expertise in virtual production. This program introduced participants to the full filmmaking workflow—from story visualization to animation—using real-time tools, 3D environments, and digital characters. Through the two-phase program, culminating in 2025, three cohorts trained 97 creators, with 73 graduates earning a Seneca College digital badge. By bridging storytelling and technology, this program equips Toronto talent with the skills needed to thrive in the future of screen-based production.
- Through Museums and Heritage Services directed grants, the City supported public access, programming, and operations at the Toronto Railway Museum, Campbell House Museum and Toronto's First Post Office. In 2025, the Toronto Railway Museum expanded its operating season, welcoming more than 23,000 gallery visitors and over 27,000 mini-train riders, delivering sold-out public programs, and employing youth and interns. Campbell House Museum welcomed 22,595 visitors in 2025, delivering a full calendar of exhibitions, performances, and community programs, with over 100 artists engaged. With its myriad of public programs, tours and operation of its historic site and museum space, Toronto's First Post Office welcomed 34,957 visitors, advancing public engagement with Toronto's history and the continued activation of this National Historic Site. Together, the grants supported youth employment, artistic opportunities, and access to heritage programming.
- Artsvest Toronto received a directed grant of \$80,000 to provide mentorship and training to small and mid-sized arts organizations to build their capacity to secure corporate sponsorships. In 2025, City funding enabled the participation of 15 community-engaged arts organizations, who received 225 hours of specialized training, and who raised over \$146,000 in new sponsorships. This represents a 183% return on investment on the City's funding for the Artsvest program.

The table below provides information on the directed grants funding issued in 2025 by the 5 EDC business areas. Further details, such as funding amount and funding recipients of directed grants can be found in Attachment 2.

Business Area	EDC Directed Grants 2025
Arts and Culture Services	\$1,179,526
Economic Development	\$2,817,814
Film and Creative Industries	\$313,000
Museum and Heritage Services	\$211,614
Strategic Policy and Management Services*	\$40,000
Total	\$4,561,954

*Directed grants noted as part of Strategic Policy and Management Services include funding for the Intergovernmental Committee for Economic and Labour Force Development (IELD), which was partially funded (\$33,104) by the federal government.

1.3 Event Sponsorships

In 2025, EDC sponsored a variety of events that contributed to Toronto's cultural vibrancy, livability and to an increased awareness of Toronto as a diverse cultural and competitive business destination. The sponsored events also facilitated valuable connections between businesses and potential partners and stimulated economic activity and job creation within key sectors.

As an example, an event sponsorship was awarded to the Scadding Court Community Centre to deliver Coffee Connections, a year-round networking event series designed for alumni of its Women's Entrepreneurship Hub and Newcomer Entrepreneurship Hub. The initiative builds on Scadding Court's entrepreneurship programming by creating ongoing opportunities for peer connection, knowledge sharing, mentorship, themed discussions, and accountability circles for emerging entrepreneurs from equity-deserving communities. In 2025, Scadding Court delivered 12 events with 472 attendees, supporting local engagement and improving access to entrepreneurship programming at the community level.

The table below provides information on the event sponsorship funding issued in 2025 by 4 EDC business areas. Further details, such as funding amount and funding recipients of the event sponsorships can be found in Attachment 3.

Business Area	EDC Event Sponsorships 2025
Arts and Culture Services	\$1,000.00
Economic Development	\$551,091

Business Area	EDC Event Sponsorships 2025
Film and Creative Industries	\$266,849
Strategic Policy and Management Services	\$130,650
Total	\$949,591

2. EDC's Grant Reform

In 2018, the EDC General Manager engaged the Internal Audit (IA) Division to conduct an in-depth review of EDC’s grants programs and provide recommendations to improve process efficiency and make EDC granting practices more equitable, inclusive, and transparent. These efforts were complemented by City Council formally adopting the revised City of Toronto Community Grants Policy in 2019, which articulated clear principles of openness, transparency, and accountability [\(EC6.19\)](#). In response to IA’s recommendations and in alignment with the updated Community Grants Policy, EDC initiated a Council-approved multi-year grant reform process [\(EC1.4\)](#).

Since 2018, EDC has reviewed funding practices, modernized funding programs, and introduced new initiatives. Updates included enhancements to the Business Incubation and Commercialization (BIC) Grant Program, the establishment of the Cultural Organization Operating Partnership (COOP) and the formalization of the Cultural Hotspot Program and Youth Cultural Incubator Stabilization Initiative (YCISI) in alignment with the Community Grants Policy. In 2025, the Creative Industries Grants Program was also introduced to help Toronto’s creative industries to continue to be a key contributor to Toronto’s culture and economy.

This report marks the conclusion of EDC’s grant reform process and seeks Council authority to establish the Heritage Organization Operating Partnership Program (HOOP) as well as the Museums and Heritage Microgrant Program. Through these programs, the City will help ensure that funding for museums and heritage initiatives is distributed fairly, reflecting Toronto’s diversity, and supporting programming that amplifies underrepresented voices. These programs will help advance City priorities for inclusive participation, diverse cultural expression, and strengthen Toronto’s cultural infrastructure in alignment with *Culture Connects: An Action Plan for Culture in Toronto*.

2.1 Current Funding Supports for Museums and Heritage Initiatives

EDC currently provides annual, directed operating grants to three heritage organizations: the Sir William Campbell Foundation (Campbell House Museum), the Toronto Railway Museum, and Toronto’s First Post Office. These agreements differ both in mandate and structure. Of the three funding relationships, two are Council-directed and involve City-owned sites—the Sir William Campbell Foundation and the Toronto Railway Museum—while support for Toronto’s First Post Office has been maintained since 1999. To date, this approach has ensured support for each organization based on their unique operational contexts and histories.

Sir William Campbell Foundation/Campbell House Museum

Campbell House Museum, a City-owned property within EDC's capital portfolio, is located on land leased from the Canada Life Assurance Company at the north-west corner of Queen Street and University Avenue. Operated by the Sir William Campbell Foundation, the Museum remains under the governance of the Foundation and its Board of Management. In 2019, City Council authorized the transfer of operational stewardship to the City of Toronto ([EC8.9](#)), while ensuring the Foundation's continued involvement in governance and oversight, supported by an annual EDC grant for ongoing operations. Amendments directed by City Council in 2021 ([EC26.4](#)) further clarified the City's role, assigning EDC responsibility for the building's capital maintenance and repairs. At present, the City provides annual support for Campbell House Museum through an MHS Directed Grant to the Foundation, ensuring the Museum's continued operation and preservation.

Toronto Railway Historical Association/Toronto Railway Museum

The Toronto Railway Museum, operated by the Toronto Railway Historical Association (TRHA), is located in the historic John Street Roundhouse – a site owned by the City and maintained by EDC. The Museum not only manages and exhibits the City's significant collection of railway rolling stock but also animates Roundhouse Park, serving as a key interpreter of Toronto's rail heritage. Built in 1929 by the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) to service steam locomotives, the Roundhouse itself is a designated National Historic Site. In 1988, the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) donated the Roundhouse to the City of Toronto for redevelopment as a railway museum, marking a pivotal moment in the preservation of the city's industrial history.

The TRHA was established in 2001 to collaborate with the City on the creation of this museum. Following City Council's approval in 2006 of a 60-year head lease with the John Street Roundhouse Development Corporation – to restore and revitalize the Roundhouse, expand Steam Whistle Brewing's lease, and secure \$4.8 million in prepaid rent – the groundwork was laid for the museum's development. In 2008, Council formally established a rail heritage museum in partnership with TRHA ([GM19.8](#)), leading to the museum's opening in 2010.

By 2013, the City finalized its agreement with TRHA, granting it responsibility for the animation and stewardship of the Roundhouse Park site through to 2069. Under this agreement, all revenue generated by TRHA—whether from museum operations or the annual patio rental—is directed back into the organization to support railway heritage programming and interpretation at the site. Additionally, the TRHA receives annual operational funding from the City, sourced from the licensing agreement for the water tower with the John Street Roundhouse Development Corporation. According to the 2025 licensing agreement, these fees are set to increase in the coming years, meaning the TRHA can anticipate a corresponding rise in operational support from the City.

Toronto's First Post Office

Toronto's First Post Office (TFPO) is managed by the Town of York Historical Society (TYHS), a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the site as both a museum and an active Canada Post outlet. TYHS oversees all aspects of daily operations, including programming, staffing, and fundraising through memberships, donations, and special events. The Society curates exhibitions highlighting early Toronto history, delivers public programs, and ensures the building's historical integrity is maintained. The City of Toronto has played a complementary role in this partnership, providing annual financial support. Since 1999, the City has contributed operational funding to TFPO, beginning with an allocation of \$27,000 to assist with its functions as a public heritage site. TFPO continues to benefit from annual support through a Directed Grant from EDC, enabling its ongoing operations and public engagement as a valued heritage landmark.

2.2 Establishing the Heritage Organization Operating Partnership Program (HOOP)

EDC proposes to create a formal program transforming the funds currently provided as directed grants into the Heritage Organization Operating Partnership Program (HOOP). This change will respect EDC's established funding relationships with Toronto's First Post Office and the Toronto Railway Museum as well as the Council-directed funding to the Campbell House Museum and align such grants with the City's Community Grants Policy,

The HOOP program has defined eligibility, application, assessment, and reporting requirements, replacing the current directed grant structure with a transparent and accountable framework. It is designed to enable the creation of tailored partnership and funding agreements for each museum recipient. These agreements will establish criteria and objectives that recognize the distinct roles each organization plays within Toronto's heritage ecosystem.

HOOP will provide stable municipal funding to not-for-profit heritage organizations that deliver museum and heritage services of public benefit via animating City-owned heritage facilities under an established agreement with the City. The program is not intended to support large arts and heritage organizations, such as the Art Gallery of Ontario or Royal Ontario Museum that do not meet the program eligibility criteria. Eligibility for HOOP is outlined in program guidelines (Attachment 4) and limited to not-for-profit heritage organizations that deliver museum or heritage services of city-wide significance, operate from, steward, or animate City-owned heritage assets; and/or have an established or Council-directed funding to provide public museum or heritage services.

Through these changes, HOOP transforms existing funding relationships into a compliant operating grant program, enhancing transparency, consistency, and accountability, while continuing to provide support to organizations that play a vital role in operating and animating Toronto's heritage assets.

2.3 Establishing the Museums and Heritage Sector Development Program (MHSDP)

There is a pressing need to increase municipal support for heritage organizations, activities, and projects throughout the Toronto, especially those serving equity-deserving communities and in areas outside the downtown core.

Toronto's heritage sector is largely sustained by a vibrant ecosystem of small, grassroots advocates and organizations embedded within local communities and dedicated to culturally relevant, community-responsive practices. To address the challenge of achieving more equitable City funding in the culture sector, EDC is proposing the Museums and Heritage Sector Development Funding Program. This initiative is designed to support heritage activities and organizations located outside Toronto's downtown core beginning in 2026.

The proposed microgrant program will provide grants ranging from \$7,000 to \$15,000 for projects, programs, and initiatives focused on the preservation, conservation, exhibition, and sharing of Toronto's diverse histories, as well as public engagement activities. By targeting smaller, community-based heritage groups – many of whom lack the capacity to compete for large-scale funding – the program aims to address existing gaps in equity and access. Ultimately, this approach will help ensure that funding and its associated public benefits are distributed more broadly across the full breadth of Toronto. The overall program, including eligibility and application process, is detailed in Attachment 5.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – List of Program Grants Funding Recipients in 2025

Attachment 2 – List of Directed Grants Funding Recipients in 2025

Attachment 3 – List of Event Sponsorships Recipients in 2025

Attachment 4 – Heritage Organization Operating Program Guidelines

Attachment 5 – City of Toronto Museums and Heritage Sector Development Program Guidelines