

SPARK Projects Call for Proposals

Cultural Hotspot is an annual arts, culture and community program that celebrates Toronto's outside-the-core communities through workshops, events and more. From June through October 2022 the Cultural Hotspot shines a spotlight on the Little Jamaica and Golden Mile neighbourhoods.

For Little Jamaica, this includes highlighting the communities as far west as Eglinton-West, Fairbank to the north, Oakwood-Vaughan to the south and Cedarvale to the east. And surrounding Golden Mile, the neighbourhoods of Bermondsey, Parma Court, Victoria Village, Wexford, Ionview, Clairlea and Clairlea-Birchmount will also be included.

Through seed funding, SPARK Projects supports emerging and established equity-deserving artists and arts organizations from diverse communities – enhancing artistic talents, while promoting local organizations and individual artists. SPARK Project funding is up to \$5,000 per project. Organizations may apply for up to \$2,500 in additional funds to support youth employment and mentorship costs, for a total of \$7,500 in project funding. There are typically 20 to 25 SPARK Projects in a funding cycle. Successful SPARK recipients that do not have official not-for-profit status must work with a trustee organization to receive funding. The trustee does not need to be confirmed at the application stage. Learn more about [Working with a Trustee](#).

We are seeking high impact and innovative project proposals that foster community engagement and create opportunities for people to connect and participate in community arts through workshops, activities, events and other initiatives.

SPARK Project Requirements

All SPARK Projects must be:

1. In line with the Cultural Hotspot theme of celebrating arts, culture and community
2. An inclusive and accessible arts and cultural project that engages community in the creation of the project and as audience members
3. Similar in scope to projects previously undertaken by the artist / organization
4. A project which the artist or organization brings some additional funding and/or in-kind support
5. Feasible – with a realistic budget, timeframe, etc.
6. Based in the Little Jamaica or Golden Mile area
7. Free to both project participants and the public

Priority will be given to those projects that meet some or all of the following:

1. Support emerging local artists
2. Engage people from equity-deserving communities (persons with disabilities, women, Indigenous, Black, persons of colour, LGBTQ2S, undocumented workers, immigrants and refugees, persons with low income, youth) and/or vulnerable populations (seniors, residents in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas, persons with low literacy, persons who are homeless or under-housed, victims of violence)
3. Provide opportunities for local youth employment or mentorship
4. Support a local community arts initiative currently active in the community

Proposal Process

Artists/Organizations interested in developing a SPARK Project should:

1. Attend a virtual Cultural Hotspot Community Connect information session, watch an edited recording (to be uploaded shortly on our [webpage](#)) or be a past SPARK or Signature Project funding recipient:
 - Thursday, October 21, from 1 to 3 p.m. – Little Jamaica
 - Tuesday, October 26, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.– Little Jamaica
 - Tuesday, November 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. – Golden Mile
 - Tuesday, November 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. – Little Jamaica
 - Tuesday, November 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. – Golden Mile
 - Thursday, December 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. – Golden Mile
2. Attend a virtual Funding Information Session or watch an edited recording (to be uploaded shortly on our [webpage](#)):
 - Tuesday, November 23, 2021, from 1 to 3 p.m.
 - Tuesday, December 7, 2021, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
 - Tuesday, January 11, 2022, from 1 to 3 p.m.
3. Contact [Nawfal Sheikh](#) to discuss potential project details
4. Submit a project proposal online by February 1, 2022 using the Cultural Hotspot Project application and budget forms

Deadline: February 1, 2022

1. Online application is the optimum way to apply. **Please note:** the application can be saved. We strongly suggest you preview the application in MSWord in advance, answering all the questions and then copy and paste into the online application.
2. Alternate application formats available upon request
3. Projects will be assessed by a curatorial committee
4. Projects of interest may be requested to submit additional information including support letters from project partners
5. Successful candidates will be invited to enter into a formal agreement to finalize the project details and funding agreement with the City of Toronto

Contact:

If you are interested in proposing a project, please contact us for details:

- Nawfal Sheikh, Community Cultural Coordinator, Nawfal.Sheikh@toronto.ca; 647-473-1894; or
- Visit [Toronto.ca/CulturalHotspot](https://toronto.ca/CulturalHotspot)