



2026 Guidelines

## Live Music Grant

Grant applications are due Friday,  
March 27, 2026 by 4:30 pm



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Land Acknowledgment We acknowledge the lands which constitute the present-day City of Mississauga as being part of the Treaty and Traditional Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, The Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Huron-Wendat and Wyandot Nations. We recognize these peoples and their ancestors as peoples who inhabited these lands since time immemorial. The City of Mississauga is home to many global Indigenous Peoples.

## Program Purpose

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The Live Music (LM) Grant Program provides funding to offset the eligible expenses (page 10) associated with the presentation of safe and inclusive live music events to Mississauga residents and visitors.

The LM program results from the City of Mississauga's Music Strategy and is designed to help grow Mississauga's music economy by animating our venues more frequently, generating revenue for musicians and venues, and creating new spaces for live music.

### Equity Statement

The City of Mississauga is committed to [equity and inclusion](#). The City welcomes and encourages applications from all eligible applicants that represent and serve Mississauga residents. Groups are encouraged to contact [grantsinfo@mississauga.ca](mailto:grantsinfo@mississauga.ca) with any questions about your eligibility and for guidance to prepare your application.

The City continuously seeks to improve access to grant programs and ensure grant applications are received from diverse and under-represented Mississauga communities. The City welcomes feedback on how this grant program can better meet the needs of Mississauga residents.

## Eligibility

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LM grants provide assistance in two categories: new concert presenters and established concert presenters. Presenters must meet the following eligibility criteria:

### 1. New Concert Presenters

- ✓ The “concert presenter” can be a musician, music venue, bar, restaurant, or concert production business.
- ✓ Concerts must feature a minimum of 50% Mississauga-based acts.
  - for musical groups, 50% of the members must be residents of Mississauga.
  - If a musical group is made up of one consistent “band leader” and rotating “supporting musicians,” the group will qualify as Mississauga-based if the band leader is a resident of Mississauga.
- ✓ Concerts must take place in Mississauga.
- ✓ Operating on a for-profit model.
- ✓ May apply to present a single concert, multi-day event or concert series.
- ✓ Can submit one application per annual term.

### 2. Established Concert Presenters

- ✓ Operating for four years or more.
- ✓ The “concert presenter” can be a musician, music venue, bar, restaurant or concert production business.
- ✓ Concerts must feature a minimum of 50% Mississauga-based acts.
  - for musical groups, 50% of the members must be residents of Mississauga.
  - If a musical group is made up of one consistent “band leader” and rotating “supporting musicians,” the group will qualify as Mississauga-based if the band leader is a resident of Mississauga.
- ✓ Concerts must take place in Mississauga.
- ✓ Operating on a for-profit model.
- ✓ May apply to present a single concert, multi-day event or concert series.
- ✓ Can submit one application per annual term

## Ineligibility

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Grants are **not available** for:

- X Events held outside the city of Mississauga;
- X Not-for-Profit Organizations;
- X Events already funded through other City programs;
- X Events whose primary theme or focus is not live music;
- X Business Improvement Areas (BIAs);

- Sports and athletic events, runs, or walks;
- Religious rites and ceremonies;
- Contests and competitions;
- Demonstrations, marches, or rallies;
- Trade shows and trade fairs;
- Conferences, workshops, training and professional development;
- Block parties, picnics, garden shows, street markets, or carnivals;
- Stand-alone parades;
- Concerts that are not open to the general public;
- Retroactive expenses or accumulated deficits;
- Capital projects; and
- Organizations or activities that the City deems may promote discrimination, contempt or hatred for any individual or entity.

**Please Note:** The City does not fund retroactively. If you choose to start your project before you know the funding results, please be aware that the City of Mississauga is under no obligation to support the project, and you undertake the activity entirely at your own risk.

## Application Requirements

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- All new applicants are **strongly advised** to attend one of the information sessions listed on pages 11-12.
- A fully completed application must be submitted by **Friday, March 27, 2026, by 4:30 p.m.**
- Application submissions must be completed online using the City of Mississauga's Grants Portal: (<https://apply-cityofmississauga.smapply.ca/>)
  - Applications cannot be submitted by e-mail, fax or paper copy.

Your application must include the following:

1. Answers to all the questions listed in the application
  - Including performance measures and targets related to your goals
2. Completed financial and statistical reporting sections
  - Include signed copy of detailed project budget
3. All required supporting documentation

**Please Note:** Please allow sufficient time to complete the application appropriately. Consider having a third party proofread your application prior to submission to ensure clarity and accuracy.

## Application process

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All grant applications must be submitted through the online [Grants Portal](#) no later than **Friday, March 27, 2026 by 4:30 p.m. EST**. The City will not consider incomplete or late applications. Applicants cannot submit applications and/or additional documentation by email, fax, paper copy or any other format outside of the grants portal.

If you have already created an account, you can use the login information you created to apply for previous funding.

### Returning applicants

Sign-in to the online [Grants Portal](#) by entering the email address and password associated with your account. If you have lost or forgotten your password, request a new password by selecting “forgot your password?”, located next to the sign-in button.

### First-time applicants

To set up an account, follow these steps:

1. Click the “register” button located at the top right corner of the log-in screen.
2. Select “register as an individual”.
3. Enter your name and email address.
4. Create a password.
5. Click “create account.”
6. Verify your account by clicking “send verification” link. This will send an email to the address you provided.
7. Open the email and click on the link to verify the account. Be sure to check your junk/spam folder.
8. From here, you will be able to access the Grants Portal.
9. Click “view programs” and continue the application process.

Once you have created your account, you will be able to access the Grants Portal during each cycle.

**Note:** only click the “apply” button once. Multiple clicks will duplicate your application.

The City of Mississauga’s Grants Portal is used by the Community Services department for all grant programs. Please ensure you have selected the correct grant program.

## Application Breakdown

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LM grant funding offsets eligible operating expenses associated with presenting a safe and inclusive live music event to Mississauga residents and visitors. Funding is for eligible expenses only, as outlined on page 10. The following criteria outlines funding eligibility:

New Concert Presenter	Established Concert Presenter
May apply for up to \$2,000 towards eligible concert expenses.	May apply for up to 50% of the concert's total operating budget or \$5,000, whichever is less.

The sections below provide an explanation for each section of the application.

### **Contact Information, Category of Presenter, and Grant Request**

Please provide your main contact and mailing information. Once approved for funding, this information is used for all correspondence and payments.

Please indicate which category of presenter you are applying as ("new and emerging" or "established") and the amount of funding you are applying for.

If you need clarification on any of these items, please contact the Recreation and Culture Division at [grantsinfo@mississauga.ca](mailto:grantsinfo@mississauga.ca).

### **Event Description, Event Goals and Outcomes**

Eligible applications are evaluated and compared using the following two areas of measurement:

1. Cultural Impact
2. Economic Impact

Please ensure you answer all the questions in the grant application completely. Your responses to each of the questions should not exceed the spaces provided and should reflect the evaluation criteria (*point form is acceptable.*)

The City of Mississauga has identified a number of priorities for culture and growth of the music ecosystem in Mississauga. These priorities are essential to ensure the success of your event. You are a key part of making sure we achieve them together. In the section below, answer each of the questions using the strategic priorities of the City to inform your answer. Each of your responses should be measurable and include a rationale for why you are undertaking them.

### **Event Description**

Provide a short description of what your event will contribute to Mississauga's music scene & economy (*no more than a paragraph*).

#### **1. Cultural Impact**

The City's diverse composition contributes to its distinct cultural identity. The following strategic priorities address this principle:

1. improving access to cultural opportunities
2. promoting equity and inclusion
3. supporting inter-cultural activities necessary for the success of the city

Using these strategic priorities, address the following questions.

- What is the rationale for your event and your selected location?
- What needs in Mississauga's music scene is your event addressing?
- How is your event developing new audiences?
- How are you creating safe and inclusive environments for people to participate in your event?
- How are you engaging different communities?
- Plans for encouraging communities to feel welcome and grow
  - Communities can include but are not limited to; artistic, neighbourhoods, 2SLGBTQI+, newcomer, Indigenous, Black and the disability communities

### **Outcomes**

Based on the plans and initiatives described in the above section, list your expected outcomes. Outcomes should be in point form and include measurements and the rationale for how they were determined.

Examples of outcomes/measurements: Audience numbers, new communities engaged, marketing initiatives, and innovative programming. To determine the best ways to measure your goals, the S.M.A.R.T. model can provide you with a good understanding of the grant requirements. This model stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-

based goals. You can find many resources related to the S.M.A.R.T. model on the internet. If you require further guidance on the S.M.A.R.T. model, please contact [grantsinfo@mississauga.ca](mailto:grantsinfo@mississauga.ca).

## 2. Economic Impact

Answer the following questions to outline your event's efforts:

- What is the rationale for your event and the selected location?
- If your event is ticketed, how many tickets are you aiming to sell?
- What economic opportunities are you creating for musicians, music venues, and other live music workers in Mississauga?
- What additional efforts are you making to hire and buy locally?
- How are you marketing and promoting your event(s) to generate the greatest impact?

## Outcomes

Based on the plans and initiatives described in the above section, list your expected outcomes. Outcomes should be in point form and include measurements and the rationale for how they were determined.

Outcome/measurements should include:

- Number of concerts created
- Number of individual Mississauga musicians paid / musicians from elsewhere paid
- Total attendance, including any attendees from outside Mississauga
- Total economic impact of your event(s) and economic impact specifically to Mississauga's music sector (revenue generated for local musicians, facility rental of Mississauga venues, other revenue for local music businesses)

To determine the best ways to measure your goals, the S.M.A.R.T model can provide you with a good understanding of the grant requirements. This model stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-based goals. You can find many resources related to the S.M.A.R.T. model on the internet. If you require further guidance on the S.M.A.R.T. model, please contact [grantsinfo@mississauga.ca](mailto:grantsinfo@mississauga.ca).

## **Financial Reporting**

This section describes your overall financial situation. Applicants applying for a LM grant are required to submit the following information:

### **1. Financial Reporting Table**

The Financial Reporting table in the application lists all eligible expenses that the LM Grant can cover. Please ensure that all applicable eligible expenses are fully populated in the table provided.

### **2. Budget**

Please upload a copy of your event budget, including all known and projected expenses and revenue. Please also use this section to explain how you have arrived at your financial projections. Detail any funds you or your business will be contributing to the event, as well as any other grants or funding sources obtained or anticipated outside of City of Mississauga grant funding. When including in-kind donations as revenue, they should also be included on the expense side of the budget.

## **Statistical Reporting**

Please complete this statistical reporting section in its entirety and disregard any question you consider not relevant to your event(s). If your omission rate is high for most of the data required, please provide an explanation on a separate sheet why you did not supply the required data.

## **Supporting Documentation**

For the Music Adjudicator Panel to verify and review your application, the following up-to-date documentation must be included in your funding package:

### **New Concert Presenters**

- A schedule and timing (draft run-of-show) for your event(s)

### **Established Concert Presenters**

- A schedule and timing (draft run-of-show) for your event(s)
- Evidence of Operations for 4 Years or More
- A strategic plan or business plan (if available)

Documents that provide evidence of operations for 4 years or more could include financial statements, concert flyers, musical release history, etc. This is MANDATORY for all applicants applying in the Established Concert Presenter category.

Please upload each of these documents into the corresponding section of the Grants Portal.

## Eligible Expenses

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- Artist/Performance Fees
- Facility/Venue Rentals (excludes applications from venues, bars and restaurants)
- Marketing & Promotion Expenses
- A/V technicians/staffing
- A/V equipment rentals

## Review Process

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Staff review all grants applications for completeness and eligibility.

All eligible applications are reviewed and evaluated by a panel of Music Adjudicators. The panel consists of practicing music industry professionals and residents who are not directly involved with any organization or individual that applied for funding. The assessment panel is responsible for recommending an organization or individual for funding and at what amount.

All applicants are notified of their final results once funding recommendations are approved by Council.

**Please Note:** Receipt of a grant in one year does not guarantee funding in the following fiscal year.

## Payment

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Successful applicants to the Live Music grant program will receive 100% of their grant amount in one payment following final approval by Council. Although the City aims to distribute funding in a timely manner, please note that the City cannot guarantee the delivery of funds by a specific date, and thus, your funds may not be delivered prior to your event. New grant recipients must complete a Vendor Request form and an Electronic Funds Transfer form in order to receive funding. Grant recipients will receive both documents via email upon approval of the grant and must email the completed forms to [grantsinfo@mississauga.ca](mailto:grantsinfo@mississauga.ca).. Existing grant recipients who have any changes to their contact information, address or registered business name (when applicable) must also submit an updated Vendor Request form. The contact information provided in the Vendor Request Form must match the information provided in the 2026 application. Please Note: Applications may be approved for less than the maximum grant amount and less than what has been requested.

## Reporting Requirements

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LM grant recipients are required to submit a final report on their event(s) by **January 15, 2027**. Receipts for eligible expenses can be submitted prior to the final report deadline. If invoices are not received prior to the deadline, they must be submitted with the final report. Reporting guidelines will be made available to successful applicants by the fall of 2026 and must be returned to [grantsinfo@mississauga.ca](mailto:grantsinfo@mississauga.ca).

**Please Note:** Future funding may not be made available to grant recipients that have failed to meet reporting requirements for any approved grants.

## LM Grant Program Information Session

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Information sessions will be held online through webinars. Applicants that have not received a City of Mississauga Live Music Grant before are **strongly encouraged to attend** one of the information sessions to be eligible for funding. All other applicants are encouraged to attend one of the information sessions to hear about the grant process, the requirements, tips for success and to ask questions.

### Live Music Grant Webinars

Thurs. March 12, 12 p.m.-1 p.m.  
[Register now](#)

Mon. March 23, 6 p.m.-7 p.m.  
[Register now](#)

Applications are due Friday, March 27, 2026, by 4:30 p.m.

For up-to-date details contact: [grantsinfo@mississauga.ca](mailto:grantsinfo@mississauga.ca)

## Grant Application Deadline

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**2026 LM Grant Applications are due:  
Friday, March 27, 2026, by 4:30 p.m.**

**E-MAIL:** [grantsinfo@mississauga.ca](mailto:grantsinfo@mississauga.ca)

**PHONE:** 905-615-3200 Ext. 5476

**WEBSITE:** [www.mississauga.ca/grants](http://www.mississauga.ca/grants)

- **Late applications will not be accepted.**
- **Application and Guidelines are subject to change.**

More information is available from the City of Mississauga, Recreation and Culture Division. All applicants to this program are strongly advised to discuss their applications with staff. Your questions and comments about this program are welcomed and appreciated.

## Appendix 1: Terms and Conditions of Grant Assistance

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Please note; if your organization (the “Recipient”) receives the financial assistance (the “Grant”) from The Corporation of the City of Mississauga (the “City”) under this Live Music Grant Program (the “Program”), the following conditions will apply:

1. Pursuant to the current terms and conditions, the City may terminate the Grant and demand a partial or full repayment of the Grant provided if:
  - a) the Recipient makes misrepresentations in its application for the Grant;
  - b) the Grant is not used for the purpose of the services/programs or project as described in the application;
  - c) the services/programs or project proposed in the application is not commenced in a timely manner as described in its application;
  - d) the services/programs or project is not completed within the fiscal year for which the Grant was intended for, except otherwise approved by the City;
  - e) the services/programs or project is completed without requiring the total amount of the Grant;
  - f) the Recipient ceases operating or dissolves;
  - g) the Recipient ceases to operate as a non-profit organization;
  - h) the Recipient merges or amalgamates with any other party;
  - i) the Recipient breaches any of the terms and conditions of the grant assistance; or,
  - j) the Recipient breaches any of the provisions of the Ontario Human rights code, as amended, or any other applicable law, regulations, the City’s corporate policies, by-laws or Program guidelines in its operations.
2. It is the responsibility of the Recipient to notify the City’s Recreation and Culture Division immediately of the occurrence of any of the grounds for which the City may demand repayment of the Grant provided (listed in Term #1 above) and/or if there are any changes in the funding of the project from that considered in the application.
3. The Grant shall only be used for the purposes outlined in the application subject to City approval. Any change to the purpose of the Grant is prohibited, except otherwise approved in writing by the City.
4. The Recipient will make or continue to make attempts to secure funding from other sources as indicated in its application. If the Recipient fails to secure sufficient funding for the services/programs or project as indicated in its application; the City, at its sole discretion, may demand a partial or full repayment of the Grant.

5. The Recipient shall keep and make available proper books of account and records of the financial management of the funds provided by the City in accordance with generally accepted business and accounting practices, the Recipient authorizes the City or its agents to inspect any records, invoices, and documents in the custody or control of the Recipient which relate to the Grant at all reasonable times.
6. The Recipient is required to submit a final report on the operational, project and/or capital activities as required by the City. The Grant may not be made available to organizations that fail to meet reporting requirements for any approved Grant.
7. The Recipient represents and warrants that the services/programs or project shall not be represented as City services/programs or City project, and that the Recipient does not have the authority to hold itself out as an agent of the City in any way. The Recipient shall not hold out the City as a partner or otherwise responsible for any obligations relating to the services/programs or project.
8. The Recipient shall acknowledge the support of the City in all advertising, publicity, programs, signage and plaques relating to the services/programs or project for which funds are granted.
9. In the circumstance the Recipient disbands, the Recipient must notify the City immediately and dispose of their assets in a responsible manner. Any unused portion of the Grant remains the property of the City and shall be returned to the City upon request.
10. The Recipient shall not transfer or assign the Grant or any part thereof to another person.
11. The Recipient acknowledges and agrees that any action taken by or on behalf of the City shall be unconditionally subject to the *Municipal Act*, *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, as amended, and any other applicable law or regulations governing the City or its agents, including the City's By-laws and Policies (collectively the "Applicable Law") and the City shall not be required to take any action in respect of the Program, or otherwise, if such action would be, or would be reasonably likely to be, in violation of any such Applicable Law or ultra vires the powers of the City.
12. The Recipient acknowledges and agrees that City Staff may accept tickets to events and performances, in accordance with the City's Conflict of Interest Policy, respecting the Acceptance of Gifts, Benefits, or Favours Section of the Policy and that the City and the Recipient shall at all times adhere to rules set forth therein.
13. The Recipient, including its subcontractors, employees, workers, volunteers and agents, shall indemnify and save the City harmless, including the City's elected officials, officers, employees, agents and contractors (the "Indemnified Person"), from and against any loss, cost and expense incurred by the City because of any demand, action or claim brought against the City as a result of any loss or damage to property, personal injury or death, or any other losses or damages, both direct or indirect, howsoever and whatsoever incurred, suffered or sustained by the Recipient, including its subcontractors, employees, workers, volunteers and agents, or by a person other than the Recipient arising out of or in

any way related to the Grant received or any obligation of the Recipient under this Program, or by anyone for whom in law the Recipient is responsible.

14. The Recipient, including its subcontractors, employees, workers, volunteers and agents, agrees that it shall absolutely and irrevocably releases the City and its Indemnified Person from any liability, loss, damages, costs, expense or claims suffered or incurred by the Recipient, including its subcontractors, employees, workers, volunteers and agents, whether arising in contract, tort, negligence, common law, equity or otherwise, in any connection with the Grant received or any obligation of the Recipient under this Program.
15. The City reserves the right to verify the membership lists provided to the City.
16. The Recipient agrees to receive information on the Program or other related information, news, events, promotions, offers and contests from the City.
17. The Recipient understands and agrees that the receipt of a Grant in one year does not guarantee funding in the following fiscal year.
18. The Recipient shall comply with all of the provisions of the Program guidelines.
19. Pursuant and in addition to the City's application requirements, receipt of funding and compliance with this Agreement shall be conditional on the recipient, or any recipient staff member acting in their job capacity, not directly or indirectly engaging in any political activity, including not publicly endorsing, supporting, opposing, or aligning itself with any political organization, party, campaign, elected representative, or candidate. Recipients shall be required to comply at all times with the Income Tax Act, the Canada Elections Act, the Elections Act of Ontario, the Lobbying Act, and all other applicable laws respecting same. For greater clarity, no funding shall be permitted to be used, either directly or indirectly, for any political purposes, including towards any elected representatives, political candidate, campaign, party, or organization.
20. The Recipient acknowledges that general liability insurance may be required and agrees to obtain, at its sole cost and expense, and maintain insurance that is satisfactory to the City of Mississauga with a financially sound and reputable insurance company licensed to underwrite insurance in the Province of Ontario. A certificate of insurance may be required to the inclusive limit of Two Million (\$2,000,000.00) OR Five Million (\$5,000,000.00) Dollars per occurrence, adding the City as an additional insured, based on the City's assessment of risk based on the activities, facility rental(s), and/or provision of goods/services provided through the grant received.

The City reserves its rights to amend or impose additional terms and conditions as is deemed necessary by the City.

## Appendix B: Appeals process

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The City of Mississauga offers a fair and transparent appeals process for applicants seeking reconsideration of funding decisions. All funding decisions are based on criteria and available budget. The City will only accept appeals if there is evidence of procedural errors in the review process, not for reassessment of the application's quality or merit. A procedural error is a deviation from the established review process that governs the eligibility, evaluation and/or recommendation of grants.

### Step 1: Submit an appeal

- Appeals must be submitted within five business days of receiving the funding notice to [grantsinfo@mississauga.ca](mailto:grantsinfo@mississauga.ca).
- The appeal must be no more than one page, single-spaced in 12-point font.
- It should include details of the procedural error(s), along with supporting evidence.
- No new supporting materials will be accepted.

### Step 2: Review

- City staff will confirm receipt of the appeal within five business days.
- The appeal will be reviewed based on the validity based on the grants policy, guidelines, review procedures and evidence.
- If it is determined that the appeal is invalid, the original decision stands. If valid, staff may request additional information or a meeting.
- The review process is based only on the original application materials.
- Upon review, decisions may include:
  - **Ineligible:** appeal does not meet the eligibility criteria for appeals.
  - **Upheld:** no change to the original funding recommendation.
  - **Successful:** funding decision revised based on procedural errors.
  - **Reversal:** reduced or reversed funding allocations may occur if serious concerns arise.

### Step 3: Final decision

- The Commissioner of Community Services will approve the final decision and City staff will communicate it in writing.

Applications are due Friday, March 27, 2026, by 4:30 p.m.

- A presentation of the decision may occur at a Council meeting, in some cases.
- All decisions are final with no further appeals permitted.