

VANCOUVER FOUNDATION NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL GRANTS



Picture retrieved from @eastvanskateclub

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



**Neighbourhood
Small Grants**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Neighbourhood Small Grants (NSG) is a grassroots grant-making program that provides grants between \$50-\$500 directly to individuals. These grants are dedicated towards funding events and projects at the neighbourhood level in order to build a stronger sense of community and belonging. NSG had been fully funded by the Vancouver Foundation until 2014, however as NSG broadened its geographical scope, the program has also received contributions from co-funding organizations since 2015. Each year, the Vancouver Foundation conducts an evaluation of the NSG program in order to highlight best practices, address challenges, and identify opportunities for improving the program in the future. This evaluation is based from survey responses from NSG members including project leaders, grant committee members, and program coordinators.

Our findings highlighted that NSG continues to be a very positive experience for NSG members, allowing them to make stronger and lasting connections to their community. Main challenges were to ensure that projects are inclusive and accessible to community members, especially marginalized members of the community, as well as promoting NSG to all members of the community. Additionally, NSG continues to be demographically homogenous, which may present challenges regarding reaching its goals of promoting community inclusion and cohesion.

NSG 2019 At a Glance

\$610,887

in grant funds distributed to community by
Vancouver Foundation and other partner
organization funders

\$301,000

funds provided by Vancouver Foundation
to cover NSG program coordination costs

1,374

projects implemented across
British Columbia

26

communities represented across
British Columbia

NSG Stats

61%

of projects approved led by
new applicants

67%

of grant applicants between the
age of 25-54

5%

of grant applicants identify as
Indigenous

About This Report

In 2019, NSG spanned 26 communities across British Columbia. This report is an evaluation using survey data collected from NSG participants from 26 communities (project leader demographic data excludes UBC and South Okanagan). These survey responses include project leaders, granting committee members and program coordinators. This report is also rooted in a literature review and a story telling approach to analyzing qualitative data. The goal of this report is to highlight the strengths of the NSG program while also identifying challenges and providing recommendations in order to strengthen the program in the future. As NSG aims to widen its reach across British Columbia, this report will examine methods in which projects can become more inclusive and accessible in order to deepen community engagement.

This report is broken down into summary reports for each NSG group (project leaders, granting committee members, program coordinators), regional reports highlighting region-specific strengths and challenges across the province, selected story highlights, as well as infographics outlining areas and ways for improving NSG as a whole.

Regional Breakdown

Sea to Sky

- Squamish
- Whistler

Vancouver Island

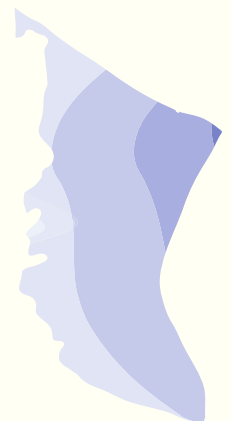
- Victoria • Clayoquot Sound
- Parksville • Nanaimo • North Island-Mt. Waddington
- Salt Spring Island

Fraser Valley

- Abbotsford
- Maple Ridge

Metro Vancouver

- 6 neighbourhoods of Vancouver • Burnaby • Richmond • New Westminister • North Surrey • South Surrey • White Rock • North Vancouver • West Vancouver
- Lions Bay • Delta • UBC Campus



STORYTELLING

Allowing communities to articulate their stories is a central feature of NSG. With this in mind, this report will highlight select stories from NSG's 2019 funding year to tell the stories that illuminate and humanize the quantitative data and statistics presented.

These stories will be interspersed throughout this report.

Storytelling is a form of qualitative research and knowledge mobilization. It allows researchers to demonstrate how “people construct meaning in their lives by crafting stories about their direct experiences” (Riley and David, 2018, p. 5). Storytelling provides snapshots of information to humanize data, but for a more holistic picture, works best in collaboration with other data, is linked to place, allowing communities to highlight their values and envision their own futures (Sandercock 2003, 18; Pstross et al. 2014, p.553-554)

NSG PRINCIPLES

NSG has 6 core principles that reflect the central values of the program:

Everyone has gifts*
Small is beautiful*
Local decisions are best*
Where we live matters
We learn together
Everyone is invited*

*Reflects the principles emphasized within this report

By focusing on these four NSG principles, this report examines the effect that small grants, led by and for local community members, have on improving community wellbeing. Individuals do not require large amounts of financial or institutional support to create long lasting positive change in their communities. Moreover, this report highlights the diversity of community members who are able to access the benefits from these grassroots projects and the value of supporting diversity and inclusion.

EVERYONE HAS GIFTS

NSG recognizes the value of passions, skills, and life experiences of the community. Community members are able to create meaningful outcomes.

EVERYONE IS INVITED

NSG is committed to diversity and inclusion. Grants are available to everyone, NSG prioritizes collaboration and ensuring everyone feel heard.

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

NSG emphasizes the ability of small-scale budgets and projects to make a meaningful difference to communities.

LOCAL DECISIONS ARE BEST

Local communities understand their needs and wants. This includes both locally planned events and local grant making committees.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS:



GUILDFORD LGBTQ: PINOYS LOVE BBQ & KARAOKE

"Many Queer Filipinos in the suburbs are out to their family however, remained in the closed or quiet among heterosexual filipino lead organization groups in Surrey and including other nearby suburbs. Hence, Guildford LGBTQ Group: Pinoy Loves BBQ and Karaoke was started as a summer project in 2019," -Gary Lising, Surrey

Summary

The Guildford LGBTQ: Pinoy Love BBQ & Karaoke was born from Project Leader Gary Lising's, observation that Surrey lacked space for LGBTQ+ community members, including the Philipino LGBTQ+ community.

Emphasized NSG Principles

"small is beautiful"

"local decisions are best"



NSG Participant Demographic Breakdown

Project Leaders

64%

Homeowners

81%

Long term residents in their community (5 or more years)

79%

Identify as female

90%

Identify English as the language they are most comfortable using

Granting Committee

69%

Homeowners

80%

Long term residents in their community (5 or more years)

76%

Identify as female

98%

Identify English as the language they are most comfortable using

Across project leaders and granting committee members, NSG participants don't represent the BC populations demographic diversity. This remains the case across all regions in the province. As a result of the lack of diversity in NSG grant makers and recipients, there is a possibility that NSG projects may be unable to draw a diverse crowd to their events. Granting decisions can benefit from a diversity of world views and perspectives. As one of NSG's main principles is "everyone is invited", the lack of diversity could threaten how welcomed marginalized groups feel in participating in NSG. Especially as Vancouver Foundation aims to expand NSG more widely throughout the province, emphasis should be made to draw on participants from outside the current demographics of NSG members. Broadening member bases to include individuals from various gender, sexuality, disabled, and socio-economic backgrounds, as well as a greater number of BIPOC members will grow and improve NSG's ability to achieve program goals and ensure projects are inclusive and accessible to all.

NSG Project Breakdown

Top 5 NSG Project Types

1

Block Parties
(29% of all projects)



2

Other
(13% of all projects)



3

Cultural Activities
(9% of all projects)



4

Arts
(8% of all projects)



5

Food Security
(6% of all projects)



Block parties remain the most popular event across the province. Block parties allow for community members to come together and provide a free, accessible means of building community. Such a large amount of projects being labelled as "other" demonstrates the creativity of project leaders across the province to create diverse events for their community including mural painting, senior community building and neighbourhood haunted alleys. NSG provides the freedom to community members to discover what events work best in their neighbourhoods and encourages creativity and diversity in order to make events as engaging and inclusive as possible.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS:

OUR VOICES, OUR STORIES:
INTERGENERATIONAL STORYTELLING ACROSS
ABILITIES



Summary

Project Leader Vivian Ly's project stemmed from a desire to give autistic people an opportunity to tell their stories. The event included three generations of people who shared poems and stories, as well as picture books.

Emphasized NSG Principles

"everyone has gifts"

"Small is beautiful"



"It's also not often that autistic kids meet autistic adults. It's powerful to know that we do all grow up, that it's okay to be autistic and that autistic adults exist.

There are adults in our group who wish they had these kinds of connections when they were younger.

Even for me as a 20-something, I always appreciate the opportunity to meet my autistic and disabled elders--these tangible connections that I really value. Also it's fun just to do something simple like make some picture books and chill out together for an afternoon"-Vivian Ly, Vancouver

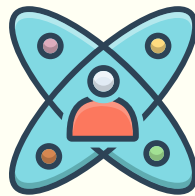
Project Leaders

2019 Highlights

INTERGENERATIONAL & INTERCULTURAL CONNECTIONS



LASTING CONNECTIONS



COMMUNITY PRIDE



CAPACITY BUILDING



"I also loved see the pride in one particular girl's eyes as she made her batch of bannock herself. She formed each piece, and then cooked it all herself, telling us, 'This is for my family, I want to cook it.' "

-Project Leader, Metro Vancouver

As the quote above demonstrates, the project leaders were enthusiastic about the connections they made and facilitated in their communities, both during their events and in the longterm. Respondents also noted that events that allowed for capacity and skill building for project leaders, volunteers, and participants were particularly meaningful and successful. Many respondents noted that events that allowed both the project leaders and participants to feel a sense of pride in their communities were especially memorable and impactful. Respondents highlighted a diversity of community connections and experiences as important. Among the variety of community connections made throughout the projects, both intergenerational and intercultural experiences were emphasized by a large number of respondents.

Project Leaders

2019 Challenges and Areas for Improvement

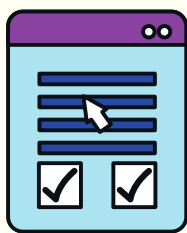
ACCESSIBILITY & DIVERSITY



PROMOTION



PLANNING & ORGANIZATION



"Everyone in our neighbour was personally approached and invited and encouraged to join our group. The invitations to the gatherings are extended to everyone who agreed to participate. ...Culturally diverse people have chosen not to attend. We are going to try to address this in our neighbourhood walkabout and try to find a way to encourage all to participate.."

-Project Leader, West Vancouver

Many project leaders self-identify their own projects as diverse and accessible. Respondents may understand accessibility and diversity in limited ways, noting that their events were free or wheelchair accessible. A number of respondents noted a desire to be more inclusive, but felt unsure of how to approach the process. A more commonly identified challenge was event promotion, which is a challenge that could be addressed by providing tools and examples of planning more inclusive and diverse events. Infographics on diverse event planning can be located on page 21. Numerous respondents noted that they struggled to promote their event to the broad range of community members they wished to reach. Finally, many respondents noted that they struggled to find and subsequently organize the volunteers helping to facilitate their events.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS:



MEMOIR WRITING FOR SENIORS

Summary

Memoir Writing for Seniors by Project Leaders Elizabeth Wallace and Ben Nuttall-Smith seeks to promote recall memories and emphasize the significance of seniors' voices .

Emphasized NSG Principles

"everyone has gifts,"
"small is beautiful"



"Seniors often feel they are becoming invisible and irrelevant as they age. Many conclude that they have little to contribute to today's society. After the three workshops, the seniors showed increased appreciation of the importance of their memoirs. Some participants shared pictures they had drawn to augment their stories. There was a marked increase in confidence all round as a result of this project."

-Elizabeth Wallace, South Surrey and White Rock

Granting Committees/ Program Coordinators

2019 Highlights

TEAMWORK



COMMUNICATION



DIVERSITY



TECHNOLOGY



"The diversity of experiences, genders and perspectives helped me learn how to appreciate different projects"

- Grant committee member, Metro Vancouver

Committee member and coordinator responses were overwhelmingly positive. Respondents emphasized what worked best for their committees included having strong leadership from their program coordinator which allowed members to work together and communicate effectively even when members had differing opinions. Committees comprised of individuals from diverse backgrounds including age, gender, and ethnicity also provided a positive experience for members allowing them to meet new people in their community. Providing access to granting applications online was also identified as successful as it allowed members to review applications prior to meetings in order for meetings to flow smoothly and efficiently. Online access also allowed members who were unable to attend meetings to provide comments on applications.

Granting Committees/ Program Coordinators

2019 Challenges and Areas for Improvement

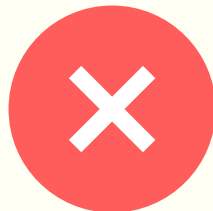
PROMOTION



MEETING TIMES



INCOMPLETE APPLICATION REJECTION



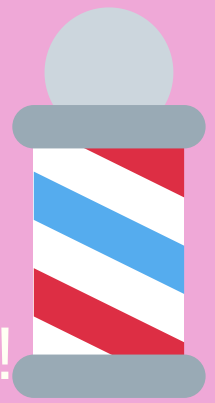
"When project applications are not full or don't answer the questions with sufficient detail to know, and we have difficulties with language or in getting more info, we have a much harder time. I'm curious if the application form could be changed"

- Grant committee member, Metro Vancouver

Due to the voluntary nature of the granting committee, coordinators and committee members identified their main challenge as finding an appropriate meeting time for the entire group. Having access to applications online was helpful to allow committee members to comment on applications despite not being able to attend all meetings. Committees in smaller communities also found it difficult to find enough members and asked for support raising awareness regarding NSG in their communities. Program coordinators also commented that many of their committee members were "inclined to reject applications with insufficient information" and those that had errors due to language barriers from the applicant. Coordinators emphasized the importance of following up with applicants and giving applications a thorough review rooted in the NSG principles before rejecting an application.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS:

SEXY SENIORS HAIR MAKEOVER!



Summary

Sexy Seniors Hair Makeover by Project leader, Lisa Morgan, addressed a need for affordable haircuts among seniors on Vancouver Island.

Emphasized NSG Principles

"local decisions are best"

"I was very pleased to be able to apply for a service for my community citizens. Living in a tourist area on the west coast of Vancouver Island tends to offer higher prices, including basic haircuts...Over all, was a fun and success day and continue to get asked 'can you do this again'"

**-Lisa Morgan,
Vancouver Island**



Recommendations

Project Leaders



Provide workshops/resources on methods to create inclusive and accessible events that go beyond free admission or events in public areas.



Provide resources for event promotion including how to promote events across various platforms (social media, in person, flyers, etc.).



Provide workshops/resources on how to write a successful grant application, with a focus on those who may face language barriers and those with low literacy.



Strengthen existing channels to improve communication and sharing amongst project leaders to share stories and learn from one another.

Granting Committees/Program Coordinators



Promote NSG to and with community organizations that work with marginalized groups, racialized groups, and low income members of the community in order to increase diversity of applicants.



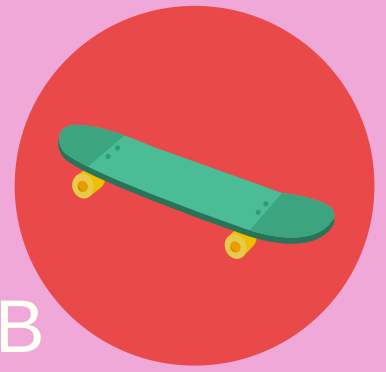
Focus on the recruitment of new members to join committees, especially youth and BIPOC members.



Provide more opportunities for members to mentor and attend events. Allow members to hear stories from project leaders to provide guidance and share successes and challenges.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS:

EAST VAN SKATEBOARD CLUB



Summary

Jeff and Jessica Thorburn are the Project Leaders for East Vancouver Skateboard Club which hosts meet ups in various East Vancouver locations including Strathcona Park, Mount Pleasant Park, and Granville Island.

Emphasized NSG Principles

"small is beautiful."
"local decisions are best"



"We frequently had over 20 young people out to either try skateboarding for the first time, or to skate with the growing group of friends they had made in the community. The extra boards allowed us to offer opportunities to those without boards, or those just looking to try something different than what they have"-Jeff Thorburn, Vancouver

Regional Report: Metro Vancouver

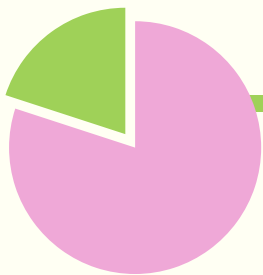


79% of NSG projects are located in Metro Vancouver

\$455,133 in grant funding allocated (\$35,000 by co-funding NSG partners), 75% of total funding for 2019

Metro Vancouver is NSG's largest region, representing 15 communities.

NSG has a long-term history in Metro Vancouver, with many communities joining the program as early as 1999. Due to these long term partnerships and sheer size of the region, existing NSG data tends to be skewed to reflect the experiences of project leaders and grant committee members located in the region.



80%

of all Indigenous led events are in Metro-Vancouver

n=68

91%

of all events led by youth and young adults (under the age of 24) are in Metro Vancouver

n=114

52%

of granting committee members were born in Canada

n=79

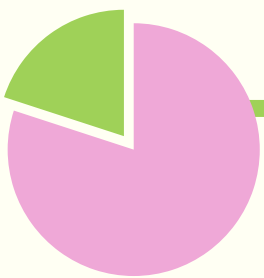
REGIONAL REPORT: SEA TO SKY



2% of NSG projects are located in the Sea to Sky region

**\$22,170 in grant funding allocated (\$8,000 by co-funding
NSG partners), 4% of total funding for 2019**

One of NSG's smallest and newest regions, the Sea to Sky region represents two communities in BC, and was established beginning in 2017. The majority of events and projects in the Sea to Sky region tend to focus primarily on block parties and community socials. This provides an opportunity for new and returning project leaders to use their creativity in order to propose new, diverse and imaginative events to bring their communities together beyond block parties.



0

Indigenous led projects

0.09%

of all projects led by youth and young
adults (under the age of 24 years) are in
the Sea to Sky region

n=114

100%

of granting committee members born
in Canada

n=7

STORY HIGHLIGHTS:

EID CELEBRATION AT THE PARK



Summary

Dalia Bakkaoui is the project leader for Eid Celebration at the Park, which seeks to share the celebration of Eid in Richmond. The project is family friendly and focused on engaging the whole community, not only the Muslim community.

Emphasized NSG Principles

"everyone is invited"

"It is an annual event that we, a group of moms out of Richmond, decided to hold every year to bring the Muslim community and other communities together, sharing our joy with other cultures and giving them an idea of the meaning of eid in our culture. This event is held every year at king george park, weather permitting and it is free and open to the general public."-Dalia Bekkaoui, Richmond



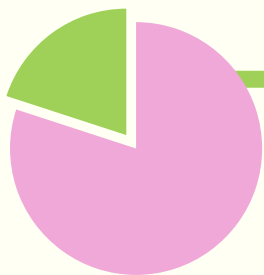
REGIONAL REPORT: FRASER VALLEY



4% of NSG projects are located in Fraser Valley

\$46,244 in grant funding allocated (\$20,000 by co-funding NSG partners), 8% of total funding for 2019

One of NSG's smallest communities, the Fraser Valley region represents two communities in BC, and was established beginning in 2015. The Fraser Valley region focuses primarily on block parties and similar events. Block parties represent an opportunity for project leaders to focus on being more inclusive of everyone in their communities. Additionally, there is space for project leaders to use their creativity to go beyond the block party to create more inclusive and diverse events



4%

of regional projects led by
Indigenous persons

n=74

5%

of all projects led by youth and young
adults (under the age of 24 years) are in
Fraser Valley

n=114

100%

of granting committee members born
in Canada

n=20

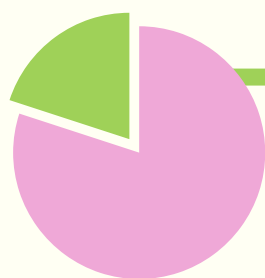
REGIONAL REPORT: VANCOUVER ISLAND



9% of NSG projects are located in Vancouver Island

**\$59,340 in grant funding allocated (\$19,000 by co-funding
NSG partners), 10% of total funding for 2019**

Vancouver Island is NSG's second largest region, representing 6 communities. The region began with two communities in 2015 and has been growing ever since. The Vancouver Island region features a relatively broader diversity of projects when compared to other regions outside of Metro Vancouver. There are multiple LGBTQ+ and Indigenous focused projects in the Vancouver Island region, suggesting that diversity and efforts to think beyond block parties are being undertaken.



16%

of regional projects led by
Indigenous persons

n=116

7%

of all projects led by youth and young
adults (under the age of 24 years) are in
Vancouver Island

n=114

73%

of granting committee members born in
Canada

n=20

COVID-19 STORY HIGHLIGHT:



MEMOIR WRITING FOR SENIORS IN ISOLATION

"This distance memoir writing class was a welcome escape during this ongoing pandemic. My joy of writing had been shelved for some time and the coach was like an oasis that rejuvenated me back into it".-participant

"I found it very cathartic to write about dealing with Covid-19 and how it was changing my life and the lives of those around me." -participant

Although the effects of Covid-19 within British Columbia weren't evident until the 2020 granting year, the current moment is an opportunity for project leaders to consider how to adapt projects for Covid-19 .

Project Leader, Elizabeth Wallace, was able to adapt her 2019 Memoir Writing for Seniors project (see: page 10) to be compatible with the unique circumstances brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. Elizabeth moved her promotion online to email and digital flyers sent to seniors centres and non-profits. Initially, she communicated with the seniors by telephone and then later, by Zoom. At the end of the course, the group was able to meet at an outdoor beachfront patio with distancing and mask protocols to share their memoirs.



RESOURCES



The following infographics are directed towards project leaders, grant committee members, and program coordinators in order to address some of the challenges and recommendations outlined in this report.

These infographics provide general guidance and tips to address common challenges, however program coordinators, project leaders and grant committee members are encouraged to adapt these to fit the needs of their community in their region.

Page 24
Leaders

Inclusive Event Planning 101 for Project

Page 25
Coordinators

Inclusive Event Planning 101 for Program

Page 26
Leaders

Event Planning Logistics 101 for Project

Page 27 Land Acknowledgement 101 for Project Leaders and Committee Members

Page 28
Leaders

Social Media Promotion for Project

Page 29
Leaders

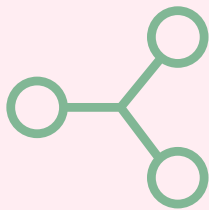
Grant Writing 101 for Project



INCLUSIVE EVENT PLANNING 101

For Project Leaders

Ask yourself what diversity means in your community and what ethnicities, disabilities, ages, languages, family structures, and sexual and gender identities make up your community.



Build relationships through informal meetings, such as going for coffee, with existing organizations (eg. multi-faith groups and LGBTQ groups) that support diversity in your community for their partnership and involvement.

Offer payment or other gestures of appreciation for the time and effort of marginalized peoples.



Be sincere in your efforts to seek out ways to reach members of your community that might otherwise feel left out. (I.e. translating your promotional material).

Know that it is okay to make mistakes when you are learning. Accept your mistakes and allow yourself to grow from them.

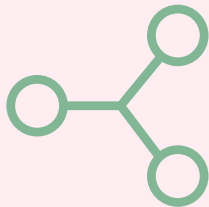




INCLUSIVE EVENT PLANNING 101

For Program Coordinators

Seek demographic data to understand what diversity means in your community and what ethnicities, disabilities, ages, languages, family structures, and sexual and gender identities make up your community.



Seek buy-in from existing organizations that support diversity in your community for their partnership and involvement.

Offer honorariums or other gestures of appreciation for the time and effort of marginalized peoples.



While avoiding tokenization, seek out ways to reach members of your community that might otherwise feel left out. (I.e. translating your promotional material).

Know that it is okay to make mistakes when you are learning. Accept your mistakes and allow yourself to grow from them.



EVENT PLANNING LOGISTICS 101 FOR PROJECT LEADERS

Compiled based on the results of the 2019
granting year's Project Leaders' survey

LOOK FOR THE HELPERS

Seek out the help of
community members you
know you can rely on for
help with your project.



CONSIDER THE TIMING

Consider what other events
in the community might be
happening, but don't try to
find a "perfect" time. There
will always be someone who
cannot attend.



BUDGET CREATIVELY

Seek out discounts or look
at the dollar store for craft
and party supplies on a
budget .



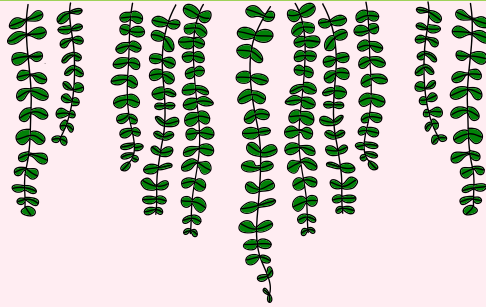
PLAN FOR RAIN

Don't let the rain spoil your
fun. Have a plan for what
you will do if it rains: A
raincheck day, a tent, or an
indoor location.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 101

For Project Leaders



1

Consider where a land acknowledgement best fits into your event. Often, they fit well at the start of your event and then perhaps again at the end

2

Reflect on the meaning behind a land acknowledgement, why it is important, and what you want the intended outcomes to be

3

Know who the Indigenous occupants of the land are and how to pronounce the Indigenous names; know the names of relevant treaties (most of British Columbia is unceded/not covered by treaties) and how to pronounce relevant place names. For help visit: <https://www.whose.land/en/>

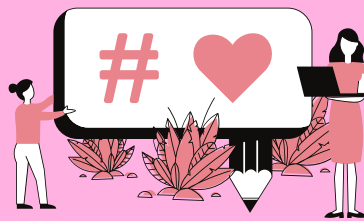
4

Use the right language: don't misrepresent the past and ongoing situations of Indigenous peoples by using sugarcoated words. Use the present tense to refer to existing Indigenous peoples

5

If you seek out an Indigenous community member to do a land acknowledgement, compensate them for their labour





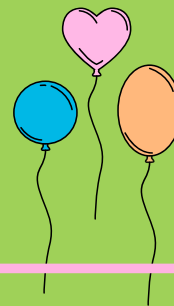
SOCIAL MEDIA PROMOTION 101 FOR PROJECT LEADERS



Find ways to engage your participants

**Before
During
and After**

any event you host



Create an Event Page on Facebook



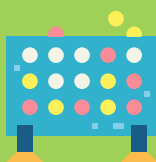
Event pages allow your participants to RSVP to your event and can serve as an easy to find resource for sharing updates before and during your event. Use this as a platform to help with planning and logistics as well as to get people excited for your event!

Use Instagram Stories



Instagram stories can be used to share countdowns towards your event, as well as serve as a way to share highlights of your event in real time. You can also create a hashtag to have participants share their experiences during and after the event.

Stay Connected!



Use your social media channels to grow your membership base and share more about your team activities even when you don't have any events coming up to increase engagement at future gatherings. Using #NSG or tagging @VancouverFoundation on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook can help boost your event or group to the broader Vancouver Foundation community.



EFFECTIVE GRANT WRITING FOR PROJECT LEADERS

1

KNOW THE GOAL

Frame your project to ensure it aligns with NSG's program principles



2

BUDGET ACCORDINGLY

NSG provides grants between \$50-\$500. Grant applications should provide a thorough budget overview in order for granting committees to evaluate applications effectively.

3

FIND A REVIEWER

Have a friend or family member read over your application to catch spelling and grammar mistakes, as well as highlight issues with comprehension and flow. Grant applications should be concise and easy to read. No jargon necessary!



4

PAY ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Ensure all pages are filled out and there is no information missing. If, due to language barriers or low literacy you are having trouble completing your application, make sure to reach out to your Program Coordinator for assistance including translated application forms.



5



STARTING WITH YES

For Grant Committee Members

REMEMBER THE PRIORITIES



Starting with yes means we begin by considering the projects strengths with a focus on approving it if we can. NSG is not about who has the most well written or detailed application, but rather what is at the heart of the application and project.

EVERYONE HAS GIFTS



Starting with yes challenges us to think of the merits of an application that may seem different or out of the box. Each grant applicant is bringing their own creativity and knowledge about what works well in their community. By starting with yes, we are trying to move away from rejecting applications that do things differently than we would have done.

GIVE SUPPORT



Due to language barriers or low literacy, some applicants may have a harder time filling out grant applications than others. If you see an application is missing important information or is not clear, follow up with the project leader and offer additional support (translated applications, etc) to gather necessary information.

BE GENEROUS



NSG provides a learning opportunity for community members to see the effects of grassroots grant making in their neighbourhoods. Starting with yes allows us to be more generous with how many grants we approve, instead of searching for a "perfect" application.

Conclusion

Yasaman's Reflection

In my studies, we have been encouraged to find ways to turn our knowledge into action in order to create more inclusive and diverse cities. Often, this can seem challenging when in the confines of a classroom environment where the theories we learn can often seem abstract, and not related to the real world struggle of individual people. This evaluation gave me the opportunity to learn from individuals making real world, long term impacts in their community, and just how little money and large institutional support is needed to have positive outcomes in a community. NSG proves that regular people can have a large impact on community well-being and I was delighted to be given the opportunity to learn from the triumphs and challenges of NSG project leaders and committee members alike and hopefully provide insight to make NSG even better in years to come.

Ciara's Reflection

After spending the last five years in academia regularly discussing equity in hypotheticals, it was an absolute joy to work on this project and see how striving for equity looks in practice. The opportunity to deepen my own understanding of inclusion, diversity, and equity in the non-profit sector is invaluable for me. Further, the compatibility between my role at NSG and my research assistantship on a knowledge mobilization project called Supporting Transparent & Open Research Engagement & Exchange (STOREE), has been an exciting opportunity to put my knowledge about effective communication—like infographics—into action. The huge variety of projects that community members applied to have granted alone was impressive and the outcomes even more-so. I appreciate that—even as we celebrate successful projects—NSG is committed to creating further space for equity-seeking communities that have been underrepresented and gave me and Yasaman the space to offer suggestions for ways that NSG can be more equitable.

Thank you to the Vancouver Foundation and the members of
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