



## REQUEST FOR SUPPORT APPLICATION FORM

Date of Request	Feb 24/25
Organization/Group making the request	17 Black Events + BC Live
Contact Person	Scott Gurney
Address	[REDACTED]
Telephone	250 516 9797
Email Address:	scott@17blackevents.com
Type of Support Requested (Select one)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Letter of Support in Principle <input type="radio"/> In-Kind Contribution <input type="radio"/> Partnership  <i>Note: This policy is not applicable to requests for grant funding by the City, including Permissive Tax Exemption requests, or in-kind funding for facility rentals (see Grants Policy and Guidelines for further details)</i>

### IF APPLICABLE:

**Note:** The applicant is seeking a letter of support on behalf of multiple arts and culture organizations in BC

Name of grant or program for which you are applying:

BC FFE renewal

Amount of Funding Requested: TIBD Grant Due Date: ASAP

Grant Organization: Government of BC?

Address: We are seeking support for multiple festivals

City: and events Postal Code: to be funded across BC

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide an executive summary or short narrative that addresses each of the points outlined in the "Council Support policy". Include a draft letter, any supporting documents or materials and a detailed list of other funding partners (if applicable).

Please submit this form, with accompanying materials, to the attention of the Corporate Officer, Legislative Services, City of Nanaimo, 455 Wallace St. Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6, or by email to: [legislative.servicesoffice@nanaimo.ca](mailto:legislative.servicesoffice@nanaimo.ca).

#### Respecting Your Privacy

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) – Information collected on this form is done so under the general authority of the *Community Charter* and FOIPPA, and is protected in accordance with FOIPPA. Personal information will only be used by authorized staff to fulfill the purpose for which it was originally collected, or for a use consistent with that purpose. For more information, please visit the Legislative Services Department at 455 Wallace Street, call 250-755-4405, or email [foi@nanaimo.ca](mailto:foi@nanaimo.ca).

Note: The applicant is seeking a letter of support on behalf of multiple arts and culture organizations in BC

**From:** Scott Gurney <[scott@17blackevents.com](mailto:scott@17blackevents.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2025 6:35 AM

**To:** 17 Black Events Admin <[admin@17blackevents.com](mailto:admin@17blackevents.com)>

**Subject:** Open Letter to Premier Eby and Minister Chandra Herbert

Dear Mayor and Council:

My name is Scott Gurney, I am the Executive Director of 17 Black Events, in Langford, BC.

Today I am writing to you on behalf of 24 signatories and 100's of Festival and Event Organizers across British Columbia who wrote an open letter to Premier David Eby and Minister Spencer Chandra Herbert.

We are calling on these officials to continue their support of festivals and events throughout BC. Some, or many, of these events and festivals take place in your

community and have a profound impact on the mental, physical and economic health and well-being of your constituency. We are asking for your support too.

Below, you will see the open letter that was sent to the Minister and Premier on Wednesday February 19th. We are asking that you forward the same letter to them, on behalf of your community. Our towns and cities need arts & culture and we need your voice to encourage ongoing support from the NDP. Without it, we are sure to lose many of the gatherings and celebrations that bring happiness to your constituency, economic impact to local businesses and vibrancy to your community.

Thank you for taking the time to share this letter. I have included the email addresses and suggested subject line here for your convenience. There are two documents attached to make the letter easy to send. One is a PDF and one is a JPEG. Alternately, you can cut and paste the text from this email and send.

To: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca), [TACS.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:TACS.minister@gov.bc.ca),

CC: [TACS.DeputyMinister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:TACS.DeputyMinister@gov.bc.ca)

Subject line: Fairs & Festivals - Open Letter of Support

Thank you for taking the time to send this letter, we truly appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Scott Gurney

(he/him)

Executive Director

T. 250-516-9797

E. [scott@17blackevents.com](mailto:scott@17blackevents.com)

W. [17blackevents.com](http://17blackevents.com)

## **Open letter to Premier David Eby and Spencer Chandra Herbert, B.C. Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture & Sport**

Dear Premier Eby & Minister Chandra Herbert:

We're writing to seek the urgent renewal of the B.C. Fairs, Festivals and Events Fund (BCFFE) — or a replacement — in order to provide immediate and meaningful support to arts, cultural, community, and events throughout the province. With an increasing number of Canadians looking for homegrown travel experiences, it's never been more important to encourage thriving, exciting fairs and festivals.

As businesses and organizations we recognize these are challenging times for all levels of government, and we appreciate your efforts to protect B.C. industries from the looming impacts of possible tariffs. In spite of the uncertainty caused by rising cross-border tensions, it's heartening to see a sudden increase in Canadians seeking out products made within our borders and cancelling U.S. travel plans in favour of experiences that bring us together as a nation . . . experiences like B.C. fairs and festivals.

Our events are cornerstones of cultural identity, economic vitality, and social cohesion. Throughout the province, they offer a unique platform for celebrating our diverse talents and traditions — allowing us to come together in ways that reflect the fabric of B.C. But our fairs and festivals are more than entertainment. They attract tourists and lift up local businesses, from venues and suppliers that provide AV, stages and decor, to food vendors and specialty artisans. Jobs created by the arts and culture sector intersect with many other key industries. The same people that work festivals and arts-focused events also work in B.C.'s booming film industry, sporting events like the Invictus Games and FIFA, and major concert tours that have enormous economic impact — shows like Taylor Swift, Ed Sheeran, Luke Combs, and many more. Without skilled workers, these industries and productions will struggle; investing in B.C. events helps train the skilled workforce they require.

That's important, because according to your own stats, B.C.'s arts, culture, and heritage sector adds more than \$8.6 billion to B.C.'s annual GDP, and employs more than 150,000 British Columbians, representing 5.4 per cent of the province's overall labour force — the highest proportion in the country. Support for events is an investment in the livelihood of our communities, promoting tourism within our borders, and ensuring that British Columbia producers, artists, and performers have opportunities to thrive.

That's why we wish we could say planning for the future of B.C. events and festivals is well underway ... unfortunately, we can't.

During the NDP's successful 2024 re-election campaign, we were elated to see your commitment to "Provide stable, year over year funding for fairs, festivals and events." We appreciated this commitment and your direct attention to the crucial role that events and

festivals play in B.C.'s economic landscape. We were emboldened by your dedication to ensure our sector was supported, it made us feel we had security for our future.

However, as time continues to pass without news of what that funding will be, our industry becomes more vulnerable and lacks the confidence to move forward.

The clock is ticking on this year's events and festival season, and B.C. is beginning to lose long-standing and beloved events such as The Vancouver Mural Festival and The Vancouver Island Music Festival, to name just two. Sectoral challenges around ongoing cost increases and dropping revenues continue to plague the industry, and show no signs of improving in the short-term. Cancellations, postponements, and cheap downsized-versions of what were once thriving and impactful events in communities all across B.C. will be the result if action is not taken now.

**Once again, we seek your urgent renewal of the BCFE program, or an adequate and meaningful replacement fund, that will immediately provide support to events and festivals throughout the province.**

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to seeing you follow through on your commitment to provide stable, year over year funding for fairs, festivals and events. The arts and culture industry is in a fragile and vulnerable state, and its future is in your hands.

Sincerely,

XXXXXX

On behalf of,

Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival  
Bass Coast Electronic Music and Art Festival  
BC Live Performance Network  
Brewery & the Beast  
Crankworx Whistler  
Culinaire Victoria  
Denim on the Diamond  
FVDED In The Park  
Honda Celebration of Light  
Hopscotch Festival  
Italian Day on The Drive  
Just For Laughs Vancouver  
Pacific National Exhibition (PNE)  
Phillips Backyard Concert Series  
PuSh International Performing Arts Festival  
Rifflandia Festival

Song & Surf Music Festival

Sunfest Country Music Festival

The Cup

Vancouver Craft Beer & Music Festival

Vancouver International Children's Festival

Vancouver Writers Fest

Victoria International Wine Festival

Whisky Global

. . . and hundreds more that take place in communities across BC.