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Item No. 9.1.2
Grants Committee
April 23, 2025

TO: Chair and Members of Grants Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: April 8, 2025

SUBJECT: **Regional Special Events Grants Report 2025**

ORIGIN

Applications received pursuant to Administrative Order Number 2014-021-GOV – *Respecting Regional Special Events Grants*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to Administrative Order 2014-021-GOV Respecting Regional Special Events Grants (AO), this report summarizes the recommended Regional Special Events Grants awards for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Approve 55 Event Grants for a total of \$330,000 from the approved 2025/2026 Operating Budget – C760 Community/Civic Events and 22 Event Grants for a total of \$310,000 from the approved 2025/2026 Operating Budget – C760 funded from the 2025/2026 Culture Development Reserve Q621 as identified in Attachment 2;
2. Pending final approval of the 2026/2027 budget, approve 42 Established Community Events grants in the amount of \$313,000 funded from Operating Budget - C760 Community/Civic Events; and 22 Cultural Events & Showcases grants in the amount of \$310,000 funded from Operating Budget – C760 funded from the Community Events Reserve Q621 as identified in Attachment 3; and
3. Pending final approval of the 2027/2028 budget, approve 42 Established Community Events grants in the amount of \$313,000 funded from Operating Budget - C760 Community/Civic Events; and 22 Cultural Events & Showcases grants in the amount of \$310,000 funded from Operating Budget – C760 funded from the Community Events Reserve Q621 as identified in Attachment 3.

BACKGROUND

This report outlines the recommended Regional Special Events Grants awards for the 2025/2026 funding intake. All Regional Special Events Grants recommendations are governed by Administrative Order 2014-

021-GOV Respecting Regional Special Events Grants (AO). Staff undertakes the grant application and evaluation process as outlined in the AO. This Regional Special Events Grants report is reviewed by the Grants Committee for recommendation to Regional Council.

Programs

There are four established funding programs governed by the Regional Special Events Grants AO:

- 1) **Community Celebrations:** supports small scale community events organized primarily for the benefit and enjoyment of residents, coincides with a community gathering or civic holiday, and are free to the public to attend; one intake per year.
- 2) **Established Community Events:** supports existing community events organized primarily for the benefit and enjoyment of residents, are accessible to the public with free or low-cost activities, have been in existence for a minimum of three consecutive years, and have a minimum budget of \$10,000. Sustainable funding offered up to three years; intake every three years.
- 3) **Significant Anniversaries:** supports community events organized around major quarterly anniversaries (25th, 50th, 75th, etc.) that celebrate HRM's heritage and community and have a minimum budget of \$7,500; one intake per year.
- 4) **Cultural Events & Showcases:** supports arts and culture festivals that have strong cultural content, further the disciplines of literary, media, performing and visual arts, are accessible to the public with free or low-cost activities, have a minimum budget of \$50,000, and further the principles and objectives of the HRM Cultural Plan. Sustainable funding offered up to three years; intake every three years.

Program Allocations

The maximum grant amounts and total allocation for each of the programs are outlined below in Table 1:

Table 1: Regional Special Events Grants Program Maximum Grants and Allocation		
Program	Maximum Grant	Total Allocation
Community Celebrations	\$1,000	\$330,000
Established Community Events	\$25,000	
Significant Anniversaries	\$10,000	
Cultural Events & Showcases	\$60,000	\$310,000

DISCUSSION

Eligible

There were 77 eligible applications received during the 2025/2026 only intake that are recommended to receive event grant funding. These applications include: 12 Community Celebrations, 1 Significant Anniversaries, 42 Established Community Events and 22 Cultural Events & Showcases. Information on the applications can be found in Attachment 1.

Ineligible

One application was deemed ineligible to receive funding: the 2025 Celebration of Nova Scotia Food. The Cultural Events & Showcases application described the proposed event as a 3.5 hour gala dinner, costing \$150 per ticket with a goal of generating revenue to invest in 4-H Nova Scotia member and leader programming. Section 13 of the AO governing the program lists events that are not eligible to receive funding including galas, banquets, trade shows and conferences, nor funding raising events.

Evaluation

As per the Regional Special Events Grants AO, all applications are evaluated on:

- **Community Engagement:** evaluated based on volunteer involvement, diversity, accessibility, attendance and programming;
- **Community Cultural Development:** based on the provision of arts and cultural programming and experiences;
- **Demonstrated Financial Need:** evaluated on access to potential sponsorship, as well as the ability to self-fund; and
- **Demonstrated Added Value to the Community:** evaluated on the impact of the experience that would have otherwise not been available to the community in which the event is held.

The proposed 2025/2026 Regional Special Events Grants funding amounts are summarized below in Table 2 and detailed in Attachment 2.

Table 2: Proposed 2025/2026 Regional Special Events Grants Summary			
	# Eligible Applications	2025/2026 Requested Grants	2025/2026 Proposed Grants
Community Celebrations	12	\$12,000	\$12,000
Established Community Events	42	\$478,900	\$313,000
Significant Anniversaries	1	\$10,000	\$5,000
Total C760 Community/Civic Events	55	\$500,900	\$330,000
Cultural Events & Showcases	22	\$655,596	\$310,000
Total Q621 Community Events Reserve	22	\$655,596	\$310,000
Total 2025/2026 Regional Special Events Grants	77	\$1,156,496	\$640,000

Sustainable Funding

The Regional Special Events Grants AO provides the ability to award up to three-year sustainable funding to organizations under the Established Community Events and Cultural Events & Showcases programs. The 2025/2026 intake begins a new cycle for multi-year funding to organizations under the Established Community Festivals and Cultural Events & Showcases programs. Events that receive multi-year funding are dependent on the approval of HRM's annual Operating budget and Community and Events Reserve.

Pending approval of the proposed grant awards detailed in Attachment 2 and budget approvals in 2026/2027 and 2027/2028, Attachment 3 outlines the remaining two years of multi-year funding for Established Community Events and Cultural Events & Showcases programs.

Funding Disbursement

Grant monies for applications that receive final approval by Regional Council will be dispersed according to a schedule outlined in the executed HRM Event Grant Agreement, with up to twenty per cent being withheld until the completion of the event and submission of the final report.

Post Event Reporting

Events that receive Regional Special Events Grants are required to submit a final event report including a detailed finalized event budget as part of the funding process within 120 days of the conclusion of the event describing the impact of the funding received from the Municipality. The final event reporting provides information on the success and challenges associated with the event. This is a key deliverable for Established Community Events and Cultural Events & Showcases that receive multi-year funding to ensure criteria are met and no significant changes have occurred.

At the time of writing this report, five events have not yet submitted final reports; two of which are fall/winter events and have time remaining within the 120 days to submit their final report. Staff will continue to work with these organizations and ensure final reporting is received.

Three events have not submitted final reports at the time of writing this report and are past due. Staff are in communication with these organizations to submit final reporting as all reporting requirements must be up to date to receive future grants from the municipality. Upon receipt of final reporting, the organization will be eligible to receive future grants. There are no immediate concerns with any of the organizations with outstanding reports.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The \$330,000 to fund Community Celebrations, Significant Anniversaries and Established Community Events recommendations can be accommodated in the approved 2025/2026 operating budget for Events, account C760-6919. All 2025/2026 recommendations are subject to availability of funds and final approval of the 2025/2026 Operating budget.

The \$310,000 Cultural Events & Showcases recommendations can be accommodated in the approved 2025/2026 Operating budget C760 Events funded from the 2025/2026 Community and Events Reserve Q621. All 2025/2026 recommendations are subject to availability of funds and final approval of the 2025/2026 budget.

Budget Summary: Community and Events Reserve, Q621

Projected Opening Net Available Balances 25/26 as of Q3	\$5,489,212
Contribution Show Case 25/26	\$ 410,000
Contribution MLSER 25/26	\$3,000,000
Projected Interest 25/26	\$ 108,900
Withdrawals Show Case and Culture and Community 25/26	(\$ 400,000)
Withdrawals MLSER 25/26	<u>(\$1,695,000)</u>
Projected Ending Balances, 25/26	\$6,913,112

All Cultural Events & Showcases recommendations are subject to availability of Community & Events Reserve, Q621 funds. These grants are processed through operating account C760 Events.

There are no outstanding funds owing to the municipality by any of the recommended applicants.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this report. The risks considered rate low. To determine this, consideration was given to financial and reputational risk.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Information regarding program eligibility and applicant timelines are posted on the HRM website. Staff contacted all previously funded Regional Special Events Grants recipients within the past year advising of the 2025/2026 intake opening and deadline date. Corporate Communications promoted the open intake throughout of the municipality's socials. Communication is ongoing with program clients on the status of events. The Grants Committee includes members of the public.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified.

ALTERNATIVE

The Grants Committee may choose to recommend that Regional Council amend the amount of any event grant in accordance with Administrative Order Number 2014-021-GOV – Respecting Regional Special Events Grants within the budget capacity of C760 and Q621.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter
Section 79A

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if
 - (a) the expenditure is included in the Municipality's operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality

Administrative Order Number 2014-021-GOV; *Respecting Regional Special Events Grants*, approved by Halifax Regional Council on May 26, 2015; Amended December 13, 2022.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: 2025/2026 Regional Special Events Grants Applicants Information
- Attachment 2: Detailed Funding Recommendations for 2025/2026 Regional Special Events Grants
- Attachment 3: Detailed Funding Recommendations for Multi-Year Regional Special Events Grants (Remaining Years)

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Shari Dillman, Events Grants Administrator, 902.497.3729

2025/2026 Regional Special Events Grants Applicants Information

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

1. BACK TO SCHOOL FUN DAY

Organization: Greystone United Society
Date: August 23, 2025
Location: Greystone Subdivision Basketball Court and Community Open Space
Budget: \$2,700
Grant Request: \$1,000
Proposed Attendance: 250

Program Description: To wrap up the summer and prepare for the upcoming school year, various free children's activities such as bouncy castles, BBQ, arts and crafts table, face painting, slip and slide and a clown will be offered to bring the community together to meet and build relationships.

2. COMMUNITY PICNIC

Organization: Middle Musquodoboit Argicultural Society
Date: July 1, 2025
Location: Exhibition Grounds, Middle Musquodoboit
Budget: \$7,400
Grant Request: \$1,000
Proposed Attendance: 800

Program Description: A community picnic to celebrate Canada's Birthday. Celebration activities will include having local musicians performing throughout the day, free family photos, games for children, free cake and ice cream, and entertainment from the local community.

3. CONCERT IN THE PARK ACADIA HALL GRANDSTAGE

Organization: Woodbine Community Nova Scotia Non-Profit Society
Date: August 24, 2025
Location: 650 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville
Budget: \$5,080
Grant Request: \$1,000
Proposed Attendance: 500

Program Description: Free family evening concert with live local music performers that ends around dusk.

4. CULTURAL DIVERSITY TRADITIONS

Organization: Focused 360 Youth Association
Date: April 3-7, 2025
Location: East Preston Recreation Centre and Lake Echo
Budget: \$6,000
Grant Request: \$1,000
Proposed Attendance: 25

Program Description: The upcoming cultural event will offer an interactive celebration of cultural diversity through two main activities: a cooking experience featuring traditional recipes from various cultures, and a paint expression session. Participants will have the chance to learn how to prepare authentic dishes from diverse cultures, deepening their appreciation for community traditions. Additionally, the paint night will

encourage social interaction expression, allowing attendees to explore and express their cultural identities through art.

5. EAST DARTMOUTH COMMUNITY BBQ

Organization: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Halifax
Date: August 9, 2025
Location: Beazley Field
Budget: \$3,217
Grant Request: \$1,000
Proposed Attendance: 300

Program Description: A free, fun day filled with games, interactive sport demonstrations and numerous community service groups to provide information to attendees on programs offered, plus prizes and a BBQ.

6. FUNNY PAGES FESTIVAL

Organization: Funny Pages Festival Organization
Date: April 24-25, 2025
Location: Halifax Central Library
Budget: \$25,400
Grant Request: \$1,000
Proposed Attendance: 1,000

Program Description: Funny Pages Festival is dedicated to promoting the love of reading through humour. Canada's funniest authors will host fun and creative programming to elementary aged students throughout various interactive workshops and presentations and the opportunity to speak with the authors themselves.

7. NORTH BY NIGHT MARKET

Organization: North End Business Association
Date: June 13, July 11 and August 8, 2025
Location: 2037 Gottingen Street, Halifax
Budget: \$7,100
Grant Request: \$1,000
Proposed Attendance: 2,500

Program Description: North By Night Market is a recurring event which takes place on Gottingen Street the second Friday of the month from June to August celebrating the diverse and eclectic culture of the North End and Gottingen area. The purpose is to attract people to the North End, support and engage local businesses and their goods and showcase and support local musicians and artists. Planned activities includes a live music/DJ's, food and craft markets with vendors selling food, crafts, jewelry and more.

8. PEOPLE'S PARADE FOR LIFE ON EARTH

Organization: Ecology Action Centre
Date: April 26, 2025
Location: Halifax Waterfront Boardwalk
Budget: \$12,000
Grant Request: \$1,000
Proposed Attendance: 850

Program Description: The People's Parade for Life on Earth is a community parade on or around Earth Day, to build connections and uplift the fact that everyone has a place in the movement for life on Earth. People's Parade for Life on Earth is a parade that walks along the waterfront, ending at Peace & Friendship

Park. Open to all to come together to bring their creativity and represent their community in whatever way they are inspired to do. The Parade is led and guided by Mi'kmaw Elders and Water Walkers, followed by elders and youth, drummers and choirs, drag performers and all others are welcome to join in the parade.

9. SCHOOL FARM DAY

Organization: Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield
Date: October 18, 2025
Location: 62 Rockingstone Road, Spryfield
Budget: \$1,250
Grant Request: \$1,000
Proposed Attendance: 150

Program Description: School Farm Day encourages students from local schools to visit our Urban Farm to meet other students, learn about the farm and enjoy a hands-on visit with farm animals, play heritage games, make crafts and celebrate the birthday of the Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield.

10. SPRING INTO SUMMER COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

Organization: Greystone United Society
Date: July 6, 2025
Location: Greystone subdivision basketball court and open space
Budget: \$2,700
Grant Request: \$1,000
Proposed Attendance: 250

Program Description: The event will kick off the summer and bring the community together to participate in a fun, family day full of children's games, bouncy castles, arts and crafts tables, face painting, slip and slide and a free BBQ.

11. SPRYFIELD AREA FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

Organization: Spryfield Area Multicultural Society
Date: May 24, 2025
Location: Spryfield Lions Rink
Budget: \$4,956
Grant Request: \$1,000
Proposed Attendance: 600

Program Description: The Festival of Colours is a celebration of the arrival of spring, blossoming of love and triumph of good over evil. Festival activities include cultural music and dance, food and merchandise vendors and wearing of brightly coloured powder signifying positivity and love.

12. SUNSET MARKET

Organization: Sackville Business Association
Date: July 19, 2025
Location: Acadia Park
Budget: \$11,000
Grant Request: \$1,000
Proposed Attendance: 1,800

Program Description: Sunset Market will bring families and individuals together, build community relationships and make lasting memories. Activities include multicultural performances taking place on the main stage, while children enjoy the accessible playground and children's activities. Additionally, a maker's market will be onsite offering an array of vendors showcasing their products.

SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES

1. ST. PAUL'S 275TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - CLOSING WEEKEND

Organization: St. Paul's Anglican Church
Date: June 6-8, 2025
Location: St. Paul's Church, 1749 Argyle Street, Halifax and Grand Parade
Budget: \$21,775
Grant Request: \$10,000
Proposed Attendance: 600

Program Description: The celebration begins Friday night in the church with a candlelight program and music concert. On Saturday an Open House will be held for visitors to see exhibits and learn the role St. Paul's Church has played in Halifax over the past 275 years supporting citizens in good and bad times. Saturday there will be a chance to learn about the connection St. Paul had with Jane Austen's brothers who were stationed in Halifax in the 1800's followed by a period menu and tea, with servers in period costumes in Grand Parade. Sunday's activities will begin with a church service following the 1662 Book of Common Prayer to replicate a service that would have been held in 1750 when the church was opened, followed by a picnic in Grand Parade. During the picnic there will be entertainment, music and period games.

ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY EVENTS

1. AGRICOLA STREET HOLIDAY MARKET

Organization: North End Business Association
Date: November 14, 2025
Location: 2537 Agricola Street, Halifax
Budget: \$20,000
Grant Request: \$3,000
Proposed Attendance: 6,500

Program Description: This one-day free event celebrates the change of season and the upcoming holidays in a German-style winter market. The purpose is to attract people to the North End, support and engage the local businesses while providing a community building experience. Businesses host in store specials, provide hot chocolate and cider and family activities are offered along the street. This event provides local food makers, artisans, and crafts people with a holiday street-market venue to sell their goods. The event also showcases and supports local musicians and artists.

2. ANIMATION FESTIVAL OF HALIFAX

Organization: Carbon Arc Cinema Co-op Ltd.
Date: May 8-10, 2025
Location: Carbon Arc Cinema, Bus Stop Theatre, Wonder'neath Arts Society, Halifax Central Library
Budget: \$72,000
Grant Request: \$5,000
Proposed Attendance: 1,000

Program Description: The Animation Festival of Halifax is a celebration of animation in all its forms with a focus on Canadian short experimental animation. The festival features screening, panel discussions, artist's talks, workshops for all levels of experience, installations and networking events.

3. ATLANTIC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Organization: Atlantic Jewish Council

Date: November 20-23, 2025
Location: Cineplex Cinemas, Park Lane, Halifax and Pier 21
Budget: \$35,000
Grant Request: \$10,000
Proposed Attendance: 400

Program Description: The Atlantic Jewish Film festival (AJFF) is an annual four-day event featuring international films focusing on Jewish culture, heritage and themes. The AJFF provides an opportunity for audiences to explore the culture of a community seldom depicted on the big screen, while fostering an appreciation of arts and culture.

4. CANADA DAY DRUMMING HALIFAX

Organization: The Wave Placemaking
Date: July 1, 2025
Location: Dartmouth Ferry Terminal Park
Budget: \$176,500
Grant Request: \$20,000
Proposed Attendance: 10,000

Program Description: Canada Day Drumming Halifax celebrates unity, diversity, and community through the powerful and universal language of drumming. The centerpiece of Canada Day Drumming Halifax is the 6-minute national simultaneous drumming that takes place at 3:00pm AST connecting Halifax with over 150 cities across Canada. Thousands of participants drum simultaneously fostering a sense of national pride and solidarity. Leading up the drumming a 2.5 hour cultural performance showcase is offered where local multicultural performers from diverse backgrounds are invited to share their talents on stage including traditional drumming, contemporary music, folk dance, and cultural fusions. In addition to the main stage performances, the event will feature a food and craft market showcasing a variety of international cuisines and unique handcrafted items.

5. CANADA DAY IN BEAVER BANK

Organization: Beaver Bank Kinsac Community Centre
Date: July 1, 2025
Location: 28 Kinsac Road, 1583 and 1701 Beaver Bank Road
Budget: \$20,100
Grant Request: \$5,000
Proposed Attendance: 2,500

Program Description: All events are free and are open to community members to come and celebrate Canada Day in Beaverbank. The event encourages all residents to participate, contribute their different diversities to the event, and spread the message of what the country and community means to them. The celebration activities will include a pancake breakfast, family fair filled with fun games, bouncers and face painting, cake and fireworks.

6. CARIBBEAN DIASPORA MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATION

Organization: Jamaican Cultural Association of Nova Scotia
Date: July 27, 2025
Location: Ferry Terminal Park, Dartmouth
Budget: \$64,000
Grant Request: \$5,000
Proposed Attendance: 3,600

Program Description: The Caribbean Diaspora Multicultural Celebration is a one-day outdoor free event, open to the public. A wide variety of entertainment will be offered including musical performances from

various genres (reggae, soca, calypso), singers and drummers, as well as cultural performances such as dance groups and spoken word artists. Educational displays and intergenerational games will be on site for all to enjoy.

7. CHRISTKINDL MARKET

Organization: Alderney Landing Facility Association
Date: December 5-7, 2025
Location: Alderney Landing
Budget: \$69,400
Grant Request: \$5,000
Proposed Attendance: 12,000

Program Description: Christkindl Market is a traditional German Christmas Market featuring fresh food, artisan gifts, and craft vendors. Free celebrations include live music from local bands and choirs, a carousel ride and craft table for the young attendees, a live singing Christmas tree with performances by local groups, hot cocoa and appearances by Santa and his elves.

8. DARTMOUTH OPEN STREET

Organization: Halifax Community Planning & Design Association
Date: TDB Sunday in June 2025
Location: Downtown Dartmouth (Portland Street from Alderney to Sullivans Pond)
Budget: \$32,500
Grant Request: \$15,000
Proposed Attendance: 10,000

Program Description: Open Street events encourage individuals to explore the streets of Dartmouth in new ways while providing a safe and comfortable environment for a wide variety of activities. The focus is not on closing streets but on making them accessible for different active transportation modes, local businesses, community gatherings, recreational activities, arts, culture, music, and food, catering to people of all ages and abilities. Planned activities include multiple stages throughout the street featuring performances by local musicians, dedicated children's area offering various fun activities and games, food trucks, all while crafters, makers, artists, and businesses showcase their work.

9. DIWALI CARNIVAL – FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Organization: Indian Festivals Club of Nova Scotia
Date: October 10-12, 2025
Location: Olympic Hall Community Centre
Budget: \$109,500
Grant Request: \$10,000
Proposed Attendance: 12,000

Program Description: Diwali Carnival is a three-day event celebrating the Hindu festival of Diwali, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. Open to all and free to attend, the event brings the community together to share traditions through performances, food, and crafts. Attendees can enjoy traditional and modern dance performances such as folk, Bollywood fusion and classical, live music from local bands and cultural workshops. Cultural food vendors will offer authentic Indian and global Diwali options, while craft vendors, including henna artists and clothing designers showcase their art.

10. DOWNTOWN DARTMOUTH ICE FESTIVAL

Organization: Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission
Date: January 29 – February 3, 2026
Location: Downtown Dartmouth

Budget: \$130,000
Grant Request: \$25,000
Proposed Attendance: 65,000

Program Description: The Downtown Dartmouth Ice Festival is a free winter celebration including live music and ice carving and various outdoor winter activities for all to enjoy. Attendees can enjoy visiting over 30 ice sculptures displayed all over downtown Dartmouth, while listening to the live entertainment provided at various locations, as well as a street party, winter fun zones and children's activities.

11. EAST COAST KITE FESTIVAL

Organization: Atlantic Kite Festivals Society
Date: July 12-13, 2025
Location: Garrison Grounds, Citadel Hill
Budget: \$114,000
Grant Request: \$15,000
Proposed Attendance: 11,500

Program Description: The East Coast Kite Festival celebrates the art and culture of kite flying while fostering community connections. This free, family-friendly event invites participants to enjoy kite displays, create their own kites through interactive workshops, or purchase ready-made kites. Kite-making workshops, storytelling sessions and demonstrations will be offered to promote and educate the cultural significance of kite flying across diverse traditions.

12. EASTERN PASSAGE COW BAY SUMMER CARNIVAL

Organization: Eastern Passage Cow Bay Summer Carnival Association
Date: August 4-10, 2025
Location: Various locations in Eastern Passage
Budget: \$32,356
Grant Request: \$25,000
Proposed Attendance: 15,000

Program Description: The Eastern Passage-Cow Bay Summer Carnival attracts both residents and visitors of Halifax. The carnival includes a street parade, sand sculpture contest, children's parade, teddy bear picnic and many more fun-filled family-oriented events.

13. EID EL FITR

Organization: Muslim Youth & Community Centre Society
Date: April 1, 2025
Location: Glow Hall
Budget: \$18,450
Grant Request: \$13,000
Proposed Attendance: 1,200

Program Description: Eid Al-Fitr holds profound significance for Muslims, marking the joyous conclusion of Ramadan and symbolizing gratitude, unity, and celebration. Eid Al-Fitr is a ticketed event that aims to bring families together in a vibrant, welcoming environment featuring cultural performances like Islamic nasheeds and storytelling that highlights the meaning and traditions of Eid. Children will have a dedicated play area filled with activities, including bouncing castles, slides, basketball hoops, and engaging games with prize. Interactive workshops will be offered such as henna art and Arabic calligraphy.

14. EIDUL ADHA FESTIVAL

Organization: Muslim Youth & Community Centre Society

Date: June 7, 2025
Location: HRM Park TBD
Budget: \$48,000
Grant Request: \$30,000
Proposed Attendance: 2,000

Program Description: Eidul Adha Festival is planned to be held outdoors and will be open to everyone to join in the celebration. Cultural performances planned include local henna, calligraphy and Arabesque artists. Amusement activities planned include bouncy castles, hoops, slides, ferris wheels, laser tags, go-rounds with prizes to be won. Food vendors from local restaurants from all cuisines including Arab, Pakistani, Bengali, Indian, Turkish, Italian and European are invited to sell a diverse range of culinary foods.

15. FIRE & WATER FESTIVAL

Organization: Alderney Landing Facility Association
Date: September 26-27, 2025
Location: Alderney Landing
Budget: \$47,900
Grant Request: \$10,000
Proposed Attendance: 5,500

Program Description: Fire & Water Festival is a two-day outdoor festival celebrating the cultural fabric of Nova Scotia featuring musical performances, dance, art installations, demonstrations and storytelling. The event is free to the general public to attend and highlights Mi'kmaq, Acadian, Celtic, African Nova Scotian, and Indian cultures.

16. FLAVOURS OF INDIA

Organization: Indian Festivals Club of Nova Scotia
Date: August 16-18, 2025
Location: Citadel Hill
Budget: \$81,590
Grant Request: \$7,500
Proposed Attendance: 6,000

Program Description: Flavours of India Festival (FKA India Fest) will feature food vendors offering a wide array of authentic Indian dishes, cultural vendors showcasing traditional arts, crafts, clothing, and jewelry, kids' activities to create a family-friendly atmosphere and live performances of traditional and contemporary Indian music, dance, and storytelling, celebrating the diversity of Indian artistry.

17. GOTTINGEN FESTIVAL

Organization: North End Business Association
Date: July 12, 2025
Location: Gottingen Street, Halifax
Budget: \$15,000
Grant Request: \$5,000
Proposed Attendance: 5,000

Program Description: This free, street-wide annual event is open to all to attend to celebrate Gottingen Street and the cultural communities in the North End. An all-day live concert will be offered on an outdoor stage showcasing local musicians, poets and dancers. Additional planned activities include a kid's zone, artist demonstrations and interactive art activities.

18. GROU TYME FESTIVAL

Organization: Conseil Communautaire du Grand-Havre
Date: August 15, 2025
Location: TBD
Budget: \$59,500
Grant Request: \$10,000
Proposed Attendance: 3,500

Program Description: Created in 2016 under the name Festival Quinzou, the festival is now called Festival Grou Tyme: a celebration of National Acadian Day. The festival kicks off with a flag raising ceremony, various games and cultural workshops for children throughout the day and ending with an evening show. Grou Tyme offers its stage to talented Francophone artists, both emerging and established, while creating a welcoming environment for youth, seniors, and newcomers alike.

19. HALIFAX COUNTY EXHIBITION

Organization: Middle Musquodoboit Agricultural Society
Date: August 13-16, 2025
Location: 190 Exhibition Grounds Road, Middle Musquodoboit
Budget: \$166,579
Grant Request: \$25,000
Proposed Attendance: 14,000

Program Description: The Halifax County Exhibition has existed for more than 140 years and celebrates the rural component of Halifax Regional Municipality. The event brings together farmers and artisans to highlight their livestock including, dairy, draft and light horses, poultry, Christmas trees and wreaths, handcrafts, homecrafts, flowers, photography and vegetables. The 4-H component of the Halifax County Exhibition is a highlight during the 4 days. Additionally, a large number of vendors along with Maritime Amusements are another attraction for many patrons.

20. HALIFAX GREEK FEST

Organization: St. George's Greek Orthodox Church
Date: June 12-15, 2025
Location: St. George's Greek Orthodox Church and Community Centre, Halifax
Budget: \$158,600
Grant Request: \$10,000
Proposed Attendance: 10,000

Program Description: The Halifax Greek Festival is held every year on the second weekend of June to celebrate diversity and inclusion, bringing together people of all ages to promote Greek culture. Festival highlights include Greek dances performed by local youth, live music and a variety of traditional Greek meals and desserts. Visitors can also enjoy guided church tours and family-friendly activities.

21. HALIFAX OPEN STREET

Organization: Halifax Community Planning & Design Association
Date: Sunday in September 2025 (TBD)
Location: Downtown Halifax (Agricola Street from Cunard to Almon Street)
Budget: \$32,500
Grant Request: \$15,000
Proposed Attendance: 9,000

Program Description: Open Street HFX invite you to experience the streets of Halifax differently whether you're walking, biking, or exploring. Halifax Open Street closes Agricola Street from Cunard Street to Almon

Street transforming the area into a lively cultural hub with artistic performances, live music, children's games, local food vendors, and craft market stalls. Community information stations offer insights into the neighborhood, while shops extend onto the sidewalks, adding to the festive atmosphere. Free workshops enrich the public space, fostering creativity and community engagement. This event welcomes people of all ages, creating unforgettable memories.

22. HALIFAX SALSA & BACHATA FESTIVAL

Organization: 4473338 NOVA SCOTIA LIMITED
Date: August 14-17, 2025
Location: Halifax Waterfront, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Argyle Street, Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel & Pacifico
Budget: \$73,700
Grant Request: \$25,000
Proposed Attendance: 3,000

Program Description: The 7th annual Halifax Salsa & Bachata Festival is a four-day Afro-Latin dance festival showcasing cultural richness and artistic excellence, offering a variety of engaging activities including live Latin music, street and outdoor dancing, art exhibitions, dance competitions and performances, workshops and masterclasses, as well as an Afro-Latin-inspired street market.

23. KELOOSE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Organization: Keloose Association
Date: August 15-17, 2025
Location: Lakeview, Fall River and Windsor Junction
Budget: \$36,150
Grant Request: \$6,000
Proposed Attendance: 3,000

Program Description: For three days in August, Keloose Community Celebration will draw people from all around Lakeview, Windsor Junction and Fall River for family fun and entertainment. The event features softball tournaments, skateboard competitions, parades, dances, beach activities, scavenger hunts, community market, pancake breakfast, magic shows, movie night, live music and 5 and 10KM marathons.

24. LAKE AND SHORE DAYS

Organization: Porters Lake Community Services Association
Date: August 13-17, 2025
Location: Porter's Lake Community Centre
Budget: \$22,580
Grant Request: \$14,400
Proposed Attendance: 2,000

Program Description: Lake and Shore Days is a multi-day, summer event for all ages. Activities will include trivia, street parade, washer toss tournament, concert, picnic, car show, boat parade and fireworks.

25. LIGHT UP BEDFORD PARADE

Organization: Light Up Bedford Parade Society
Date: November 16, 2025
Location: DeWolf Park to Bedford Place Mall
Budget: \$30,000
Grant Request: \$14,000
Proposed Attendance: 15,000

Program Description: The Light Up Bedford Parade is a community parade travelling from DeWolf Park along the Bedford Highway and finishes at Bedford Place Mall. It comprises of a series of decorated floats with Santa travelling on the last float. The intent is to kick off the holiday season, bring joy and excitement to the residents of Bedford and surrounding communities, and promote community spirit, while collecting donations for the Food Bank and letters to Santa.

26. MOTHER GOOSE FESTIVAL

Organization: Alderney Landing Facility Association
Date: August 2, 2025
Location: Dartmouth Ferry Terminal Park
Budget: \$21,000
Grant Request: \$5,000
Proposed Attendance: 3,500

Program Description: The Mother Goose Festival is an annual, free family-friendly event on the Dartmouth Waterfront. Activities include live theatre, puppetry, petting zoo, arts and crafts, storytelling and games with prizes.

27. NAVRATRI - DANDIYA GARBA NIGHTS – FESTIVAL OF DANCE

Organization: Indian Festivals Club of Nova Scotia
Date: September 19-21, 2025
Location: BMO Soccer Center
Budget: \$101,271
Grant Request: \$10,000
Proposed Attendance: 6,000

Program Description: Navratri is a cultural celebration rooted in Indian traditions. In Halifax, the local community will celebrate with a dance festival: Navratri Dandiya & Garba Nights. Participants will experience an immersive cultural journey through dance, workshops, and interactive activities, fostering inclusivity and cultural understanding.

28. NEWCOMER WELCOME BBQ

Organization: Welcoming Intercultural Newcomers Association
Date: July 5, 2025
Location: Garrison Grounds
Budget: \$59,000
Grant Request: \$25,000
Proposed Attendance: 2,000

Program Description: Newcomer Welcome BBQ will bring together a diverse group of participants to promote community spirit by showcasing residents' heritage, culture, local achievements and neighborhoods. The event will offer a range of entertainment including various cultural performances of music, dance and art, food stations featuring a variety of international cuisines to celebrate culinary diversity, interactive workshops, family friendly games, crafts, and storytelling sessions, as well as community resources booths on local services and support for newcomers.

29. NORTH PRESTON DAYS

Organization: Women With A Vision
Date: July 21-23, 2025
Location: North Preston Community Centre
Budget: \$31,136
Grant Request: \$5,000

Proposed Attendance: 900

Program Description: North Preston Days is an annual community event offering various free activities for all to enjoy. The festivities begin with a free breakfast at the North Preston Community Centre, a festive parade through North Preston, a community BBQ and many family friendly activities. Additionally, a platform will be provided to showcase local talent, including artists, musicians and performers promoting community development and well-being.

30. NORTHERN LIGHTS LANTERN FESTIVAL

Organization: Northern Lights Lantern Festival Society
Date: August 9, 2025
Location: Merv Sullivan Park
Budget: \$36,000
Grant Request: \$5,000
Proposed Attendance: 7,000

Program Description: The Northern Lights Lantern Festival is an annual free day of fun and creativity for all ages, where old friends run into each other and new friends are made. The festival is a celebration of the vibrancy and diversity of Halifax's North End. The festival program includes a free community BBQ, bouncy castles, face painting, craft table, live entertainment, children's games and fireworks.

31. NOVA SCOTIA POWER HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS

Organization: Holiday Parade of Lights Society
Date: December 8, 2024
Location: Downtown Halifax
Budget: \$135,200
Grant Request: \$25,000
Proposed Attendance: 65,000

Program Description: The annual Holiday Parade of Lights is a celebration of the holiday season and brings people throughout the municipality together to view festive floats, marching bands, dancers, a display of Christmas lights and music and a visit from Santa Claus. Each year, the Parade draws thousands of spectators to downtown Halifax and Eastlink TV televises the event for those who may not be able to make it in person.

32. PEGGY'S COVE AREA FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Organization: Peggy's Cove Area Art Society
Date: July 12-19, 2025
Location: Various locations
Budget: \$55,200
Grant Request: \$4,000
Proposed Attendance: 5,500

Program Description: Peggy's Cove Area Festival of the Arts is an annual series of events that brings together local artists, artisans, community members, volunteers and seasonal visitors in a celebration of creativity and culture. Activities include a ticketed opening night reception at Hubbard's Barn featuring local art and fine crafts, door prizes, refreshments and live musical entertainment. Free activities include Paint Peggy's Cove: an event where 35 artists interact with residents and visitors while painting outdoors in the village of Peggy's Cove, a children's art tent will provide free creative activities and studio tours showcasing the work of over 70 artists, in 45 locations around the region.

33. PIRATE FESTIVAL

Organization: Fisherman's Cove Development Association
Date: August 22-24, 2025
Location: 4 Government Wharf Road, Eastern Passage
Budget: \$15,000
Grant Request: \$10,000
Proposed Attendance: 5,000

Program Description: Fisherman's Cove Pirate Festival is a 3-day pirate themed festival featuring live music, various children's games, activities and pirates. Families are encouraged to dress up in pirate costumes.

34. REJIGGED FESTIVAL

Organization: New Trad Society
Date: October 23-26, 2025
Location: St. Andrews Church stage
Budget: \$55,850
Grant Request: \$5,000
Proposed Attendance: 450

Program Description: ReJigged is a festival of "new trad" music, dance and culture celebrating new traditions in Celtic music, dance and other art forms. ReJigged's programming fosters artistic innovation and constructive collaboration in the performing arts, through workshops, sessions and concerts for HRM's many communities of musicians, dancers and fans of Celtic culture a single, new creative voice and venue for these kinds of explorations. ReJigged features a performance program, with intimate "session" style showcases, concerts and a traditional ceilidh dance. Additionally, a multi-day education program is offered providing a range of hands-on workshops featuring instruction in dance, traditional musical instruments, song, spoken language and visual arts led by internationally recognized instructors.

35. SACKVILLE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Organization: Sackville Business Association
Date: November 29, 2025
Location: Acadia Park
Budget: \$15,100
Grant Request: \$2,500
Proposed Attendance: 4,000

Program Description: The Sackville Christmas Tree Lighting is a free event for all ages to kick off the holiday season. The event offers live music featuring Josh Lake Band, hot chocolate, holiday treats, a special visit from Santa himself and the magical lighting of the Christmas tree.

36. SACKVILLE PATRIOT DAYS

Organization: Sackville Community Development Association
Date: June 20 - July 1, 2025
Location: Various locations in Lower and Middle Sackville
Budget: \$38,150
Grant Request: \$25,000
Proposed Attendance: 10,000

Program Description: Patriot Days is a weeklong set of free events around Canada Day. Traditionally the same events will be offered including a community dog walk, an outdoor concert featuring local artists, a fireworks display, street parade and the teddy bear picnic. In partnership with other organizations, additional

events will be offered this year including activities at Springfield Lake such as a family fun day, dance party, community ball tournament, adult dance, as well as an outdoor movie at St. Francis By The Lakes Church.

37. SACKVILLE SNOW DAYS

Organization: Sackville Business Association
Date: February 13-16, 2026
Location: Various locations in Sackville
Budget: \$16,100
Grant Request: \$2,500
Proposed Attendance: 8,000

Program Description: Sackville Snow Days is an annual winter event that runs during the February long weekend. Community groups, organizations, businesses and volunteers come together to create a weekend of fun activities all around Sackville. Activities planned include skating, sledding, curling, a parade, contests, live music, pancake breakfast, movies on the big screen, a paint night and more. The event concludes with fireworks show.

38. SPRYFIELD DAYS FESTIVAL

Organization: Spryfield District Business Commission
Date: July 12-13, 2025
Location: Spryfield (various locations)
Budget: \$12,140
Grant Request: \$4,000
Proposed Attendance: 5,000

Program Description: Spryfield Days is an annual festival to celebrate the community and provide opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds and cultures to come out for a fun day of free activities. The festival features two fun filled days of activities with bouncy castles, face painting, games, a family fun run, entertainment, a magic show, the cardboard duct tape boat races on Long Lake, strawberry shortcake at the Spryfield Urban Farm and more.

39. SPRYFIELD SANTA CLAUS PARADE

Organization: Spryfield District Business Commission
Date: November 30, 2025
Location: Herring Cove Road, Spryfield
Budget: \$12,000
Grant Request: \$6,000
Proposed Attendance: 8,000

Program Description: The Spryfield Santa Claus Parade is an annual, free, daytime parade filled with floats, marchers, musicians, twirlers and lots of festive entertainment ending with a sighting of Santa, Mrs. Claus and their reindeer.

40. ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Organization: St. Patrick's Day Parade Society
Date: March 15, 2026
Location: Halifax
Budget: \$17,500
Grant Request: \$2,000
Attendance: 4,000

Program Description: The annual Halifax St. Patrick's Day Parade celebrates Halifax's Irish history,

culture and community. Groups of all ethnicities, gender identities, and abilities are invited to participate in the parade as walkers, entering a float, or as viewers watching and enjoying the parade.

41. TRUNK 7 MUSIC FESTIVAL

Organization: Trunk 7 Music Festival Association
Date: July 18-19, 2025
Location: Porters Lake Superstore parking lot
Budget: \$71,600
Grant Request: \$5,000
Proposed Attendance: 1,000

Program Description: Trunk 7 Music Festival is a music and art festival featuring the musical and artistic talent of the Eastern Shore community of all ages with many music genres represented. Trunk 7 Music Festival provides support, opportunities and exposure for diverse talent of all ages and genres in rural communities on the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia.

42. WORLD OCEAN DAY

Organization: Oceans North Conservation Society
Date: June 8, 2025
Location: Halifax Waterfront
Budget: \$22,500
Grant Request: \$10,000
Proposed Attendance: 2,500

Program Description: To celebrate Nova Scotia; Canada's ocean playground on World Ocean Day, a free, open to the public, family-friendly outdoor event will be hosted on Halifax's waterfront. The day will be filled with various interactive and educational activities and prizes, including touch tanks and mermaid sightings.

CULTURAL EVENTS & SHOWCASES

Tier 1

1. AFRIFEST

Organization: Africa Festival of Arts & Culture Society
Date: July 17-20, 2025
Location: Sackville Landing
Budget: \$67,900
Grant Request: \$20,000
Proposed Attendance: 6,500

Program Description: The annual AFRIFEST showcases fine and performing arts showcasing the culture of people of African descent. Artists who participate in the festival are Diasporas from Nigeria, Cameroon, Guinea, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Haiti, Burkina Faso, Sudan, Gambia, Zambia, Togo, Congo, Uganda, Mali, Somalia, Eritrean, Ethiopia, Burundi, Sierra Leone, the Caribbean and African Nova Scotia community. Their artistic works include drumming, dancing, jazz, hip-hop, gospel, spoken-word and more.

2. AFTERWORDS LITERARY FESTIVAL

Organization: AfterWords Literary Festival Organisation
Date: November 1-9, 2025
Location: The Bus Stop Theatre, The Carleton, Halifax Central Library, the Black Cultural

Centre, Cafe Lara and more
Budget: \$191,287
Grant Request: \$45,000
Proposed Attendance: 2,300

Program Description: The 7th annual AfterWords Literary Festival will bring more than 50 Canadian and international authors together in Halifax for a series of readings, conversations, panel discussions and workshops for readers of all ages at various venues throughout Halifax including an open-house style Kids' Day at Halifax Central Library.

3. ATLANTIC CANADIAN IRISH DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Organization: Atlantic Canadian Irish Dance Championships Society
Date: April 26-27, 2025
Location: Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, Halifax
Budget: \$71,619
Grant Request: \$8,000
Proposed Attendance: 500

Program Description: The 4th annual Atlantic Canadian Irish Dance Championship will attract over 250 competitive Irish dancers (and their families) each day from all over Canada and the United States in a bid to advance their standing and win a title. Seven competition levels are offered and dancers compete according to their level, age and individual dance. Ages 4 to 60 and beyond can compete. Irish dance competitions are judged by qualified adjudicators (some international) and accompanied by live music performed by local and national musicians. Over the course of the weekend, participants and spectators can expect to experience an Irish dance competition rooted in long-standing traditions of displays of top caliber Irish dancing by participants of all ages and live Celtic music.

4. BLACK HISTORY MONTH ACTIVITIES

Organization: Africa Festival of Arts & Culture Society
Date: February 9-14, 2026
Location: Various locations within HRM
Budget: \$67,900
Grant Request: \$20,000
Proposed Attendance: 7,300

Program Description: Africa Festival of Arts and Culture Society promote and recognize the contributions of people of African Descent to the development of Nova Scotia, Canada and the World. Black History Month activities will include a series of events that are free to attend, except the ticketed Closing Black History Month Cultural Presentation.

5. EAST COAST UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL

Organization: East Coast Ukrainian Association
Date: September 28, 2025
Location: Steele Wheels Motor Museum
Budget: \$50,500
Grant Request: \$25,000
Proposed Attendance: 2,500

Program Description: The East Coast Ukrainian Festival will feature live music performance by a Ukrainian pop-jazz band ShockolaD that recently relocated from Ukraine. Additional activities include: visual storytelling through immersive videos on 6 large screens, acrobatic performances, Ukrainian food cuisine, authentic art and craft objects by local Ukrainian artisans and vendors, workshops and children activities.

6. EVERYSEEKER FESTIVAL

Organization: OBEY Convention Music & Arts Society
Date: June 16-19, 2025
Location: Various music venue locations throughout Halifax
Budget: \$101,000
Grant Request: \$7,000
Proposed Attendance: 2,000

Program Description: EVERYSEEKER Festival presents 20+ events across four days at historic and alternative venues throughout peninsular Halifax showcasing contemporary music and sound from local, national and international talents. Programming across genres, identities and mediums and providing over half of its program free to the public, EVERYSEEKER aims to gather communities and spark excitement across ages, interests and income brackets.

7. FRANCOFEST Festival

Organization: Conseil Communautaire du Grand-Havre
Date: October 23 – November 1, 2025
Location: Alderney Landing Theatre, Ecole du Carrefour and Sanctuary Arts Centre
Budget: \$162,000
Grant Request: \$12,000
Proposed Attendance: 9,000

Program Description: FrancoFest is an annual, local festival organized each year in October honoring and celebrating the cultural diversity of the Francophone and Francophile groups that make up the Halifax Regional Municipality. FrancoFest offers 10 days of activities including music performances, theatre productions, literary events, cinema screenings and a book fair, offering something for all ages and interests.

8. HALIFAX GANESH FESTIVAL

Organization: Atlantic Club of Ganesh Festival
Date: August 27, 2025
Location: Garrison Grounds
Budget: \$152,202
Grant Request: \$30,000
Proposed Attendance: 17,000

Program Description: Halifax Ganesh Festival is a spiritual gathering celebrating Lord Ganesha uniting the community in joy, devotion, and festivity. Planned activities include cultural performances, workshops and activities such as rangoli art and traditional crafts, kids' activities including games, storytelling sessions about Lord Ganesha and art competitions, festive food stalls and vendors featuring handmade crafts, décor, and spiritual items, as well as a Ganesh Visarjan Ceremony.

9. HALIFAX INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL

Organization: Halifax Independent Filmmakers Festival Society
Date: May 28-31, 2025
Location: The Bus Stop Theatre
Budget: \$101,500
Grant Request: \$20,000
Proposed Attendance: 600

Program Description: Halifax Independent Filmmakers Festival is an established 4-day festival that presents films from Atlantic Canada and around the world including feature film screenings, short film

screenings, receptions, expanded cinema installations, VR presentations, daytime masterclasses with visiting filmmakers and one-on-one meetings between local filmmakers and guest programmers from international festivals.

10. IRI-JI (NEW YAM) FESTIVAL

Organization: Ndi Igbo Cultural Association, NS
Date: August 23, 2025
Location: Tremont Plateau Park
Budget: \$63,600
Grant Request: \$43,596
Proposed Attendance: 560

Program Description: The Iri-Ji Festival celebrates Igbo culture and heritage in Nova Scotia, promoting culturalism and community engagement. Planned arts and culture activities include craft exhibitions, literary reviews, film screenings, keynote speaker, panels and workshops on heritage preservation. The main celebration includes a traditional church service, choir performances as well as a communal potluck and a friendly football match.

11. MAYWORKS FESTIVAL OF WORKING PEOPLE & THE ARTS

Organization: Mayworks Halifax Festival Society
Date: May 1-14, 2025
Location: Bus Stop Theatre, Breaking Circus and various locations in downtown Halifax and Dartmouth
Budget: \$134,700
Grant Request: \$10,000
Proposed Attendance: 1,725

Program Description: Mayworks Festival of Working People & The Arts annually celebrates International Workers' Day (May 1st) through a 14 day festival. The festival celebrates and recognizes the working people in Nova Scotia through various artistic events, including theatre, dance, visual art, film music and more.

12. OutFest

Organization: Page1 Theatre Society
Date: April 21-27, 2025
Location: The Bus Stop Theatre, Rad Storm, The Carleton, The Convention Centre
Budget: \$56,375
Grant Request: \$10,000
Proposed Attendance: 1,300

Program Description: OutFest is a queer theatre festival showcasing local, regional and national artists. Theatre and dance performances will take place at The Bus Stop Theatre, music performances at The Carleton and the open stage will take place at Rad Storm for artists who create in mediums other than theatre or dance. Additional activities include a crafters market at The Convention Centre, an opening night dinner at Stardust (a local LGBTQ+ restaurant), a Comedy Stage and two training opportunities for artists.

13. STAGES THEATRE FESTIVAL

Organization: Eastern Front Theatre Society
Date: June 4-8, 2025
Location: Alderney Landing
Budget: \$110,285
Grant Request: \$10,000
Proposed Attendance: 1,750

Program Description: STAGES Theatre Festival is an annual Dartmouth event showcasing professional theatre and theatre-adjacent productions that value the voices of the underrepresented, providing audiences with engaging new ways to experience theatre. Offerings include, interactive work, outdoor performances, installation pieces, innovative theatre for young audiences and theatrical work that incorporates multiple disciplines. The festival has grown to include an Industry Series of professional development and a Family Stage Series of work for all ages.

Tier 2

14. HALIFAX BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

Organization: Halifax Black Film Festival
Date: February 20-24, 2026
Location: Halifax Central Library and Cineplex Cinemas Park Lane (streamed digitally)
Budget: \$759,650
Grant Request: \$60,000
Proposed Attendance: 12,000

Program Description: The Halifax Black Film Festival (HBFF) is an arts and cultural event dedicated to celebrating Black stories, artists, and audiences. Founded to amplify Black voices in film and media, HBFF provides a platform for filmmakers and creatives from Halifax, Canada, and around the world to share their work, engage in dialogue, and foster connections. Programming offered include 50 online film screenings, an opening night red carpet experience and networking event and up to 10 in-person screenings at Cineplex Park Lane, followed by Q&A sessions where filmmakers engage with HBFF audiences directly. Additionally, six panels/workshops will be offered for industry professionals and community discussion, featuring 30 local Black artists/professionals/community leaders (4 in-person panels held at Halifax Public Libraries, and 2 online panels will be streamed on Facebook).

15. HALIFAX FRINGE FESTIVAL

Organization: Atlantic Fringe Festival Society
Date: August 27- September 8, 2025
Location: various locations in Halifax and Dartmouth
Budget: \$219,000
Grant Request: \$25,000
Proposed Attendance: 12,000

Program Description: The Halifax Fringe Festival is an annual performing arts festival presenting an accessible, unjuried and uncensored festival. The Fringe includes theatre, music, circus, dance, comedy, education, and more. For 12 days using 10+ venues across Halifax and Dartmouth the festival will offer 65+ productions performing over 350 individual performances.

16. HALIFAX HIGHLAND GAMES & SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

Organization: Halifax Highland Games and Scottish Festival
Date: July 5, 2025
Location: Halifax North Commons
Budget: \$210,674
Grant Request: \$60,000
Proposed Attendance: 10,000

Program Description: The Halifax Highland Games celebrates centuries of Scottish heritage in Nova Scotia, dating back to the mid 1800's and officially running from 1984 to 2009. By reviving the games, organizers aim to honour this heritage and ensure its continuity for years to come. The Highland Games will take place on the Halifax Commons and is free for the public to attend. Games featured include highland

dancing, piping, drumming, pipe bands, and Scottish heavyweight athletics. Additionally, an entertainment tent with live Celtic music featuring all aspects of Scottish arts and culture, historical exhibits on Halifax's Scottish heritage and children's programming will be offered.

17. MOSAIC INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CULTURE

Organization: The Halifax Experience Foundation
Date: September 20-21, 2025
Location: Downtown Halifax TBD
Budget: \$175,000
Grant Request: \$25,000
Proposed Attendance: 3,000

Program Description: Mosaic International Festival of Arts and Culture is two-day event that kicks off with a vibrant parade where various cultural organizations will present their traditions through music, dance and art. This festival will also feature an array of performances by local, regional, and international artists. The festival not only serves as a platform to exhibit Halifax's cultural richness but also creates a space for cross-cultural exchange and celebration.

18. NOCTURNE: ART AT NIGHT FESTIVAL

Organization: Nocturne: Art at Night Society
Date: October 16-19, 2025
Location: Various Halifax and Dartmouth locations
Budget: \$248,560
Grant Request: \$60,000
Proposed Attendance: 65,000

Program Description: Nocturne: Art at Night Festival is a free, independent, contemporary art festival that brings art and energy to the streets of Halifax and Dartmouth showcasing and celebrating the visual arts scene. Projects that Nocturne hosts are regularly placed in everyday public spaces and non-traditional art venues like alleyways, sides of building, swimming pools, sidewalks, and more to engage people of all ages, backgrounds and experiences.

19. NOVA MULTIFEST

Organization: Nova Multifest Society
Date: July 25-27, 2025
Location: Alderney Landing
Budget: \$515,577
Grant Request: \$50,000
Proposed Attendance: 30,000

Program Description: For three days, Nova MultiFest will celebrate Nova Scotia's multiculturalism and diversity, offering a wide range of free activities for people of all ages and backgrounds. The event will feature an array of cultural expressions, including art, music, dance, food, and learning sessions, all presented in a relaxed, celebratory atmosphere.

20. PRISMATIC ARTS FESTIVAL

Organization: Prismatic Arts Society
Date: September 26 – October 5, 2025
Location: Neptune Theatre, The Carleton, Dalhousie Arts Centre, The Bus Stop Theatre, Alderney Landing and more
Budget: \$385,900
Grant Request: \$50,000

Proposed Attendance: 11,000

Program Description: The Prismatic Arts Festival will take place over 10 days at various venues across HRM, featuring professional local, national, and international Indigenous artists and artists of colour with works in theatre, music, dance, visual art, film, circus, media art, spoken word, and more. The festival also hosts an artist-centric industry series each year, bringing together artists, industry professionals, and audiences alike for open dialogue, learning, and connection.

21. SCOTIA FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Organization: Scotia Festival of Music / Scotia Chamber Players
Date: May 26 – June 8, 2025
Location: Dalhousie Arts Centre
Budget: \$721,500
Grant Request: \$35,000
Proposed Attendance: 3,600

Program Description: Scotia Festival of Music consists of many kinds of events, both ticketed and free to the public to attend. Masterclasses, outreach concerts offered to schools and young artist noon concerts are all free to the public to attend. The highlight of the festival is the ticketed mainstage concerts that will feature nightly concerts of chamber music by world-class soloists, as well as the Young Artist program for 40 talented young musicians from across North America and beyond. This program offers masterclasses, chamber music coaching, private lessons, classes in performance techniques, workshops, and opportunities to perform.

22. TASTE ASIA FOOD & CULTURE FESTIVAL

Organization: The Wave Placemaking
Date: May 16-19, 2025
Location: Halifax Waterfront
Budget: \$224,600
Grant Request: \$30,000
Proposed Attendance: 24,000

Program Description: Taste Asia is an annual, free outdoor sensory celebration of Asian flavors, arts, and culture, featuring food, craft vendors, cultural performances, and a Demo Kitchen. This unique program gives local chefs and food businesses the opportunity to showcase their creativity, experimenting with the theme of Asian flavours and sharing their culinary stories with a broad audience. Along with the food flavour of Asia, an entertainment stage will be dedicated for emerging multicultural artists to perform traditional music, dance, and contemporary acts, representing various Asian cultures. Alongside food vendors, a section of the festival will be dedicated to showcasing handmade crafts and cultural artifacts. This market will provide local Asian artisans and businesses with a platform to share their creativity and connect with the broader community. The festival will also include interactive booths and exhibits where attendees can engage with cultural displays, participate in traditional activities, and learn about the heritage of different Asian communities.

Detailed Funding Recommendations for 2025/2026 Regional Special Events Grants

Established Community Events (C760)		2024/2025 Grant	2025/2026 Requested Grant	2025/2026 Proposed Grant
1	Agricola Street Holiday Market	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
2	Animation Festival of Halifax	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,500
3	Atlantic Jewish Film Festival	\$ 8,000	\$10,000	\$ 8,000
4	Canada Day Drumming Halifax	n/a	\$20,000	\$15,000
5	Canada Day in Beaver Bank	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
6	Caribbean Diaspora Multicultural Celebration*	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
7	Christkindlmarket Festival	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,000
8	Dartmouth Open Street	\$13,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
9	Diwali Carnival – Festival of Lights	\$ 4,500	\$10,000	\$ 7,500
10	Downtown Dartmouth Ice Festival	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
11	East Coast Kite Festival	\$ 2,500	\$15,000	\$ 5,000
12	Eastern Passage Cow Bay Summer Carnival	\$ 7,000	\$25,000	\$10,000
13	Eid El Fitr	n/a	\$13,000	\$ 2,500
14	Eidul Adha Festival	n/a	\$30,000	\$ 3,000
15	Fire & Water Festival	\$ 5,000	\$10,000	\$ 6,000
16	Flavours of India	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
17	Gottingen Festival	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
18	Grou Tyme Festival	n/a	\$10,000	\$ 7,500
19	Halifax County Exhibition	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
20	Halifax Greek Festival*	n/a	\$10,000	\$ 3,500
21	Halifax Open Street	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
22	Halifax Salsa & Bachata Festival	n/a	\$25,000	\$ 2,500
23	Keloose Community Celebration	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
24	Lake and Shore Days	\$ 1,000	\$14,400	\$ 5,000
25	Light Up Bedford Parade	\$ 5,500	\$14,000	\$ 9,000
26	Mother Goose Festival	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,000
27	Navratri - Dandiya Garba Nights	\$ 2,500	\$10,000	\$ 5,000
28	Newcomers Welcome BBQ	\$ 750	\$25,000	\$ 4,500
29	North Preston Days*	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
30	Northern Lights Lantern Festival	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,500
31	Nova Scotia Power Holiday Parade of Lights	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
32	Peggy's Cove Area Festival of the Arts	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
33	Pirate Days*	\$ 7,500	\$10,000	\$ 7,500
34	Re-Jigged Festival	\$ 1,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
35	Sackville Christmas Tree Lighting	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
36	Sackville Patriot Days	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
37	Sackville Snow Days	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
38	Spryfield Days Festival	\$ 2,500	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
39	Spryfield Santa Claus Parade	\$ 3,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
40	St. Patrick's Day Parade*	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
41	Trunk 7 Music Festival	\$ 3,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
42	World Ocean Day	n/a	\$10,000	\$ 1,500
Total Established Community Events (C760)		\$220,750	\$478,900	\$313,000
Significant Anniversaries (C760)		2024/2025 Grant	2025/2026 Requested Grant	2025/2026 Proposed Grant
1	St. Paul's 275 th Anniversary Celebration - Closing Weekend	n/a	\$10,000	\$5,000
Total Significant Anniversaries (C760)		n/a	\$10,000	\$5,000

Community Celebrations (C760)		2024/2025 Grant	2025/2026 Requested Grant	2025/2026 Proposed Grant
1	Back to School Fun Day	n/a	\$1,000	\$1,000
2	Community Picnic	\$ 500	\$1,000	\$1,000
3	Concert in the Park Acadia Hall Grand Stage	n/a	\$1,000	\$1,000
4	Cultural Diversity Traditions	n/a	\$1,000	\$1,000
5	East Dartmouth Community BBQ	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
6	Funny Pages Festival	\$ 500	\$1,000	\$1,000
7	North By Night Market	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
8	People's Parade for Life on Earth	\$ 250	\$1,000	\$1,000
9	School Farm Day*	\$ 525	\$1,000	\$1,000
10	Spring Into Summer Community Block Party	n/a	\$1,000	\$1,000
11	Spryfield Area Festival of Colors	\$ 500	\$1,000	\$1,000
12	Sunset Market	\$ 725	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Community Celebrations (C760)		\$5,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Total Combined C760 Community/Civic Events		\$225,750	\$500,900	\$330,000

*Received applications past November 30th, 20204 deadline.

Cultural Events & Showcases (Q621)		2024/2025 Grant	2025/2026 Requested Grant	2025/2026 Proposed Grant
Tier 1				
1	Afrifest	\$ 5,000	\$20,000	\$ 8,000
2	AfterWords Literary Festival	\$ 5,000	\$45,000	\$ 9,000
3	Atlantic Canadian Irish Dance Championships	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,000
4	Black History Month Activities	\$ 5,000	\$20,000	\$ 8,000
5	East Coast Ukrainian Festival	n/a	\$25,000	\$ 5,000
6	EVERYSEEKER Festival	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
7	FrancoFest	\$ 5,000	\$12,000	\$ 8,000
8	Halifax Ganesh Festival	n/a	\$30,000	\$ 6,000
9	Halifax Independent Filmmakers Festival	\$ 3,000	\$20,000	\$ 8,000
10	Iri-Ji (New Yam) Festival	n/a	\$43,596	\$ 5,000
11	Mayworks Halifax Festival	\$ 4,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
12	OutFest	n/a	\$10,000	\$ 5,500
13	Stages Theatre Festival	\$ 5,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Tier 2				
14	Halifax Black Film Festival	n/a	\$60,000	\$10,000
15	Halifax Fringe Festival	\$19,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
16	Halifax Highland Games & Scottish Festival	n/a	\$60,000	\$10,000
17	Mosaic International Festival of Arts and Culture	n/a	\$25,000	\$10,000
18	Nocturne Halifax	\$45,000	\$60,000	\$55,000
19	Nova Multifest	\$10,000	\$50,000	\$20,000
20	Prismatic Arts Festival	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$37,500
21	Scotia Festival of Music	\$25,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
22	Taste Asia Food & Culture Festival	n/a	\$30,000	\$11,000
Total Cultural Events & Showcases (Q621)		\$172,000	\$655,596	\$310,000

Detailed Funding Recommendations for Multi-Year Regional Special Events Grants (Remaining Years)

Established Community Events (C760)		2026/2027 Grant (Year 2 of 3)	2027/2028 Grant (Year 3 of 3)
1	Agricola Street Holiday Market	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
2	Animation Festival of Halifax	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
3	Atlantic Jewish Film Festival	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
4	Canada Day Drumming Halifax	\$15,000	\$15,000
5	Canada Day in Beaver Bank	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
6	Caribbean Diaspora Multicultural Celebration	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
7	Christkindlmarket Festival	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
8	Dartmouth Open Street	\$15,000	\$15,000
9	Diwali Carnival – Festival of Lights	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
10	Downtown Dartmouth Ice Festival	\$25,000	\$25,000
11	East Coast Kite Festival	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
12	Eastern Passage Cow Bay Summer Carnival	\$10,000	\$10,000
13	Eid El Fitr	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
14	Eidul Adha Festival	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
15	Fire & Water Festival	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
16	Flavours of India	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
17	Gottingen Festival	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
18	Grou Tyme Festival	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
19	Halifax County Exhibition	\$25,000	\$25,000
20	Halifax Greek Festival*	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
21	Halifax Open Street	\$15,000	\$15,000
22	Halifax Salsa & Bachata Festival	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
23	Keloose Community Celebration	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
24	Lake and Shore Days	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
25	Light Up Bedford Parade	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
26	Mother Goose Festival	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
27	Navratri - Dandiya Garba Nights	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
28	Newcomers Welcome BBQ	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
29	North Preston Days	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
30	Northern Lights Lantern Festival	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
31	Nova Scotia Power Holiday Parade of Lights	\$25,000	\$25,000
32	Peggy's Cove Area Festival of the Arts	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
33	Pirate Days*	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
34	Re-Jigged Festival	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
35	Sackville Christmas Tree Lighting	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
36	Sackville Patriot Days	\$25,000	\$25,000
37	Sackville Snow Days	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
38	Spryfield Days Festival	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
39	Spryfield Santa Claus Parade	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
40	St. Patrick's Day Parade*	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
41	Trunk 7 Music Festival	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
42	World Ocean Day	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Total Established Community Events (C760)		\$313,000	\$313,000

Cultural Events & Showcases (Q621)		2026/2027 Grant (Year 2 of 3)	2027/2028 Grant (Year 3 of 3)
Tier 1			
1	Afrifest	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
2	AfterWords Literary Festival	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
3	Atlantic Canadian Irish Dance Championships	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
4	Black History Month Activities	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
5	East Coast Ukrainian Festival	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
6	EVERYSEEKER Festival	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
7	FrancoFest	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
8	Halifax Ganesh Festival	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
9	Halifax Independent Filmmakers Festival	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
10	Iri-Ji (New Yam) Festival	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
11	Mayworks Halifax Festival	\$10,000	\$10,000
12	OutFest	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
13	Stages Theatre Festival	\$10,000	\$10,000
Tier 2			
14	Halifax Black Film Festival	\$10,000	\$10,000
15	Halifax Fringe Festival	\$25,000	\$25,000
16	Halifax Highland Games & Scottish Festival	\$10,000	\$10,000
17	Mosaic International Festival of Arts and Culture	\$10,000	\$10,000
18	Nocturne Halifax	\$55,000	\$55,000
19	Nova Multifest	\$20,000	\$20,000
20	Prismatic Arts Festival	\$37,500	\$37,500
21	Scotia Festival of Music	\$35,000	\$35,000
22	Taste Asia Food & Culture Festival	\$11,000	\$11,000
Total Cultural Events & Showcases (Q621)		\$310,000	\$310,000