


GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Organization Requesting Grant: <i>(Please list parent/sponsor organizations in parenthesis)</i>	The Whistler Writing Society
Name of the program (if applicable):	2024 Whistler Writer in Residence
Society Registration Number:	S-49419
Organization Mailing Address:	11-1530 Tynebridge Lane, Whistler, BC V8E 0L3
Contact Name & Title:	Rebecca Wood Barrett, Artistic & Executive Director
Organization Phone Number:	
Organization Email Address:	rebecca@whistlerwritersfest.com
Organization Purpose or Mandate: <i>(Please provide this answer in one sentence.)</i>	The Society promotes literary arts by providing a forum for Sea to Sky writers to develop their craft locally.
Organization Category (choose between Environment, Social Service, Community Service, Recreation and Sports, Arts and Culture)	Arts and Culture

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

How many years has the organization existed?	23
How many active members/participants does the organization have in the current year? <i>(e.g. how many athletes have signed up for this year)</i>	101 members, 1750 participants
For sport organizations, how many youth (U18) participants are enrolled in your programs?	n/a
How many Whistler residents members does the organization have in the current year?	70 members, (many more participants in our programming)
How many volunteers/executive/staff are required to administer the organization in the current year?	1 full time staff, 6 part time contractors, 40+ festival volunteers, 9 part time volunteers
Age range of participants in the organization:	Children to Seniors

Please list active website URLs and active social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.):	www.whistlerwritersfest.com; IG: @whistlerwritersfest; FB: facebook.com/whistlerwriters; twitter.com/whistlerwriters;
What are the membership and participation requirements?	Anyone can apply to join. Members participate in Society's activities, events, readings, workshops, AGM, and can vote annually on Board membership.
Does the organization have any outstanding debts or other means of funding from the RMOW? If yes, please state the amount and reason. <u>Note:</u> Please include any Value In Kind support that you receive from the RMOW (eg. reduced rent, utilities in RMOW buildings)	No

GRANT INFORMATION

1. Purpose of Grant	<i>Explain in detail how the funding will be spent. Please refer to Council Policy A-7 Community Enrichment Program, available at www.whistler.ca/cep for funding criteria and eligibility. Please be as concise as possible using the space below.</i>
<p>The grant will be used to fund part of the honorarium for our 2024 Whistler Writer in Residence guest author. The author/mentor honorarium is \$6,000 to participate in the two month long program, which is comparable with other WIR programs. We kindly request the Community Enrichment Program (CEP) cover 50% (\$3,000) of the 2024 Writer in Residence honorarium. The Whistler Writing Society will take care of all other costs associated with the program, including the author s travel, administration, accommodation and promotion of the program.</p> <p>The CEP grant is important to our local writers because it makes the program affordable to residents in the Sea to Sky Corridor. In addition, they do not have to travel to an urban centre to develop their craft and market-orient their work. In 2023, award-winning Writer in Residence Cody Caetano (Half Bads in White Regalia) mentored participants of the program in-person in Whistler at the Alta Lake Cabin at The Point Artist-run Centre. We intend to run the 2024 program in a similar manner as 2023.</p> <p>The 2024 Writer in Residence author mentor is yet to be confirmed. Our list of candidates includes the following award-winning Canadian authors: Lisa Moore (This is How We Love), Iona Whishaw (To Track A Traitor), Leanne Dunic (Wet), Susan Juby (Meditation on Murder) and Jennifer Manuel (The Heaviness of Things That Float). This list of award-winning authors have attended our festival before and are highly respected writing teachers and coaches. We strive to include and highlight BIPOC and LGBTQ2SI+ author/ mentors and participants to bring diverse experiences and perspectives to all our programming. Our writer in residence candidate list will expand as we understand the availability of these author/mentor candidates.</p> <p>We plan to include a scholarship position for one of the 10 writer/participants, which will go to a BIPOC writer.</p>	

2. Is This a New Program or Activity?	<i>If yes, what are your targets and goals for this program/activity?</i>
No, the Whistler Writer in Residence program has been running annually since 2007.	

3. Current Year Highlights and Community Benefits:	<i>Detail the specifics of activities and community benefits your organization provides.</i>
<p>The two-month Writer in Residence features a Canadian award-winning author (TBC). This year's program will run from September through October. The author mentor will work with up to 10 fiction, creative non-fiction, young adult/children's, poetry writers and/or playwrights beginning in early September 2024.</p> <p>The Whistler Writer in Residence provides three one-on-one writing critique feedback sessions and three group seminars on different aspects of writing craft, writing life and publishing industry. This type of intensive, craft-focused instruction is not available in Whistler except through this program.</p>	

4. Existing Funding and Grant Applications:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>List the specific grants, funding and fundraising planned, approved or pending for the existing year, and</i> 2. <i>Please also list rejected or non-approved funding (with reasons).</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RMOW CEP, \$3,000 - pending - B.C. Arts Council, \$2,500 - pending (We received this grant in 2022 & 2023) - The Whistler Writing Society, Program Admin Fees, \$4,050 - pending - The Whistler Writing Society, reserves, \$460 - approved - The Whistler Writing Society, Fundraising, \$2500 - approved (to be used if BC Arts Council funds do not come though) 	

GRANT INFORMATION (CONTINUED):

5. Grant Request Amounts and Financial Breakdown:			
<i>Please ensure numbers provided in this table coincide with the required financial documents you provide in your application</i>			
	Annual Operating Budget	Grant Requested	<i>Provide a brief description of the specific amount requested. (Ex: Products, services, staffing roles, advertising, etc.)</i>
Salaries/contracts:	6000	3000	Author fee for two months
General operations:	1500	0	program coordination, marketing & advertising, admin
One-time project / program:			
Physical assets:			
Rent (RMOW facilities):	1260	N/A	Alta Lake Cabin at The Point Artist-run Centre
Rent (other facilities):			
Other:	1250		(author travel, supplies, postage)
Total	\$ 10,010	\$ 3000	29 % <i>(Grant request ÷ Annual budget amount)</i>
Reminder: The grant amount requested cannot be more than 50% of the annual operating budget of the organization.			

6. Additional Information:	<i>Please list any additional information, details or explanations regarding your grant request that you would like to be considered by Council.</i>
	<p>We request participants complete feedback forms, and continue to incorporate this information into our programming thereby making it sustainable, flexible and relevant. The CEP grant enables the quality programming to be maintained, while keeping costs affordable and the program accessible to local participants. Our list of potential writer in residence author mentors is provided in Section 1 of this application. Comments from the 2023 Whistler Writer in Residence program with author mentor, Cody Caetano:</p> <p>"Participating in this program gave me the confidence to move forward with my writing and querying to publishers and agents. Cody was so enthusiastic about the project, supportive and helpful every step of the way. I will be recommending this program to any writer in the Sea to Sky that wants to take that (scary) next step in their writing journey." - 2023 IBPOC Scholarship recipient</p> <p>----</p> <p>"In the one-to-one, Cody helped me find the voice of one of my protagonists--makes all the difference. Cody also enlightened me about where I'm going wrong in querying. In the workshops I learned to eschew the verb 'to be' (so static) and invent fun new custom verbs. That's how it helped my writing. As to how it helped me, it brought the joy of collaboration, and it led to the formation (I think) of a little writers community." - 2023 WIR Participant</p> <p>One additional piece of feedback received was to include a Welcome & Information Package for future Whistler Writers-in-Residence. This information package is under development.</p>

7. Attachments:	<i>Please indicate the attachments you are including with your Grant Application Form:</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Financial Statement (audited preferred) or Organization Budget (Required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Proof (copy) of registered not-for-profit society status or registered charity status (Required) <input type="checkbox"/> • Other:	

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

<p>8. Please list how your organization may improve Community Performance Indicators:</p>	<p>Please visit https://www.whistler.ca/municipal-gov/strategies-and-plans/strategic-plan/ to learn about the four priority areas of RMOW 2023-2026 Strategic Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing 2. Climate Action 3. Community Engagement 4. Smart Tourism <p>Please determine how your grant (or organization) can contribute to fulfilling any priorities described in the four areas listed above. Each priority has numerous specifications to choose from while describing how your grant (or organization) may help to improve Strategic Plan.</p>
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Example: This grant addresses the priority of “Community Engagement” because it strives to connect locals to each other. Specifically, this is because...

Our program addresses the four CPI priorities:

1. The Writer in Residence (WIR) program utilizes artist-designated housing and does not reduce housing for local residents, yet provides enriching, career development for local writers in our own community.
2. The program is open and not prescriptive in the support of artistic content. However, many writers in our Corridor (and visiting guest mentors) are writing about the impacts of climate change in their fiction and non-fiction. The WIR program means that local writers don't have to travel to an urban centre to study the writing craft, thereby reducing CO2 emissions.
3. The WIR participants meet other local writers, forming valuable artist networks in our own community. The WIR is a stepping stone to publication, and ultimately, participating in the Whistler Writers Festival as guest authors, which involving local audiences in the celebration of locally-created culture.
4. The WIR is a program that shows Whistler can be used as a retreat and place of further development and education for our own literary artists. The program enriches the writing skills of locals -- a benefit to Whistler businesses and Whistler culture -- who will ultimately draw visitors to Whistler through their own artistic works and practice. The high-profile WIR guest author spends two months in Whistler with the opportunity to immerse themselves in Whistler's arts culture; they contribute to local culture through their mentorship of local writers and they participate/present at the Whistler Writers Festival. They are also a draw for festival visitors to Whistler, who appreciate arts, culture and the natural environment.

SUPPORT FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

The RMOW is committed to working with the Líl'wat People, known in their language as L'il'wat7úl and the Squamish People, known in their language as the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for Crown land planning; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy.

9. How has your organization considered truth and reconciliation with the Indigenous Nations?

Reconciliation is one of our values, and we are actively walking this pathway. Our Society's programming has potential to advance reconciliation and decolonization through including/ inviting Indigenous workshop leaders and storytellers as well as Indigenous participants.

2023 Writer in Residence, Cody Caetano, is Indigenous, an off-reserve member of the Pinaymootang First Nation.

We have offered opportunities to study the art and craft of oral storytelling from local Lil'wat and Squamish artists, bringing the art of Indigenous and cultural oral traditions to our audiences, opening the door to fruitful discussions on reconciliation and decolonization, both formally at events and between audience and workshop members helping them build their own personal back pocket reconciliation plans (Chief Joseph, 2023).

For example, in 2022 our audiences learned a few different ways that oral stories in the Lil'wat Nation may be different from non-Indigenous cultures: story touch points often come in sets of four (instead of three); sometimes there is no defined ending to a story and a character 'goes on to have a good life'; character traits are neither seen as 'good' or 'bad,' but a character trait might be used for good or bad. Learning about other cultures ways through storytelling is a meaningful step on the path of reconciliation, and embracing the storytelling arts is a step towards decolonizing the traditional publishing industry.

We partner with Squamish Lil wat Cultural Centre to understand cultural protocols, necessary and appropriate culturally-sensitive research, and network with Indigenous artists and organizations in our region. Through this relationship we have connected with both Lil wat and Squamish Nation artists, included many in our events and programming, including sharing knowledge on artists craft. It is through these relationships that we identify relevant ways forward to ensure meaningful, sensitive representation of materials and cultures.

We work directly with the artists involved in the workshops and oral storytelling events to ask how they would like to see them unfold, and how they would like to be represented.

GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION:

Submitted by:	Rebecca Wood Barrett
Phone number:	[REDACTED]
Email:	rebecca@whistlerwritersfest.com
Acknowledgement:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • I confirm that the information provided in this CEP Grant Application Form is true;<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • I confirm that a representative is required to present this grant request at a future Council Meeting;<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • I confirm that if any amount is granted that the Grant Reporting Form is due by December 1 of this year;<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • I confirm that if any amount is granted, it will be used only for its intended purpose unless otherwise approved by Council.
Signature:	[REDACTED]

Funding decisions will be announced during a Regular Council Meeting in April 2024.

Please contact the Legislative Services Department at corporate@whistler.ca if you require any assistance.

Personal and third party information provided in this application form is collected under the authority of Section 26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Should you have any questions regarding the collection, use and disclosure of this information please contact the Legislative and Privacy Coordinator at 604-935-8118 or at 4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler.