



GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Organization Requesting Grant: <i>(Please list parent/sponsor organizations in parenthesis)</i>	The Whistler Writing Society
Name of the program(s) (if applicable):	2025 Whistler Writer in Residence
Society Registration Number:	S-49419
Organization Mailing Address:	
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 Services, Community Services, Recreation and Sports, Arts and Culture)	Arts and Culture

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

How many years has the organization existed?	24
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>	1340
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?	110
How many volunteers/executive/staff are required to administer the organization in the current year?	7 part-time contractors, 10 part-time volunteer board members, 40+ festival 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; www.whistlerwritersfest.com/media/videos
What are the membership and participation requirements?	Annual Society Membership is free and open to anyone. People who register as members can vote at our annual general meeting, get newsletter updates, and early ticketing access.
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 debt. We have in-kind support from Tourism Whistler for marketing and promotion. We are so grateful that in past years, we have been fortunate to receive funds from the RMOW FE&A and RMOW CEP programs. All annual reporting is up to date.

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 payment for this year's Whistler Writer in Residence guest author and mentor, who will work closely with 10 local writers on their manuscripts, while working on their own creative writing project.</p> <p>The author honorarium is \$6,000 for the two month-long program. This is the standard Writers Union of Canada fee. We kindly request the Community Enrichment Program (CEP) cover 50% (\$3,000) of the Writer in Residence honorarium fee. 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 2024, Writer in Residence Jennifer Manuel (<i>The Morning Bell Brings the Brokenhearted</i>) mentored participants of the program in-person in Whistler at The Point Artist's Cabin. We intend to run this year's program in a similar manner. Jen also taught a creative writing workshop at the Whistler Writers Festival, to make the most of her time here. More info: https://whistlerwritersfest.com/programs/whistler-writer-in-residence-ii/</p> <p>The 2025 Writer in Residence author mentor is yet to be confirmed. Our shortlist of candidates includes the following award-winning Canadian authors; Billy-Ray Belcourt (<i>This Wound is a World, Coexistence</i>), Chelene Knight (<i>Dear Currant Occupant, Junie</i>), Lisa Moore (<i>This is How We Love</i>), Iona Whishaw (<i>To Track A Traitor</i>). This list of award-winning authors have attended our festival before. 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 four author/mentor candidates.</p> <p>This year, we will include a scholarship position for one of the 10 writer/participants. Our Amplifying Voices scholarship is dedicated to writers who are underrepresented in publishing (Indigenous, racialized, Deaf or hard of hearing, living with a disability, and/or LGBTQ2S+). Last year the scholarship went to a writer with a hearing disability.</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 2025.</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. Many local writers have gone on from this program to form writing group connections with their program colleagues, and publish their manuscripts.</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>
<p>Specific Funding Plan for the Writer in Residence program only (does not include other programs):</p> <p>RMOW CEP, \$3,000 - pending</p> <p>B.C. Arts Council, \$2760 - pending - Received in 2023</p> <p>The Whistler Writing Society, Program Admin Fees, \$4,050 - pending</p> <p>Literary Legacy Endowment fund, \$450 - approved (Amplifying Voices Scholarship position)</p> <p>The Whistler Writing Society, Fundraising, \$2760 - approved (to be used if BC Arts Council funds do not come though)</p>	

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:	16200	3000	Author fee for two months
General operations:	103037	0	We have six major programs and WIR is one of them.
One-time project / program:	0	0	
Physical assets:	0	0	
Rent (RMOW facilities):	1260	N/A	The Point Artists' Cabin
Rent (other facilities):	24748	0	Venue rental: All programs
Other:	1500	0	WIR: Author travel, supplies, postage, cabin cleaning
Total	\$ 146745	\$ 3000	2 % <i>(Grant request ÷ Annual budget amount)</i>
<i>Reminder: The grant amount requested cannot be more than 50% of the annual operating budget of the organization.</i>			

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. These are comments we received from last year's Whistler Writer in Residence program with author mentor, Jennifer Manuel:</p> <p>Jen was an excellent teacher and she took a lot of time to prepare relevant and inspiring feedback. - Participant</p> <p>Jen helped me take my manuscript to a new level and gave me exercises to continue my editing on my own. She also helped me clarify the structure of my novel as a whole. - Participant</p> <p>I was extremely happy with the program. Jen was fantastic. I missed two of the group sessions because the dates did not work for me so it was nice to have the sessions taped. - Participant</p>

7. Attachments:	<i>Please indicate the attachments you are including with your Grant Application Form:</i>
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- Financial Statement (audited preferred) or Organization Budget (**Required**)
- Proof (copy) of registered not-for-profit society status or registered charity status (**Required**)
- Other:** Please see attached spreadsheet for the WIR program budget.

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

<p>8. Please describe how your organization can contribute to the RMOW Strategic Plan:</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...

1. The Writer in Residence (WIR) program provides cultural enrichment and group learning opportunities for local resident writers in our own community, and increases access for residents to high-level Canadian authors and mentors. The mentor uses the cabin at The Point which is for artist-use only, so they don't displace any local residents from housing.
2. The WIR program means that local writers don't have to travel to an urban centre to study the writing craft, thereby reducing emissions and protecting the environment. Our Society provides a bicycle to guest mentors to travel within Whistler.
3. The WIR fosters community engagement because participants meet other local writers forming valuable artist networks in our own community. Many WIR participants go on to publish their own books, enhancing the cultural experience and legacy of Whistler in our community. They also become featured writers at the Whistler Writers Festival, participating in their own book launches, presenting on panels and teaching workshops, to connect with local and visiting readers and writers.
4. The mentor resides at the cabin at the Point, drawing writers to a less busy part of Whistler. They contribute to local culture through their mentorship of local writers and the WIR participates/presents at the Whistler Writers Festival, which draws locals and visitors alike to the Whistler Writers Festival, to experience the arts in Whistler.

SUPPORT FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

The RMOW is committed to working with the Lil'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 planning on unceded territories, as currently managed by the provincial government; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy.

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

Our Society's programming has the potential to advance reconciliation and decolonization through including/ inviting Indigenous workshop leaders and storytellers as well as Indigenous participants.

We consult 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. 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.

For the last three years, we have offered opportunities to study the art and craft of oral storytelling from local Lil'wat and Squamish artists at the Whistler Writers Festival, 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).

In addition to local Indigenous participation, our festival typically has 6 Indigenous guest authors from across Canada participate in reading and workshop events. In 2024, we had moderators and MCs for all events read a short piece from an Indigenous author which was an enhancement to the festival's land acknowledgment.

At the submission of this application, we have invited Billy-Ray Belcourt, a writer and academic from the Driftpile Cree Nation to be our Writer in Residence. He is an Associate Professor in the School of Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia. He is the author of five books: *This Wound is a World*, *NDN Coping Mechanisms: Notes from the Field*, *A History of My Brief Body*, *A Minor Chorus*, and *Coexistence*.

GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION:

Submitted by:	Rebecca Wood Barrett	
Phone number:	[REDACTED]	
Email:	rebecca@whistlerwritersfest.com	
Acknowledgement:	<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]	Digitally signed by Rebecca Wood Barrett Date: 2025.02.05 14:40:32 -08'00'

Funding decisions will be announced during a Regular Council Meeting in April 2025.

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.