

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Organization Requesting Grant: <i>(Please list parent/sponsor organizations in parenthesis)</i>	Whistler Institute of Learning Society
Name of the program(s) (if applicable):	Global Perspectives Speaker Series
Society Registration Number:	Society# S-64840, Charitable# 796454122 RR0001
Organization Mailing Address:	PO Box 1475, Whistler BC, V0N 1B0
Contact Name & Title:	Mandy Rousseau, Executive Director
Organization Phone Number:	██████████
Organization Email Address:	contact@whistlerinstitute.com
Organization Purpose or Mandate: <i>(Please provide this answer in one sentence)</i>	Influencing change and inspiring minds through education and thought leadership.
Organization Category (choose between Environment, Social Services, Community Services, Recreation and Sports, Arts and Culture)	Community Service

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

How many years has the organization existed?	9
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>	We are not a member organization; estimated number of participants for 2024 programs is 400
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?	Not a member organization; there are 10 volunteer board directors who are members for the purpose of governing the organization.
How many volunteers/executive/staff are required to administer the organization in the current year?	13: 10 volunteer board directors, one part-time staff members, and two volunteers.
Age range of participants in the organization:	16+

Please list active website URLs and active social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.):	Web: whistlerinstitute.com facebook & instagram: /whistlerinstitute YouTube: @whistlerinstitute8469 22@whistlerinstitute8469 2
What are the membership and participation requirements?	No membership requirements; all adults can access our programming, and younger audiences are welcome, too (tweens & older).
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 Global Perspectives Speaker Series is a multi-evening program that brings global experts to Whistler to share thought-provoking ideas and lead meaningful discussions on issues that matter to our community. In our current series, we are hosting six events, two in partnership with local organizations, each including a “carry on the conversation” session, allowing attendees to engage directly with keynote speakers and panelists post-discussion. Each event brings community members together in a safe space for respectful dialogue and debate. To ensure this timely program continues during such divisive times, we seek funding to allocate as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Speaker Honorariums and Expenses: To attract high-profile speakers who provide valuable insights on global politics, advancing technologies, changing climates, and community well-being. Notable past and upcoming speakers include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tricia Smith, Canadian Olympic Committee (past speaker) - Dr. Mark Jaccard, Distinguished Professor, Director of the School of Resource and Environmental Management, Simon Fraser University (past speaker) - Dr. Kennedy Stewart, Associate Professor, School of Public Policy, Simon Fraser University (upcoming speaker) 2. A/V Equipment Rental: to ensure high-quality presentations and accessibility, we will allocate funding for audio-visual equipment rental, including assisted captioning service to ensure inclusivity. 3. Marketing & Outreach: to promote the series through various channels, including social media, print and digital advertising, and in-person outreach, with the goal of maximizing community engagement and participation. We aim to increase awareness and participation by: expanding our reach for feedback on future topics of interest, and through school partnerships, targeted outreach, and discounted/free access programs for those experiencing potential barriers to access. 4. Program Administration & production: to ensure seamless execution and maximize community impact, funding will support the coordination and execution of the series, including presentation development with the speakers, logistical arrangements, event management, and post-event evaluations. <p>This funding request aligns with the Community Enrichment Programs’ objectives by promoting lifelong learning and encouraging community engagement, contributing to the general interests of our community.</p>	

2. Is This a New Program or Activity?	<i>If yes, what are your targets and goals for this program/activity?</i>
<p>This is not a new program; we are seeking financial support to continue the growth and transformation of the Global Perspectives Speaker Series to fulfill the needs of our dedicated audience, and engage more of Whistler's community. This funding would support our 2025-2026 series, at which we will explore topics such as the future of mountain towns, financial decentralization and cryptocurrency, the aging economy, democracy in crisis, the future of sportswear and equipment, and neuroscience innovations. Our series topics are timely, and global with local impacts presented from different viewpoints that challenge and grow our thinking - with the aim for a better future for all people and the planet.</p>	

3. Current Year Highlights and Community Benefits:	<i>Detail the specifics of activities and community benefits your organization provides.</i>
<p>The Whistler Institute enriched community life in 2024 and early 2025 by growing our Global Perspectives Speaker Series to its most robust season yet. Working with a mix of key note speakers and panelists, we offered five separate talks that brought leading experts to Whistler to intellectually stimulate more than 350 attendees. Topics discussed included the future of healthcare, advancements and preventions made in concussion research, personal development through sport, environmental challenges for crop resiliency, and ethics in AI. Each event fostered informed discussions amongst a cross-hatch of community members of varying backgrounds and ages. By providing access to diverse educational speaker events, we support personal and professional growth amongst residents, broadening our collective understanding of the world. We are proud that 2024 and the beginning of 2025 have been filled with a culture of learning and curiosity, enriching the social and cultural fabric of our community. Through these activities, the Whistler Institute plays a pivotal role in fostering a vibrant, informed, and resilient community.</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>The Whistler Institute relies on a blend of private, corporate and grant funding sources. It is through the ongoing support of visionary organizations and individuals that the Whistler Institute continues to expand year-round education initiatives that embed thought leadership and learning within the Whistler community, while contributing to the overall well-being of this region and its many residents and visitors. In addition to our grant and donor support, the Whistler Institute also receives funding from program and course registration and event ticket sales.</p> <p>Revenues are used to cover staff administrative costs required to research, develop, and produce in community education programs. Revenues are also used to cover course facilitator fees, insurance costs, revenue booking fees, marketing efforts, and general operational costs for the organization. Where possible, the Whistler Institute leverages value-in-kind support for venue bookings, volunteer appreciation, speaker and course facilitator fees.</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:	58,500	6,000	~41% of Staff time goes to the Speaker Series; we are requesting 25% of that amount to be supported, based on 5 events
General operations:	41,545	9,000	To support speaker fees & expenses, AV rental, marketing & advertising
One-time project / program:	0	0	
Physical assets:	0	0	
Rent (RMOW facilities):	7,725	N/A	Based on five venue rentals of the Maury Young Arts Centre, for the min. four hour booking.
Rent (other facilities):	0	0	
Other:	0	0	
Total	\$ 107,770	\$ 15,000	14 % <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>Through partnerships with post-secondary institutions, independent educators, industry experts, and local, national, and regional organizations, the Whistler Institute is working towards making lifelong learning a pillar of the Whistler community by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. enhancing the vibrancy of our local community 2. developing custom educational programming 3. increasing engagement opportunities for community members through thought-provoking dialogue, and 4. enabling community members to nurture their sense of connection and deepen their understanding of the challenges that face our community, and by extension the world.

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 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>
<p><i>Example: This grant addresses the priority of “Community Engagement” because it strives to connect locals to each other. Specifically, this is because...</i></p>	
<p>The Whistler Institute positively contributes to the RMOW’s strategic priority of community engagement through the Global Perspectives Speaker Series by connecting residents with each other. We offer attendees (residents, second homeowners, and some visitors) access to thought-provoking discussions on global issues, fostering a well-informed community. We strive to make a welcoming and thoughtful space for everyone, encouraging the sharing of different perspectives and respectful disagreement. Working with experts from diverse fields, we guide the development of their presentations based on topics that matter to our community, as identified by our owned data and other organization’s research and community analysis (Whistle Public Library’s Strategic Plan Engagement Results; Whistler’s Community Life Survey, Whistler’s Vital Signs, etc.). Each speaker series encourages audience participation, with opportunities to discuss and debate challenging issues that matter here as well as abroad.</p> <p>Based on post-event feedback surveys, we have a proven track record of providing intellectual enrichment for our audiences, and take attendees’ feedback into consideration for each iteration of the series thereafter.</p>	

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?

The Whistler Institute has a proven track record of positively contributing to supporting truth and reconciliation within the community. Working in partnership with Lil'wat Nation and BCIT, we developed the Indigenous and Intercultural Awareness Program to provide local employers and employees the background and tools needed to recruit, train, retain, and support local Indigenous community members. The inspiration for this accredited course was to equip employers and employees to better work together, and understand our Indigenous neighbours' strengths and challenges. By generating greater understanding and strengthening relationships, the team aspired to increase employment of local Lil'wat Nation community members in Whistler. In 2018, the Whistler Institute received a letter of support from Lil'wat Nation's Political Chief for our work on this course, and a resource group from the Nation was formed to provide advice and guidance throughout this course's development. 18 employer representatives and subject specialists shared their knowledge on the subject, and 43 Lil'wat Nation members shared their input, too.

The goal of this program is to build long lasting, sustainable relationships between communities. Participants will develop greater understanding of our Indigenous neighbours, and leave with a road map to implement practical changes within the workplace that will better equip their business to recruit and retain Indigenous individuals, while assisting in their journey towards reconciliation.

Most recently, Lil'wat Nation's Political Chief has joined the Whistler Institute's Culinary Task Force, exploring the feasibility of opening a culinary school in Whistler.

GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION:

Submitted by:	Mandy Rousseau
Phone number:	[REDACTED]
Email:	mandy@whistlerinstitute.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]

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.