



MEMBERSHIP ADVISORY

Grants Program Changes for 2020 – 2021

In response to reductions to our funding allocation, the Alberta Museums Association (AMA) will be making changes to several of its programs and services going forward, including the Grants Program for the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year.

This past year, the AMA has seen a cumulative reduction of 37% to its annual funding from the Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women. This reduction has meant that the AMA Board of Directors and Secretariat have had to make difficult decisions regarding AMA operations as well as the level at which some programs will be offered to the membership.

For the 2020 – 2021 granting year, the following changes have been made to our Grant Runs:

- The September 2020 Grant Run will be eliminated.
- The November 2020 Grant Run for Operational Staffing Grants will proceed as normal.
 - Draft Review Deadline: October 15, 2020
 - Formal Application Deadline: November 2, 2020
- The February 2021 Grant Run will be reduced to accept applications for Professional Development Grants only.
 - Draft Review Deadline: January 13, 2021
 - Formal Application Deadline: February 1, 2021

We recognize that these cuts in available funding will especially impact Institutional Members across Alberta, and reduce capacity for the projects that help to protect, preserve, and promote our province's heritage. The AMA is continuing to advocate for more support to our sector, and we hope you will join us in these efforts. Collectively, we need to ensure that we are demonstrating the vital role museums have as leading contributors to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of Alberta.

We want to encourage our membership to continue to actively engage with your local MLAs, the Ministry of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, and with elected officials at all levels of government, to ensure they have first-hand experience of your institution and recognize your role in your local community's cultural landscape. Your voice is needed to help demonstrate the impacts of these cuts on the sustainability of the museum sector and how they will affect your ability to continue providing accessible cultural opportunities that enrich the lives of everyday Albertans and all visitors to our province.

Going forward, the AMA will need to continue to adapt our programs and services to ensure we are able to support the museum sector as our community begins to adjust to and recover from the unprecedented circumstances we find ourselves in.

If you have any questions about the changes to the Grants Program or would like resources to support your advocacy and engagement efforts, please contact Meaghan Patterson, Executive Director / CEO, at mpatterson@museums.ab.ca or 780.424.2626.