



Foundation of Greater Montréal

COLLECTIVE FUND FOR SOCIAL EQUITY

Call for initiatives 2026-2027

Spaces for Civic Participation



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Summary

The Foundation of Greater Montreal opens a Call for initiatives for the Collective Fund for Social Equity 2026-2027.

With a total budget of \$800,000, the Fund aims to support the emergence and maintenance of collective spaces, places, and resources that enable marginalized communities to come together, mobilize, and build solidarity.

Charities, non-profits, citizen groups, coalitions, and partnerships between the public/academic and community sectors serving the Greater Montreal area are eligible. Priority will be given to initiatives by and for historically marginalized populations and populations facing systemic discrimination, as well as initiatives in solidarity with and for the benefit of these populations.

Two levels of funding are available: \$15,000 or \$30,000 per year for two years.

The selection process consists of two stages: Stage 1 application via a simplified online form (January 12 to February 20, 2026), followed by in-depth conversations with the FGM team for selected initiatives (Stage 2). Recipients will be announced at the end of June 2026.

For more details, please read the Applicant Guide.





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Vision

The Collective Fund for Social Equity was created by the FGM with the intention of addressing issues related to social inequalities in the Greater Montreal area. Currently, we are seeing that **the decline of fundamental rights** and **the weakening of democratic institutions** are greatly affecting communities in Greater Montreal.

This is manifested by:

- The rise of populism and polarization;
- Declining rates of civic and political participation;
- Growing inequalities and the exhaustion of the community sector in the face of needs;
- The rise of hate speech targeting minorities in particular;
- Apathy and a diminished sense of agency.

In the face of these challenges, the FGM recognizes and supports the power of local communities to come together, strengthen themselves, build relationships, mobilize, act collectively, **and build a just and equitable future for all.**

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Objective of the Fund

During consultations with community representatives, we've often heard that communities' capacity for action depends on the interpersonal connections and the level of trust between the community members. In turn, collective action fosters a sense of belonging. Together, these conditions contribute to social change.



The aim of this Fund is to promote the creation and maintenance of spaces, places and collective resources for groups facing various forms of systemic discrimination, such as racism, ableism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia and others. These spaces enable groups to recharge, strengthen ties, mobilise and create solidarity and dialogue with other communities and population groups.

The Fund **prioritises** initiatives carried out **by and for the affected populations**, as well as those carried out **in solidarity with and for the benefit of** these populations.

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Examples of what can be funded

Spaces for Healing and Connection

These spaces enable people to share their experiences, develop a sense of belonging and establish or maintain initiatives based on solidarity and mutual aid.

Examples:

- Healing circles
- Land-based activities
- Restorative justice programs
- Solidarity committees
- Mutual aid funds
- Peer support groups

Spaces for Dialogue:

These spaces allow people from different backgrounds to come together, get to know each other, break down prejudices, and engage in discussions to counter polarisation.

Examples:

- Intercultural meetings
- Reconciliation spaces
- Artistic projects that aim to bring people together
- Public spaces that are inclusive and accessible to all, regardless of status or residential situation

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Examples of what can be funded

Civic Participation Spaces:

These spaces and resources provide individuals and groups with opportunities for civic education and mobilisation, combating apathy and defense of collective rights.

Examples:

- Citizen assemblies
- Collective neighbourhood projects
- Awareness or advocacy campaigns
- Zines, podcasts, community action research, and other projects to document, preserve, and share community-owned knowledge
- Civic education centers

This list is provided for illustrative purposes only. It is not exhaustive.

We invite all organizations whose activities fall within the scope of the Fund to submit their applications.



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Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, organizations, groups or collectives must exist for a charitable purpose and carry out activities for the public benefit. This means:

- Registered charities duly registered under the Canada Revenue Agency (qualified donees).
- Community service organizations, non-profits, grassroots organizations, advocacy groups, coalitions without charitable registration number (non-qualified donees).
- Projects involving partnerships between the public sector, academia, etc., and the community/grassroots sector. The project must clearly demonstrate an established partnership with the community.
- An applicant without a charity number registered with the Canada Revenue Agency (non-qualified donee) must partner with a registered charity who will ensure direction and control of funding.

Geographic area

- The Fund is intended for organisations and groups that serve populations in the Greater Montreal area.
- Regional or national organizations may apply for activities taking place in the Greater Montreal area and must demonstrate their connection with local communities and community support for the initiative.
- The Greater Montreal area served by the FGM includes the 82 municipalities of the Montreal Metropolitan Community (CMM), as well as the communities of Kahnawà:ke and Kanésatake.

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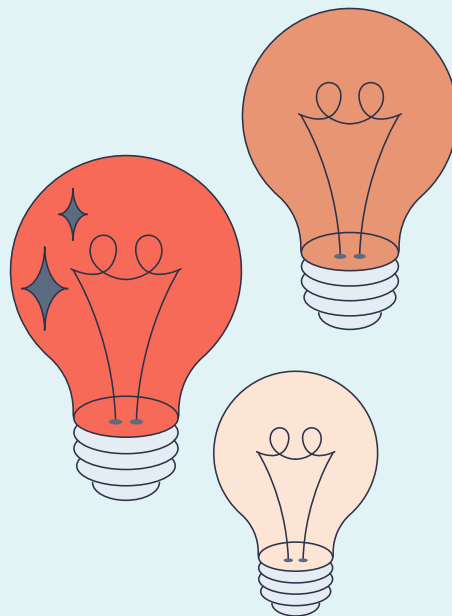
Eligibility

Accessibility

- This Fund is intentionally accessible to organizations, collectives and groups facing systemic barriers in obtaining funding, including organizations without core funding, without a charity number, and emerging groups.

Eligibility of FGM's grantees

- Past and actual grantees of FGM Collective Funds are eligible to apply under the same conditions as other organizations. The FGM does not impose a waiting period between the end of funding and the new application, nor does it impose any limits on the funds that the organization can receive.





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Our approach to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion

Populations

- In alignment with the JEDI approach (justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion), priority will be given to initiatives designed to enhance the quality of life for historically marginalized populations identified by the FGM's Granting Strategy, including **Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), LGBTQ2S+ people, women and girls, and people with disabilities.**
- We recognize that many individuals and communities are at the intersection of various identities and forms of oppression that shape their experience and their actions in the face of discrimination and injustice.
- We also recognize the important role played by **youth, seniors, immigrants and the religious minorities** in building of our society.
- We will give special consideration to initiatives that seek to build alliances and amplify the voices of the most marginalized in our society.

Territorial equity

- As the community foundation for Greater Montreal, our mission is to support the sustainable and equitable development of communities located outside the island of Montreal. Initiatives that meet the Fund's criteria and originate from communities on the South Shore and North Shore will be given priority in the application selection process.

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Budget

The 2025-2026 Collective Fund for Social Equity has a total budget of \$800,000. A portion of this budget (max 10%) will be allocated to grantees' capacity-building.

Funding conditions

The Fund offers two levels of funding:

- \$15,000 per year for two years
- \$30,000 per year for two years

Organizations are free to choose the funding level based on their financial needs.

Eligible Expenses:

- The Fund offers flexible funding with respect of the self-determination of organizations and collectives, and recognition of their expertise in determining their priority needs.
- Funding may cover (examples):
 - core activities and expenses of the organization or collective, including the expenses related to the maintenance and exploitation of a physical space
 - a specific project or initiative
 - expenses related to collaboration, coalition-building and mobilization
 - expenses related to research, documentation, creation and printing
 - honoraria and other expenses related to human resources
 - accessibility measures and other relevant expenses



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Funding conditions

Ineligible expenses:

- Due to budgetary constraints and the non-recurring nature of the funding, the grants cannot cover fundraising campaigns, construction costs or infrastructure projects that exceed the Fund's capacity, as well as previously incurred expenses, or debts.
- In accordance with FGM policies, the funding cannot be used for activities that support or oppose any political party or candidate to any public office.

Capacity building:

- In addition to the funding provided, the Fund will offer additional support aimed at strengthening skills and networks of grantee organisations.

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Key Dates

January 12, 2026: Applications open via a simplified online form

January 21 at noon, February 2 at 6pm and February 12 at noon: Online Q&A Sessions with the FGM team

February 20, 2026, at 4 PM: Applications close

February 23 to March 23, 2026: Stage One applications review

End of March to beginning of April 2026: the applicants who will not progress to Stage Two will be notified by the FGM team.

March 30 to May 8, 2026: Selected applicants will be invited to complete Stage Two application via an in-depth conversation with the FGM team.

May 9 to June 18, 2026: Review of the Stage Two applications and grant recommendations by the Fund's Advisory Committee.

End of June 2026: Announcement of the results of the Collective Fund for Social Equity 2026-2027.

July to September 2026: signing of the funding agreements and first grant payments.

July 10, 2026: Virtual gathering of the Fund grantees.

Spring 2027: Grantees mid-journey gathering.

Spring 2028: Grantees final gathering.

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How to Apply

Preparation

- Get familiar with the Application Guide and the [Application Form](#). The Application Form is available in PDF format for consultation purposes.
- Attend one of our online Q&A sessions. No registration required.

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 12 PM – <https://fgmtl-org.zoom.us/j/83001463123?pwd=Qxs61Umd1qsoGbDZarMaglqnlmu5a8.1>

Monday, February 2, 2026, at 6 PM - <https://fgmtl-org.zoom.us/j/88019274136?pwd=ICDkGtoWpzTLko0Ra7ao0cxCgyOt4u.1>

Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 12 PM - <https://fgmtl-org.zoom.us/j/83647332537?pwd=SLy0ur1b03Cfm5f3wpOcNTcTHy04jl.1>

Stage One

- Submit your Stage One application via online Form between January 12 and February 20, 2026 (<https://forms.office.com/r/jk5eMuyZQd>)
- If your application is selected to advance to Stage Two, the FGM team will get in touch with you via email at the end of March or beginning of April 2026.

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How to Apply

Stage Two

- Stage Two applications will be conducted orally through an in-depth conversation with the FGM team.
- After the conversation, the FGM team will prepare the grant application and send it to the applicant for approval.
- The FGM chose this approach to
 - alleviate the administrative burden and mental load on organizations,
 - level the playing field for the organizations facing systemic barriers in accessing funding
 - reduce bias and iniquities stemming from the growing use of generative Artificial Intelligence tools.
- In accordance with the principles of Trust-Based Philanthropy and to ensure equal opportunities for all grant applicants, we do not require any other supporting documents at this stage.

Final Selection

- Stage Two applications will be reviewed by the Fund's Advisory Committee according to the criteria listed below.
- The grantees of the Fund will be announced at the end of June 2026.
- All organizations and groups who participated in the Stage Two will receive personalized feedback on their application from the FGM team and the Advisory Committee.

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Selection Process

The selection of the Stage One applications will be done by the FGM team in collaboration with the Advisory Committee according to the following criteria:

1. The relevance of the initiative or the mission of the organization or collective in relation to the funding streams and principles of the Fund.
2. The geographic scope of the initiative or organization with the goal of representation of diverse neighbourhoods of Montreal and areas outside of the Island of Montreal (Laval, North Shore and South Shore).
3. The populations that will benefit from the initiative or the organization's activities, in line with the previously mentioned JEDI principles.
4. The level of community involvement in the initiative or how the needs of the most impacted communities will be addressed.
5. The commitment to collaboration with other stakeholders.

Fund Principles

In reviewing applications and selecting grantees, the team and Advisory Committee will be guided by the following principles:

1. Prioritize historically marginalized groups and other populations affected by systemic discrimination through equity-centered and intersectional lens.
2. Recognise these populations not as victims, but as holders of ideas and agents of change that ultimately benefit society as a whole.
3. Foster a decolonial mindset by examining the link between current inequities and colonial systems and placing communities' self-determination at the centre of our decision making.
4. Mitigate the effects of the competition-based philanthropic model: reduce barriers to funding and select grantees based on complementarity and the potential for mutual learning and enrichment.
5. Foster relationship building and solidarity between communities and organizations.

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Reporting requirements

The FGM favours a relational approach based on trust. The Fund's grantees will be invited to share their progress and any challenges they have encountered during follow-up conversations with the FGM team. They will also be invited to annual grantee gatherings, where they will present their projects to other grantees.

Contact

If you need accommodations to participate in this Call for Projects, please contact:

Vira Kovalova at vira.kovalova@fgmtl.org or 514 866-0808 ext. 126

Sarah Ouagueni at sarah.ouagueni@fgmtl.org or 514 866-0808 ext. 121



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Glossary

This glossary aims to clarify the interpretation by the FGM of key terms in this framework. It is not exhaustive and does not exclude other interpretations.

Collective action - action taken by a group (either directly or on its behalf through an organization) in support of the shared and perceived interests of its members (*Scott and Marshall, 2005*)

Belonging - more than just being included, belonging involves having a voice and the ability to make demands on society and political institutions. Belonging is not limited to access; it concerns the power to co-create the structures that shape a community. (*Adapted from the definition by the Othering and Belonging Institute*)

Community space – a physical, virtual, or symbolic place that provides community members with opportunities to gather, interact, share experiences, and develop a sense of belonging.

Community – a group of people brought together by a shared location, interests, or identity. Community is a dynamic entity that endures over time through a sense of belonging and collaborative bonds among members.

Equity – the principle and process of creating conditions that enable all individuals to participate fully in society.

Grassroots – a collective or initiative initiated and led by those most affected by the issue and accountable to those individuals. Grassroots initiatives are characterized by the participation of volunteer activists, a high degree of power sharing within the group, and autonomy in defining strategy, actions, and internal culture. (*Adapted from the definition by the Global Grassroots Support Network*)

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Glossary

Intersectionality - a term proposed by Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw—illustrates the interconnectedness of our identities, which cannot be separated from one another. Dr. Crenshaw's work highlights how people with multiple marginalized identities experience aggravated forms of inequity and oppression. As a result, intersectional mobilization allows us to see beyond the competition between different issues and forms of oppression and to strengthen solidarity between different groups in a common goal of environmental and social justice.

Empowerment – the ability of individuals and communities to develop according to their own aspirations and to be able to deal with external dynamics that influence them with a view to healthy interinfluence. A community that has developed its capacity for action becomes competent, that is, a place where different systems are able to meet the needs of individuals and where individuals are able to use systems effectively. *(Adapted from the definition by CommunAgir)*

Disclosure of the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

This guide was written by the community engagement team of the Foundation of Greater Montreal and validated by an independent advisory committee. Generative Artificial Intelligence tools (Claude.ai version Sonnet 4.2 and DeepL) were used during the writing and revision stages for the following tasks:

- Text simplification
- Formatting to improve readability
- Translating parts of the text from French into English

The FGM never uses AI tools in its decision-making processes, such as the analysis and selection of funding applications.



Foundation of Greater Montréal

BETWEEN JANUARY 12 AND
FEBRUARY 20, 2026, APPLY
TO THE COLLECTIVE FUND
FOR SOCIAL EQUITY



Contact

If you need accommodations to participate in this Call for Projects, please contact Vira Kovalova at vira.kovalova@fgmtl.org or 514 866-0808 ext. 126 or Sarah Ouagueni at sarah.ouagueni@fgmtl.org or 514 866-0808 ext. 121.