

**VOLUNTEER MUSEUM GRANT PROGRAM**  

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**LEG UP GRANTS**  
**2025 GUIDELINES**

Amount Available: \$50 - \$500 (matched funding)  
Closing Date: 2 November 2025 or until funds expended

*This is a Create NSW devolved funding program, administered by Museums & Galleries NSW on behalf of the NSW Government*  
Supported by the



## Purpose of program

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The Volunteer Museum Grant Program provides assistance to volunteer-initiated community museums and Aboriginal cultural spaces (such as cultural centres and Keeping Places) with collections and displays in NSW.

This is a Create NSW devolved funding program, administered by Museums & Galleries of NSW (M&G NSW) on behalf of the NSW Government. The program provides access to funding for collection-focused projects, in addition to providing experience in the grant application process.

Leg Up Grants are “quick response” grants for volunteers in volunteer managed museums and Aboriginal cultural spaces who require financial assistance to attend some form of skills development activity, or to bring such an activity into their museum.

## Amount available

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The maximum amount that can be applied for under the program is: \$500 (GST, exclusive)

Note: Leg Up Grants require funding from Museums & Galleries of NSW to be matched dollar-for-dollar by the applying museum or Aboriginal cultural space.

## Timeframe

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Leg Up Grants can be applied for at any time throughout the year, until all funds are expended. Acquittals are due two months after the completion of the activity.

Leg Up Grant applications must be received by M&G NSW at least 3 weeks before the skills development activity (e.g. conference, workshop, seminar) is scheduled to take place.

## Staff contact

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Applicants must contact M&G NSW to discuss your project. Staff members are on hand to provide advice on writing grant applications, developing a project, budgeting, and sourcing appropriate consultants. First-time applicants and those unfamiliar with grant-writing are encouraged to get in contact for detailed and ongoing assistance.

Enquiries can be directed to: Alice Norwood Museums Coordinator  
phone: (02) 56632338  
free call: 1800 114 311 (regional only)  
email: [alicen@mgnsw.org.au](mailto:alicen@mgnsw.org.au)

## Eligibility criteria

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To apply for a Leg Up Grant, an organisation must:

- Be incorporated (or provide the details of an auspicing body that is incorporated, such as a local council) OR provide evidence of appropriate alternative governance structures (eg. S355 Committee, Trust, Company limited by guarantee, Local government authority, etc.)

- Be not-for-profit
- Be an established museum, museum network (such as an AMaGA chapter), or Aboriginal cultural space, with a displayed collection (not an archive or historical society without a museum function)
- Be regularly open to the public (i.e. not open by appointment only)
- Have no more than the equivalent of two full-time paid positions
- Provide a written commitment to contribute 50% of the overall costs of the project, thereby matching the amount funded by the Leg Up Grant
- Agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the grant
- Not apply for a VM Grant if they have also applied for, or received, Create NSW funding for the same activity
- Ensure that the project meets all current NSW Health Covid Safe Guidelines.

## Assessment criteria

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The selection process takes into consideration:

- How the experience will improve the individual's contribution to the organisation, and benefit the museum, or Aboriginal cultural space overall
- Whether applications demonstrate how knowledge and skills acquired during the activity/event will be shared within the museum or Aboriginal cultural space

**Note:** Each organisation may receive only one Leg Up Grant per year

## Leg Up Grants will fund

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Various skills development projects, such as (but not limited to) the following:

- Workshops, conferences, meetings, seminars, or Aboriginal cultural events in NSW and the ACT
- Networking or skill-sharing opportunities - one or more volunteers visiting other museums/cultural spaces/sites/venues, to share information on a similar project and learn new practices
- Hosting an event - that develops skills in the organisation, such as an in-house workshop or guest speaker
- Travel costs, accommodation and registration fees (excluding meal costs)

For specific examples of previously funded applications, visit the [M&G NSW Leg Up Grants webpage](#). Lists of previous recipients are available for download.

## Leg Up Grants will not fund

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- Retrospective projects or projects that have already started (for instance, training that has already been undertaken)
- The cost of meals

# Application process

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Applications must be submitted through SmartyGrants – a link will be provided by the Museums Coordinator after discussing application.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Museums Coordinator to receive grant-writing assistance whenever needed. Applicants may also pursue external grant-writing assistance. However, it must be clear that the museum volunteers have written the grant application, and that they have ownership over the project.

**If your application specifically involves Aboriginal culture and heritage, you must supply evidence of consultation and support from the relevant communities.** It is recommended you refer to Create NSW's [Aboriginal Arts and Culture Protocols](#).

**Leg Up Grant applications must be received by M&G NSW at least 3 weeks before the skills development activity (e.g. conference, workshop, seminar) is scheduled to take place.**

M&G NSW will acknowledge receipt of the application when it is formally submitted through SmartyGrants. **It is the applicant's responsibility to complete and submit their application.**

## Important things to remember

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- In the Activity Summary refer only to the activities, purchases, or consultant that the program is being asked to fund. This section is not to be used to express any other aspect of the project or the museum's activities; you may do so in the Activity Description.
- To streamline Leg Up Grant applications, M&G NSW use a calculator to determine car expenses and a cap system for accommodation. All non-car travel must be quoted in GST exclusive amounts. If the applicant is registered for GST M&G NSW will pay that component.
- You must attach a quote or screen shot of advertised prices for each dollar being applied for, including accommodation, but excepting car travel. Any non-car travel items included in the budget that do not have an accompanying quote or screen shot will not be funded. You will be asked to resubmit your application if there are multiple issues with your budget.
- M&G NSW will acknowledge receipt of the application to the applicant. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact M&G NSW if this acknowledgement is not received.

## Museums & Galleries of NSW prefer grant applications to be completed via SmartyGrants.

If you are unable to complete via SmartyGrants, please email your application and supporting documentation on, or before the closing date to: [alicen@mgnsw.org.au](mailto:alicen@mgnsw.org.au)

If you are unable to email the supporting documentation you must inform M&G NSW and send the package to:

Volunteer Museum Grant Program  
Museums & Galleries of NSW  
Level 1, The Arts Exchange  
10 Hickson Rd  
The Rocks NSW 2000

## Assessment process

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Once your application has been deemed eligible, it will be assessed by an appropriate senior M&G NSW staff member.

The decision of this staff member is final.

M&G NSW will notify applicants of their outcome by mail. Funds will not be available until the relevant grant acceptance documentation is completed.

## Terms and conditions

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Applicants should be mindful of the following terms and conditions associated with accepting a Volunteer Museum Grant. These include:

- All monies must be expended as per the approved application
- Unused monies must be reported to M&G NSW and returned in the proper manner (please do not send in a cheque before discussing the matter with M&G NSW)
- Successful applicants will be required to provide an acquittal report within two months of the project's completion. The acquittal report includes a one-page report to be written by the applicant providing an overview of the project, and the resulting benefits to the museum, and/or the individuals involved in the project. Photographs, media clippings and brochures should be included in the acquittal documentation where available. M&G NSW may use all or parts of this report in marketing material for the Volunteer Museum Grant Program.
- M&G NSW and the NSW Government must be publicly acknowledged as supporting the project by using the appropriate logos and text acknowledgement on all printed and/or electronic material produced in relation to the funded activity. This includes publications, invitations, banners, websites and any printed or electronic material. Any products developed as a result of the funded activity must also carry the M&G NSW and the NSW Government logos and acknowledgments.
- All acknowledgements that accompany the NSW Government logo must use the following wording: *The Volunteer Museum Grant Program is a Create NSW devolved funding program, administered by Museums & Galleries of NSW (M&G NSW) on behalf of the NSW Government.*

- The logos and written acknowledgement should be placed in a position appropriate to the level of support. Logos and style-guides are available from the M&G NSW Information and Resources Officer on 02 9339 9902 or email [comms@mgnsw.org.au](mailto:comms@mgnsw.org.au).