

Museums & Galleries of NSW

VOLUNTEER MUSEUM GRANT PROGRAM

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS 2025 GUIDELINES

Amount Available: Up to \$4,000

Closing Date: 2 November 2025 (or until funds are exhausted)

Supported by the



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

Purpose of program

The **Volunteer Museum Grant Program** provides assistance to volunteer-initiated community 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 as well as skill development activities.

Skills Development Grants provide funding to volunteer museums, museum networks, and Aboriginal cultural spaces for regional or state focused skill development training and networking events involving more than one organisation.

There are no set categories for funding, and applications for a broad range of projects will be considered.

Amount available

The maximum amount that can be applied for under the program is: **\$4,000 (GST, exclusive)**

All Volunteer Museum Grants are awarded free of GST. If the applicant is registered for GST M&G NSW will pay that component.

Timeframe

Skills Development Grants can be applied for at any time throughout the year, until the cut-off date of the 2 November 2025, or all funds are expended.

Skills Development Grant applications must be received by M&G NSW at least **6 weeks** before the activity/event (e.g. conference, workshop, seminar) is scheduled to take place.

Activities funded by 2025 Skills Development Grants must take place between **March 2025 and January 2026**. Acquittals are due two months after the activity.

Staff contact

Applicants must contact M&G NSW to discuss your project. Staff are available 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: Museum Coordinator
Phone: (02) 56632338
Free Call: 1800 114 311 (regional only)
Email: alicen@mgsw.org.au

Eligibility criteria

To apply for a Skills Development 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 network (such as a chapter of AMaGA), an established museum, or an Aboriginal cultural space, with a displayed collection (not an archive or historical society without a museum function)
- Be regularly open to the public at advertised times (i.e. not open by appointment only)
- Have no more than the equivalent of two full-time paid positions
- Have discussed their application with an M&G NSW staff member
- Have a volunteer from the applying organisation/museum network as the contact person for the application
- Agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the grant
- Not apply for a Volunteer Museum Grant if they have also applied for, or received, Create NSW funding for the same activity
- Have acquitted all previously awarded Volunteer Museum grants (excepting current Leg Up Grants)
- Ensure that the project meets all current NSW Health Covid Safe Guidelines

Assessment criteria

The selection process takes into consideration:

- Whether the event/activity satisfies best museum practice
- Whether the event/activity provides training and networking opportunities to multiple museums or Aboriginal cultural spaces in a region or across NSW

- Whether the application demonstrates the organisation/museum network has the capacity and resources (both financial and human) to undertake the project within 2025
- The qualifications and experience of the consultant/speaker if relevant

Note: A maximum of **one Skills Development Grant** can be awarded to each organisation or museum network per year.

Skills Development Grants will fund

Various regional or state focused skill development training and networking events, such as (but not limited) to the following:

- Conferences, workshops and training courses to which more than one museum and/or Aboriginal cultural space is invited– events and activities that develop necessary skills for organisations across a particular region or across NSW, in addition to providing networking opportunities.
- Materials and equipment required for the workshop, such as archival materials, oral history equipment, etc.
- Skills development training may include (but is not limited to) grant-writing, collection care and handling, cataloguing and documentation, collections management, disaster preparedness, and assessing significance.

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

Skills Development Grants will not fund

- Retrospective projects or projects that have already started
- Capital works projects of any kind
- The purchase of office equipment of any kind including desks, chairs, computers or printers
- Gifts for speakers

Please call M&G NSW for information on other funding sources available for these types of projects.

Application process

To apply, contact Museums & Galleries of NSW to discuss your project with a staff member and request a link to the SmartyGrants application form.

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](#).

It is the applicant's responsibility to complete and submit their application.

M&G NSW will acknowledge receipt of the application when it is formally submitted through SmartyGrants. **It is the applicant's responsibility to contact M&G NSW if this acknowledgement is not received.**

Important things to remember

- You may not start your project before the time stipulated in the Timeframe section of this document.
- You must supply **both** your Financial Report and your Bank Statements.
- In the **Project 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 Project Description.
- All Volunteer Museum Grants are awarded free of GST. If the applicant is registered for GST M&G NSW will pay that component. However, **the budget and the amount applied for on the application form must be GST exclusive.**
- You must attach a quote for each dollar being applied for. Any items included in the budget that do not have an accompanying quote will not be funded. No rounding up will occur. 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.
- M&G NSW is not able to return any submitted supporting documentation.
- If emailing application:
 - Submit your application form and project description as a searchable PDF or Word document. Do not send scanned application forms. If you submit a scanned copy of a typed application form or project description you will be asked to resubmit. Scans of supporting documents are accepted.
 - Please submit your application and supporting documents as separate attachments to an email.
 - The maximum file size that can be received is 8MB. You may submit your application over several emails as long as you make clear how many emails are to be expected.

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

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

Once your application has been deemed eligible, it will be assessed by the Volunteer Museum Grant Program Assessment Panel consisting of:

- Two members of M&G NSW's Panel of Peers. For further information on the Panel, please see M&G NSW's website www.mgnsw.org.au

The decisions of the Volunteer Museum Grant Assessment Panel are final. A new panel is convened for each Skills Development Grant application received.

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

Terms and conditions

Applicants should be mindful of the following terms and conditions associated with accepting a Skills Development 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 on an overview of the project, the resulting benefits to the museum, the individuals involved in the project and the number of participants who attended the workshop (if applicable). 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 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 9900 or email comms@mqnsw.org.au.