



Yellowknife
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Yellowknife

Small Grants

How to Come Up With Great Project Ideas

The purpose of Yellowknife Small Grants Program is to strengthen connections between community members. The more connected we are, the stronger our sense of belonging to our community and the more easily we can work together to make it a better place to live. But how do you come up with a project idea that does this? It can feel a bit overwhelming at first. Don't worry! Bringing community members together can be as simple as inviting a few people to share some food together. Here are some ideas to get you started.

Hold a social gathering

Neighbourhood gatherings such as block or apartment complex parties are a great way to invite people out of their homes to get to know one another.

Here are some tips:

- If you're doing this for the first time, go door to door to invite people and introduce yourself.
- Get a permit from the municipality apartment manager if needed.
- Have plenty of food and drinks for everyone, including people with allergies or sensitivities.
- Add games and activities for children and youth.
- Make sure that everyone from the block or apartment building is invited. Get invitations translated into other languages if needed.
- Include music and art projects if possible. Ask around to see who your musician and artist neighbours are and ask them to organize these parts of the gathering.
- Identify neighbourhood connectors or volunteers who can help you in the future if you choose to make it an annual event.

Collect participants' contact information so you can stay connected through email or Facebook.

Alone, we can do so little;
together, we can do so much.

HELEN KELLER

Share what you know

Many great Yellowknife Small Grants projects come from neighbours sharing skills, ideas, or materials with each other. Are you someone who would like to share your canning and preserving skills? Do you have a passion for repairing bikes in your spare time and could share some skills with other cyclists? Do you have extra gardening tools and expertise that you could lend your neighbours or bring to a planting party? Do you know how to lead people through a building project such as a book exchange box?

Here are some things to consider:

- Make sure your activities are interactive and give everyone a way to contribute regardless of their experience or skill level.
- Help participants to leave with new knowledge, skills, contacts, or materials they can use.
- Contact your neighbours and ask them what they love doing, what skills they have that they might share with others, or what they'd be interested in teaching. If they're shy, ask about the things you know they are good at - their garden for instance. Sometimes people undervalue what they have to offer and need a bit of encouragement.

Get everyone involved

One of the ideas behind the Yellowknife Small Grants Program is that everyone has gifts. Sometimes it is not the form the project takes that is most important but the process of how it's organized and allows people to give what they can.

Here are some examples of how collaborative projects can work:

- The residents in your building might contribute different dishes for a potluck.
- The local business across the street could provide you prizes for the children's games you are planning to include in your event.
- The artists and musicians in the community might work with the children and youth in the neighbourhood to organize an art or music show.
- The youth who live a few doors down might help you to translate or extend invitations to the newcomer families in the neighbourhood.

Build on already existing connections

If you already know your neighbours, this is a great chance to team up on a group project.

Here are some ideas:

- Brainstorm possible project ideas with them and invite them to help in planning.
- Think of ways to change your annual project so it continues to be creative, engaging and relevant. For example, your block party could have a specific theme or collaborative activity each year such as emergency preparedness, removing invasive plants, or climate awareness.
- Ask what your neighbours, local businesses, and organizations can offer and the different ways they can get involved in developing and carrying out a project.
- Work to build a sense of community in your neighbourhood.

Have a question?

Connect with us at information@ykcf.ca
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To apply & find out more:

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