

Victoria After Five FAQs

What is Victoria After Five?

Victoria After Five supports community-led evening experiences that bring people together and encourage people to stay, explore and connect after work. Through free and low-cost activities across Victoria, the program helps create welcoming and active downtown and neighbourhood spaces while supporting local businesses, arts, culture and community life. Activities funded through the program will take place between November 2026 and February 2027.

Who can apply?

Artists, organizations, businesses, community groups and event producers are encouraged to submit proposals.

Why is the City launching Victoria After Five?

Victoria After Five supports activities that encourage people to stay longer, connect with others and enjoy the city after work. The program is designed to help create welcoming, active neighbourhoods and downtown spaces while supporting local businesses, organizations and community life.

What types of activities are eligible?

The City is looking for evening activities and experiences that bring people together, encourage participation and create more reasons to stay out. Examples may include:

- Live music performances
- Night markets
- Community workshops
- Cultural celebrations
- Pop-up retail and art experiences
- Food-focused events
- Community gatherings
- Performance series and festivals

When do activities need to take place?

Activities must take place between Nov. 1, 2026, and Feb. 18, 2027, after 5 p.m.

Do activities need to be free?

Projects must demonstrate community benefit through free or low-barrier or low-cost programming.

Can I submit more than one application?

Yes. Individuals can submit more than one application. Each project must be submitted as a separate application.

What expenses are eligible?

Examples of eligible expenses include:

- Venue costs
- Labour and contractor costs
- Artist and performer fees
- Equipment rental
- Marketing and promotion
- Materials and supplies
- Permits and licensing
- Insurance
- Transportation and logistics

What expenses are not eligible?

Examples of ineligible expenses include:

- Alcohol
- Gift cards and prizes
- Capital costs – purchasing equipment
- Merchandise for resale
- Land or building purchases
- General operating expenses unrelated to the project

- Expenses already covered by another funding source

How do I apply?

Applications must be submitted electronically through the City's Bonfire procurement portal before the deadline.

When is the application deadline?

Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Oct. 15, 2026.

How will applications be evaluated?

Applications will be evaluated based on factors such as community benefit, alignment with program goals, project feasibility, financial viability, accessibility and inclusion, and the applicant's ability to successfully deliver the proposed activity.

Do I need insurance?

Successful applicants must be able to provide proof of commercial general liability insurance and comply with all applicable permitting, licensing and insurance requirements.

Do I need permits?

Depending on the activity, successful applicants may need permits, licences and insurance. Activities taking place in public spaces may require a Special Event Permit.

When will applicants be notified?

Funding notifications are anticipated in late October 2026.