

Funding Social Innovation through Participatory Action Research Grants

Terra Kaethler, Manager  
Mike Conroy, Grant Administrator  
Grants & Community Initiatives



vancouver foundation

---

---

---

---

---

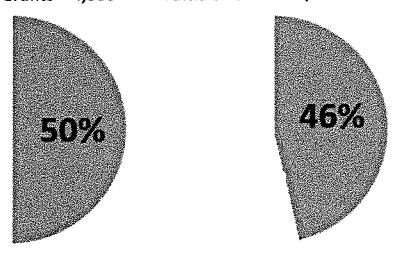
---

---

---

Social Good / Social Innovation

Number of Grants = 4,800    Value of Grants = \$54 million



Category	Percentage
Designated / Agency / Retracted	50%
Discretionary	46%

Designated / Agency / Retracted    Donor-Advised    Discretionary

vancouver foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Discretionary Granting

The Board's direction continues to be to support innovative projects that

**Address the Root Causes**  
of  
**Complex Social Issues**  
in ways that lead to  
**Systemic Change**

vancouver foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Field of Interest Granting Program 

= Social Innovation

vancouver foundation

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---

Social Innovation 

**Our Working Definition**

Social Innovation is an initiative, product, process or program that changes or influences any system through:

- Basic routines (how we act; what we do)
- Resource flows (money, knowledge, power)
- Authority flows (laws, policies, rules)
- Beliefs (what we believe is true, right/wrong)

[adopted from Frances Westley, University of Waterloo]

vancouver foundation

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---

Why Focus on Systems? 

**“ A poor system will trump a strong program every time”**

– Jeff Bradach, Bridgespan

vancouver foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Funding Social Innovation 2018**

**From:**  
Fields of Interest  
Program

**To:**  
**Social Innovation  
Grants**

ARTS    HSD

EDU    ENV

Participatory  
Action  
Research

Systems  
Change

vancouver  
foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Participatory Action Research**

**Community Situated**

- clearly defined research question
- practical relevance to the community
- supported by the community affected by the issue
- carried out in community settings
- clear plan to disseminate findings

vancouver  
foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Participatory Action Research**

**Collaborative**

- community members and researchers equitably share control
- active and reciprocal involvement in the design, implementation and dissemination
- follows standards and protocols accepted by both the research and affected communities

vancouver  
foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Participatory Action Research**

**Action-oriented**

- the process and results are useful to the community members
- evaluation information will be shared with other stakeholders
- the research is desired by policy and decision makers

vancouver foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Participatory Action Research (PAR) Grants**

The research must be a collaboration between community organizations and institutions with access to an ethics board, such as universities.

Grant types:

- Convene**
- Investigate**



vancouver foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

**Systems Change Grants**

Supports charitable work to influence or change any sector or system.

Grant types:

- Develop**
- Test**
- Scale**



vancouver foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Types of Grants Available**

Develop / Convene	Test / Investigate	Scale
Up to 1 year	Up to 3 years	Up to 3 years
Up to \$20K*	Up to \$100K/year	Up to \$100K/year
Grants or Cohort	Grants	Grants

**Learn** Additional support available for learning cohorts to progress

vancouver foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What We Look For (in this order)**

**Is the Project:**

- Socially Innovative?
- Meaningful?
- Measureable?
- Viable?

vancouver foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Key Dates 2018**

Develop Convene	Opens: early July Decisions: by the end of the following month	Continuous monthly granting cycles
Test Investigate Scale	<b>Stage 1</b> Opens: July 3 Closes: <b>July 20</b> Decisions: early Sept	<b>Stage 2</b> Opens: early Sept Closes: early Oct Decisions: mid-December

vancouver foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Expenses**

<p><b>Eligible</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• investigator salaries</li> <li>• community engagement</li> <li>• travel</li> <li>• special equipment</li> <li>• database licences</li> <li>• supplies</li> <li>• collection, analysis and KT services</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ineligible</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ongoing operating costs</li> <li>• professional development</li> <li>• conference fees</li> <li>• student awards/stipends</li> <li>• retroactive funding</li> <li>• duplicate/identical projects</li> </ul>
--	---

vancouver foundation

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

**Additional Considerations**

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Openly license project materials under a Creative Commons CC-BY Attribution license or similar</li> <li>• Intended to encourage sharing/re-use of materials produced with VF dollars</li> <li>• Doesn't impact how we select projects</li> <li>• There are exceptions</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We recognize that low pay can be a challenge in the non-profit/charitable sector.</li> <li>• We want to encourage organizations to pay a Living Wage so it becomes the norm</li> <li>• We've raised our funding levels to help make this happen</li> <li>• It doesn't impact how we select projects</li> </ul>
---	---

vancouver foundation

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

**Resources Available**

<p><b>March/April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Factsheet and FAQ</li> <li>• Featured Grants</li> <li>• Staff Contact Info</li> </ul> <p><b>May/June</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised Program Guides and Guidelines</li> <li>• Eligibility Quiz</li> <li>• Final Key Dates</li> <li>• Workshops / Webinars</li> <li>• Full Launch</li> </ul> <p><b>July</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Online Application System</li> <li>• Ongoing Staff Support</li> </ul>	 <p style="font-size: x-small;"> <a href="https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/systems-change-grants">https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/systems-change-grants</a>  <a href="https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/participatory-action-research-grants">https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/participatory-action-research-grants</a> </p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">           Learning modules: Systems Change  <a href="https://uwaterloo.ca/waterloo-institute-for-social-innovation-and-resilience/education/learning-modules">https://uwaterloo.ca/waterloo-institute-for-social-innovation-and-resilience/education/learning-modules</a> </p>
---	--

vancouver foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Thank-you.

Questions?

vancouver  
foundation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---