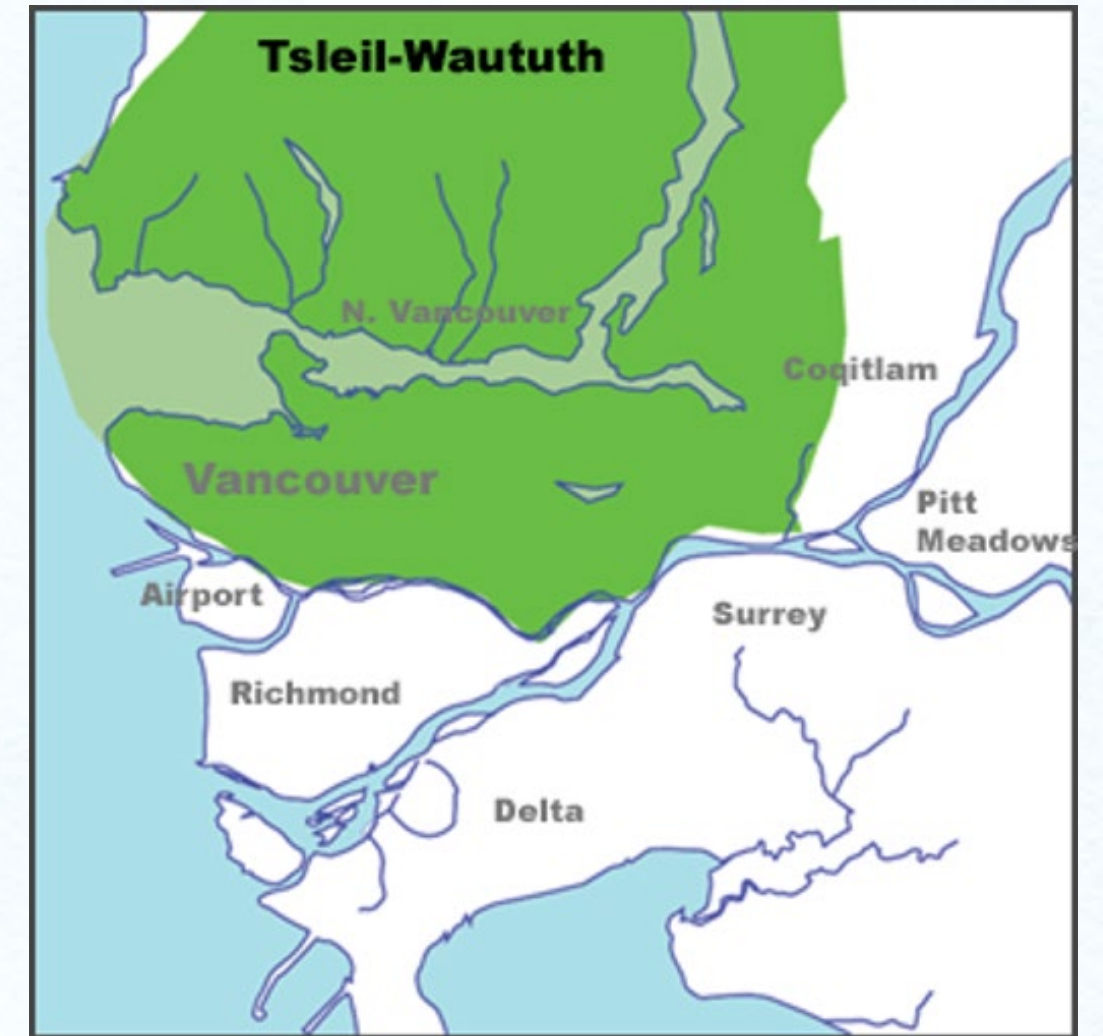




Consumer Initiative Fund

Megan Brummitt
Program Coordinator

Territorial Acknowledgment



Agenda

- Program Overview
- Community Initiatives
- Q&A
- Individual Grants
- Q&A



What is the Consumer Initiative Fund (CIF)?

CIF strives to **empower** those with mental health and/or substance use challenges (peers) through **meaningful involvement**

- Recovery is possible
- People can have purpose in their lives
- People can improve the quality of their life through self determination
- Recognizes peers as experts



What is the Consumer Initiative Fund (CIF)?

CIF strives to **empower** those with mental health and/or substance use challenges (peers) through **meaningful involvement**

Community Initiatives

- Projects
- Ripples of Belonging
- Peer Selection Committee

Individual Grants

- Crisis Grant
- Art Grant
- Education & Leisure Fund



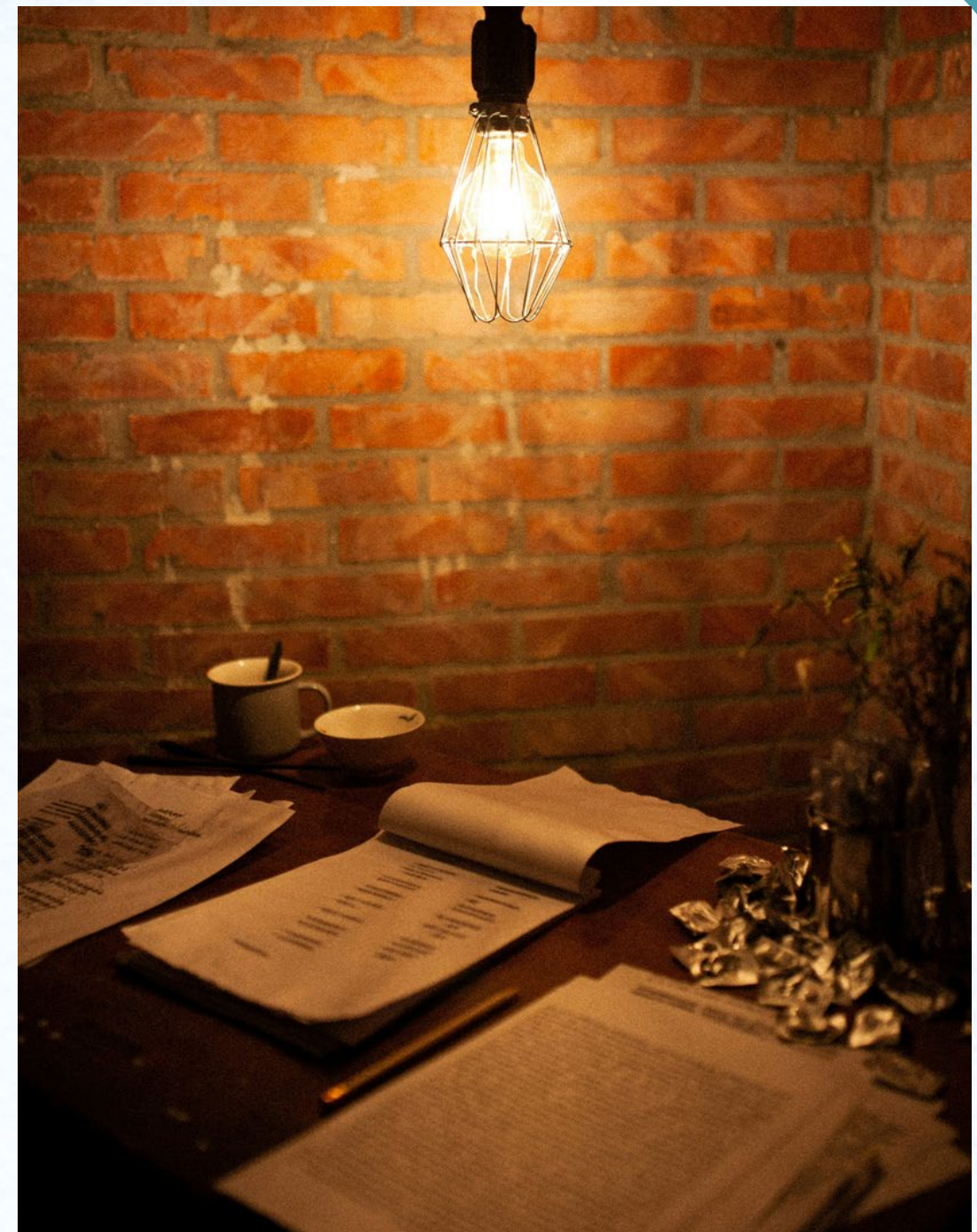
Community Initiatives

CIF Projects

- Proposed, developed and led by peers
- Free for the public

Funding

- 6 Month Project - up to \$4000
- 12 Month Project - up to \$8000



Community Initiatives

CIF Projects - Supporting Participants

Top Priority: Support individual wellness, create a safe environment

Support is not about fixing someone

Support is about walking beside someone, reminding them they are not alone

- Meet them where they are at
- Empathy, respect
- Allow to grow at their own pace



Community Initiatives

CIF Projects - Examples of Past Projects

Develop Skills

- Gratitude Art Journaling
- Off the Map (writing anthology)
- Intro to Improv

Connect with Community

- Creative Expressions Art Nights
- Community Kitchen Club
- TED Talks Discussion Group

Explore Current & Past CIF Projects!

SpotlightOnMentalHealth.com/CIF/Projects



Consumer Initiative Fund

Community Initiatives

Queer/Trans Photowalks

- Learn new photography skills, or get a refresher
- Explore creative expression and connect with a sense of hope and joy
- Meet new people

Upcoming sessions:

- Sep 20th 3:00-5:00pm UBC Campus
- Sep 27th 3:00-5:00pm Grandview Park

Learn more:

[SpotlightOnMentalHealth.com/CI/Project -Page-Queer-Trans-Photowalks](https://SpotlightOnMentalHealth.com/CI/Project-Queer-Trans-Photowalks)



Consumer Initiative Fund

Community Initiatives

Discussions on Self -Employment

- Discover self-employment pathways
- Connect with others who share similar goals and challenges
- Gain practical insights, peer connections, and inspiration to take next steps

Upcoming session: Entrepreneurship, Healing, and Hope

- Sep 21st 5:00-6:00pm via Zoom
- Guest Speaker: Mo Korchinski

Learn more:

[SpotlightOnMentalHealth.com/CIFF/Project -Page-Discussions -on-Self-Employment](https://SpotlightOnMentalHealth.com/CIFF/Project-Page-Discussions-on-Self-Employment)



Consumer Initiative Fund

Community Initiatives

Shinrin Yoku (Forest Bathing)

- Create a supportive space of healing
- Reduce stress and improve mood
- Build stronger, positive relationships within the community

Upcoming session:

- Sep 26th 9:30-11:15am at Bloedel Conservatory

Learn more:

[SpotlightOnMentalHealth.com/CIFF/Project -Page-Shinrin -Yoku](https://SpotlightOnMentalHealth.com/CIFF/Project-Shinrin-Yoku)



Consumer Initiative Fund

Community Initiatives

CIF Projects - Get Involved

Participate in ongoing project activities

Call for Proposals is Open!

- Deadline to Apply: Oct 14, 2026 @ midnight
- Offered 2 times per year

Join the Peer Selection Committee

- Review project proposals
- Deadline to Apply: Oct 14, 2026 @ midnight



Community Initiatives

Ripples of Belonging - currently on hold

Pilot launched Summer 2026

- Next application deadline to be confirmed

Micro Grant - funding to support community events

Focus on building social connection and belonging

- Priority given to in-person events



Questions?



Consumer Initiative Fund

Individual Grants

Crisis Grant - \$85

For peers experiencing significant financial strain due to unexpected circumstances

Offered 2 times/month - Referral from healthcare worker is required

Application Deadline

- 1pm on 1st and 3rd Tuesday

Learn more:

SpotlightOnMentalHealth.com/CIF/CrisisGrant



Consumer Initiative Fund

Individual Grants

Art Grant - \$85

For peers to purchase art supplies

Offered 4 times/year - no referral required

Application Deadline

- Nov 6th, 2026 @ midnight

Learn more:

[SpotlightOnMentalHealth.com/CIF/Art -Grant](https://SpotlightOnMentalHealth.com/CIF/Art-Grant)



Consumer Initiative Fund

Individual Grants

Education & Leisure Fund - \$400

For peers to take courses or leisure activities

Offered 2 times/year - no referral required

Applications are closed - Will open Nov 15th

Application Deadline

- Dec 15th, 2026 @ midnight (draw will be on Jan 7, 2027)

Learn more:

SpotlightOnMentalHealth.com/CIF/ELF



Consumer Initiative Fund

Questions?



Thank You!

For More Info

SpotlightOnMentalHealth.com/CIF

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