Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications can be submitted in hard copy, electronic format or online at www.multicultural.vic.gov.au
Australia is one of the most culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse nations in the world; predominantly as a result of the various waves of migration which have had an impact on every facet of our society. Our future cohesion and harmony will be underpinned by the extent to which we genuinely embrace the diversity of our cultures, languages and religions and how we reconcile diversity with unity.

One way to promote greater unity within our broader Victorian society is to encourage increased intercultural engagement. The objective of the Unity Through Partnerships grants program is to foster intercultural understanding and to promote the message of unity through diversity.

The Victorian Government believes that unity can be achieved by sharing our differences and learning about other cultural traditions through community celebrations and festivals that involve successful partnerships with two or more community organisations.

One of the major outcomes of this grants program is to encourage the participation of the whole community in celebrating and valuing cultural diversity; priority will therefore be given to joint partnership projects comprising of community organisations from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

The Unity Through Partnerships grants started in 2011 with a total allocation of $4.4m over four years to establish a calendar of major multicultural festivals and events throughout Victoria. This grants program provides funding of up to $100,000 for major multicultural festivals and events in Melbourne and regional Victoria.

The Unity Through Partnerships grants will help to encourage the participation of the whole community in celebrating and valuing cultural diversity and foster cross cultural exchanges and collaboration.

Hon. Nicholas Kotsiras MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship
WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS GRANT PROGRAM?

The Unity Through Partnerships (UTP) program is funded through the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship (OMAC).

The UTP Program aims to bring together two or more of Victoria’s diverse ethnic, cultural and religious communities to undertake a joint project, culminating in a public festival, event, or gathering that:

- fosters cross-cultural connections by encouraging community organisations from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds to work in partnership on a joint project;
- showcases the vibrancy of multiculturalism through festivals and/or events that encourage the participation of the whole community;
- demonstrates the benefits of cultural, linguistic and religious diversity to the broader Victorian community;
- builds the capacity and experience of participating community organisations through mutual support, skills development, knowledge sharing and mentoring between partnering organisations;
- provides opportunities for meaningful and sustainable participation and engagement of a wide range of Victorians, with emphasis on new and emerging communities or groups currently under-represented in community activities; and
- promotes education and awareness of racial and religious diversity and acceptance in Victoria.

Priority is given to projects demonstrating:

- opportunities for community organisations that are less experienced in project and event management to be mentored by community organisations that are experienced in these areas;
- opportunities for the partnering organisations to build their understanding of each other’s communities throughout the project period;
- willingness of partnering organisations to maintain sustainable relationships after the project and funding period concludes and to organise with other organisations to promote intercultural understanding in the future.

WHAT LEVEL OF FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

The total annual budget of the Unity Through Partnerships grants program is $1.1m. Organisations may make applications for up to $100,000. In previous rounds, grants have ranged between $10,000 and $100,000.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Community organisations and non-profit organisations can apply for funding. Organisations must be incorporated under the Australian Corporations Act or as an Association under the Associations Incorporation Act and have an Australian Business Number (ABN).

If you wish to apply for funding and are not a formal organisation (i.e. you do not meet the above criteria), you are able to apply in partnership with another organisation that will act as an auspice for your project. Auspice organisations must meet the above criteria.

Organisations may submit multiple applications, although priority will be given to only one application. If you are applying for more than one project, please fill out one application form for each project.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR IN A STRONG APPLICATION?

The UTP funds a wide range of festivals, events and gatherings that are delivered through the productive, ongoing and sustainable collaboration of two or more partner organisations.

Regardless of the project, all funded initiatives must meet a high standard of broader Victorian community engagement by including many diverse communities and building strong collaborative partnerships. Strong applications will demonstrate:

**Formal partnerships**

Applicants must establish formal partnerships with at least one other organisation from a different ethnic, religious or cultural community for the design, planning and delivery of the project. The following will be required before grant funding is provided to successful applicants:

- Written evidence of partnerships:
  a formal letter of partnership from listed partner organisation/s confirming their involvement and detailing what their contribution will be to the delivery of project, and
- A partnership engagement strategy:
  a document detailing relevant tasks/milestones related to strengthening the partnership, such as when a project working group will be formed (comprising representatives from each partner organisation) and proposed meeting dates.

**Capacity building**

Applications from organisations that will partner with new and emerging community organisations, and emphasise capacity building will be prioritised.
Sustainable partnerships
Applications that demonstrate a willingness and commitment to maintain ongoing relationships with partner organisations after the completion of their project will be prioritised.

Reaching new segments of the community
Applicants must outline practical steps they will take to engage people, organisations and communities that have not previously been involved in similar initiatives, or have not previously worked closely with the applicant or its partner organisations. This includes articulated strategies to engage the wider Victorian community in the final project/event.

(Note: OMAC may request that applicants provide additional information during the application assessment process, such as a more detailed budget and/or a more detailed project plan.)

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH THE UTP PROGRAM?
The information below provides examples of projects and activities funded through the UTP program. It is expected that funded projects will involve ongoing engagement, knowledge sharing and capacity building across partner organisations that will culminate in a public event or festival.

Examples of funded projects include:

Cultural Events
Celebrations of cultural and religious days of significance which seek to involve a wide range of Victorians and which are organised in collaboration between partners who represent different cultural/faith communities and the local community.

An example of a previously funded project:

> The St Albans Business Group Association partnered with a range of local community organisations including the Quang Minh Buddhist Temple and the Australian Vietnamese Women’s Association to deliver the St Albans Lunar New Year Festival.

Multicultural Festivals and Events
Local multicultural festivals and joint events hosted by multicultural organisations. This could also include large-scale regional multicultural street festivals that involve a range of multicultural organisations celebrating the diversity of a particular area.

Examples of previously funded projects:

> Pako Festa is an annual street festival which has taken place over the last 30 years on Pakington Street in West Geelong. In 2012, Diversitat, a major multicultural service provider, partnered with several local community organisations to deliver the event which celebrates Geelong’s diverse community with a day of street performances, music, food stalls and a range of activities.

> Events that showcased culturally diverse art forms such as dance, music or performance, organised in partnership between culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse groups within the Victorian community.

WHAT WILL NOT BE FUNDED?
The grants will not fund the following:

> applications from individuals;
> competitions, commercial or fund raising activities;
> recurrent administrative, infrastructure and other organisational costs (please refer to the Organisational Support grant category);
> set-up or running costs of a business, purchase of capital equipment (including hardware or software), or set-up and maintenance of Internet sites;
> events or travel outside Victoria or funding for overseas people or organisations to visit Victoria;
> applications from Municipal councils;
> events that promote or are held for political purposes;
> retrospective funding for projects or programs that have already started or have been completed, including any activity undertaken prior to the notification of application outcome;
> organisations that have failed to abide by the terms and conditions of previously provided grants;
> activities and organisations that are eligible for funding under another State, Federal or Local Government program, and where the project is clearly within the programmatic responsibility of another government program.

HOW/WHEN WILL APPLICATIONS BE ASSESSED?
Applications will be assessed annually by OMAC between the months of January and May. It is anticipated that funding outcomes will be announced in June each year.

Successful applicants must enter into a Funding Agreement with OMAC that sets out the conditions and reporting requirements of the grant. Conditions relate to:

> completion of the project within the specified financial year period;
> appropriate financial management (including reporting requirements as outlined in the funding agreement); and
> compliance with OMAC evaluation processes.

In addition, most Funding Agreements will include stipulations, conditions and milestones specific to individual projects to ensure that they adhere to the requirements of the UTP Program.

Stipulations relate to the information detailed in the sections above.

(See sections: ‘What are we looking for in a strong application?’ and ‘What are some examples of projects funded through UTP?’)
WHAT ARE THE FUNDING CONDITIONS?

The following conditions will apply to projects that receive a grant:

> grant recipients are to establish a joint committee with representatives from all key partner organisations;
> the grant recipients must enter into a Funding Agreement with OMAC that sets out the conditions and reporting requirements;
> the funded project must be delivered within the specified time period. Any unspent funds must be returned to OMAC;
> funds must be spent on the project/activities as described in the application;
> any variation to the approved project must be submitted to OMAC for written approval prior to implementation; and
> the funded organisation must have public liability or other insurance to cover loss or injury occurring to any person involved in the project (see ‘Insurance Requirements’ below).

Additional conditions may be applied to individual grants.

WHAT OTHER THINGS SHOULD I BE AWARE OF?

Payment of Grant Funds
Payments will be made available to successful applicants after:

> all previous grants from OMAC have been acquitted; and
> a signed Funding Agreement has been returned to OMAC.

Publicity Guidelines
Government contributions to the project must be acknowledged in any relevant publication, promotional material, or media releases. A suitable sign acknowledging government contributions must be prominently displayed during the event.

Funding announcement and launch details will be coordinated between the applicant and OMAC. All requirements in relation to acknowledgement of funding will be detailed in the Funding Agreement.

Accountability/Audit
Accountability and audit requirements include the grant recipient entering into a Funding Agreement for the successful project which includes the purpose for which the grant is made, funding obligations and conditions and agreed reporting requirements.

Risk Assessment
As part of the overall evaluation of the proposal, OMAC will carry out a risk assessment of the applicant organisation to satisfy viability and project management capacity and concerns.

Insurance Requirements
It is the responsibility of the applicant organisation/s to ensure public liability insurance and any other insurance category appropriate to the activities of the proposed project are purchased for the funded event.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

Applications must be submitted by the closing date. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applications can be completed online through the website – www.multicultural.vic.gov.au

Applications can also be submitted in hardcopy or electronic format:

Online
(Note: on-line applications do not require a signature)

By Mail
Office Of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship
Unity Through Partnerships Program
GPO Box 4698
Melbourne VIC 3001

For further information please contact the UTP Grants team on (03) 9651 2931.
ACCESSIBILITY

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship on (03) 9651 2931 or email omac@dpc.vic.gov.au

This document is also available in HTML and pdf format on the Internet at www.multicultural.vic.gov.au