



Best Practices for hosting a successful Backyard Concert in Lake Country during Summer 2023

Grants are being provided by the Lake Country Arts Council for residents of Lake Country to host Backyard Concerts this summer. The Lake Country Arts Council and the District of Lake Country are collaborating on a number of suggested best practices to assist you hosting a cultural event in your backyard this summer. These events will pay local artists, provide some cultural experiences, while maintaining a positive impact on your neighbours and neighbourhood.

Note: one grant per year per homeowner/residence.

1. Limit the audience size to 30-50 people in total. This keeps noise, parking and neighbourhood impact to a minimum. Smaller crowds also allow more opportunity to physically distance. (Note: Most Sidewalk concerts last summer had 30 attendees and those went very well.)
2. Choose an appropriate stage location: Covered is best. Shade is very helpful (the Okanagan gets very hot in the summer). The audience will also appreciate some shade if there is some.
3. Have guests RSVP to you to register in advance and confirm their attendance vs drop in.
4. Tips not tickets. Please feel free to offer your performer tips. Selling tickets changes this event into a commercial venture and is not the intent of this program.
5. Invite your neighbours. If you are not inviting them, at a minimum please inform your neighbours about your event so they know to expect traffic and noise.
6. Ensure you keep the volume reasonable. Noise bylaws in Lake Country aren't tied to a specific time or specific decibel level but please ensure that your event is at a reasonable volume and concluded by 10pm to be respectful of the neighborhood.
7. Get a contract* with the artist and have an agreed upon plan for cancellation due to rain or lightning.

8. Plan on how to continue your event with some shelter in the event of rain; but based on weather patterns and forecasts, hold off cancelling until an hour before the event as rain often passes through and doesn't return. When the thunder roars, go indoors. Cancel or postpone your event in the case of lightning in the area/forecast. **Note: You may have to pay the Artist 50% for this short notice cancellation or postponement based on your contract but that is the risk taken when hosting an outdoor event.**
9. Liability: Anytime you host an event or gathering in your home you are accepting some liability.
10. Encourage attendees to walk or carpool. Make sure all parking is on your property when possible.
11. Limit your event to 2 x 45 min sets*. (For example, last years Sidewalk Concerts were limited to 20 minutes.) This helps reduce the energy level and stops events from turning into a party. *Homeowners can of course negotiate any mutually agreeable length of performance time the artist agrees upon that features more sets than what we are recommending.
12. Pay the artist shortly after they arrive on site and before they start playing.
13. Coordinate breaks for the artist. Provide water and access to a washroom.
14. Other resources: These websites offer some good tips for hosting outdoor concerts:
15. <https://backyardstage.org/backyard-stage-etiquette>
16. <https://www.sofaconcerts.org/en/house-concert>

If you have questions or are unsure of various aspects of hosting an event, feel free to reach out to the Lake Country Arts Council or Cultural Development staff at the District of Lake Country.



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