



Community Programming Fund

2025 Retrospective

CITY OF BELLEVUE



Program Overview

Launched in 2025 with a total budget of \$175,000, the Community Programming Fund supports community-led activities and events that activate outdoor public spaces across the city. Its goal is to make Bellevue's public spaces more welcoming, lively, and well used by encouraging community-led programming. Designed as a low-barrier opportunity, the grant is open to individuals, nonprofits, small businesses, and community groups.



2025 By the Numbers

Metric	Result
Applications received	94
Total requested	\$803,500
Funded programs	36
Total awarded	\$150,500
New vs. repeat programming	~50%+ new programs
Locations activated	16 sites across Bellevue
Community members reached	10,000+

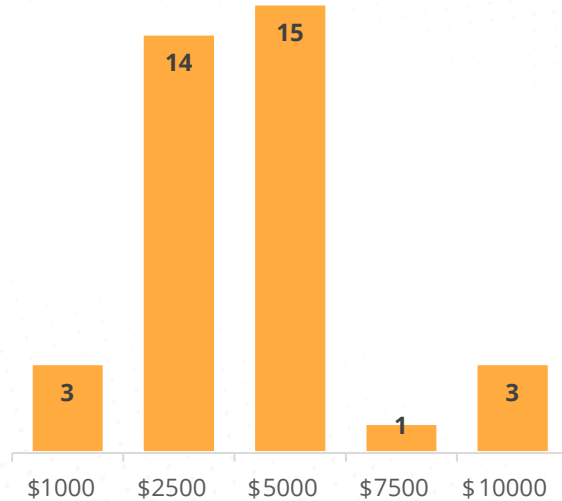


2025 Grant Overview

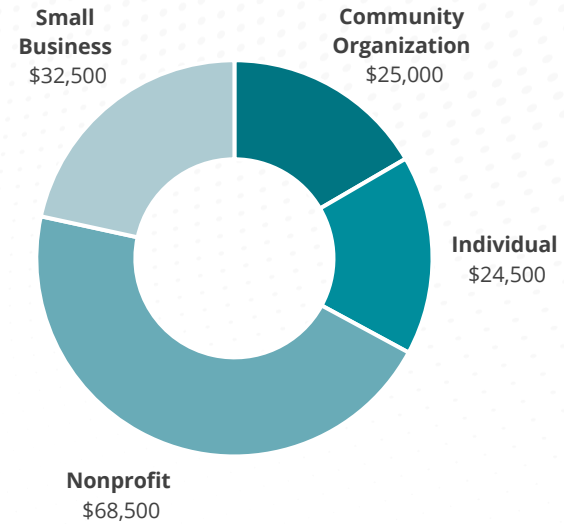
Award Overview



Award Amount



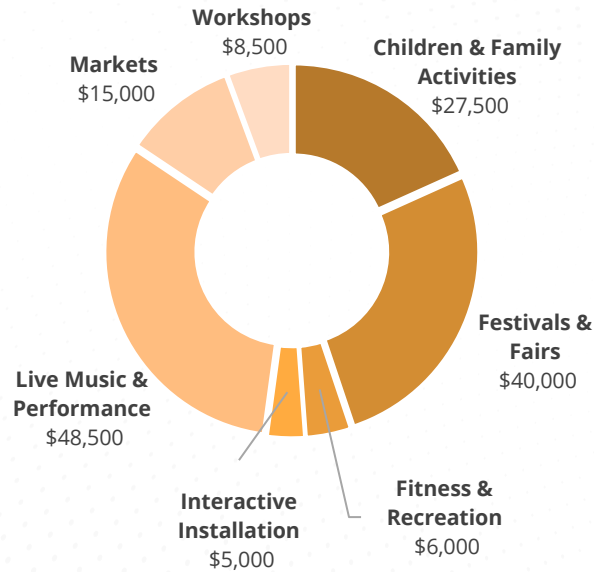
Recipient Type



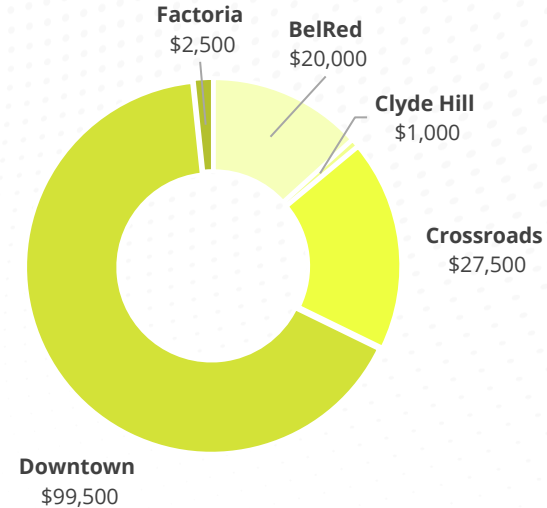
Award Overview



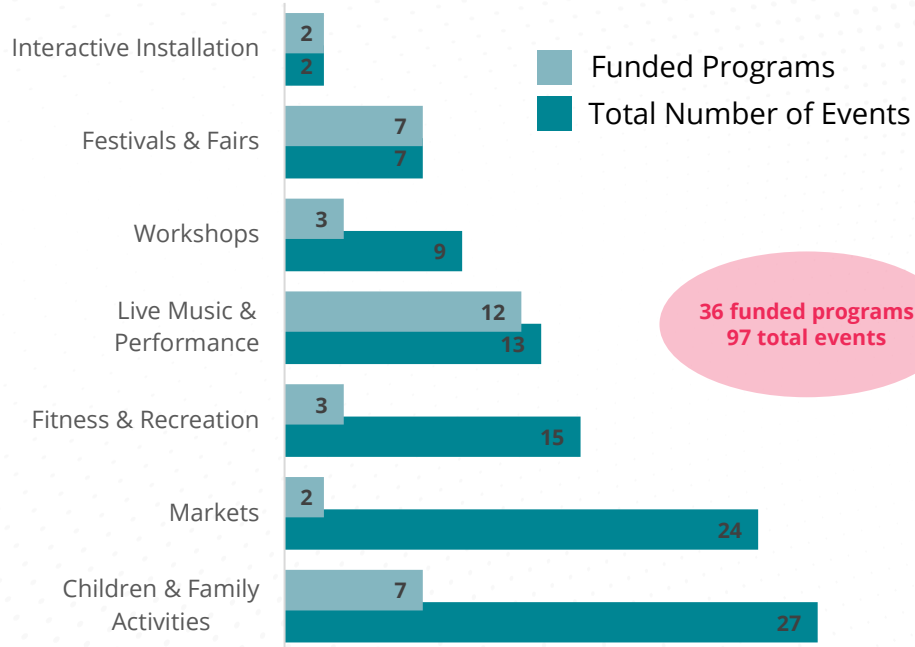
Program Category



Neighborhood Distribution



Funded Programs



Chinese/English Bilingual Storytime
Ashwood Park



Boxing for Belonging Workshop
Downtown Park

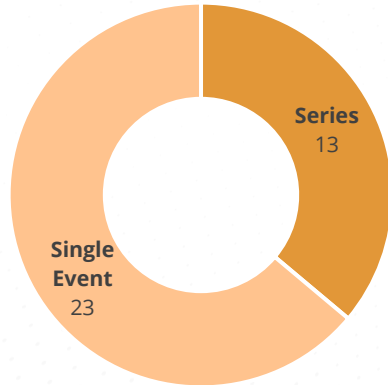


Farmers Market
Spring District Park

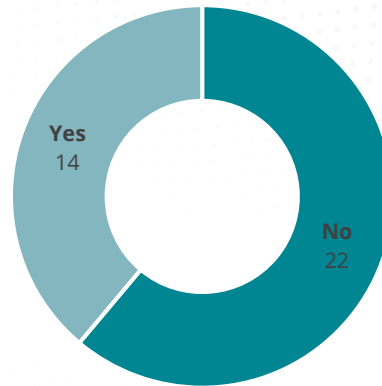
Funded Programs



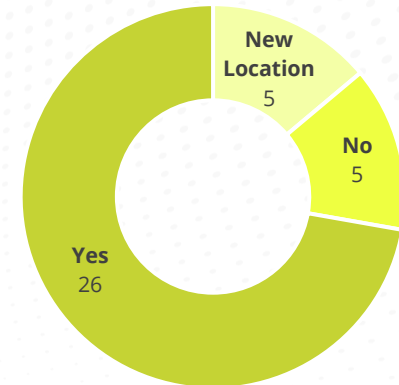
Series vs. Single Event



Cultural Focus?



New Program?



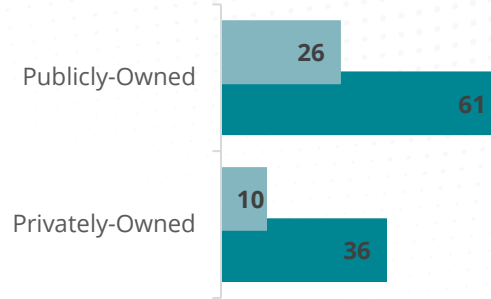
Programmed Locations



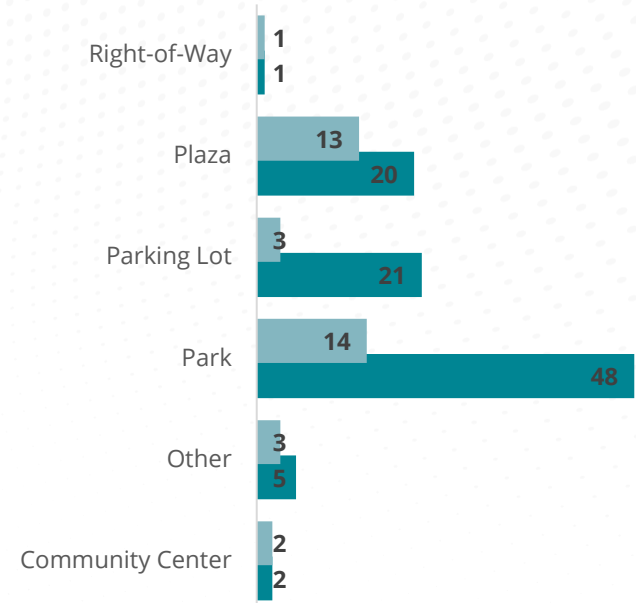
Location Distribution



Location Type



Venue Type



■ Funded Programs
■ Total Number of Events

Activating Parking Lots and ROW

This grant cycle showed that public space can extend well beyond parks and plazas. Funded projects transformed parking lots and even street parking into welcoming gathering places, highlighting how flexible and creative community programming can bring new life to unexpected spaces.



Electrifying Trunk-or-Treat
Bubble Planet parking lot



Park(ing) Day
parking stalls on NE 1st St
across from DT Park



BelRed Night Market
BelRed Station parking lot



2025 Highlights



Building New Connections

The Community Programming Fund helped build new connections across Bellevue by introducing new organizations, individuals, and small businesses to working with the City. Many grant recipients were first-time applicants, reflecting the program's success in reaching groups that had not previously accessed City funding. By designing the application process to be clear and accessible, the program lowered barriers for those without prior grant experience and encouraged broader community participation.

Programming in Lesser-used Parks

Another key outcome of the pilot year was bringing new activity to some of the city's lesser-used parks. Through the CPF, programs took place in parks such as Ashwood Playfield, Highland Park, and Spirit Ridge Park, introducing new audiences to these spaces and increasing their use as community gathering places.



Plyometrics in the Park
Spirtridge Park / Crossroads Park



KAPA Art Workshop
Ashwood Playfield



Archery Tag
Ashwood Playfield



Activating City Hall Plaza

The CPF helped spark a noticeable increase in programming and community activity at City Hall Plaza, turning the space into a more active and welcoming gathering place. With grant support, organizers were able to test out a wide range of events and activations, bringing new energy to the plaza. This variety of programming created more chances for people to connect, attracted new audiences, and demonstrated how community-led events can bring a public space to life.

Performances at City Hall



Seattle Steel Pan Project



Brass Band Northwest



Northwest Pops Orchestra

Performances at City Hall



K-Pop Play Day



Sounds Worlds



JHP Dance & Rhythms

Social Dancing at City Hall



Swing Dancing



Line Dancing



Salsa & Bachata



Community Programming Fund
