



2027–28 EAP Support Grant Guidelines

About

Eastside Arts Partnership (EAP) grants provide operational support funding for East King County nonprofits that offer annual arts, cultural, and heritage programs serving residents and visitors in Bellevue, Washington.

Applicants can request up to \$15,000. Applying nonprofits must be located on the Eastside, have a 501(c) (3) designation, and provide publicly accessible programming.

Add-on Grant Opportunity

When applying for an EAP grant, applicants can also apply for an **additional \$5,000 bonus called PowerUp for Equal Access**. This opportunity aims to fill arts and cultural gaps for underserved communities.

Apply Online

All application submissions are managed online through Submittable: bellevuearts.submittable.com/submit

For more information about grants, visit the city's Arts Grants webpage. BellevueWA.gov/artsgrants

Deadline

Application Due:
Oct. 10, 2026

Program Contact

This program is administered by the City of Bellevue Arts & Culture Program. Please direct all questions to:

Manette Stamm, Arts Program Assistant:
(425) 452-4064 or mstamm@bellevuewa.gov



Program Overview

Bellevue's Eastside Arts Partnership (EAP) Support Grants are an investment in our community. The importance of these dollars extends beyond the intrinsic value of the arts to include improving the quality of life for our residents, the education and development of our children, the vitality of our businesses, and our sense of connectedness to the community.

Grant Request

Eligible applicants can request any amount up to \$15,000 per year, provided it does not exceed 50 percent of the organization's annual budget.

EAP Support Grants provide **two years of operating support**. If awarded, the first year's award amount will be granted again in the second year, provided the organization maintains the same level of service and nonprofit status. For example, if awarded \$5,000 in 2027, the grantee can expect another \$5,000 in 2028.

Public Funding Requires a Public Benefit

Washington law requires that individuals or organizations that receive public funding must provide public benefits. Examples of public benefits are:

- Free or reduced-fare tickets to public performances, exhibitions, workshops, screenings, or readings.
- Free scholarships to ongoing, fee-based arts education or training programs.
- Providing accommodating services that expand access to arts and culture for underrepresented groups.
- Free, electronically accessible materials, including literary publications and audio or video recordings.

Add-on Grant Opportunity

PowerUp for Equal Access

When applying for an EAP Support Grant, applicants can also choose to apply for the PowerUp for Equal Access bonus grant. The grant is a set \$5,000 award given to compelling applicants. This opportunity aims to fill gaps in arts and culture for underserved communities. The application is brief, and applicants who have previously received PowerUp grants are eligible. This bonus is available only in the first year of receiving the EAP grant.

What is an underserved community? Underserved communities are defined as, but are not limited to, those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, gender or gender identity, economics, age, or disability. We also welcome applicants to define for themselves what underservice in their community looks like.

Organizations may focus on reaching a particular constituency; however, they may not be exclusionary under national civil rights laws and policies prohibiting discrimination. This extends to hiring practices and participant engagement.



Eligibility

Who May Apply?

- 501(c) (3) Nonprofit arts and cultural organizations with an arts-based mission or an NTEE code within the Arts, Cultural and Humanities Category.
- Offer at least one program or service open to the public and serving Bellevue residents.
- Located on the Eastside, and a majority of your programming occurs on the Eastside of King County (Bellevue, Bothell, Duvall, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Newcastle, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, and Woodinville).
- A minimum of 2 consecutive years in operations (2025-26) as a nonprofit.

Who May Not Apply?

- Individuals or organizations without an official IRS 501(c) (3) designation.
- Individuals or organizations applying for Project Grants.
- Churches, schools, and/or religious organizations where city funds would be used for religious purposes.
- Groups that discriminate based on age, race, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin.
- Groups that are currently in litigation with the city.
- Political campaigns or parties.
- Unions representing city employees.

Eligible Uses

Supported Uses

- Publicly accessible organizational services and programming.
- Staff time and operational expenses in support of publicly accessible services and programming.

Unsupported Uses

- Political events, including support for candidates and policy.
- Religious, church, creed, or sectarian events promoting religious purposes.
- Fundraising events, including galas.
- Items that are prohibited from payment under City of Bellevue Expense policies, such as alcohol, charitable donations, and personal items.

Application Process

Applications are reviewed competitively in accordance with the eligibility and evaluation criteria outlined in the guidelines. Incomplete applications submitted after the deadline may not be reviewed.

How to apply and what to expect

1. Create a Submittable account if you or your organization do not already have one*. The main applicant can invite multiple accounts to collaborate on one application.
2. Complete the **Eligibility Form**. If eligible, you will proceed to the application stage. Organizations deemed not eligible may choose to apply for a Project Grant.
3. Prepare the following materials to attach to your application:
 - ▶ **Two work samples.** This could include an annual report, current or most recent program brochure, and promotional photos or videos.
 - ▶ **Estimated project budget.**
4. **Complete your application online** by the deadline. Late applications will not be accepted.
5. Award announcements will be made after review by the Allocations Committee and approval from the Bellevue Arts Commission and City Council.
6. **Applicants must accept awards** and agree to the award requirements by the deadline.
7. Applicants can receive funding by submitting a **Post-Grant Report**. This is required to ensure your organization has conducted its annual events, programs, or workshops that the Bellevue City Council agreed to support. Applicants can expect payment approximately one month after submitting a report.

*Please contact the program administrator if you lack computer or internet access.

Application Timeline

October 10	Applications due at 11:59 p.m.
October	Allocation Committee review
November	Arts Commission review
November/December	City Council review
December	Awards announced
January 10, 2027	Award acceptance due by 11:59 p.m.
November 30	Post-Grant Report due by 11:59 p.m.

The City reserves the right to change this timeline.



Evaluation Criteria

Funding amounts are determined by the Allocations Committee's recommendations, endorsed by the Arts Commission, and then approved by the City Council. Applications are reviewed on a competitive basis, considering the program's overall purpose and the criteria for eligible organizations. Funding preference will be given to Bellevue-based organizations.

Creative Engagement

- Quality and effectiveness of the organization's existing and proposed arts, cultural, and heritage programming and services to meet the cultural needs of participants and constituent groups.
- Extent of creative and civic participation by Bellevue's diverse residents and visitors.
- Meaningful creative and civic opportunities for working artists, cultural workers and volunteers.
- Expands the forms of art, creative experiences and cultural resources available to Bellevue residents and visitors.

Public Access and Benefit

- Quality and extent of public benefits offered to Bellevue residents and visitors.
- Significant access to cultural opportunities for underserved groups, or demonstrates improved access by underserved people and communities.
- Effort and evidence of inclusive communications to new and underserved communities, particularly those who speak a language other than English at home.

Organizational Capacity and Sustainability

- Demonstrated financial capacity and stability.
- Strength of organizational management and governance.

Award Requirements

Organizations receiving funds must comply with the requirements stated below.

Acknowledgment

Organizations receiving funding from the City of Bellevue must acknowledge the support, at a minimum, in printed programs, public-facing signage, and digital media dedicated to the funded activities. This visibility helps maintain and raise funding levels and keeps Bellevue residents informed on how their tax dollars support the arts in their community.

Scope of Work

Recipients acknowledge that this application serves as a scope of work detailing how the funds will be used.

On-Site Reviews

The Arts Commission may request tickets for an event to conduct an on-site review and organizational evaluation.

Public Benefit

Grant recipients understand that at least one program, event, or service each year must be open to the public (in-person or virtual) to fulfill Washington state's gift of public funds requirement. See previous pages for more details about public benefits.

Final Report

Submitting a final report near the end of the year will be necessary to receive funding. The report form is available online on Submittable.



CULTURE
KING COUNTY LODGING TAX

The City of Bellevue gratefully acknowledges support for this funding program by 4Culture and the King County Hotel Lodging Tax.

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For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-4064 (voice) or email mstamm@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.

