

2027 Project Grant Guidelines



About

Project grants are available to fund arts, cultural, and heritage projects serving Bellevue, Washington, residents and visitors. We aim to support innovative projects led by artists, individuals, and communities that address cultural gaps and foster fresh avenues for creative engagement.

Applicants can request one of three funding levels: \$3,000, \$5,000, or \$7,000. Projects must take place in Bellevue, WA, in 2027.

Add-on Grant Opportunity

When applying for a Project Grant, applicants can apply for **an additional \$1,000, called the BelRed Arts District bonus**. This grant is intended to bring your event to the BelRed Arts District and encourage and motivate individuals to participate in activating the district.

Apply Online

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

For more information about grants, visit the city's Arts and Culture 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

Project Grants provide funding for artistic, cultural, and heritage projects that have the potential to fill cultural gaps and inspire Bellevue residents and visitors in new and exciting ways.

Grant Request

Eligible applicants can request one of three funding levels. Funding is only available for one year and cannot be carried over to the following year. Depending on funding availability and the number of applicants each year, not all applications may be funded. Applicants can expect to be funded at the requested amount or not at all. Applicants are encouraged to explore a range of funding sources for their proposed project, particularly if the project budget exceeds the funding available through this grant.

Applicants can select one of three levels of funding:

- \$3,000
- \$5,000
- \$7,000

Please note that **payment will be made upon completion of the project**. Depending on the circumstances and city policy, exceptions may be made to allow receipt of up to half of the award once work has begun.

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.
- 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

BelRed Arts District

Applicants can also apply for an additional BelRed Arts District bonus grant. This grant is designed to encourage the development of the BelRed Arts District. It consists of a fixed award of \$1,000 given to promising applicants whose projects will take place in the BelRed Neighborhood of Bellevue and who address specific additional questions in their application. If your project successfully raises awareness of the BelRed Arts District or activates a space within the district, and you would like to apply again, the Allocations Committee may consider funding the project again in future years.

To learn more about the BelRed Arts District, please visit the website below. If you have questions or would like to discuss your ideas with staff, please don't hesitate to reach out.

BellevueWA.gov/belred-arts-district

Applicant Eligibility

Who May Apply?

- Individuals, groups, businesses, or organizations who are the primary project leaders.
- Individuals must be 18 years of age or older and have a Social Security Number, Tax ID or an EIN.
- Applicants who received Project Grants in prior years may apply to this program again with the same or different projects.
- Applicants who receive funds from other City programs, including the Community Programming Fund and Cross-Cultural Grants, must demonstrate that additional requests are separate from previously funded projects or a significant expansion of planned projects.

Who May Not Apply?

- Organizations applying for or already receiving Eastside Arts Partnership (EAP) 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.

Project Eligibility

Supported Projects

- Projects that involve an art, cultural, or heritage element.
- Examples include workshops, lectures, film screenings, festivals, art installations, gallery shows, concerts, and performances.
- Projects must be publicly accessible, take place in Bellevue, and involve at least one artist or cultural practitioner.

Unsupported Projects

- 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.
3. Prepare the following materials for your application:
 - ▶ **Two work samples.** This could include images or brochures from past projects.
 - ▶ **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 terms and conditions by the specified deadline.
7. When the project is complete, applicants can receive funding by submitting a **Post-Grant Report**. This is required to ensure that you have completed your project, which the Bellevue City Council has agreed to support. Applicants can expect payment approximately one month after submitting a report. All reports are due either after your project has occurred or by the reporting deadline.

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

Application Timeline

October 10, 2026	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 artists and organizations.

Artistic Innovation

- Quality and promise of the proposed arts, cultural or heritage project to meet the cultural needs of the community.
- Innovative approach to fostering creative and civic participation among Bellevue's diverse residents and visitors, particularly underserved individuals and communities.
- Fills a gap in art, cultural, or heritage offerings and opportunities not regularly available to Bellevue residents and visitors.

Public Access and Benefit

- Quality and extent of public benefits offered to Bellevue residents and visitors.
- One or more compelling, feasible public events in Bellevue are clearly described.

Project Feasibility

- Demonstrated experience from project leaders to accomplish the scope and scale of the project.
- Evidence of thoughtful planning, including clearly articulated goals and processes for evaluation.
- Realistic budget and timeline.

Award Requirements

Artists and 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 form is available online on Submittable.



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.

