



OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE
CITY OF SEATTLE

ARTS at King Street Station Call for Exhibitions in 2027

APPLICATION OPENS: Aug. 18, 2026

APPLICATION CLOSES: Sept. 29, 2026, 5 PM Pacific

Grant Overview

The Seattle Office of Arts & Culture (OAC) invites individual artists, curators, organizations, and community-based groups to propose exhibitions for our cultural space and gallery, [ARTS at King Street Station](#), to take place in 2027.

Grant Purpose

ARTS at King Street Station is a dynamic space for arts and culture in the heart of the city, dedicated to increasing opportunities for underrepresented and marginalized artists to generate and present their work.

Important note: This call is for exhibitions and related programming only. We are not accepting standalone performance-based work through this call.

For information and assistance with the application, eligibility or online technical support, contact James Coley, King Street Station Program Lead, at 206-684-4186 or james.coley@seattle.gov.

We have interpreters who can speak to you in your language, including American Sign Language (via video). Just call us at 206-684-7171 (voice) or 800-833-6388 (TDD Relay) and tell us what language you speak. Expect a short pause while we find an interpreter to join the call.

Application

[Apply online through Submittable.](#)

If you don't have computer or internet access or would like to discuss alternative ways of applying, please contact James Coley, King Street Station Program Lead, at 206-684-4186 or james.coley@seattle.gov.

Due Date

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026, 5 PM Pacific

You must submit your application by this date and time. Please give yourself enough time to finish it. We won't accept applications submitted after this deadline.

We recommend you submit your application at least a few days to a week before closing to account for any upload errors or system overload on the application closing date.

Eligibility

You are eligible to apply for funding if **you meet the following criteria**:

- You are an individual artist, curator, organization, or community-based group located in and with a strong connection to the city and that regularly presents work in Seattle.
- You are part of an organization or are an individual artist representing communities most impacted by systemic oppression. Persons that are low-income, people with disabilities, immigrant and refugee communities, and communities of color are encouraged to apply.

You are *not* eligible for this funding if:

- Your project directly sells materials, posts prices, and/or has ticket sales. All programs must be presented free of charge to the public.

Project Requirements

- Your project must occur between April-December 2027.
- Your exhibition must be free, all-ages, promoted and made accessible to the public: Seattle community members, workers, and visitors.
- All video components of your exhibition involving sound must include captioning for accessibility purposes. For any audio components, you must provide an audio transcript. Additional accessible exhibit media and/or assistive technology should be considered in discussion with OAC staff.
- Your project will take place during public gallery hours: Wednesday–Saturday 11 AM–5 PM; First Thursdays 11 AM–8 PM. Our gallery is closed Sunday-Tuesday.

Additional consideration: It's possible your project plans may need to be adjusted slightly to accommodate a cohesive schedule of offerings. Can you be flexible?

AI Disclosure Policy

Artificial intelligence (AI) is not restricted when artwork is created with substantial human-led contribution from the artist(s). The artist must remain the primary author, guiding artwork concept and execution.

When choosing to use AI in your proposed project, you must ensure copyright and authorship and consider privacy and intellectual property risks, loss of authentic voice and vision, inaccuracy, bias, and cultural insensitivity.

You must disclose if AI was used in the creation of your proposed project and provide a narrative that identifies how AI was used. We reserve the right to request clarification or documentation about how AI was used in your proposed project.

Due to the rapid pace of AI development, this policy will be reviewed regularly and is subject to change.

Funding

Grant funds **up to \$20,000** are available for creative worker wages and project expenses. You may use these funds for:

- Artist fees, marketing, and promotional fees
- Project management and personnel costs
- Supplies, equipment rentals or other exhibition-related costs
- Required insurance
- No more than 10% for food-related costs.

Additional expenses may be allowed upon advance approval by the King Street Station Program Lead, James.Coley@seattle.gov.

The following are *not eligible for funding*:

- Religious services
- Political events
- Fundraisers or private events
- Gifts
- For-profit or touring events/exhibitions
- Equipment purchases

Please use the following framework as a guide for requesting funding amounts. These numbers are not requirements but should be used as guidelines to determine the scale of your project and your funding request.

\$10,000: 2-3 months of display:

- This includes 9-12 hours of public engagement (e.g., artist talk, exhibition tour, artist collaboration, reception entertainment, film screenings) in the ARTS at King Street Station gallery.
- The space available for this funding amount is half of the gallery (3,200 sq ft) or less.

\$20,000: 2-3 months of display:

- This includes 12-18 hours of public engagement in the ARTS at King Street Station gallery.
- The space available for this funding amount is the full gallery (7,500 sq ft) or less.

Information Sessions

Join a virtual information session to learn more about this opportunity and how to submit your best application. We highly encourage first-time applicants to attend.

Session 1

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026, 4-5 PM

[RSVP to Aug. 26](#)

Session 2

Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026, 3-4 PM

[RSVP to Sept. 1](#)

Session 3

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026, Noon-1 PM

[RSVP to Sept. 15](#)

Session 4

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2026, Noon-1 PM

[RSVP to Sept. 22](#)

Evaluation Criteria

- **Advancing Equity (20%):** Our mission focuses on racial equity and is dedicated to increasing opportunities for people with institutionally marginalized identities to generate and present their work. Your project directly represents the experiences of those featured in the work. Your proposal integrates plans to be accessible to people of many ages, dis/abilities, and languages.

- **Public Benefit (20%):** Your proposal features new creative work to produce an experience or exhibition that is free and welcoming for visitors to enjoy or benefit from. Your project has the potential to draw community members and visitors to ARTS at King Street Station and is thoughtfully developed with the site in mind.
- **Artistic/Cultural Contribution (30%):** Your work samples and experience show an ability to successfully complete a compelling project. The project uplifts stories, creatives, ancestors, and audiences from communities that represent Seattle’s diversity.
- **Achievability (30%):** You demonstrate the potential to complete the proposed project through relevant experience, capacity for growth, and/or with support from experienced partners or collaborators that will help you complete the project. Your proposal is technically and logistically feasible and the requested funding amount is appropriate for the project.

Selection

The ARTS at King Street Station Advisors work with our staff to ensure that the programming at ARTS at King Street Station centers racial equity, represents and welcomes diverse communities, and showcases many creative disciplines. Advisors review and evaluate applications according to the program eligibility and criteria and recommend applications to move forward in the process.

Timeline

This timeline is subject to change:

- **Sept. 29, 2026, 5 PM Pacific:** Application closes.
- **Winter 2026:** ARTS at King Street Station Advisors review applications according to the evaluation criteria. Recommendations for funding are reviewed by OAC leadership.
- **December 2026:** Applicants are notified of funding decisions.
- **January 2027:** Contracting with awardees.
- **April–December 2027:** Exhibitions take place at ARTS at King Street Station.

Application Outline & Components

Please refer to the Exhibitions Application document on [our Application Materials webpage](#) for a complete listing of the application questions. The application includes the following sections:

1. Eligibility
2. Applicant information and background
3. Narrative questions
4. Project logistics questions
5. Work samples

6. Demographic information (optional)

Application To Do

Our funding programs are highly competitive. We encourage you to:

- **Read the guidelines**, check your eligibility and follow the instructions carefully.
- **Attend an information session** to receive guidance and hear other applicants' questions.
- **Explore the online application early** so you can plan. Consider drafting application responses in a document outside of the online application form itself, so you don't risk losing any of your work and you keep a record for yourself.
- **Be clear and concise in your application**, as panelists read and evaluate many applications. Panelists may not be familiar with you or your work, so be sure to provide essential information on who you are, your practice, or key accomplishments.
- **Save often and always before moving to a new section**. Be sure to re-read your work *before* you submit. Preview your application, spell-check, re-check, and save.
- **Talk with the project manager** about any questions or review your draft application as early as possible *before* the due date. Last-minute assistance is limited due to the volume of requests.
- **Submit your application before the due date** so you have time to deal with any potential technical issues.

Obligation of Award Recipients

If selected for funding, you must meet the requirements listed below. You will be asked to:

- Submit a W-9 that asks for a social security number or federal tax identification number issued by the Internal Revenue Service.
- Have a City of Seattle business license (not needed to apply, only if you are funded).
- For events only: Insurance may be required.
- Give credit to the City of Seattle Office of Arts & Culture.
- Submit a signed invoice and brief Final Project Report for payment. **Important Note:** payment is made at the end of your project, not in advance.

Acknowledgement

When you receive funding from the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, you must acknowledge our support in printed materials, signage visible to the public, via social media, or in other ways appropriate to the project. We will supply preferred wording and logos in digital format.

Public Benefit

State law authorizes the purchase of services on behalf of the public, but not the donation of public money to organizations or individuals. If you are funded, you must provide public benefits (such as free admission) to residents of Seattle as a condition of your funding.

Seattle Business License and Washington State UBI Number Are Required for Payment

If you are awarded funds from us, you must have a Seattle business license and a Washington state Unified Business Identification (UBI) number prior to receiving final payment. (The business license and UBI numbers are *not* needed to apply for funds.)

Reporting

After funding recommendations are approved, our staff will work with you to go over the required reporting documents for you to receive funding. Grantees are paid on a reimbursement basis after projects or services are completed and a final report with promotional materials is submitted (Approximately 4-6 weeks after paperwork is received).

Insurance

You will be responsible for securing and providing proof of Event Liability Insurance for your project, collaborators, and listing the City of Seattle as additionally insured.

Taxes

You are responsible for paying all applicable taxes. At the time of notification, you will need to complete appropriate paperwork and submit an updated W-9.

Our Funding Policies

Commitment to Racial Equity

The Seattle Office of Arts & Culture commits to an anti-racist work practice that centers the creativity and leadership of people of color - those most impacted by structural racism - to move toward systems that benefit us all. We also acknowledge that we are on Indigenous land, the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples.

We envision a city of people whose success, safety and health are not pre-determined by their race. A city where all artists, performers, writers and creative workers have the freedom, agency and platform to share and amplify their stories, art, cultures and experiences. At the same time, we acknowledge that our actions - both conscious and unconscious, past and present - have benefited some communities while limiting opportunities and outcomes for communities of color. We work toward our vision by addressing and working to eliminate institutional racism in our programs, policies and practices.

In alignment with the [City's Race and Social Justice Initiative](#), we seek new solutions that use arts as a strategy to drive not only our office, but the City as a whole toward racial equity and social justice. We will continue to break barriers and build arts-integrated tools that challenge the status quo and push us toward the inclusive society we envision.

If you have any questions about our commitment or would like to know more about the work we are doing, please call us at 206-684-7171 or email at Arts.Culture@Seattle.gov.

Grant Appeal Process

You may appeal the recommendations of the independent peer review panel. Appeals must be based solely on the information included in your original application.

Procedure:

- You must first contact the staff member responsible for the program to review the decision and hear a summary of the peer panel feedback: James Coley, james.coley@seattle.gov, 206-684-4186.
- Your appeal must be sent in writing to our director within 30 days of formal notice of the decision.
- Our director consults with staff and/or members of the peer panel for input in making the final decision.
- If our director agrees that the award should have been given based on the merit of your original application, you will be awarded a grant.
- A rejection by our director is final and ends the appeal process.
- Our director will notify you of their final decision in writing.

Application materials are public information

Application materials submitted to us are governed by the Washington Public Records Act and may be subject to disclosure to a third-party requester. To learn more please see [Chapter 42.56 RCW](#) and the City's [Privacy Statement](#).

Discrimination is not allowed on City-funded projects

Applicants receiving funds from the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture must comply with Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 20.44, pertaining to prevention of discrimination in City contracts, and Chapter 5.44, pertaining to license requirements. The complete text of these City codes is available at the City Clerk's office and the Seattle Public Library.

Americans with Disabilities Act applies to City-funded projects

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law ensuring access to services and facilities for people with disabilities. The Seattle Office of Arts & Culture respects the needs of people with disabilities and seeks to make available to applicants, participants and, all

interested persons information regarding the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and its applicability to the activities of our agency. For information about public meetings, accessibility, and auxiliary aids, please contact us at (206) 684-7171 (voice), or (800) 833-6388 (TDD Relay). We comply with all federal, state, and local laws that prohibit discrimination in employment and services.

Supports freedom of expression

The City believes a community that fosters freedom of speech and thought will advance as a society. Artists play an important role in reflecting and challenging the social concerns of the day. The strength of the United States as a nation, rests in its tolerance of divergent opinions and ideas. Government support of the arts must similarly tolerate a spectrum of ideas and encourage freedom of thought.

To learn more about funding opportunities and the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, visit our website at seattle.gov/arts and [subscribe to our email newsletter](#).