



OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE
CITY OF SEATTLE

Arts in Parks 2026 Guidelines

APPLICATION OPENS: Sept. 16, 2025

APPLICATION CLOSES: Oct. 28, 2025

Grant Overview

Since 2016, the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture (OAC) has partnered with Seattle Parks and Recreation (PARKS) to increase arts and culture-based events in parks throughout the city. Through the Arts in Parks (AiP) program, the City invests in the vibrant cultural work being done in and by diverse communities throughout Seattle.

This program supports organizations, community groups, grassroots collectives, and individual artists seeking to activate Seattle parks through arts and culture in underserved and economically constrained areas of the city. This grant supports new and established projects that promote arts and cultural participation, celebrate diversity, and build community while connecting with audiences from historically unserved and/or underserved communities that represent Seattle's diversity.

For information and assistance with applying, draft application feedback, eligibility, or online technical support, contact **Zach Frimmel, Grants Project Manager**, at **(206) 963-9226** or Zach.Frimmel@seattle.gov.

We have interpreters who can speak to you in your language, including American Sign Language (via video). Just call us and tell us what language you speak. Expect a short pause while we find an interpreter to join the call.

Grant Purpose

Arts, cultural activities, and parks are essential parts of a vibrant, healthy, and inclusive community. In partnership with PARKS, OAC seeks to collaborate with artists and community groups to create a city where all artists and communities have the freedom, agency, and platform to share and amplify their stories, art, cultures, and experiences, regardless of race, class, gender, age, ability, education, country of birth, religion, and sexual orientation.

Application

[Apply online](#) through the City of Seattle's grant website.

If you don't have computer or internet access, contact staff as soon as possible.

Due Date

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025, 5 p.m. (Pacific)

Please allow ample time to complete your application. Applications submitted after the 5 p.m. (Pacific) due date will not be accepted.

Eligibility/Requirements

You are eligible to apply for this grant if you meet the following criteria:

- You are an individual, organization, or community group that regularly presents arts and cultural-based programming in Seattle.
- You reside in King County or unincorporated King County within Washington State.
 - Organizations and individual artists representing Seattle's diverse communities are encouraged to apply.
- You have a Federal Tax ID number (Social Security Number, ITIN, or Employer Identification Number).
 - Groups applying are not required to be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nor are they required to use a fiscal sponsor or fiscal agent.

You are **not eligible** to be awarded for this grant if you have an open AiP contract after Dec. 31, 2025.

Please note: if you accept an AiP award for your project, you cannot receive additional City of Seattle funding *for the same project*. This includes other grants from OAC or PARKS.

Your project is eligible to be funded by this grant if it meets the following criteria:

- Your project centers arts and culture-based activities.
- Your project will be free and open to the public.
- You will have event insurance for the project.
- Your project will adhere to Seattle Park and Recreation's mission statement (to provide welcoming and safe opportunities to play, learn, contemplate, build community, and promote responsible stewardship of the land).
- Your project will take place in an [eligible](#) City of Seattle park between May 1 and Oct. 30, 2026.
 - View the list of preferred parks on pages 7-10 below.
 - Projects taking place in Downtown or City Center Parks or at Playfields and green spaces immediately adjacent to community centers are **not** eligible for this funding. View list of [ineligible parks](#).
- You may submit only one (1) application per year to this program.

Funding

Selected awardees will receive AiP funding support for projects in 2026 that can be used towards the following expenses: paying artists and collaborators, marketing and promotion, project management and personnel costs related to their AiP activations, supplies, equipment rentals or other production-related costs, required permits and event insurance, and no more than 10% for food-related costs. Additional expenses may be allowed upon advance approval by the grant project manager.

There is no partial funding for this program, and it is dependent on City Council budgetary approval for 2026.

Applicants can apply for the following levels of funding:

- \$2,000
- \$4,000
- \$6,000
- \$8,000*

*Projects that have been funded at the \$7,800 or \$8,000 level within the last two AiP funding cycles may only receive funding for \$8,000 if their 2026 project proposes¹ a minimum of 12 hours of public programming in an eligible City of Seattle² park for at least two days. This requirement is based on feedback from the community to support more projects and help build capacity.

If this requirement applies to you, and your submitted public program hours and days do not meet this requirement, then your funding request may be at risk of being reduced by the Project Manager.

This funding may *not* be used for:

- Religious services
- Fundraising
- Gifts/Awards/Prizes
- Organizations' administrative costs not directly related to the project
- Purchase of equipment or software

¹ *Public Programming* refers to the hours that your event is advertised to and benefits the public (for example, the times listed on promotional materials where you have scheduled activities for the public to participate in). This does not include set-up or training hours prior to the publicized start time of your event or activity.

² The event days can be consecutive or spread out between May and October.

- Food-related costs above the allowable 10% of the awarded amount

Information Sessions

Learn more about this grant and how to submit your best application. The virtual information session will be recorded, emailed to registrants who RSVP, and added to the AiP webpage.

Information Session 1 (Virtual)

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 3 - 4:30 p.m. (Pacific)

Virtual: Microsoft Teams

[RSVP to Sept. 24](#)

Information Session #2 (In-person)

Wednesday, Oct. 8, 6 - 7:30 p.m. (Pacific)

In-person: Garfield Community Center

[RSVP to Oct. 8](#)

Draft Application Feedback Session (Virtual)

Thursday, Oct. 16, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. (Pacific)

Virtual: Microsoft Teams

[RSVP to Oct. 16](#)

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals submitted to AiP will be evaluated on the following criteria by a group of community-based panelists made up of past AiP awardees, artists, and arts and culture-based administrators. **(Max score of 42 points):**

- **Project Alignment (10 points):** A clear, well-conceived project that centers arts and culture-based programming through meaningful and unique experiences. Your application aligns with PARKS's mission to provide safe opportunities to play, learn, contemplate, build community, and promote responsible stewardship of the land.
- **Community Impact (10 points):** Your project uplifts stories, creatives, and audiences from communities that represent Seattle's diverse communities. You demonstrate an authentic relationship to the cultural community, neighborhood, or other communities of interest being represented.
- **Community Engagement (10 points):** Your project includes intentional efforts to be inclusive, engage Seattle's communities, encourage participation, reach a diverse audience, and create accessibility, especially for those most impacted by structural racism and inequities.
- **Feasibility (10 points):** You demonstrate relevant experience or include community support (such as support from partners and collaborators) to execute your project. You also present a clear overview of how you intend to use the award funds, and it realistically aligns with the scope of your project.

- **Preferred Parks (2 points):** Applicants can receive two points if *all* proposed activations take place in a preferred park (see “Preferred Parks” section below), which benefit from increased use by the public.

Timeline

This timeline is an estimate and is subject to change.

- **Sept. 16, 2025** (9 a.m. Pacific) - Application opens
- **Oct. 28, 2025** (5 p.m. Pacific) – Application closes
- **January 2026:** Peer panel process completed, including final recommendations for funding reviewed and approved by OAC leadership and PARKS
- **February 2026:** Notifications are sent to applicants about their award status
- **May 1 – Oct. 30, 2026:** Awardees produce their projects and submit their reporting documents to receive funding.

Application Outline & Components

The City of Seattle uses the grant application system [FLUXX](#). If you have not done so already, you will need to create a new profile before you are able to access the application.

- Contact Information
- Primary Art Discipline
- **Artist/Organization Website or Social Media Link (optional, but highly encouraged):** Share content that aligns with the first three evaluation criteria. Panelists will review up to 2 minutes of the content found in the link you provide. Please do not add additional web links anywhere else in your application.
- **Funding Amount:** Choose the award amount you are requesting.
- **Project Information:** Brief questions related to your project including: dates, location, number of public programming hours, etc. The purpose of these questions is to share information about your project, the community it serves, and some background about yourself.
 1. **Project Title:** The name of your project
 2. **Project Summary:** Provide a short description of your project (for example, something that you might put on a community calendar) (500 characters maximum)
 3. **Project Description:** Describe the activities of your project for which you are seeking funds. How will you center arts and culture in your project? How will you incorporate audience participation? How is your project uplifting stories, creatives, and audiences from communities that represent Seattle’s diverse communities? You can also share details about the participating artists and presenters, technical needs, and anything else you feel is compelling to note. (2,000 characters max).

4. **Community Engagement:** Describe who attends your programs or who you'd like to attend this program. How does your project use arts and culture to build community? Describe what your efforts will be to be inclusive, engage Seattle's diverse populations, and create accessibility. (2,000 character maximum)
 5. **Production Background and Capacity:** Share your experience and capacity for producing arts and cultural programming and activities related to your project. How will you ensure the success of your proposed project? If needed, share details such as support from experienced partners and collaborators or other resources that will assist in the successful completion of this project. (2,000 characters maximum)
 6. **Use of Award Funding:** Briefly describe how you intend to use the money. (For example: paying artists, gear rental, materials, etc.). You don't need to provide a budget breakdown, and keep in mind fair compensation for all creative workers involved, plus any in-kind donations and/or volunteer services. (Maximum 500 characters)
- **Demographic Information:** This will not be reviewed as part of your application but will help us learn more about the communities that we serve through our programs, so that we can continue to work towards making our programs more equitable. *All questions are required but you can choose "Decline to State" for any and all questions. The questionnaire will need to be submitted before you can proceed to the rest of the application.*

Preferred Parks

Please visit PARKS's website and use the [Park Finder](#) to view more information about any of the parks listed below.

CENTRAL

- Dr. Blanche Lavizzo Park
- Judkins Park
- Flo Ware Park
- Pratt Park
- Powell Barnett Park

NORTH

- Ballard Commons Park
- Lake City Mini-Park
- Licton Springs Park
- Little Brook Park
- Sandel Park

- Virgil Flaim Park

SOUTHEAST

- Be'er Sheva Park
- John C. Little Park
- Martha Washington Park
- Othello Park
- Pritchard Island Beach

SOUTHWEST

- Duwamish Waterway Park
- Highland Park Playground
- Myrtle Reservoir Park
- Roxhill Park
- Westcrest Park

Ineligible Parks

Downtown or Center City parks are NOT eligible for Arts in Parks funded projects. Other funding sources are available for projects in these parks.

- 2100 Westlake
- Alaskan Way Blvd
- Bell Street Park
- Belltown P-Patch / Belltown Cottage Park
- Cascade Playground
- City Hall Park
- Denny Regrade Park Off-Leash Area
- Donnie Chin International Children's Park
- Elliott Bay Bike Path
- Freeway Park
- Hai Moa
- Hing Hay Park
- Jefferson Park
- Kobe Terrace
- Lake Union Park
- McGraw Square
- Myrtle Edwards Park
- Occidental Square
- Pier 62/63

- Pioneer Square Park
- Plymouth Pillars Park and Off-Leash Area
- Prefontaine Place
- Tilikum Place
- Union Station Square
- Victor Steinbrueck Park
- Waterfront Park
- Washington Street Boat Landing
- Westlake Square
- Westlake Park

The following playfields, parks, and green spaces are NOT eligible for Arts in Parks-funded projects. Many of these playfields and parks benefit from Community Centers, which have funding sources available or other sources of support for projects in these parks.

- Alki Playground
- Ballard Playground
- Bitter Lake Playfield
- Camp Long
- Carkeek Park
- Delridge Playfield
- Discovery Park
- Garfield Playfield
- Green Lake Playfield
- Hiawatha Playfield
- Laurelhurst Playfield
- Loyal Heights Playfield
- Magnolia Playfield
- Magnuson Park
- Meadowbrook Playfield
- Miller Playfield
- Montlake Playfield
- Northgate Park
- Rainier Beach Playfield
- Rainier Playfield
- Ravenna-Eckstein Park
- South Park Playground
- Van Asselt Playground
- Walt Hundley Playfield
- West Queen Anne Playfield

- Yesler Terrace Park

Application To-Dos

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

- **Read the guidelines**, check your eligibility, and follow the online instructions carefully.
- **Explore the online application early** so you can plan ahead. Consider drafting application responses in a document outside of the online application form itself. This can prevent you from losing any of your work and allows you to keep a record for yourself.
- **Submit your application before the deadline** so you have time to deal with any potential technical issues.
- **Attend an information session or draft application feedback session** to get in-person or virtual guidance and hear other applicants' questions, especially if you are a first-time applicant.
- **Update or complete your basic registration** and profile at seattle.fluxx.io.
- **Talk with the project manager** about any questions, or to review your draft application as early as possible before the deadline. We are happy to assist you, however last-minute help is limited due to timing and volume of requests.
- **Be clear and concise in your application**, as panelists read and evaluate many applications. Panelists may or may not be familiar with you or your work, so be sure to provide essential information on who you are, your areas of expertise, or key accomplishments.
- **Save your work** at the end of every page online and re-read and preview your work before you submit.
- **Double-check your budget** and make sure income equals expenses.
- **Send a follow up email** to ask the Project Manager to confirm your application was received.

Obligation of Award Recipients

If your project is selected for funding, you must meet the requirements listed below.

Acknowledgement

Organizations and individuals receiving awards from the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture must acknowledge the City of Seattle's 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. Funded organizations and individuals must provide public benefits (such as free admission) to residents of Seattle as a condition of their 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. You will need to sign a contract prior to starting your project, as well as provide a copy of promotional material. Grantees are paid on a reimbursement basis after projects or services are completed and a final report is submitted (approximately 4-6 weeks after paperwork is received).

Insurance

You will be responsible for securing Event Liability Insurance for your project 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.

OAC 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 community 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.
- Your appeal must be sent in writing to the Director of the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture 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 the Office of Arts & Culture become public information. Members of the public may request a copy of them with a formal request. Materials are subject to public disclosure due to the Washington State Public Disclosure Act (PDA:RCW 42.17). To request a copy of the act, contact the State of Washington Code Revisers' Office in Olympia at (360) 786-6777.

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/events

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 ADA and its applicability to the activities of our agency. For information about public meetings, accessibility, and auxiliary aids, please contact the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture at (206) 684-7171 (voice), or (800) 833-6388 (TDD Relay). This agency complies 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.

For additional information about funding opportunities and the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, visit our website at www.seattle.gov/arts, where you can subscribe to our regular eNewsletter.