



SmART Ventures FAQs

You can find the list of Information Sessions and Draft Review Sessions for the SmART Ventures Grant by [going to our calendar](#) and searching for "SmART Ventures Information Session" to RSVP.

Scope of SmART Ventures

Q 1: What is SmART Ventures (SV)?

A 1: SmART Ventures supports Seattle-based artists, arts organizations, and community partners to present free or low-cost arts and cultural experiences for Seattle residents. Funded projects are expected to demonstrate strong community engagement and public benefit.

Q 2: How long is the application process?

A 2: The length of the application process will depend on you. When applying for this grant attending an information session is required. After you attend a session, you are eligible to apply.

We recommend you submit your application **at least six weeks before your event or project launch date**. Keep in mind our monthly deadline: 5 PM on the last Friday of each month.

Q 3: When will I be notified if I receive funding?

A 3: Funding notifications are shared **three weeks after the application deadline**. If your project is selected, there will be additional steps after the project concludes to complete required reporting and process payment. Please note: **payment is issued after your event takes place, not at the time you receive the award notification**.

Q 4: How often can I apply and is there a limit on how many SmART Ventures Grant awards I can receive?

A 4: Each individual or organization can be funded **a maximum of two times** through this grant, **once per year**. If you are funded, you can apply again for SmART Ventures funding 12 months from the project end date of your previous award.

You may **not** receive funding for the same project from more than one of our grant programs.

Example: If you get funding in April 2026, you can apply again in April 2027. If we fund both applications, you will have used your two funding opportunities as an individual applicant. If you later apply for funding for an organization—or if an organization applies for funding for you—that organization can also receive funding up to two times.

Eligibility rules may differ for Seattle Public Schools applicants.

Eligibility, Contact, and Project Information

Q 1: Who should be listed as the applicant?

A 1: The main applicant should be **whoever will be fiscally responsible** for receiving SV funding after being awarded.

- Individual artists should list themselves *only* if they are applying without a fiscal sponsor and meet eligibility requirements.
- If you are working with a nonprofit or fiscal (financial) sponsor, **the nonprofit or fiscal partner must be listed as the applicant**, not the individual artist.

Q 2: Who should be listed as the Authorized Representative (Final Report & Invoice Signer)?

A 2: The Authorized Representative should be someone who:

- Is over the age of 18 and is legally allowed to sign contracts as the individual applying, or for the organization or fiscal sponsor. They will also be the one that submits invoices and the final report for the grant.
- Has good communication with the project team and Seattle Office of Arts & Culture (OAC) staff.

This person does not have to be the artist or project lead if another team member is better suited to manage these administrative tasks.

Q 3: Do I need to indicate a City Council District?

A 3: Yes, you must list the City Council district where your project will take place. Entering the correct district number is required and helps ensure funding is distributed equitably across the city. If your project happens in more than one location, list the primary location or the district most impacted by the project. [Look up your City Council district.](#)

Q 4: If I receive funding from your CityArtist grant am I eligible for SmART Ventures funding?

A 4: No, you are not eligible to apply for SmART Ventures until four years after the completion of your CityArtist contract.

Q 5: Is the SmART Ventures Grant taxable income?

A 5: Yes, the SmART Ventures grant is taxable income.

Q 6: Do I need to be a 501(c)(3) or have a fiscal sponsor to apply?

A 6: Organizations and community groups do not have to have 501(c)(3) non-profit status or be fiscally sponsored.

Q 7: What should I confirm with my venue before applying?

A 7: We strongly encourage you to confirm the following with your venue **before** submitting your application:

- Insurance requirements
- Venue capacity and use restrictions
- Accessibility considerations
- Guest policies and staffing needs

For further guidance, please refer to our [SmART Ventures webpage](#) under Eligibility.

Insurance Requirement

Q 1: Where can I get help with legal or insurance questions?

A 1: [Washington Lawyers for the Arts \(WLA\)](#) is an excellent resource for artists and organizations seeking guidance on:

- Business structures (LLCs, sole proprietors, etc.)
- Contracts
- Insurance questions

Application Questions (Includes Budget and Financial Questions)

Q 1: How are the application questions different from each other?

A 1: Each question focuses on a different aspect of your proposal such as project concept, community connection, and approach. Be sure to:

- Address each question directly.
- Avoid repeating the same information across multiple answers.
- Lean into your “why” — let it shape and distinguish each response.

Q 2: What’s the best way to answer Question 7: *Innovation & Community Impact*?

A 2: You are encouraged to remember these instructions from the evaluation criteria sections in the SV Guidelines:

- **Innovation:** Does your project provide a new or unique perspective on arts/culture? Is it something that is creative and out of the ordinary and uses the arts in a distinct way?
- **Community Impact:** Does your project address a community need or build community through arts and culture?

Q 3: Is there a sample budget I can reference?

A 3: A sample budget template is available on our [SmART Ventures webpage](#). You are strongly encouraged to review it before completing your budget.

Q 4: Do I need to budget for Seattle's minimum wage?

A 4: No. Budgets should reflect fair and equitable compensation for all paid labor associated with the project. **Labor and volunteer time may be considered in-kind donations** if agreed upon.

Q 5: What does "in-kind" mean?

A 5: In-kind contributions refer to non-monetary support, such as:

- Free or discounted venue fees
- Donated goods or materials
- Donated professional services
- Volunteer time

These contributions should be clearly described and assigned a reasonable value in your budget.

Final Tips Before Submitting

- Review your application for completeness and clarity.
- Double-check that your City Council district number is correct.
- Confirm all partner, venue, and fiscal sponsor details.
- Ensure your budget aligns with project activities.

Contact

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