



OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE
CITY OF SEATTLE

Arts in Parks 2027 Guidelines

APPLICATION OPENS: Sept. 15, 2026

APPLICATION CLOSES: Oct. 27, 2026, 5 PM Pacific

Grant Overview

The Office of Arts & Culture (OAC) and Seattle Parks & Recreation (SPR) invite individual artists, cultural producers, creative workers, collectives, community groups, and organizations of all sizes to propose projects centering arts and culture activations in City of Seattle-managed parks between May and October 2027.

Since 2016, we've partnered with SPR to increase arts and culture-centered 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.

For information and assistance with applying, access needs, 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

AiP supports new and established projects seeking to activate City of Seattle parks through arts and culture-based programming in underserved and economically constrained areas of the city. The intention of this program is to promote participation and accessibility, celebrate diversity, and engage community while uplifting stories, creatives, and audiences that represent Seattle's diverse communities.

Arts, cultural activities, and parks are essential parts of a vibrant, healthy, and inclusive community. The mission of AiP is to create a city where all artists and communities have the freedom, agency, and platform to 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, or have any other barriers in applying, contact the project manager as soon as possible.

Due Date

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2026, 5 PM Pacific

Please allow ample time to complete your application. Applications submitted after the 5 p.m. (Pacific) deadline 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 presents arts and cultural-centered activations in Seattle at least once a year.
- You have a residential or business address or a permanent studio/workspace in your name, within King County (or unincorporated King County), where you receive mail. It cannot be a P.O. Box. You can use [this search tool](#) to see if your address is eligible.
- You have a Federal Tax ID number (Social Security Number, ITIN, or Employee Identification Number).

You are **not eligible** to be awarded this grant if:

- You have an open AiP contract after Dec. 31, 2026
- You accepted City of Seattle funding for the same project/expenses. This includes other grants from OAC or SPR.
- You receive and accept a 2027 Get Moving, or Recreation For All, or Hope For Youth grant from SPR.

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

- Your project must center arts and culture-based activities.
- Your project expenses must comply with the Funding section below.
- Your project must be free, open to the public, and not have limited access to participate.
- Your project must include a minimum of 2 hours or a maximum of 16 hours of public programming.
- Your project must adhere to SPR's mission statement (to provide welcoming and safe opportunities to play, learn, contemplate, build community, and promote responsible stewardship of the land).
- Your project must take place in-person in an eligible City of Seattle-managed park between May 1 and Oct. 30, 2027. Virtual events are not eligible for funding. View the list of Preferred Parks and Ineligible Parks/Playfields below.

Additional requirements:

- You may submit only one application per cycle to this program
- Multiple applicants cannot submit separate applications for the same project
- If awarded, you must secure event insurance for all park activations
- Applicants are not required to be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nor are they required to use a fiscal sponsor or fiscal agent.

Applications that do not meet eligibility criteria or requirements as stated in the guidelines will be withdrawn for funding consideration.

Funding

AiP funding support awarded for projects in 2027 must be used for project-related expenses, such as: paying artists and collaborators, marketing and promotion, project management and personnel costs, supplies, equipment rentals, special permits, event insurance, and no more than 10 percent for food-related costs. Additional expenses may be allowed upon advance approval by the project manager.

Note: Park use permit fees are waived for awardees for AiP project-related park reservations.

As with all City of Seattle grant programs, funding is ultimately dependent on City Council budgetary approval for 2027.

Applicants can apply for the following levels of funding:

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

Projects that have been funded at the \$8,000 level within the last two AiP cycles may only receive funding for \$8,000 if their 2027 project proposes a total of at least 12 hours of public programming in an eligible City of Seattle park over the course of at least two days. Event days can be consecutive or spread out between May – October 2027.

This requirement is based on feedback from the community to support more projects and help build capacity. If you apply for the \$8,000 level as your first choice, and you do not submit a project proposal containing the minimum amount of public program hours and days, then your funding request may be at risk of being reduced to a lower level of funding.

Projects may be awarded partial funding during the peer review, selection panel process.

This funding may *not* be used for:

- Religious services
- Fundraising
- Gifts/Awards/Prizes
- Expenses not directly related to the project

- Purchase of equipment or software
- Food-related costs above the allowable 10 percent of the awarded amount

Information Sessions

Learn more about this grant, updates to this year's cycle, and how to submit your best application. We highly encourage first-time applicants to attend. The virtual information session will be recorded, emailed to registrants who RSVP, and added to the OAC's YouTube account.

Session 1 - Virtual

Monday, Sept. 21, 4-5:30 PM Pacific

Virtual: Microsoft Teams

[RSVP to Sept. 21](#)

Session 2 - In-person

Thursday, Oct. 8, 6-7:30 PM Pacific

In-person: Garfield Community Center

[RSVP to Oct. 8](#)

Draft Application Review

You can submit up to one request for the Project Manager to give feedback on one section of your application before officially submitting the full application. Requests must be submitted by email to the Project Manager by Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals submitted to AiP will be evaluated on the following criteria by a group of peer review panelists made up of past AiP awardees plus local artists and cultural administrators. The maximum possible score is 21 points. The minimum possible score is 4.

You should address all four evaluation criteria throughout your application responses.

Each criterion below is scored using the following scoring rubric:

- **Strongly speaks** to the criteria (5 points)
- **Sufficiently speaks** to the criteria (4 points)
- **Moderately speaks** to the criteria (3 points)
- **Insufficiently speaks** to the criteria (2 points)
- **Doesn't speak** to criteria (1 point)

Alignment & Advancement (5 points): You propose a clear, well-conceived project that centers arts and culture-based programming, plus aligns with the grant program's purpose (see page 1). You detail how this opportunity will advance the career of the artist(s) showcasing their talents

and/or advance the organization's mission. If you received funding for a version of this project for 2026 programming, you share how your proposal differs or builds from that program.

Project Impact (5 points): Your project centers and uplifts stories, creatives, and audiences that represent Seattle's diverse communities. You demonstrate an authentic relationship to the artist(s), cultural community(ies), park(s), neighborhood(s), or other communities of interest represented.

Community Engagement (5 points): Your proposal 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 social injustices.

Feasibility (5 points): You demonstrate relevant experience or include community support (from partners and collaborators) to execute your project. You also present a clear overview of how you intend to use the award funds, your expenses are eligible and related to your project, and they realistically align with the scope of your project.

Preferred Park(s) (1 point): You can receive one point if *all* proposed activations take place in one or more 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. 15, 2026** (9 AM Pacific) – Application opens
- **Oct. 27, 2026** (5 PM Pacific) – Application closes
- **January 2027:** Peer panel process completed, including final recommendations for funding reviewed and approved by OAC leadership
- **February 2027:** Notifications are sent to applicants about their award status
- **May 1 – Oct. 30, 2027:** 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:** Your name, phone number, email address, etc.
- **Primary Art Discipline:** The arts discipline that your project will center.
- **Artist/Organization Website or Link (optional but highly encouraged):** Share one (1) link of your work that aligns with the evaluation criteria. Panelists will review up to two (2) minutes of the content found in the link you provide. Do not add more than one link nor additional links anywhere else in your application or they will be removed by the Project Manager.

- Double check that the link you submitted is correct and accessible by making sure permissions are set for anyone with the link to view.
- **Link Instructions (optional):** Share what section of the webpage/video link you provided above that you want panelists to focus on. Do not add links in this section. (Maximum 500 characters)
- **Activations in Seattle:** List up to three arts and culture-based activations you have presented/performed in Seattle in the last two years that best represent your work. Provide the program title(s), one-sentence description(s), year(s), and venue(s). (Maximum 1,000 characters)
- **Award Amount Preferences:** Indicate your first, second, and third award amount preference, reflecting the best fit for your proposal. Please note that due to partial funding, your first choice is not guaranteed. However, you may select the same answer more than once if you are only open to certain award category options.
- **Estimated Number of Public Programming Hours:** Public programming hours refer to the hours that your project is advertised to and benefits the public. For example, the times listed on promotional materials for scheduled activities the public can participate in. Set-up time or preparation prior to the publicized start time do not count.
- **Estimated Number of Community Members Served:** Share how many people total you estimate attending your project/public programming.
- **Estimated Number of Participating Artists**
- **Estimated Number of Paid Artists**
- **Project Title:** The title of your project
- **Project Summary:** Provide a short description of your project. For example, what you might put on a community events calendar. (500 characters maximum)
- **Project Funding:** Did you receive AiP funding for a version of this project for 2026 programming?
- **Project Description:** Describe the clear, well-conceived project for which you are seeking funds. How does your project center arts and culture? How will this opportunity advance the career of the artist(s) showcasing their talents and/or advance your organization's mission. If you received funding for a version of this project for 2026 programming, how does your proposal differ or build from that program? You can also share details about the participating (or past) artists and presenters, technical needs, and anything else you feel is compelling to note. (1,500 characters max).
- **Community Impact:** How will your project center and uplift stories, creatives, and audiences that represent Seattle's diverse communities? How do you demonstrate an authentic relationship to the artist(s), cultural community(ies), park(s), neighborhood(s), or other communities of interest being represented? (1,500 characters maximum)
- **Community Engagement:** Describe who attends your programs or who you'd like to attend this program. How will you incorporate audience participation? What are some intended takeaways for those who attend? How does your project use arts and culture to build community? Describe what your outreach efforts will be to be inclusive, engage Seattle's diverse populations, and create accessibility. (1,500 characters maximum)

- **Feasibility:** Share your relevant experience and capacity for producing arts and cultural programming and activities related to your project. Who have you worked with in the past? 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. (1,500 characters maximum)
- **Use of Award Funding:** Present a clear overview of how you intend to use the award funds, how your expenses are related to your project, and how they realistically align with the scope of your project. You do not need to provide a full budget breakdown. Keep in mind fair compensation for all creative workers involved, plus any in-kind donations and/or volunteer services. (Maximum 500 characters)
- **Flexibility:** If awarded, you may be asked to adjust the scale of your proposed project to match available funding resources. Should you receive an award amount less than your first choice requested, briefly describe how you would adjust the scope of your project. (Maximum 500 characters)
- **Demographic Information:** This will not be reviewed by panelists as part of your application but will help OAC 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.*

Preferred Parks

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

Central

- Daejeon Park
- Dr. Blanche Lavizzo Park
- Jimi Hendrix Park
- Jose Rizal Park
- Judkins Park
- Flo Ware Park
- Pratt Park
- Powell Barnett Park

North

- Hubbard Homestead 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
- Oxbow Park
- Roxhill Park
- Westcrest Park

Ineligible Parks

Downtown or Center City parks are *not* eligible for AiP-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 58, 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 AiP-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 | • Magnuson Park |
| • Ballard Playground | • Meadowbrook Playfield |
| • Bitter Lake Playfield | • Miller Playfield |
| • Camp Long | • Montlake Playfield |
| • Carkeek Park | • Northgate Park |
| • Delridge Playfield | • Rainier Beach Playfield |
| • Discovery Park | • Rainier Playfield |
| • Garfield Playfield | • Ravenna-Eckstein Park |
| • Green Lake Playfield | • South Park Playground |
| • Hiawatha Playfield | • Van Asselt Playground |
| • Laurelhurst Playfield | • Walt Hundley Playfield |
| • Loyal Heights Playfield | • West Queen Anne Playfield |
| • Magnolia Playfield | • Yesler Terrace Park |

Application To-Dos

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

- **Read the guidelines**, check your eligibility, double check your work samples/links are correct, 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 48 hours before the deadline** so you have time to deal with any potential technical issues.
- **Attend an information session** to get in-person or virtual guidance and hear other applicants' questions, especially if you are a first-time applicant.
- **Request draft application feedback** from the project manager for one (1) of the narrative sections that you would like help with the most.
- **Update or complete your basic registration** and profile on Fluxx.
- **Talk with the project manager** about any questions 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. Re-read and preview your work before you submit.
- **Send a follow-up email to 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

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 any award payment. (The business license and UBI numbers are *not* needed to apply for funds.)

Contracting and 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 engagement, events, and/or creative opportunities. 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).

We require awardees for all of our programs to evaluate and report on the impact of their awards (e.g. numbers of artists paid, audience information, experience working with our staff, etc.). This information will be collected after the project is complete, via a questionnaire included in the final payment request in Fluxx.

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 community review panel. Appeals must be based solely on the information included in your original application.

Procedure:

- You must first contact the project manager responsible for the program to review the decision and hear a summary of the peer panel feedback: **Zach Frimmel, Grants Project Manager, 206-963-9226 or Zach.Frimmel@seattle.gov**.
- 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 Seattle Office of Arts & Culture 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/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](#), where you can [subscribe to our email newsletter](#).