

Best Day Ever Request for Proposals (RFP)

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Best Day Ever is a one-day, community-powered experience that celebrates the vibrancy, culture, and pride of Seattle's neighborhoods. A thriving neighborhood is one where residents feel connected, represented, and proud of where they live — and Best Day Ever is designed to bring that feeling to life. Each activation builds belonging through service, storytelling, movement, shared meals, joyful connection, and economic visibility for local small businesses.

Co-created by the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) and the Seattle Chamber of Connection (SCoC), Best Day Ever strengthens civic belonging by bringing people, place, and purpose together. Guided by DON's Community Engagement Framework and the Chamber's Six Points of Connection, this initiative uplifts community leadership and honors the histories, creativity, and cultural assets that make each neighborhood unique. The 2026 program will include seven activations — one in each of Seattle's seven districts. The inaugural event will take place in **March 2026 in South Park**, in partnership with Cultivate South Park.

Each activation includes five core components:

1. **Service** – Volunteerism and community-led projects
2. **Movement** – Neighborhood walks, dance, or fitness experiences
3. **Learning** – Storytelling, heritage sharing, and cultural education
4. **Gathering** – Shared meals hosted by local small businesses
5. **Connection** – Facilitated reflection and relationship-building

What We Are Looking for in Applicants We invite community-based organizations (CBOs), neighborhood groups, and cultural partners to apply to host a Best Day Ever activation in their district. Strong applicants will:

- **Demonstrate deep relationships** in their neighborhood — especially with residents, small businesses, and cultural communities.
- **Showcase the unique identity** of their district: its history, creativity, and the people who make it special.
- **Collaborate with multiple partners** by forming a diverse Leadership Committee (7–10 members) to co-design and co-lead the event.
- **Uplift BIPOC communities and historically excluded voices**, ensuring cultural authenticity and representation.
- **Propose activities rooted in local assets**, existing traditions, and neighborhood pride.
- **Create meaningful volunteer opportunities**, inviting both longtime residents and newcomers into shared purpose.
- **Demonstrate readiness** — clear planning steps, partner commitments, budget clarity, and site permissions.

Organizations may optionally apply for the **Small Sparks Fund** to support project costs. The Best Day Ever RFP launches **December 19, 2025**, aligning with the reopening of Small Sparks in **January 2026 (TBD)**.

Best Day Ever is a celebration of community — and we're excited to partner with organizations ready to uplift the beauty, resilience, and creativity of their neighborhood.

Application opens 12.19.25 and closes 01.29.26 at 5pm. For more information, contact BestDayEver@seattle.gov

Section 1

Organization / Community Group Information

1.Organization / Community Group Name

Enter your answer

2.Mailing Address

Enter your answer

3.City / State / Zip

Enter your answer

4.Applicant Contact Name

Enter your answer

5.Applicant Signatory

Enter your answer

6.Phone

Enter your answer

7.Email

Enter your answer

8.Is your organization interested in applying for a Small Smarts grant through the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods to fund this program? If yes, you will be connected with a program manager to support with your application if chosen.

Yes

No

Section 2

Project Information

9.Date

Enter your answer

10.Project Title (50-character max)

Please enter at most 50 characters

11.Project Location

Enter your answer

12.Project Type

Neighborhood Event

Enter your answer

13.Project Summary (350 words max)

Briefly describe your Best Day Ever event concept, including what makes your neighborhood unique and why you want to host this experience.

Please enter at most 350 characters

14. Council District:

Enter your answer

15. First time applicant?

Yes

No

16. NMF Project Manager assisting you (if any):

Enter your answer

17. Are Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC) communities involved in your project?

Yes

No

18. If yes, share below how Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC) communities are involved in your project:

Enter your answer

19. Is your organization or group BIPOC led, with a mission of providing service to BIPOC communities?

Yes

No

20. If yes, please share your organization's or group's mission, or explain below.

Enter your answer

21. Project Start Date:

Enter your answer

22. Project End Date:

Enter your answer

23.Community Benefit:

Describe how your event will build belonging, celebrate neighborhood identity, and invite both newcomers and long-time residents into shared connection.

Enter your answer

24.Community Involvement

List key community partners and how they will co-design or co-lead event elements. Include local businesses, cultural groups, and grassroots organizations.

Enter your answer

25.Volunteer Opportunities

How will residents help plan or support the event? Include setup, welcoming attendees, leading activities, or documenting stories.

Enter your answer

Section 3

Best Day Ever Requirements

Each Best Day Ever must include all six program elements, co-created with local partners:

26.Service - Volunteer with a local organization or mutual aid effort:

Your plan:

Enter your answer

27.Movement - Walk the neighborhood or join a local movement-based activity:

Your plan:

Enter your answer

28.Learning - Hear from neighborhood elders, artists, or organizers:

Your plan:

Enter your answer

29.Gathering - Share a meal from the neighborhood. If you are going to apply for Small Sparks funding, the meals must be free and open to the public.

Your plan:

Enter your answer

30.Connection - Structured reflection and relationship-building, in partnership with the Department of Neighborhoods and Chamber of Connection: Required to answer.
Single line text.

Your plan:

Enter your answer

31.Play - Joyful, creative experience rooted in the neighborhood's culture:

Your plan:

Enter your answer

Section 4

Project Readiness

32.Who is the Property Owner for where your project is to take place? Required to answer.
Single line text.

Enter your answer

33.Do you have property permission? Required to answer. Single line text.

Enter your answer

34.Leadership Committee: Required to answer. Single line text.

List the 7-10 members responsible for event planning. Include names, roles, and affiliations (aim for diverse representation).

Enter your answer

Section 5

Month Selection

One Best Day Ever will be scheduled per month during the months of March, April, May, September, October, November and December. The events will all occur on Saturdays. This is subject to change due to the pilot nature of the program, and we appreciate flexibility and partnership.

35.During which months would you prefer to host your proposed Best Day Ever event?
Select up to three. Multiple choice.

Please select at most 3 options.

April

May

September

October

November

December

Section 6

Application Details

Include any of the following (as applicable):

- Property Owner Permission
- Documentation of Donated Supplies and Materials and Donated Professional Services Documentation of Cash Match
- Cost Estimates or Quotes
- Job Descriptions for Staff
- Scope of Work for Youth Interns, Artists, Consultants, or Others Providing Services
- Indicate which expenses will be paid with cash match.
- Include documentation such as a bank statement, award letter from funder, or other verification

36. Complete below:

Please enter at most 500 characters

Section 7

Certification

By entering my name, I certify that the information provided is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and that I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the applicant organization.

37. Applicant Name:

Enter your answer

38.Date:

Enter your answer