

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Arts Commission recommendations for the 2023 Eastside Arts Partnership Support Grant and Project Grant allocations

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff requests action from Council on the Arts Commission's recommended funding allocations for the 2023 Eastside Arts Partnership Support Grants and Project Grants, which provides grant funding to artists and arts groups serving Bellevue.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to approve the Arts Commission's recommendations for the 2023 Eastside Arts Partnership Support Grant and Project Grant allocations.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Since 2001, the City Council has allocated annual operational grant funding from the General Fund to support artists and arts organizations that provide arts, cultural, and heritage programs and services in Bellevue. This year, new granting programs and guidelines were approved by the Council to address feedback from, and reduce barriers for, applicants and grantees. The streamlined program now features two grants, the Eastside Arts Partnership (EAP) Support Grants and Project Grants, each with a separate add-on grant opportunity.

The process for review and award determination has remained the same. Award recommendations are developed through an in-depth application process administered by the Arts Program and evaluated by an Allocations Committee appointed by the Arts Commission. The Committee considers the quality of the creative engagement, the public benefits generated for Bellevue residents and visitors, and the organizational capacity and sustainability of the applicants.

Please see Attachment A for more information about the review criteria and process for the two funding programs. The following is a brief description of each grant program and its purpose

Focus on Organizational Support: Eastside Arts Partnership (EAP) Support grants

EAP Support grants provide operational funding for nonprofits that provide annual arts, cultural, and heritage programs serving residents and visitors in Bellevue. Applicants can request up to \$10,000, or 50 percent of their operating budget. Applying nonprofits must have a 501(c)(3) designation or a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor and provide publicly accessible programming.

Project Support: Project grants

Project grants provide one-time funding for arts, cultural, and heritage projects that serve residents and visitors in Bellevue. Staff encourage innovative projects by artists, individuals, and communities that fill cultural gaps and inspire new forms of creative participation. Individual artists and Creative Business Owners can request one of two levels of funding: \$1,000 or \$2,000. Non-profit organizations applying for a Project Grant may request up to \$3,000. Projects must take place in 2023.

Bonus Grants: PowerUp for Equal Access and the BelRed Bonus

PowerUp for Equal Access aims to fill arts and cultural gaps for underserved communities. When applying for an EAP Support Grant, applicants can choose to add on an application for this bonus grant. The bonus amount is set at \$5,000 and awarded to compelling applicants.

To incentivize activation of the BelRed Arts District, applicants can choose to add on an application for the BelRed Bonus, when applying for a Project Grant. This bonus grant opportunity is a set \$1,000 award given to compelling applicants whose projects will take place in the BelRed Neighborhood.

2023 Funding Recommendations Overview

At their meeting on November 1 the Arts Commission accepted the Allocation Committee's recommendation that \$181,000, sourced from the general fund, grant funds from 4Culture, and one-time grant funds from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), be allocated between two funding programs: Eastside Arts Partnership Support and Project grants. This amount represents 40 percent of the total funding requests. Arts organizations and artists working in Bellevue submitted 53 grant applications totaling \$454,295 in funding requests, a 67 percent increase from 2022 requests. A list of each proposed allocation and a brief description is attached (Attachment A), along with the allocations for each bonus grant opportunity. These recommendations are consistent with previous years' recommendations approved by Council.

Eastside Arts Partnership Support grants: 34 applications were submitted, and the total funds requested was \$298,295. The applicant pool included 30 organizations funded in previous years and four new applicants. The Committee and Arts Commission recommends funding 29 of the 34 applications for a total of \$126,000. This would represent 70 percent of the total grant allocation budget. The average award would be \$4,345, which is 50 percent of the applicants' average request of \$8,773. Please see Attachment A for more information on specific allocations.

Sixteen of the EAP applicants applied for the PowerUp for Equal Access add-on grant opportunity. The Committee and Arts Commission recommends funding three of the 16 applications for a total of \$15,000. This would represent 8 percent of the total grant allocation budget.

Project grants: 19 applications were submitted, and the total funds requested was \$40,000. The Committee and Arts Commission recommends funding 16 of the 19 applications for a total of \$35,000. This would represent 19 percent of the total grant allocation budget. Please see Attachment A for more information on specific allocations.

Eleven of the Project grant applicants applied for the BelRed Bonus add-on grant opportunity. The Committee and Arts Commission recommends funding five of the 11 applications for a total of \$5,000. This would represent 3 percent of the total grant allocation budget.

Access, Public Benefits, and Results

Artists and arts groups funded by the City will serve an estimated 1,637,292 residents and visitors in 2023 through in-person and virtual programs, performances, cultural festivals, and arts education. City support will ensure over 980,658 people have access to these opportunities through free or reduced admissions. Overall, grantees will offer programs designed to increase access for people experiencing disabilities, youth or seniors, low-income, limited-English speaking, immigrants and refugees, Black, Indigenous, or People of Color, and LGBTQIA+. These arts and cultural organizations and projects will also support higher levels of creative civic engagement. An estimated total of 2,667 paid artists and 4,240 volunteers will have the opportunity to contribute their creative talents to Bellevue in 2023.

PROPOSED RESULTS (based on estimates for the grant year)	2021	2022	2023
<i>PARTICIPATION: Total people served through a live experience</i>	1,292,226	1,131,129	1,637,292
<i>PARTICIPATION: Bellevue residents served through a live experience</i>	509,383	649,121	822,555
<i>CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT: Paid Artists</i>	1,329	2,521	2,667
<i>CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT: Volunteers</i>	5,728	4,833	4,240
<i>CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT: Volunteer Hours</i>	127,934	128,992	107,884
<i>PUBLIC BENEFITS: Total free or reduced tickets offered</i>	520,218	188,765	980,658

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

The Eastside Arts Partnership Support, Project, and add-on grants are supported by the following adopted City policies, which support new and existing arts organizations in Bellevue and encourage the development of a creative ecosystem to support Bellevue's residents and businesses.

Comprehensive Plan

- UD-13. Support and encourage art and arts programs that facilitate involvement, engagement, communication, understanding, and respect among the City's diverse population.
- UD-14. Support and encourage development, display and performance opportunities for a wide range of artistic expression throughout the City.
- UD-16. Support and encourage lifelong arts education for all skill levels.
- UD-17. Support and encourage a variety of artwork in public places, such as parks, public buildings, and plazas.
- UD-19. Support artists and arts groups working in the community through City programs and private partnerships.
- ED-14. Recognize the economic development benefits of City and private sector investments in urban amenities like arts and culture, open space and recreational facilities, and high-quality urban design. Strengthen the City's assets in these areas as an explicit component of the City's economic development strategy.
- ED-22. Support efforts that promote tourism, hotel, retail, and arts businesses.

Diversity Advantage Plan

The Diversity Advantage Plan provides additional direction to support artists and arts groups that promote diversity and inclusion through the arts and culture:

- Civic Engagement-5. Increase support for artists (e.g., funding, exhibition/performance opportunities, etc.) whose work addresses intercultural themes.
- Cultural Competence in the Community-2. Support and produce special events, art exhibits and performances, educational materials, festivals, and public information that increase opportunities for cultural interaction and education.

Economic Development Plan

Adopted in November 2020, the Economic Development Plan provides additional direction to support the creative economy and continue developing the BelRed Arts District.

- CE 3. Promote and expand festivals, events, and activities to grow the creative economy sector and promote a strong creative brand for Bellevue.
- CE 2. Develop the built and institutional infrastructure needed to position the BelRed Arts District as a major destination.

Fiscal Impact

Funding for the grants comes from the general fund in the 2022-23 City budget. Additional funding is provided by grants from King County 4Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the Arts Commission's recommendations for the 2023 Eastside Arts Partnership Support Grant and Project Grant allocations.
2. Do not approve the Arts Commission recommendations and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

A. 2023 Arts Grants Allocations

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A