

2026 Arts Grants

Project Grant Allocations

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January 06, 2026





Action

Consider action on the Arts Commission's recommended funding allocations for 2026 Project Grants

Image: Brenda Lukes Johnson



Agenda

1. Advancing Council's Priorities
2. Grant Process
3. Request
4. 2026 Allocations
5. Public Benefits



Image: Evergreen Association of Fine Art



Advancing Council's Priorities

Bellevue City Council
2024-26 Priorities #3:

"Explore options to expand arts funding through mechanisms such as the annual grant process, direct investment in the BelRed Arts District or others."



Image: Keerthana Venugopalan



Grants

The Arts Program administers three grants:

- Project Grants
- Eastside Arts Partnership Grants
- Capital Facility Grants

Tonight, we will be discussing Project Grant allocations



Image: Performing Arts Festival of the Eastside

Grant Process

Evaluation Criteria:

- Artistic innovation
- Public access and benefits
- Project feasibility



Image: JIA Foundation

2026 Request

Artists and organizations submitted 67 Project grant applications totaling \$464,000 in funding requests.



Image: Orquesta Northwest



2026 Allocations

Project Grants

- \$187,000 total
- 31 grants

BelRed Bonus

- \$13,000 total
- 13 grants, \$1,000 each

Total allocation: \$200,000



Image: Seattle Chinese Chorus



Example: Rohini Mathur

Pollinator Hubs: Bees & Butterflies in Bloom

- Outdoor community art installation
- Offer educational and artistic resources
- Community painting days to decorate hubs



Example: Gage Academy of Art

Teen Art Studio (TAS)

- Free weekly drop-in art program for teens
- Students learn from professional teachers
- Art supplies and a meal are provided
- Recommended for a BelRed Bonus





Arts Grants Public Benefits

- Serving over 1,000,000 residents and visitors
- Over 550,000 free and reduced admissions
- Provide support for diverse organizations
- Boosts tourism and creative identity

Image: Seattle Young Philharmonic





Action

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Image: Sustain Music Project

