

Attachment A: 2026 Grant Allocations

Allocations Committee Review Panel

- Sandra Martínez, Bellevue Arts Commission
- Charles McIntyre, Bellevue Arts Commission
- Era Pogosova

Grant Allocation Process

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 creative engagement, the public benefits generated for Bellevue residents and visitors, and the organizational capacity and sustainability of the applicants.

2026 Funding Recommendations

This year, the City of Bellevue received a total request of \$464,000 (including the BelRed bonus) from 67 applicants. At its meeting on November 3, 2025, the Allocations Committee recommended that \$200,000 be allocated to 31 individuals and nonprofit organizations.

- \$187,000 allocated to 31 individuals and organizations in Project grants
- \$13,000 to 13 organizations in BelRed bonus grants

A list of each recommended allocation is attached at the end of this action item.

2026 Project Allocations

Program Goals

Project grants provide funding for arts, cultural and heritage projects that serve residents and visitors in Bellevue, Washington. We encourage innovative projects by artists, individuals, and communities that fill cultural gaps and inspire new forms of creative participation. Applicants can request three levels of funding, \$3,000, \$5,000 and \$7,000. Projects must take place in 2026.

Process and criteria for evaluation

Panelists separately reviewed and scored the applications based on how well they demonstrated the stated criteria, using a scale of 1-10. The scale consists of six qualities in ascending order from no achievement to most achievement: not competitive (1); fair (2-3); good (4-5); great (6-7); excellent (8-9); exceptional (10). Panelists provided scores for the following criteria:

Artistic Innovation

- Quality and promise of the proposed arts, cultural, and heritage project to meet the cultural needs of an audience and constituent group.
- Innovative approach to foster creative and civic participation by Bellevue's diverse residents and visitors, particularly underserved people and communities.
- Fills a gap in art, cultural, or heritage offerings and opportunities not regularly available to Bellevue residents and visitors.

Public Access and Benefit

- Quality and extent of public benefits offered to Bellevue residents and visitors.
- One or more compelling, feasible public events in Bellevue are clearly described.

Project Feasibility

- Demonstrated experience of project leaders to accomplish the scope and scale of the project.
- Evidence of thoughtful planning, including clearly articulated goals and processes for evaluation.
- Realistic budget and timeline.

For Project grants, applicants were either fully funded at their requested amount or not funded at all.

Recommended 2026 Project Allocations (\$3,000, \$5,000 or \$7,000 awards)

Artist or Organization	Project Overview	Request	2026 Grant Allocation
Abbie Richert *↑	I propose to host four pinhole workshops over two days. Workshops will be offered to middle and high-school-aged students from underserved communities. Students will learn the basics of pinhole photography and sustainable darkroom techniques, then shoot and develop their own portraits on the spot. We will use direct positive paper and the coffee-based developer known as caffenol. Following these workshops, I will host a group show with all images created during the workshops on display, open for public viewing.	\$7,000	\$7,000
Amy Y.Q. Lin *↑	With literacy rates and opportunities for authenticity falling during the rise of AI, I'm providing free creative writing classes to high schoolers, utilizing Bellevue's green spaces and communal areas. I'm interested in generative workshops where students will write poems, stories, and essays that respond to crucial questions about place, climate, family, and crisis. These workshops will explore the efficacy of different forms to convey deep thoughts about humanity in the current state of the world. This month-long series of part craft class and zine-making workshops will be creative and energizing, with opportunities to publish work in a class anthology and read to the public.	\$7,000	\$0
Anastasia Babenko *	This project involves a two-day shoot for a narrative short film examining themes of agency, othering, and power dynamics within the setting of a bikini barista coffee stand in King County. In addition to the film production, the project will feature a community screening showcasing the work of Ukrainian filmmakers currently living in Washington State. A panel discussion will follow the screening focused on the role of art during wartime, exploring indirect cinematic reflections on conflict, approaches to ethical and nuanced representation, and ways to depict personal and collective experiences without speculation or harm.	\$5,000	\$0
Anita Yan Wong ↑	I would like to create a fish wall art with the help of the public. Seventy pieces of (unglazed, ready to hang) pottery fish art featuring our local fish (such as Salmon, rainbow trout, etc.) will be provided at a pottery glazing event, where all visitors will be invited to paint/glaze their own fish. The 100 glazed fish will be fired and installed in a public space, accompanied by a water movement light show. This interactive art project raises awareness about local pottery art, the preservation of nature, and our local stream.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Anna Mia Davidson ↑	This project proposes to exhibit in Bellevue twelve black and white photographs from a body of work titled: Carpathian Mountain Villages of Ukraine. A historically Nationalistic region of proud people wanting autonomy for the people of Ukraine. Photographer Anna Mia Davidson traveled to pre-war Ukraine in 2004 with special permission from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, photographing mountain people and ways of life at risk of being lost: wood carvers, subsistence farmers, wool rug makers, church caretakers, bearing witness and documenting history. This proposal will bring this work to the Bellevue community. Davidson's grandparents emigrated to the USA from Ukraine.	\$7,000	\$0
Anu Samrat *↑	Present kolams! A kolam is a creation traditionally made with rice flour on the floor. It is a daily morning ritual in many homes in South India. I will create & present some kolams on the floor and some on other media (for example: trifold, wooden boards, fabric). I will present four in-person, independent sessions of 90-120 minutes teaching this art form. I will create videos with step-by-step instructions on how to create kolam patterns.	\$7,000	\$7,000

Art Commons *↑	Art Commons will host a Bellevue Creative Summit in fall 2026, as part of our ongoing Creative Summit programming around East King County. Creative Summits are targeted gatherings for the arts community where people come together to get to know each other, share their art, and participate in an educational program – either a group art workshop or a roundtable panel discussion. The goal is to weave together personal connections, artistic and collaborative opportunities, and creative inspiration in the local community.	\$5,000	\$5,000
Bellevue Symphony *	BelSym's Fall 2026 concert at the Meydenbauer Center Theatre will feature 50+ professional musicians performing works by Ravel, Grieg, Chopin, and Brahms. Three winners of BelSym's French International Music Competition will perform. Visual art from the 2025 Bellevue Arts Fair will be projected behind the orchestra during the concert. Two of the four featured artists will participate in our Community Connect event. They will display their artwork in the Meydenbauer lobby before the concert, during intermission, and after the concert. Six additional participants of the Connect are local nonprofits who will set up tables in the lobby to connect with concertgoers.	\$7,000	\$7,000
BelRed Arts District Community Alliance *↑	We propose stronger arts and cultural access at the BelRed Arts Studio by subsidizing our 96 sq ft rotating artist studio at \$2.50/sq ft (below the \$4-\$5 market rate) to ensure affordability and offer a series of free arts educational classes. This initiative aligns with our mission to provide accessible opportunities for historically marginalized artists and bring lasting cultural value to the BelRed Arts District and Eastside.	\$7,000	\$7,000
Brenda Loukes ↑	'Call and Response' is a live, 2-hour interactive public event, where audience members are invited to participate in a short, spontaneous drawing activity, and then join artists Brenda Loukes and XinXin in making a community painting in response to the music of a live musician (TBC). The aim is to give people the opportunity to experience joy and connection through creativity and collaboration. In the past, people left these events feeling inspired and uplifted.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Cafecito Mexican Bakery *↑	Participate in an immersive Dia De Los Muertos experience featuring local vendors and live performances. The event invites attendees to contribute by bringing a photo or offering to be placed on the community "Offrenda." Youth will have the opportunity to decorate sugar skulls and create papel picado, gaining insights into the cultural significance and historical background of each tradition. The community will also engage in Loteria (Mexican Bingo), accompanied by Catrinas and Catrines available for commemorative photographs. Shop from vendors selling Dia de los Muertos items and traditional foods.	\$7,000	\$7,000
Center for Global Muslim Life *↑	The Pacific Northwest Prayer Rug Project: Bellevue Ramadan Arts & Iftar Festival brings this important gathering to Bellevue for the first time, building on two years of community Ramadan events at Seattle City Hall. Co-created with Muslim and Indigenous artists, the exhibition will feature prayer rug designs rooted in Pacific Northwest heritage, alongside live performances and a public Iftar. This free, inclusive event celebrates the contributions of Muslim communities in Bellevue and the Eastside, fostering creativity, belonging, and cross-cultural understanding.	\$7,000	\$7,000
Christy Becker-Motyka [Christy X-Nc17] *↑	The project encompasses the completion of production and post-production film work, including cinematography, editing, music composition, sound mix, and graphic design. The completed short documentary film will offer the public the benefit of two FREE public screenings in Bellevue at two different venues: one public library	\$7,000	\$0

	and/or community center, and one BelRed Arts District venue. Online and hard copy marketing and advertising for the public benefit are included in the project.		
Coco Allred ↑	Drawing Herd is an observational workshop series hosted by Coco Allred and taking place in parks across King County. The project aims to give participants new ways to cultivate attention with particular emphasis on the bioregion and historical context of each site. Each class is co-taught with special guests whose expertise ranges from parkour tricking to choreography to atmospheric science. All classes are free, and supplies are provided!	\$7,000	\$0
Cultural Supporting Iranian Club *	Our nonprofit seeks support to host a community celebration of Sadeh, the ancient Persian festival of fire, in Bellevue. This vibrant cultural event will honor Persian heritage through music, dance, storytelling, and traditional rituals that highlight themes of light, warmth, and renewal. By bringing together diverse communities, we aim to foster cultural understanding, preserve traditions, and provide an enriching, inclusive experience for all. Funding will support venue costs, performers, educational workshops, and outreach activities.	\$7,000	\$0
Dovey Martinez *↑	This project proposes a series of murals at local WIC offices and food banks in Bellevue, celebrating community care, nourishment, and dignity. Created through community input, the murals will reflect shared experiences of families who rely on these vital resources. By transforming these spaces with vibrant imagery, the project aims to honor resilience, foster belonging, and uplift those who access and support public assistance programs.	\$5,000	\$0
Emerald Ballet Academy *↑	The Bellevue Public Printmaking Workshop: "Skate & Create" provides a free, hands-on art experience for all ages at the City of Bellevue indoor skatepark. Participants will design and print bold one-color stickers using relief or screen printmaking, exploring personal identity and symbolic imagery. Led by expert instructors, this workshop bridges visual arts and skate culture, fostering creativity and inclusion. Grant funds will cover materials, artist fees, venue, and marketing to ensure public participation and accessibility.	\$5,000	\$5,000
Evolution Studios ↑	Evolution Studios will produce and promote a free, youth-focused live music event with the energy and excitement found at Seattle venues, only we'll bring it to the Highland Outdoor Skate Plaza (14224 NE Bel-Red Rd) in summer 2026. The skateboarding and music communities share a deep cultural connection, much like the once-iconic Warped Tour. While that event faded due to high ticket prices and declining attendance, ours is free, accessible by public transportation, and welcomes everyone! We'll feature local musicians who will perform and share their stories. Main expenses include artist compensation and a professional sound system.	\$7,000	\$7,000
Expressions Arts *↑	The Pacific Northwest Youth Entrepreneur Expo is a one-day, free-to-the-public community event featuring the viewing and sale of juried creations by 85 youth entrepreneurs (ages 5-25), along with quality live entertainment, food, and children's activities. This event offers a varied cultural experience, providing children with an opportunity to serve and support the community, unify its members, and raise funds for local charities. In 2024 and 2025, it served 500 community participants.	\$7,000	\$7,000

Fashion District NW *	Fashion District NW is proposing a 2-day fashion show to be held in the lobby of Bellevue's City Hall. The first day will feature 5-6 experienced fashion designers, while the second day will highlight 6-10 students and recent graduates in fashion design. The event aims to showcase regional fashion talent, encourage creativity, support the local fashion community, and promote Bellevue as a style destination. Partner with us to make this unforgettable fashion event a city highlight!	\$5,000	\$0
Fei Chua *↑	I create joyful, spontaneous music events in public spaces where everyone is welcome to join in making music. Playing the saxophone, I lead interactive jam sessions in parks and gardens, inviting people to participate with simple instruments such as drums and recorders. These gatherings transform open spaces into living stages that celebrate creativity, cultural connection, and community spirit, allowing participants to experience the shared joy, mindfulness, and harmony that come from making music together.	\$5,000	\$0
Filmon k Adelehey *↑	This six-week community art project will engage 20 students through two weeks of lessons followed by the creation of a large-scale, moveable artwork. Rather than a wall mural, students will collaboratively design and paint a cut-wood installation that blends elements of sculpture and painting. Sessions will be held twice weekly, with two additional teaching artists assisting. Designed to empower participants of young students, the program emphasizes accessibility, artistic exploration, and cultural understanding. By combining hands-on artmaking with public showcases, the project will strengthen Bellevue's creative landscape and provide meaningful cultural experiences for residents and visitors.	\$7,000	\$0
Gage Academy of Art *↑	This grant will support our Teen Art Studio (TAS) in Bellevue, a free, weekly, year-round drop-in art program designed for teens ages 13-18. Students learn from rotating professional teaching artists in a variety of subjects and media. A Facilitator also attends weekly to create consistency across the program and develop trusted relationships. Participants, many of whom identify as BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and low-income, create a community of belonging and support. Art supplies and a meal are provided.	\$7,000	\$7,000
Ghislaine Robert *↑	Theatre33 will present Diagnostique Réservé (Critical but Stable) by acclaimed French playwright Jean-Pierre Martinez, known for his witty, philosophical comedies. Performed by eight local actors, the production will run for seven performances at Theatre33 in Bellevue in May 2026. Rehearsed over four months, the play explores human absurdity and resilience through laughter. Presented in French with English subtitles, it fosters cultural exchange and bilingual engagement within Bellevue's growing arts community.	\$5,000	\$5,000
Global Artists Collective ↑	Get Live with Global Heat... An Interactive Experience! We will present: 1) an interactive live Concert, 2) a Rhymes & Beats Workshop, and 3) an Artist Meet & Greet. Global Heat band will perform spontaneous compositions inspired by audience prompts (e.g., three random words, a feeling, or a scene), as well as an arranged repertoire. The ensemble will deliver energetic, uplifting performances blending original Soul, Funk, Jazz, and Hip Hop in original songs, and choice covers of songs by popular artists.	\$7,000	\$7,000

Gustavo Apiti Couture LLC *↑	The Runway Fashion Show, produced by Emmy Award-winning designer Gustavo Apiti Couture, is a premier cultural event merging French couture artistry with luxury automotive design. Hosted at Fields Auto Group and benefiting Compass Housing Alliance, it attracts 400+ philanthropists, leaders, and industry influencers from across the U.S. and abroad. Grant funding will elevate production, expand cultural reach, and amplify its economic, creative, and social impact regionally and globally.	\$7,000	\$0
Hania Mariën*	Imagining More Just Futures is a social justice education project for children and their grown-ups. I propose to bring our arts-based Identity Book Club, geared towards children ages 3-10 and their caregivers, to three Bellevue libraries. This would be the fourth iteration of this historically well-received programming. I propose to run 12 sessions across three libraries, covering topics including race, culture, language, gender, citizenship and class. During sessions, we will read a book together and spend most of our time on an art activity related to the session's topic. Programming would be free, and snacks would be provided.	\$7,000	\$0
Interlude Collective *↑	We propose a project spotlighting 3-5 local artists through storytelling, visual documentation, and public exhibition. We will capture each artist's journey through photography/videography, translate their work into a community event, and share their voices widely through marketing and digital platforms. Grant funds will support artist stipends, videography, event space, and outreach. This initiative strengthens BelRed's creative identity through collaboration and builds lasting connections between artists and the community.	\$7,000	\$0
International Buddy *↑	International Buddy seeks funding to support its inclusive Drawing Class program for children with special needs. Each Sunday afternoon, youth volunteers lead art sessions at Microsoft offices where participants recreate a selected picture in their own style. This program fosters creativity, social connection, and confidence, while also building bridges between students, families, and the wider Bellevue community. Several participants' artwork has been exhibited in local public libraries, demonstrating both talent and community impact. Funding will sustain art supplies, outreach, and continued exhibition opportunities.	\$5,000	\$0
Jamil Suleman *↑	"Voices of Bellevue: The Desi Diaspora" is a short-form documentary video series spotlighting South Asian businesses, stories, and cultural spaces across Bellevue. Hosted by Zain Suleman and directed/produced by filmmaker Jamil Suleman, the series features interviews, community history, and a music video finale. By sharing the voices behind Bellevue's Desi community, the project promotes cultural pride, visibility, and connection. It is released online and through local screenings to celebrate and uplift Bellevue's rich multicultural identity.	\$7,000	\$7,000
Julia Ruan ↑	For my senior project, I plan to design and create a large sculpture under the mentorship of a professional artist. This project will allow me to apply what I've learned through years of art study while exploring how sculpture can bring people together. I hope to install the piece in a Bellevue community garden, where it can add beauty, spark curiosity, and reflect the spirit of growth and connection.	\$5,000	\$0

Kai Chen	This project will present a “Neo-Classical” concert featuring the cello as the primary instrument, exploring innovative collaborations beyond traditional piano and orchestra. The program integrates vocal ensemble and jazz elements to expand contemporary classical expression. It bridges Chinese music with global influences, fostering cultural exchange. Open to the public, the concert also offers young artists a professional platform and attracts younger audiences, encouraging cultural appreciation, intergenerational dialogue, and sustaining the vitality of Bellevue’s performing arts.	\$7,000	\$0
Kataniica *↑	Kataniica would like to create ceremonial spaces centered on healing and community connection. We would love to create sacred spaces for grounding, movement, dance, and creativity. Meanwhile, uplifting and honoring Black and Indigenous artist/performers, sound healers, and artists. Kataniica proposes a series of creative pop-ups. Which includes Sounbath healing, Dance/Movement, Live Music & DJ, and Community Resource/Skill-Sharing. This honors the great need for our community to be able to dance and connect while also sharing vital resources that build stronger and safer communities.	\$7,000	\$0
Kerry Sutton	This project will engage students at Sammamish High School to curate a mural installation inside their school that centers their voice and the impact they wish to see amongst their peers and the school community. Part 1 of this project will center its voice in identifying themes, imagery, and the impact of the mural through surveys and focus groups. Part 2 will be the mural installation led by Kerry Sutton, assisted by 5-10 students interested in public art installation, who will learn mural techniques and skills through the process.	\$7,000	\$0
Larine Chung *↑	Spring and Summer Festivals: Art x Music Fusion Celebration is a vibrant, interactive celebration blending visual art and music, inviting guests to sketch to rhythm, improvise with color, and discover the joy of creative play. No art experience needed, just curiosity and heart. It's an empowering invitation to step into the creative process and discover that everyone can be an artist. Local artist Larine Chung will be leading the events together with Seattle Chinese Music Ensemble. Designed to make creative expression accessible to all, this hands-on session encouraged participants to explore the emotional and sensory connections between visual art and sound.	\$5,000	\$5,000
Maíz Education Collaborative - Fiesta del Maíz *	Fiesta del Maíz celebrates Mesoamerican Indigenous Cultures and the sacred, ancestral history of maíz, uniting community through education and celebration. While the festival has successfully run for two years, our current volunteer model has limited the crucial areas of communication and marketing. This grant addresses this gap to ensure the festival's sustainability and community access. Funds will establish a strong digital identity—including a website, professional logo, and digital content—and secure a dedicated communications manager. This targeted investment will allow us to communicate in real-time, effectively message a welcoming environment for immigrant communities, and build the infrastructure needed for festival growth.	\$5,000	\$5,000
Malia Peoples *	KAPA is a series of free pop-up artmaking events in Bellevue that help revitalize the nearly lost Native Hawaiian art of barkcloth (Kapa) and share the authentic history of Hawaii. Led by a Native Hawaiian artist, KAPA transforms underused public spaces into welcoming sites for creativity, cultural learning, and community connection. Participants engage in hands-on art making with sustainable materials, fostering conversation, belonging, and cultural awareness. This activity turns Bellevue’s parks and libraries into inclusive spaces of learning and public benefit.	\$3,000	\$3,000

Marlo A. Nettel *	"i think im a loser" is an original dance production by Marlo A. Nettel. Taking inspiration from my real life, this piece takes us through the day of a 20-something navigating adult life and rejection. As they sit in their self-pity of not getting jobs they don't want, among other things, their thoughts lead them to question their standing in their community and beyond. Set to 90's grunge/rock music, "i think im a loser" replicates what it feels like to not feel good enough and question what's really important in this world.	\$5,000	\$0
Memory Makers Project *↑	We propose The Memory Making Project, a series of 10 collage and zine-making workshops hosted primarily in Bellevue senior homes or community centers throughout June of 2026. Each session, co-led by the project artists and a guest artist, will guide seniors in telling and illustrating personal stories through repurposed materials. The workshops will offer a calming, supportive environment where memories are honored and shared. The finished zines will be documented and distributed to foster intergenerational connection and preserve community history.	\$7,000	\$0
Nahui Ollin Tezcatlipoca -- YES Latino H.E.A.T. ↑	The Danza Azteca in the Park will feature Bellevue's very own Aztec Danza group, welcoming Washington, Oregon, and California Danza groups in an Aztec Dance Circle. This traditional ceremony is a form of community respect, an art form that expresses nature in movement, and teaches respect for all ages, races, and walks of life. Attendees can learn about the instruments and drumming, and there will be art and food vendors.	\$7,000	\$7,000
Nick Goettling *	I will create a series of large, hollow 'wireframe' sculptures that will be installed within a wild, natural. The life-sized group of metal installations will each form the basic 'wireframe' shape of a car, a dinner table with chairs, and a group of open packing boxes. These hollow 'wireframe' sculptures will outline the simple edges of each human object, suggesting their past or future presence here, while also evoking a container, or three-dimensional 'frame' that encompasses the natural plant and rock features. I will also provide signage that offers prompts for viewers to engage with the work critically.	\$7,000	\$0
Ninaad ↑	This project will fund Ninaad's day-long Carnatic music festivals featuring 25–30 local youth and emerging musicians, culminating in a finale concert by a distinguished Carnatic expert. The festival will include workshops, a Carnatic fair, trivia, and other interactive activities designed to engage participants of all ages and backgrounds in the heart of Bellevue's diverse arts community. By combining performance, education, and community engagement, this event will strengthen cultural connections, foster youth leadership, and enrich Bellevue's vibrant arts and cultural landscape.	\$7,000	\$0
North America Art Photographers Association	The 2026 exhibition theme is Light & Coexistence. This theme explores the coexistence and interactions between humans and nature, urban environments, and interpersonal relationships. Works will include urban street photography, cultural documentation, natural landscapes, and community life. Our association will encourage members to engage with Bellevue community events, while also inviting contributions from across Washington State. For example, NAAPA members have participated in the Methow Valley Rodeo in Winthrop, producing a series of powerful works that connect art with community experiences.	\$7,000	\$7,000

notmilky *↑	I would like to invite community members to a public event that would showcase the power, depth, and necessity of femininity in our communities. The event would host vendors, artists, musicians, and dancers from various backgrounds who honor or represent the feminine. There will be spaces for attendees to engage in activities with one another and participate in physical activities such as learning a dance, doing breathing exercises, or yoga exercises. All activities will be arranged in a way that is accessible. Visually, art contributions from multi-disciplinary artists will create a collective theme of birth and rebirth through feminine power.	\$7,000	\$0
Oni Arts Foundations *↑	CroXss Ethnic Exchange, produced by the Oni Arts Foundation under the direction of Nailah Oni Bulley, is a three-day cultural arts residency and community showcase engaging youth and adults across King County. Through African Diaspora dance, drumming, costuming, and storytelling, participants explore identity, collaboration, and creative healing. The program culminates in a public performance celebrating unity and shared heritage, providing accessible, inclusive arts education that uplifts the community and honors the cultural traditions that connect us all.	\$7,000	\$7,000
Lens of Youth *↑	Misunderstood Moments, a flagship program of Lens of Youth, youth-led NPO, is an art-based initiative amplifying the voices of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Many are misunderstood for behaviors linked to their diagnoses and may find it exhausting to explain repeatedly. Through real stories paired with original artwork, the program helps the Bellevue community see, hear, and understand them—fostering inclusion, compassion, and belonging through exhibitions and the Misunderstood Moments Pledge.	\$7,000	\$0
Pardis Bahmani *	The sole of Persian art is based on nature. It can be easily distinguished on a Persian carpet that most of its motifs are a plan view of traditional Iranian homes. In this project, we plan to introduce the Persian celebration of the longest night of the year (Yalda) to the public through 10 paintings, a performance featuring Yalda's elements with dancing, a one-week art presentation, and a one-day performance.	\$5,000	\$0
Posi Pos Music *↑	Voices of Belonging Storytelling Experience is a live poetry, hip-hop, and photography showcase centering Black, queer, trans, disabled, and survivor artists on the Eastside. Through public performance and storytelling, the event transforms lived experience into art that heals and connects. Featuring spoken-word, music, and a photography exhibit by HIV-positive and disabled creators, the program includes ASL, captioning, and free access to ensure community inclusion and collective dialogue on resilience and creative care.	\$7,000	\$0
Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound *	Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound (REPS) have produced live audio theater since 1993. The actors read either from new or classic radio show scripts from the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. They are supported with live keyboard music. Live sound effects are created by artists, including doors opening and closing, walking sounds, and doorbell ringing. REPS casts include well-known stars of classic TV and radio shows from the Golden Days of Hollywood.	\$7,000	\$7,000
Raya Tuffaha *	I am developing a new bilingual play, SUBJECT, a study on dehumanization, Palestinian American identity and power. This project will support 2-3 actors and a local director in a rehearsal process, culminating in a community event/staged workshop reading and conversation, which will be open to the public. Our rehearsal and development process will directly counteract the oppressive systems we explore in the story, integrating staged fight/intimacy best practices into pre-production and devising.	\$5,000	\$0

Rebecca Meister-Culp *↑	This proposal seeks \$5,000 to fund Hands in Rhythm: Building Sound and Community Through Clay. This is a three-week ceramics and music workshop in Bellevue, WA. Nine participants will learn hand-building techniques to create playable percussion instruments and sculptural sound pieces under the guidance of a ceramic artist and musician. Funding covers materials, studio rental, kiln firings, and instructor stipends. The program concludes with a community showcase and drum circle celebrating sound, creativity, and collaboration.	\$5,000	\$0
Rohini Mathur *↑	"Pollinator Hubs: Bees & Butterflies in Bloom" is an outdoor community art installation featuring two themed "free library" hubs—one for bees and another for butterflies; each accompanied by a sitting bench. Each hub will offer educational and artistic resources such as pollinator guides, coloring sheets, seed packets, and rotating community artworks. Community painting days will invite residents to help decorate the hubs, creating a vibrant, interactive space that educates, inspires, and celebrates Bellevue's biodiversity.	\$5,000	\$5,000
Royce Yuen *↑	Having served as one of the founding members of the City of Bellevue's Centering Communities of Color Committee, the top two community needs vocalized by communities of color were the need for safe spaces for POC to gather and more culturally relevant events. With grant funding, I am committed to helping fill this gap by providing carefully curated art, music, and cultural events in beloved community spaces that center, platform, and financially support local and emerging BIPOC artists and creatives. These events feature live DJs, art installations, interactive activations, live musical performances, and local food and beverages.	\$7,000	\$0
Santhanalakshmi Ramanathan *↑	The Language of the Soul: Decoding Bharatanatyam for everyone. This workshop offers a beautiful and accessible pathway into Bharatanatyam by focusing on Bharatanatyam- The art form's origin and evolution in storytelling. The theme, "Language of the Soul," uses universal emotion to connect with the varied diaspora. Participants will learn the ancient Navarasas (nine emotions) and basic Mudras (hand gestures). Activities challenge attendees to use this classical vocabulary to share personal, simple narratives, providing a meaningful and tangible way to embody and celebrate their cultural heritage.	\$3,000	\$3,000
SCARF Global (Socially Conscious ARTists Foundation) *↑	SCARF's 2026 project, "Voices of Belonging," will feature public performances and spoken-word events that spark dialogue on identity and inclusion. We'll commission local artists to create temporary visual art installations and host community co-creation sessions. Through storytelling, cultural expression, and public engagement, the project foregrounds underrepresented voices and fosters empathy. Our goal is to raise awareness of social issues and inspire meaningful changes across Bellevue's diverse communities.	\$7,000	\$0
Seattle Chamber Music Society *	In summer 2026, SCMS will bring The Concert Truck mobile concert venue to Bellevue for a series of 3 chamber music performances located in public spaces such as Bellevue Botanical Gardens and Ashwood Playfield. Each concert is free, family-friendly, and focused on building connection through music. SCMS recently acquired The Concert Truck (which we had rented in previous years), allowing us to expand this concert series and respond to demand for an increased presence in Bellevue.	\$7,000	\$7,000

Seattle Indies *↑	Seattle Indies requests funding to host a specialized 48-hour Game Jam dedicated to mental health innovation in Bellevue, WA. This event will convene 150+ regional developers, designers, and clinicians to rapidly prototype interactive tools and games focused on promoting wellness, reducing stigma, and providing supportive coping mechanisms. Our goal is to leverage the Puget Sound's immense tech talent to create open-source, accessible, and engaging mental health resources. Grant funds will cover venue costs, expert mentorship (both clinical and industry), and operational support, ensuring an inclusive environment that drives.	\$7,000	\$7,000
Seattle Young Philharmonic	"Tales Through Melody" is a chamber concert series combining storytelling, music appreciation, and live performance. In 2026, five free public concerts at community centers will introduce audiences—especially youth and families—to classical works bridging Eastern and Western cultures, such as The Butterfly Lovers, Carmen Overture, Turandot, and Madama Butterfly. Through narration and guided listening, the series invites the community to discover how music expresses emotion, culture, and shared human stories beyond words.	\$7,000	\$7,000
Sharbani Datta *	This project, Nritya Setu (Dance as a Bridge), will present performances and community events showcasing Odissi, a 2,000-year-old classical dance from India. Through public presentations and collaborations, the project will make Odissi accessible to Bellevue's diverse communities. By highlighting themes of respect, teamwork, and cultural connection, it will engage audiences of all ages. The initiative seeks to preserve tradition while fostering cross-cultural understanding, artistic appreciation, and community bonding. Audiences will also be invited to try Odissi steps.	\$5,000	\$5,000
Shiaw-Ling Lai *↑	Bellevue and the surrounding Eastside have one of the nation's most concentrated video game development communities, including industry leaders like Bungie, The Pokémon Company, Valve, and Scopely. As an inherently multidisciplinary art form, game development is a perfect real-world example of how STEAM fields converge. This project aims to set up and broadcast a series of public "Game Salon" experience sessions where community members can engage f2f and talk to game makers about their work.	\$5,000	\$0
Sustain Music Project ↑	This project will present a six-concert classical music series that combines high artistic quality with meaningful community engagement. Three indoor performances will offer immersive experiences through storytelling, lighting, and world music fusion, introducing audiences to new and engaging ways of experiencing classical music. Three outdoor concerts in local parks will integrate live music with yoga and painting, encouraging creative participation. A highlight of the series will be a collaborative concert with Sophia's Place, our longtime partner, using music to share their story and deepen community understanding through the arts.	\$7,000	\$7,000
Tamar Alsberg *↑	As part of the Eastside Art Outreach Program, I am producing a series of five exhibitions and seeking grant support for two of them, which will be presented at the Meydenbauer Center to celebrate Pacific Northwest artists. One will feature a solo exhibition by an extraordinary photographer and former Bellevue College educator, while the other will highlight voices from local tribes sharing stories through designs inspired by treasured objects. Presented on large printed fabrics, both foster pride, connection, and dialogue.	\$7,000	\$0

The Spring District Common Authority LLC *↑	We would like to create a sense of placemaking and vibrancy within The Spring District by adding murals to 3 of the outdoor elevator and HVAC shafts that sit within the common park space of the District. These murals would be painted by local artists in partnership with the BelRed Arts District in an inclusive call for artists process. The design would include historical components of the District's past as well as current and future elements, showing urbanism, growth, and the power of community. The murals displayed would be enjoyed by residents, employees, and visitors, creating photographable moments of joy.	\$7,000	\$7,000
Toloka *↑	"Four Spins Around the Sun" is a group show of Ukrainian artists who continue to live and work in Ukraine despite uncertainty and challenges. Marking the fourth anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion, the exhibition reflects on how people's lives have shifted alongside the country, yet the urge to make art remains, finding light in everyday moments, joy in the mundane, irony in the absurd, and love in fleeting instants. These works carry both the weight of experience and a delicate lightness, showing art as quiet resistance: a way not just to survive, but to truly live, feel, laugh, and love.	\$5,000	\$0
United Hub *↑	We propose a series of public art activities designed to engage and educate the community: - Continue our current monthly art seminars and workshops held in conference room settings, where professional artists will present art and art history in a relaxed and accessible manner. - Offer volunteer-led talks sharing experiences and insights from visits to art museums, fostering collective learning. - Organize museum visits and city walks to explore art exhibitions, public statues, and installations accessible near streets and light rail stations. - Host hands-on workshops in handicraft creation, photography, and calligraphy practice to encourage creative expression.	\$7,000	\$0
YeFineArts (Yepoch LLC) *↑	The Global Script Workshop Series is a cross-cultural calligraphy program designed to bring Bellevue's diverse community together through hands-on instruction in Chinese, Arabic, Indian, and European traditions. Led by master artists, the workshops go beyond technical skills to encourage dialogue, empathy, and mutual respect among participants of all ages and backgrounds. By fostering cultural exchange and shared creativity, the series not only strengthens community bonds but also offers a mindful, restorative practice that supports mental wellness in today's fast-paced digital age.	\$7,000	\$0
ZEN flower studio (Lynn Trinh) ↑	The proposal includes two community floral initiatives to foster family unity and engage young minds. The first is a workshop during a special occasion—such as Chinese New Year, Mother's Day, or Thanksgiving—welcoming 60-80 participants, including youth, to celebrate and create together. The second is a charitable Christmas event, where volunteers, including young people, assemble up to 100 candle-centered floral arrangements to donate to families via Bellevue food banks. Both projects combine cultural enrichment, hands-on creativity, and intergenerational participation, inspiring joy, giving, and meaningful family-based engagement.	\$7,000	\$0
*New Applicant ↑ BelRed Bonus		Project Total: \$415,000 Requested	\$187,000 Awarded

2026 BelRed Bonus Allocations

This opportunity aims to incentivize the activation of and work to bring the BelRed Arts District to life. This add-on grant is a set \$1,000 award given to compelling applicants whose projects will take place in the BelRed Neighborhood and who address additional questions in their application process. This grant can be applied for in future years, even if the applicant was awarded the opportunity in previous years. If the applicant brings a successful project that helps raise awareness of the BelRed Arts District or activates a space in the district, the Allocations Committee that reviews projects may want to fund the project again.

The thirteen BelRed Bonus grants were chosen based on the strength of the applications and their alignment with the grant's purpose and goals.

Recommended 2026 Allocations for BelRed Bonus (\$1,000 awards)

Artist or Organization	Grant impact on furthering the goals of the BelRed Arts District	2026 Grant Allocation
Anita Yan Wong	To make 70 pieces of pottery fish require a lot of labor and glazing/ art material. This additional bonus Grant will help me provide all the free glazing and art materials to the public. I know 70 pottery fish is a lot and will take a long time in the firing process but I think it is important to have 70 pottery fish instead of less numbers of fish to give a visual impact as wall art. This will allow more people from our community to get involved in the creation process. This will also allows me to provide food and other interactive elements like bubble and light show at the final fish wall art opening event. I would also love to provide light refreshment, some bubble and light show for kids if possible at the art opening. I will most likely not be able to create add these fun elements as 100 percent of the funding will be spend on art creation. The additional grant will allow me to provide a nice and welcoming art opening for the public review of the final pottery fish wall.	\$1,000
Art Commons	In our first season of Creative Summits, running from November 2025 through June 2026, we are partnered with BelRed Arts District already. This includes help with scheduling our spring summit in Bellevue to be complementary with the local arts calendar of events. They can help with tables and chairs, and have been making introductions to venues. Beyond logistical help, it is encouraging to get to know their mission and feel mutual support. The more that arts organizations can support each other, the more we can all accomplish. Co-locating a Creative Summit in Bellevue strengthens the Creative Summit program because we can bring our audiences together in familiar and welcoming places. Our shared values include strong focus on community building. Because other Creative Summits happen in more rural towns, like Issaquah and North Bend, bringing our audience into the heart of BelRed's growing arts scene will benefit folks who aren't aware of what's going on in the Bellevue arts community. The more that artists in disparate areas of East King County can discover what their neighbors are up to, the more they will generate new opportunities to make art, show art, and collaborate on projects that ultimately benefit artists and the arts community all over the Eastside.	\$1,000
BelRed Arts District Community Alliance	As an organization, we're committed to eliminating the "starving artist" archetype by creating pathways for artists to thrive. This additional grant will help us expand paid opportunities and provide free work studios, allowing artists to create and help us grow the roster of local artists in the area. It will also support more frequent and diverse arts classes, workshops, and cultural programs that engage the public and bring people together in Bellevue, Eastside and Greater Seattle Area. With these resources, we can strengthen outreach and engagement efforts, ensuring broader participation from underrepresented communities and local residents. Ultimately, this grant will deepen our impact—fostering creativity, connection, and cultural vitality while laying the foundation for the development of the future arts and cultural hub with Su Development and Bridge Housing that benefits artists, residents, and the greater Bellevue community. Arts belongs in Bellevue, and this project will prove the importance of affordable creative spaces.	\$1,000

Cafecito Mexican Bakery	The BelRed Art District Bonus Grant of \$1,000 will allow us to secure a venue within the BelRed Arts District. Based on our research and discussions, we have received an estimated quote of approximately \$1,000 for the rental of the space. This allocation will enable us to dedicate additional resources to community engagement through Dia de Los Muertos shirts and Loteria prizes. Cafecito Mexican Bakery is committed to supporting the local community; as such, providing meals to our artists, performers, and volunteers is a priority, recognizing that their contributions are essential to the success of this event. Furthermore, we anticipate that our vendor fees may be reduced or entirely waived which in turn would bring in more vendors to apply. This grant will strengthen not just strengthen our event, but also the Hispanic community in the area who may feel underrepresented.	\$1,000
Evolution Studios	The BelRed Bonus Grant would make sure that all musicians are paid fairly and allow us to improve the sound and production quality. With additional funding, this will make it possible to rent a generator and provide a reliable power source to support professional sound and staging equipment. Hosting these events can bring huge benefits to the neighborhood. Many musicians already spend time here rehearsing, purchasing instruments, and visiting local cafes and restaurants, but when it comes time to perform, they leave Bellevue. This means the community misses out! With the extra funding from this grant, it would help strengthen the local arts community, attract new visitors, and let people know that the BelRed Arts District is not only a neighborhood where music is written and rehearsed, but also send a clear message to both audiences and musicians that it's an exciting destination to see bands and performances come alive.	\$1,000
Gage Academy of Art	Funding from the BelRed Bonus Grant will directly strengthen the Bellevue Teen Art Studio by expanding the range and quality of materials available to participants. A broader toolkit will enable instructors to teach across multiple mediums and give teens meaningful choice in how they choose to express themselves. The grant will also support competitive wages for our professional teaching artists and classroom mentors, improving recruitment and retention, fostering culturally responsive instruction, and ensuring consistent, high-quality arts education. In addition, this funding will expand TAS marketing, to better reach communities with limited access to art education and youth seeking a supportive environment with peers and mentors. Finally, if other grant requests are delayed or come in below target, the BelRed Bonus Grant funds will provide a stabilizing bridge so that we minimize the need to draw on unrestricted operating revenue to sustain the program.	\$1,000
Ghislaine Robert	Receiving this grant will significantly strengthen our project by providing the resources to focus on the art and its cultural impact rather than on the challenges of financing and administration. With this support, I can devote more energy to staging high-quality French theatre in Bellevue, mentoring actors, and building the foundation for a new francophone theatre company on the Eastside. Funding will allow us to keep ticket prices low, designate "pay-what-you-can" performances, and offer student and senior discounts, ensuring that theatre remains accessible to families and individuals of all income levels. It will also support translation, allowing non-French speakers to engage with the productions, and thus expand the reach of French and European theatre culture in our community. Equally important, this grant will give emerging and volunteer artists the opportunity to work on professional-quality productions while learning from experienced mentors. By investing in this project, the city helps us preserve and share a rich cultural tradition, while fostering dialogue, equity, and cross-generational connections among Bellevue residents and visitors.	\$1,000

Global Artists Collective	The BelRed bonus grant will strengthen our project by expanding our cultural arts presence into BelRed District and enhancing our Rhymes & Beats Interactive Workshop. The bonus grant will support our project in the following ways: 1) We will be able to rent venues for our Rhymes & Beats Interactive Workshop and our main Concert in BelRed District (see response to the Venue question below). The Concert ensemble will be 9-10 members and the performance deserves a venue with capacity of ~100 or more. Although we have venues outside the District available for the Concert, we want to take this opportunity to present our main event in BelRed District. Initial discussions with Pacific NW Ballet staff about Studio C at their BelRed Facility were promising. 2) We will enhance our Interactive Workshop "Rhymes & Beats: Playing with Words When Rhythm Counts" to support more participating musicians and vocalists; and additional promotions. 3) We will add an Artist Meet and Greet to the workshop.	\$1,000
Nahui Ollin Tezcatlipoca -- YES Latino H.E.A.T.	Currently, the Nahui Ollin Tezcatlipoca Danza Azteca group uses Crossroads Park in Bellevue as their home base of engaging in their ceremonies and sharing with the public in an open, inviting space that has become literally the 'crossroads' of many cultures and demographics. The Danza group wishes to extend out from Crossroads and perform its rituals of hope and healing to other parts of the community, which is why we are also applying for the BelRed Bonus Grant Application. The BelRed Arts District is fast becoming a hub of community, and as such the Danza group is eager to connect and share its messages, dance, and music in this new vibrant area of Bellevue. The Danza group's goal is to do the overall project in Crossroads Park, which will be able to accommodate the more than 100 Aztec dancers who will be performing. With the Bel-Red bonus grant, the group would then do a smaller ritual and ceremony in the Spring District Park.	\$1,000
Santhanalakshmi Ramanathan	This additional grant will significantly strengthen my project by enhancing its reach, quality, and community impact. With the added funding, I will be able to expand outreach efforts, ensuring broader participation and accessibility—particularly among youth and underrepresented communities in Bellevue and neighboring areas. It will allow me to collaborate with more artists, invest in better production elements such as costumes, music, and visual aids, and create an immersive experience that deepens understanding of Bharatanatyam's cultural and historical significance. Additionally, the grant will support educational components such as interactive demonstrations, artist talks, and post-performance discussions that foster dialogue between artists and audiences. This not only enriches cultural appreciation but also nurtures cross-cultural understanding and inclusion. Overall, the additional funding will help sustain the project's long-term vision—to make classical art forms like Bharatnatyam more accessible, engaging, and relevant to contemporary audiences, while inspiring future generations to embrace and preserve these timeless traditions. Specifically, we anticipate a 40% increase in youth participation from target communities and will use post-event surveys to track a minimum 20% rise in cross-cultural knowledge among adult attendees. This investment is critical to developing a sustainable financial model, including the creation of an accredited training syllabus that ensures the project's artistic and educational legacy for years to come.	\$1,000

Seattle Indies	An additional \$1,000 would be strategically allocated to enhance the participant experience and bolster the viability of the projects, directly strengthening the hackathon's mental health focus. Approximately half of the funds (\$500) could be used to significantly upgrade food and beverage offerings, moving beyond typical budget snacks to provide healthier, higher-quality meals and dedicated coffee stations. This investment directly supports participant well-being, combating fatigue and helping maintain focus, which is paramount in an intensive, mental health-themed event. The remaining \$500 would be split: \$300 could fund small honoraria or cover travel for two to three specialized mental health professionals (like therapists or clinical researchers) to serve as dedicated mentors. Their expertise ensures the solutions developed are clinically sound and ethically responsible. The final \$200 could be used as micro-grants or non-cash prizes, such as premium software licenses or one-on-one follow-up mentorship sessions, to incentivize the winning teams to continue developing and implementing their mental health prototypes after the event, maximizing the hackathon's long-term impact.	\$1,000
Sustain Music Project	This additional grant is essential to the success of our project, allowing us to fairly compensate all participating artists, recognizing their skill, dedication, and contribution to a high-quality performance. It will also support critical logistical needs, including venue rental, technical support, and targeted marketing, ensuring the concert is both accessible and professionally presented. With this funding, we can expand our outreach by partnering with local cultural organizations, connecting with diverse audiences, and engaging residents who may be unfamiliar with the BelRed Arts District. By actively promoting the concert, we aim to create an event that resonates with the district's unique demographics while fostering meaningful cultural exchange. The grant will enhance production quality, enabling us to craft an immersive concert experience that integrates music, storytelling, and visual arts, captivating and engaging attendees. Ultimately, this funding strengthens our ability to unite individuals from varied backgrounds, celebrate cultural diversity, and contribute to social cohesion. Beyond the concert itself, this support will help advance the BelRed Arts District as a vibrant, inclusive, and innovative creative hub.	\$1,000
The Spring District Common Authority LLC	This additional grant would create further opportunities to add art within The Spring District. If the Art Grant doesn't cover the cost of the murals, this additional grant would bridge that gap. Any remaining funds would be used to create additional pieces of art in the open park space (i.e., a Kaleidoscope, sidewalk treatment on pergola area, tree ornamentation, etc). We are consistently aiming to amplify the voices of the community, and using art to do so is a powerful tool. As the governing body for the condo association of The Spring District, it is our goal to create an inclusive, vibrant, and welcoming space for the residents, employees, and visitors to enjoy the open spaces within our neighborhood. Adding additional art will only enhance that mission. Working with the BelRed Arts District will further create a sense of unity throughout Bellevue and specifically between our neighboring Districts.	\$1,000
Abbie Richert	The additional grant will offer the opportunity to host a more robust exhibition of images once the workshops have finished. It will allow me to consider renting a gallery space that could host the images for an extended period of time. I would love to have the photos of the students be shown for up to one month. This would allow for greater impact across the BelRed community as more of the public would have the opportunity to experience this. This funding could also support framing of images, and any costs related to sharing the statements and stories of the students who participated. It would support a more full experience in the showcase of the final work that will have greater and more of a lasting impact. My goal for extended reach is to plant this exhibition in a way that grounds what was created during the workshops and is showcased in a way that allows for maximum number of people to see.	\$1,000
BelRed Bonus Total:		\$49,000 Requested
		\$XXXX Awarded

