

2025-26 Capital Facility Grant Allocations

City Staff, with support from an Allocations Committee, will present its funding recommendations for the 2025-26 Capital Facility grants. The Commission will be asked to endorse these recommendations, which will then be brought to the Council for review and final approval.

Motion: A motion to endorse the Allocations Committee's 2025-26 funding recommendations for Capital Facility grants

Code and bylaw support: This item is presented to the Commission/ supported by Bellevue City Code 4.45.040: "The director of the community development department shall establish and publish the parameters for the grant program or programs, rules, competitive process, application, and award recommendation criteria and process for each funded grant program and cycle, as resourced through the biennial budget appropriation, as amended." The parameters outline a review from the Arts Commission.

Allocations Committee Review Panel

- Lydia Aldredge, Bellevue Arts Commission
- Richard Nederlander, Bellevue Arts Commission
- Maria Lau Hui, Matcha Agency and BelRed Arts District Community Alliance
- Jay Markham, Meydenbauer Center Theatre Manager

Grant Application and Allocation Process

The new Capital Facility grants, approved in July 2024, aim to fund nonprofit organizations looking to maintain, build, and acquire cultural facilities in Bellevue. The grants are offered for a variety of projects and mainly fall into two categories: capital and maintenance. Capital projects include acquiring property, building new facilities, acquiring specialized equipment, and renovating other major buildings. Facility maintenance includes preventative maintenance and repairs to help preserve existing arts and cultural facilities.

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 below evaluation criteria based on each category of grant:

Capital Projects

- Applicant's financial and operational strength.
- Proposed public benefit.
- Project timeline and feasibility.
- Applicant's experience producing arts and culture programming.
- Applicant's record of success in raising funds to finance capital projects.
- Applicant's experience operating an art facility, cultural facility or art museum.

- Any commitments of funding the applicant has secured from non-City sources of funding at the time of application.
- Applicant's experience managing and delivering capital projects.
- Applicant's experience serving underserved communities.
- Environmental sustainability.
- Local community support for projects.

Facility Maintenance

- Applicant's financial strength and capability.
- Applicant's record of operating the subject facility in a manner that offers programs and services for the benefit of the public.
- Applicant's experience operating an art facility, cultural facility or art museum.
- Applicant's experience managing and maintaining a building.
- Applicant's experience producing arts and culture programming.
- Applicant's experience serving underserved communities.
- Project timeline and feasibility.
- Environmental sustainability.
- Records relating to the facility condition and history or maintenance and repairs.

2025-26 Funding Recommendations

The City of Bellevue received a total request of \$22,703,498 from five applicants, seven total applications. The Allocations Committee has allocated a total of \$1,800,000 to four applicants (five applications).

1. \$400,000 for KidsQuest for renovation and exhibit updates
2. \$462,500 for Theatre33 for a major theatre renovation project
3. \$87,500 for Theatre33 for air conditioning
4. \$600,000 for American Asian Performing Arts Theatre for a new training and performing space
5. \$250,000 for Bellevue College Foundation for upgrades to Carlson Theater

Not selected for funding, but encouraged for further consideration:

6. KidsQuest: A new space for the museum in partnership with another development
 - Note: This project scored very high in the evaluation criteria and was seen as an extremely worthwhile endeavor, but the funding needs are outside of the scope of this program. The Allocation Committee recommends the city find an alternate way to support this project.
7. Tasveer: a \$500,000 request for a new Tasveer center
 - Note: This project did not have a site selected, a requirement of the grant, they are very strongly encouraged to apply for the next funding cycle once a site is selected.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends endorsing the Allocations Committee's recommendations.

Options

Option 1: The Commission motions to endorse the recommendations made by the Allocations Committee.

Option 2: The Commission elects not to endorse the recommendations made by the Allocations Committee.

Next Steps

Staff will bring award recommendations to City Council for approval and then make award announcements before the end of the year.

Staff Contact

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