

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

2023 Eastside Arts Partnership (EAP) Support Grant and 2023 Project Grant guidelines

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Community Development Department

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**ACTION**

Staff is seeking Council Action to approve updates to the Arts Grants Guidelines, to better support arts and culture nonprofits making Bellevue a more vibrant community, consistent with the Economic Development Plan, and Bellevue City Council 2021-2023 Vision & Priorities. Updates are the recommendation of the Arts Commission.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to approve the guidelines for the 2023 EAP Support Grant and Project Grant and direct staff to proceed with implementation.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**History of the Program**

The City has provided community arts and culture grants since the early 2000s, with the last major changes made in 2018. Currently, the grants fund arts and culture organizations through three annual granting programs: the Eastside Arts Partnership, Special Projects, and the Power Up program. The City Council sets the overall guidelines for the grants and approves annual awards. Administration of the program is handled by City staff and the Arts Commission.

Value & Social Impact

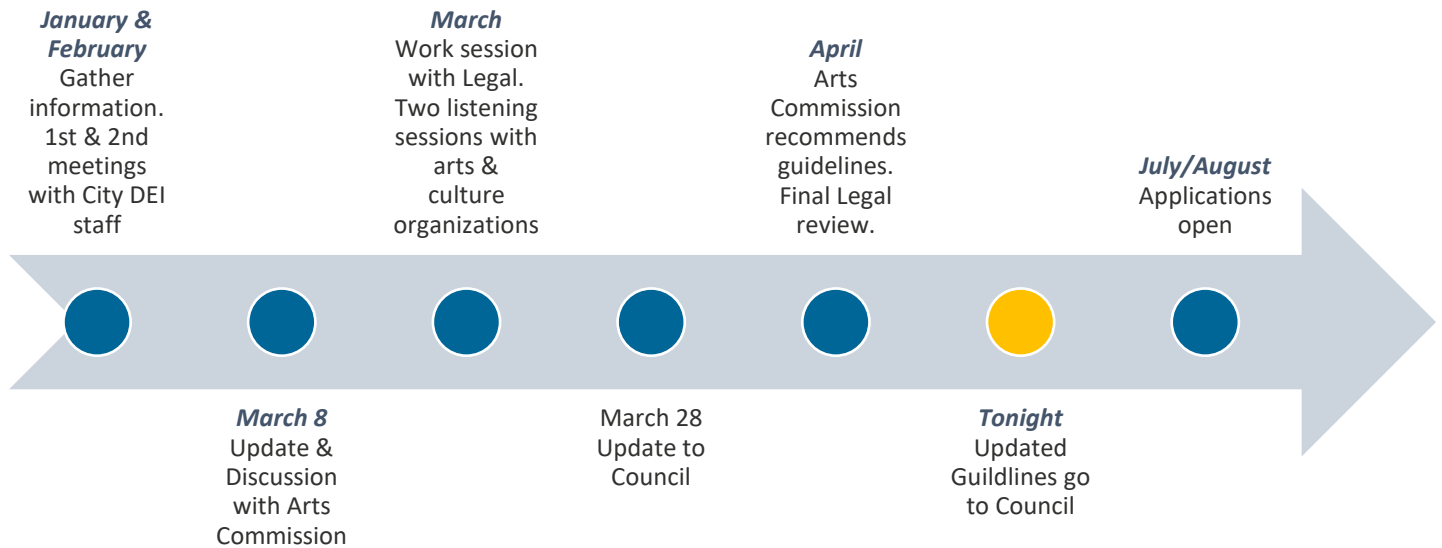
The City's grants have an important impact on the community's access to creative outlets, arts education, and bringing regional visitors to Bellevue. The grants are also important as they allow the limited arts staff to have an outsized impact by bringing an estimated total of 3,484 artists and 4,833 volunteers to contribute their creative talents to Bellevue every year. In 2022, the artists and arts groups funded by the City will:

- serve an estimated 1,131,129 residents and visitors through in-person and virtual programs, performances, cultural festivals, and arts education;
- ensure over 188,765 people have access to these opportunities through free or reduced admissions; and
- provide 16,976 people with scholarships to participate in arts education programs.

Overall, grantees will offer programs designed to increase access for people with disabilities; youth and seniors; diverse populations, and historically disadvantaged groups. These arts and cultural

organizations and projects will also support higher levels of creative civic engagement. In reviewing data and feedback from grant applicants, staff has identified opportunities to remove barriers and provide additional positive impact for Bellevue’s diverse communities.

Engagement & Feedback Process (2022):



Proposed Changes

The following Guiding Principles were set by Council on March 28, 2022. Staff used these principles when evaluating feedback and suggestions from arts and culture organizations, City Diversity, Equity and Inclusion staff, and City Legal staff.

- Make sure our grant program reflects the current needs of our arts and culture community.
- Ensure equitable access by simplifying the application process.
- Center underserved communities in funding priorities.
- Activate the BelRed Arts District through arts grants incentives.
- Explore Multi-year support.

Substantive changes to the program include:

Eastside Arts Partnership

	Old Guidelines	New Guidelines
Name	Eastside Arts Partnership	EAP Support Funding
Application	Letter of Intent & Review window	Eligibility Checklist & automatic move to application
Application	Two work samples, next year estimated budget, cash balance statement, IRS form 990,	Two work samples, next year estimated budget, most recent IRS form 990

	Policies and procedures regarding the annual evaluation of the executive director, board approved strategic plan, next year programs and services list.	
Add-on	Power-up, one time eligibility	PowerUp for Equal Access, one time limit lifted.
Cycle	Yearly application	Two year funding with one application
Note		Funding levels are subject to change due to the City's current budget process.

Project Grants

	Old Guidelines	New Guidelines
Name	Special Projects	Project Grants
Application	Letter of Intent & Review window	Eligibility Checklist & automatic move to application
Add-on	none	BelRed Bonus
Cycle	Yearly, with option for one renewal	Yearly, no renewal but can reapply multiple times
Note		Funding levels are subject to change due to the City's current budget process.

Next Steps

Guidelines will be translated into six languages: Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin), Russian, Korean, Vietnamese, and Japanese. In July, staff will host information sessions to prepare potential applicants for changes to the program and answer questions. The application window opens in August, and staff is available for support.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Updating the Arts Grants Guidelines will advance strategies in the Economic Development Plan, Diversity Advantage Plan, and Bellevue City Council 2021-2023 Vision & Priorities.

Fiscal Impact

Arts Grants Funding comes from the approved 2021-2022 General Fund Budget. There is no budget impact in updating the Arts Grants Guidelines.

City funded arts and culture grants provide economic returns for the larger community. According to Americans for the Arts, every dollar spent by governments on arts and culture returns roughly \$5.50 in related tax revenue. Additionally, tourists are specifically look for arts and cultural events on their trips with 68 percent attending a local event which delivers large economic returns on modest investment. (Americans for the Arts)

OPTIONS

1. Approve the guidelines for the 2023 EAP Support Grant and Project Grant and direct staff to proceed with implementation.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- A. 2023 Arts Grants Guidelines – EAP Support Grant
- B. 2023 Arts Grants Guidelines – Project Grant

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Economic Development Plan (adopted 2020)
Diversity Advantage Plan
Bellevue City Council 2021-2023 Vision & Priorities