

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

2024 Arts Grant Allocations – Allocations of funds to artists and arts groups serving Bellevue through Project Grants

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Arts Commission

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION Staff requests action from Council on the Arts Commission's recommended funding allocations for 2024 Project grants.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to approve the Arts Commission recommendations for 2024 Project grants.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Since 2001, the City Council has allocated annual grant funding generated by the general fund to support artists and arts organizations that provide arts, cultural, and heritage programs and services. In 2022, City Council streamlined granting programs based on feedback from the arts and culture community and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion best practices. The two grant programs are now called Eastside Arts Partnership (EAP) Support grants and Project grants.

The EAP Support grants are a two-year funding cycle, so each grantee of 2023 will be awarded the same award in 2024. Staff will review each organization to ensure they have maintained their nonprofit status (a requirement of the EAP grant) and plan to continue providing public benefits to Bellevue residents before administering their 2024 grant.

Project grants are on a yearly funding cycle. Award recommendations are developed through an in-depth application process administered by the Arts Program and evaluated by an Allocations Committee. When reviewing the grant applications, the Committee considers the quality and extent of public benefits offered to Bellevue residents, artistic innovation, and the project's feasibility.

Project Support: Project grants

Project grants provide funding for arts, cultural, and heritage projects serving Bellevue residents and visitors. 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: \$1,000, \$2,000, and \$3,000. Projects must take place in 2024.

Bonus Grants: BelRed Bonus

When applying for a Project grant, applicants can choose to add on an application for the BelRed Bonus. This bonus grant opportunity aims to incentivize the activation of and work to bring the BelRed Arts District to life. The add-on 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.

2024 Funding Recommendations Overview

Arts organizations and artists working in Bellevue submitted 36 Project grant applications totaling \$119,000 in funding requests, a 133 percent increase from 2023 Project grant requests. Based on the available budget, the Arts Commission has accepted the Allocation Committee’s recommendation at their meeting on November 8 that \$60,000 be allocated to 22 Project grants and \$5,000 be allocated to five BelRed Bonus grants. This amount represents 50 percent of the total funding 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.

Public Benefits: Access & Economic Impacts

Artists and arts groups, funded by the City by either the Project Grants or Eastside Arts Partnership Grants, will serve an estimated 1,096,884 residents and visitors in 2024 through in-person performances, cultural festivals, and arts education. City support will ensure that over 595,614 people can access 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 2,613 paid artists and 4,766 volunteers will be able to contribute their creative talents to Bellevue in 2024.

ACCESS RESULTS	2022	2023*	2024*
PARTICIPATION: Total people served through a live experience	874,167	1,192,574	1,096,884
PARTICIPATION: Bellevue residents served through a live experience	401,309	683,258	495,201
CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT: Paid Artists	2,233	2,947	2,613
CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT: Volunteers	4,006	5,766	4,766
CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT: Volunteer Hours	80,669	149,796	110,064
PUBLIC BENEFITS: Total free or reduced tickets offered	451,024	237,327	595,614

*Based on estimates for the grant year. Please note that 2023 is higher than normal due to additional funding from a National Endowment for the Arts pass-through grant and a one-time conversation of CIP to general funds made by Council on November 14, 2022.

The broader economic impacts of arts and culture events and activities are massive. According to the recently completed Arts and Economic Prosperity 6 Study, in the City of Bellevue, the nonprofit arts and culture sector generated \$54.3 million in economic activity during 2022—\$10.8 million in spending by arts and culture organizations and an additional \$43.5 million in event-related expenditures by their audiences. That economic activity supported 592 jobs, provided \$31.3 million in personal income to residents, and generated \$10.5 million in tax revenue to local, state, and federal governments.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

The Arts Grants are supported by many adopted City policies across a wide array of adopted plans, 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-19. Support artists and arts groups working in the community through city programs and private partnerships.

Diversity Advantage Plan

- 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

- 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 2023-24 City budget. Additional funding is provided by grants from King County 4Culture.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the Arts Commission recommendations for 2024 Project grant allocations and direct staff to proceed with implementation.
2. Do not approve the Arts Commission recommendations and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

A. 2024 Project Grant Allocations

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A