

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC**

An Ordinance establishing the Arts and Cultural Facility Grant Program and adopting a new chapter 4.45 of the Bellevue City Code.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY****ACTION**

As directed by Council on April 23, 2024, this Ordinance establishes an Arts and Cultural Facility Grant program.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6790

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS****Background**

Previously, Council has allocated funding for arts and cultural capital facilities on an informal basis. As part of the 2023-2024 budget, Council established the Arts and Cultural Facilities (CIP Plan No. G-112). This initiative aims to transition towards a formal, ongoing grant program supporting organizations while addressing the community's evolving needs. Extensive research and stakeholder consultations informed the proposed program, focusing on equitable grant-making practices. On April 23, 2024, staff introduced programs which will adhere to best practices, ensuring equitable access, increased visibility, transparent processes, and predictable funding cycles, while complying with the funding principles set by the Council in 2006.

**Ordinance addresses both Capitol Projects and Maintenance**

This program aims to assist nonprofit organizations in acquiring or constructing new arts or cultural facilities, making permanent improvements to existing buildings, and funding major maintenance of currently owned, or long-term leased, facilities in exchange for public benefit. This ordinance:

- Authorizes the Community Development Director to establish and publish the parameters for this new grant program, including authority to make rules, establish competitive process, application, and award recommendation criteria.
- Provides that this new grant program may be funded with general city tax resources, or external resources should they be donated for an arts or cultural facility purpose.
- Requires that recommendations for award of funds to a project under this new program go to city council for approval.
- Requires every award of funds to a project under this new program to be approved by city council resolution that sets forth public purpose and benefit, and the applicable funding

conditions, including funding and match amounts, timelines for deliverables, and recourse and remedies.

- Requires project funding agreement to address public purpose and benefit and funding conditions for each award (consistent with council resolution.)

### **Process, eligibility standards, and program parameters**

The approach presented in this ordinance is a more streamlined process than originally considered, that relies on the Community Development Director to approve final program parameters, standards, and processes. Even with this more streamlined process, however, the broad approach remains the same and City Council will have final approval of all awards. Proposed projects will align with the grant program's previously presented eligibility:

- Operating as a nonprofit entity for at least two years.
- Demonstrating financial solvency and having a sustainable long-term financial model.
- Providing a Public Benefit, which could include reasonable opportunities for access to facilities, programs, and services on a reduced or no admission fee basis, providing educational programs and experiences, or broadening cultural programs, performances, and exhibitions for the enlightenment and entertainment of the public.
- Securing funding from other sources to cover non-city-funded portions of the estimated total capital project cost for large-scale projects (land and facility acquisition or facility construction).
- Not allowing the use of grant funds to pay for any fundraising, and
- Not allowing City funding assistance to exceed forty percent (40%) of the estimated total cost of the project if the project includes land acquisition, existing facility acquisition, or construction of a facility.

### **Next Steps**

If the ordinance is approved, staff will begin administering the new grant programs, advertising, collecting applications, and reviewing and allocating awards to bring back to the Council for approval.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

The Comprehensive Plan's Urban Design & Arts and Economic Development chapters support this program. Specifically, UD-14 through 16 and ED-14, 22, and 24 support developing, displaying, and performing various artistic expressions and cultural facilities. The policies also recognize the economic development benefits of art and cultural facilities and how they support community activity and gathering. The Economic Development Plan and Diversity Advantage Plan also support the development of this grant program.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Funding for the grants comes from Arts and Cultural Facilities (CIP Plan No. G-112) in the 2023-2029 General Capital Investment Program (CIP).

## **OPTIONS**

1. Adopt Ordinance establishing the Arts and Cultural Facility Grant Program and adopting a new chapter 4.45 of the Bellevue City Code.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. CIP Project Description (G-112)  
Proposed Ordinance No. 6790

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A