

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

2023 One-Time Project Grants - Allocation of funds to nonprofit organizations serving Bellevue through art and cultural projects.

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Arts Commission

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff requests action from Council on the Arts Commission recommendations for 2023 One-Time Project Grants, which provides grant funding to artists and arts groups serving Bellevue.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to approve the Arts Commission recommendations for 2023 One-Time Project Grants.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

Since 2001, the City Council has allocated annual operational grant funding from the General Fund to support artists and arts organizations that provide arts, cultural, and heritage programs and services in Bellevue.

On November 14, 2022, in response to a letter requesting additional funds for the arts programming, the City Council allocated an additional \$85,000 to be converted from the Arts Program CIP to the general fund, allowing additional grant funding for arts organizations. On December 5, 2022, arts program staff advised they would be using this increased funding to support one-time project grants to nonprofit arts organizations. Combined with a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant, the City has a budget of \$100,000 to allocate for this one-time grant opportunity.

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 the artistic innovation, the public benefits generated for Bellevue residents and visitors, and the project feasibility of the grant proposals. Please see Attachment A for more information about the project grants, review criteria and the applications recommended for awards.

2023 Funding Recommendations Overview

The Arts Commission has accepted the Allocation Committee's recommendation at their meeting on March 7 that \$100,000, sourced from the general fund and one-time grant funds from the NEA, be allocated to 32 nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. This amount represents 44 percent of the total funding requests. Eligible organizations in Bellevue submitted 35 grant applications totaling \$227,000 in

funding requests. A list of each proposed allocation and a brief description is attached (Attachment A).

Access, Public Benefits, and Results

Arts and Culture organizations funded through this grant program will serve an estimated 158,645 residents and visitors in 2023 through in-person and virtual projects. City support will ensure that over 106,800 people have access to 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 will also support higher levels of creative civic engagement; an estimated total of 682 paid artists and 1,397 volunteers will have the opportunity to contribute their creative talents to Bellevue in 2023.

PROPOSED RESULTS (based on estimates for the grant year)	2023
<i>PARTICIPATION: Total people served through a live experience</i>	158,645
<i>PARTICIPATION: Bellevue residents served through a live experience</i>	84,877
<i>PARTICIPATION: Total people served through a virtual experience</i>	381,577
<i>PARTICIPATION: Bellevue residents served through a virtual experience</i>	99,938
<i>CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT: Paid Artists</i>	682
<i>CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT: Volunteers</i>	1,397
<i>CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT: Volunteer Hours</i>	33,312
<i>PUBLIC BENEFITS: Total free or reduced tickets offered</i>	106,862

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

The One-Time Project Grants are supported by the following adopted City policies, 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-17. Support and encourage a variety of artwork in public places, such as parks, public buildings, and plazas.
- UD-19. Support artists and arts groups working in the community through City programs and private partnerships.
- ED-14. Recognize the economic development benefits of City and private sector investments in urban amenities like arts and culture, open space and recreational facilities, and high-quality urban design. Strengthen the City's assets in these areas as an explicit component of the City's economic development strategy.
- ED-22. Support efforts that promote tourism, hotel, retail and arts businesses.

Diversity Advantage Plan

The Diversity Advantage Plan provides additional direction to support artists and arts groups that promote diversity and inclusion through the arts and culture:

- 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

Adopted in November 2020, the Economic Development Plan provides additional direction to support the creative economy and continue developing the BelRed Arts District.

- 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 Arts Program CIP in the 2022-23 City budget. Additional funding is provided by a grant from the NEA.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the Arts Commission recommendations for 2023 One-Time Project Grants.
2. Do not approve the Arts Commission recommendations and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. 2023 One-Time Grant Allocations
- B. CIP Project Description (CD-11)

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A