

Attachment A: 2025 Grant Allocations

Allocations Committee Review Panel

- Richard Nederlander, Bellevue Arts Commission
- Qiong Chen, Bellevue Arts Commission
- Joydeep Hazra, Bellevue Arts Commission
- Sarah Ghanooni, Artist, resident of Bellevue
- Julie Rackley, Artist, resident of Bellevue

Grant Allocation Process

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 creative engagement, the public benefits generated for Bellevue residents and visitors, and the organizational capacity and sustainability of the applicants.

2025 Funding Recommendations

This year, the City of Bellevue received a total request for \$573,250 from 66 applicants. At its meeting on November 17, 2024, the Allocations Committee recommended that \$350,000 be allocated to 61 individuals and nonprofit organizations.

- \$259,000 allocated to 37 nonprofit organizations in Eastside Arts Partnership Support grants
- \$20,000 to four organizations in PowerUp for Equal Access bonus grants
- \$68,000 allocated to 24 individuals and organizations in Project grants
- \$3,000 to three organizations in BelRed bonus grants

A list of each recommended allocation is attached at the end of this action item.

2025 Eastside Arts Partnerships Allocations

About

Eastside Arts Partnership (EAP) Support grants provide operational support funding for nonprofits that offer annual arts, cultural, and heritage programs serving residents and visitors in Bellevue, Washington. Applicants can request up to \$10,000, or 50% of their operating budget. Applying nonprofits must have a 501 (c) 3 designation or a 501 (c) 3 fiscal sponsor and provide publicly accessible programming.

Process and criteria for evaluation

Panelists separately reviewed and scored the applications on how well they demonstrated the stated criteria on a scale of 1-10. The scale consists of six qualities in ascending order from no achievement to most achievement: not competitive (1); fair (2-3); good (4-5); great (6-7); excellent (8-9); exceptional (10). Panelists provided scores for the following criteria:

Creative Engagement

- Quality and effectiveness of the organization's existing and proposed arts, cultural, and heritage programming and services to meet the cultural needs of participants and constituent groups.
- Extent of creative and civic participation by Bellevue's diverse residents and visitors.
- Meaningful creative and civic opportunities for working artists, cultural workers and volunteers.
- Diversify the forms of art, creative experiences and cultural resources available to Bellevue residents and visitors.

Public Access and Benefit

- Quality and extent of public benefits offered to Bellevue residents and visitors.
- Significant access to cultural opportunities for underserved groups, or, demonstrates improved access by underserved people and communities.
- Effort and evidence of inclusive communications to new and underserved communities and communities, particularly those who speak a language other than English at home.

Organizational Capacity and Sustainability

- Demonstrated financial capacity and stability.
- Strength of organizational management and governance.

The panelists' scores were then averaged into single scores for each applicant. These scores were used in distributing funding. Generally, the higher the score an application received, the higher the amount of the applicant's request was awarded.

Recommended 2025 Eastside Arts Partnerships Support Allocations (awards up to \$10,000)

Organization	Organization's Mission	Request Annual Revenue (2025 Est.) % of Revenue	2025 Grant Allocation % of Request
91.3 KBCS	Connecting you to music and ideas. To accomplish our mission, we produce and broadcast quality programming that supports more inclusive, interdependent communities. Operated as a public service by Bellevue College, KBCS trains and provides opportunities for community members to participate in all aspects of radio. KBCS actively seeks to create an environment free from harassment and discrimination. Pluralism is promoted in all aspects of station life, with an emphasis on social justice. We highly value differences in life experience and social identity.	\$10,000 \$1,069,517 0.9%	\$7,000 70%
A Cappella Joy Chorus *	A Cappella Joy is an award-winning barbershop chorus dedicated to musical excellence, committed to inclusiveness and diversity, and determined to bring a fresh, fun approach to a traditional American art form. Our 60-plus members range in age from 13 to 85. Chartered in 1958, we are a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, the world's largest music education organization for women and people of marginalized genders who sing SSAA.	\$10,000 \$56,114 17.8%	\$5,000 50%
ACME Foundation *↑	Our mission is to grow Indian classical music and dance by expanding their reach and building a supportive community in the Greater Seattle area. We provide a platform for emerging talent, help artists build skills, deepen the understanding of the art form and educate the community about their rich heritage.	\$8,750 \$18,000 49%	\$6,000 69%
Acoustic Sound dba Wintergrass ↑	Acoustic Sound, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is committed to preserving and promoting traditional, acoustic American music through presentation and education, with special attention given to the bluegrass music community. We accomplish this work by presenting an annual festival featuring concerts on multiple stages, scores of workshops and four youth music education programs. Significant aspects of the festival are free and open to the public. Paid tickets or registrations always include free and reduced-price options. Children under 12 are always free.	\$10,000 \$676,692 1.5%	\$6,000 60%
American Asian Performing Arts Theater ↑	AAPAT's mission is to promote the unique-yet universal-appeal of all Chinese arts and culture, expressed through the performing arts.	\$10,000 \$1,010,000 1%	\$8,000 80%
Artma Pop-Up	Artma Pop-Up is a community of curators, artists, and educators amplifying the voices of artist-mothers and caregivers. We democratize art through pop-up events across the Puget Sound Area, making art accessible to all. Our goal is to foster connections, community engagement, and inclusiveness while nurturing diverse artistic expressions. By creating vibrant, temporary galleries, we ignite meaningful conversations and celebrate creativity in all its forms, ensuring art becomes an enriching, shared experience for everyone.	\$3,000 \$20,000 15%	\$3,000 100%
Asunaro DBA Japan Fair ↑	The Japan Fair is an exhibition to nurture and promote traditional and modern cultural arts and crafts of Japan. We strive to show Japanese	\$10,000 \$96,220	\$9,000 90%

	heritage while also sharing new trends of modern Japan. With the Japan Fair, we want to increase cultural awareness with other communities and bring together many cultural communities in the Pacific Northwest to create open collaboration and mutual understanding.	10.4%	
Bellevue Chamber Chorus	Mission: The Bellevue Chamber Chorus strives to enhance the community's enjoyment and understanding of the choral arts by communicating the beauty of music. Vision: To be recognized as a premier Northwest performing arts group, enriching audiences throughout the region with exciting, educational, and unique musical experiences. ADEI: The Bellevue Chamber Chorus believes in the power of choral music to enrich lives, educate, and bring together communities, and as such, is committed to providing a welcoming, safe, and respectful environment for all people.	\$4,500 \$57,701 7.8%	\$3,000 67%
Bellevue Downtown Association	Established in 1974, the Bellevue Downtown Association's mission is to strengthen the economic and cultural vitality of Downtown Bellevue by supporting its members and citizens with best-in-class advocacy, major community events and strategic programs to help the Downtown area thrive. The BDA serves a diverse audience of Downtown residents, employees, families and visitors of varying age and ethnicity, with the goal of increasing interest in arts and culture through free events showcasing local music artists reflecting Bellevue's diverse population.	\$10,000 \$2,468,000 0.4%	\$7,000 70%
Bellevue Farmers Market	The Bellevue Farmers Market aims to support small local farms by providing a viable, vibrant marketplace for farm products to be sold directly to consumers and to put on a weekly event for Bellevue's urban residents that nourishes, educates, and fosters community. Simultaneously, our vision is to be a leader in achieving a more socially just, economically viable, and environmentally sustainable food system in our region by strengthening small farming businesses, educating and fostering community, and providing all residents with access to nutritious, locally produced food.	\$10,000 \$171,179 5.8%	\$7,000 70%
Bellevue Youth Choirs ↑	The mission of Bellevue Youth Choirs is to create a joyful, inclusive musical community for youth by providing exemplary musicianship training and exciting performance opportunities. We value awareness of world cultures, expressive artistry, respect for others, and growth through community. Singing is universal, and we believe everyone can experience its transformative power. Our programs foster deep musical understanding and skill, ensuring that our choristers receive the highest quality training from thoughtfully trained teachers.	\$10,000 \$244,140 4.1%	\$9,000 90%
Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra	Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra's mission is to enhance the lives of student musicians by providing dynamic musical experiences, fostering collaboration, confidence, and personal responsibility through the pursuit of artistic excellence. We value integrity, creativity, inclusivity, collaboration, achievement, excellence, engagement, and individual responsibility. Our guiding sustainability principles are community relevance, artistic vibrancy, and fiscal responsibility. BYSO creates opportunities to discover the joy of making music, provides a full orchestral program, promotes personal responsibility, and fosters educational excellence, all of which enriches our communities.	\$10,000 \$1,351,639 0.7%	\$7,000 70%
Cascadian Chorale *	We envision a community engaged in great choral music performed with passion and skill. Our mission is to express and nurture a love of	\$3,000 \$50,000	\$3,000 100%

	choral music by inspiring and educating our singers, our audiences, and the broader community by presenting quality performances of fine choral music from various historical, cultural and stylistic traditions; and by collaborating with composers, professional musicians, and other arts organizations in the Greater Bellevue and Eastside areas.	6%	
City Opera Ballet	City Opera Ballet presents Ballet Bellevue, Bellevue City Opera, and Orchestra Bellevue in professional ballet and opera productions with a live orchestra featuring classical works, contemporary masterpieces, and new works by Northwest artists. Serving downtown Bellevue since 1964, the company's Ballet Bellevue School (founded as Ballet Arts Center) maintains the tradition of the original founder (Carolyn Gracey Greer) of providing scholarships and work/study to any student needing financial aid. Our student performance division (Ballet Petit) invites students from any ballet school to perform student roles in our professional theater productions as well as a wide range of community outreach events. COB is especially distinguished as 1) the only company performing professional ballet and opera with a live orchestra in Bellevue and 2) the launch pad for other Eastside ballet school owners in their directing careers.	\$10,000 \$118,500 8.4%	\$0 0%
Columbia Choirs Association *	Columbia Choirs is a community choral nonprofit organization based on the Eastside with a mission "to bring together people of all ages and backgrounds to learn through music and experience the joy of choral singing." Since 1984, Columbia Choirs has been a musical home for singers of all ages to find their voice, express themselves, and grow their community. With eight performing choirs – for children, youth, and adult singers – and outreach programs in local elementary schools, Columbia Choirs offers high-quality musical learning opportunities and presents a variety of public performances throughout the year.	\$7,500 \$621,003 1.2%	\$0 0%
Emerald Ballet Theatre ↑	Founded in 2007, Emerald Ballet Theatre is a non-profit ballet school and arts organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children and our community through inclusive educational opportunities, outreach programs, and inspiring performances. Our faculty is united in their commitment to not only provide strong technical training but foster curiosity, creativity, confidence, and joy in every student. With dance as a common language, we seek to connect residents of all ethnic, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds on the Eastside and beyond.	\$10,000 \$505,300 2%	\$7,500 75%
Ethnic Cultural Heritage Exchange ↑	Ethnic Cultural Heritage Exchange (EchoX) is a digital equity organization that empowers and amplifies ethnic cultural communities through digital technologies and the power of story. Our pioneering portal crosses barriers and connects cultures by cultivating spaces that amplify voices, connect communities, and empower future generations.	\$10,000 \$168,600 5.9%	\$8,000 80%
Eurasia Arts Foundation DBA Eurasia Academy and Eurasia Arts Ensemble ↑	Eurasia Arts Foundation, Eurasia Arts Ensemble and Eurasia Academy have been aiming to maximize LOVE and JOY and create Euphoria on the Stage via Performing Arts since 1980. We specialize in the colorful and festive Dances and Music of the legendary Silk Road. The eight countries we present are in Central Asia: Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uygur nationality of China, Iran, Afghanistan, and the Caucasus in Azerbaijan and Dagestan. We utilize the synthesis of	\$7,500 \$15,500 48%	\$7,000 93%

	Classical Russian Ballet and Ethnic Heritage Dances of the areas for theatricalizing our stages.		
Evergreen Association of Fine Arts ↑	The Evergreen Association of Fine Arts (EAFA) is a Bellevue-based non-profit promoting art appreciation, arts learning and art in public places throughout the Puget Sound region through a wide range of programs, including monthly meetings, our Healing Arts Program with Overlake Hospital, our "Signature Fund" for art programs serving at-risk youth, and our Plein Air Program which provides opportunities to paint in the great outdoors throughout the Greater Puget Sound Area. EAFA embraces artists of all ages and stages.	\$6,000 \$14,000 42.9%	\$5,000 83%
Evergreen City Ballet ↑	Our mission is to provide high-quality dance education for students of all ages, from beginners to semi-professionals, and to create performance opportunities for them. We are also committed to enriching the diverse communities in King County through dance performances, educational presentations, outreach, and community engagement. Our goal is to create an experience that makes each person a life-long participant in the art and world of dance.	\$10,000 \$729,500 1.4%	\$9,000 90%
House of Kala ↑	House of Kala ignites cultural fusion through immersive experiences, fostering an appreciation for all artistic disciplines from performance to production. We empower emerging artists by creating a supportive community and fostering leadership through impactful social outreach and collaborations with world-renowned artists. House of Kala will deliver on its mission through performances, interactive sessions, workshops, and lecture demonstrations by world-renowned and domestic (US) artists. Our activities will focus on a multi-faceted approach through education, entertainment, and community involvement.	\$10,000 \$50,000 20%	\$8,000 80%
International Ballet Theatre *↑	Our mission is to enrich the lives of children and our community with inspiring performances that ignite imagination and foster an appreciation of the performing arts through dance, striving to achieve the highest quality and beauty essential to the arts. Infused with our core philosophy of family, our productions provide entertainment and contribute to our community's cultural enrichment. We are unwavering in our commitment to preserving the classical ballet repertoire and the artistry of dance culture by presenting authentic productions that honor tradition while resonating deeply with our Bellevue Area audience.	\$10,000 \$420,158 2.4%	\$7,000 70%
KidsQuest Children's Museum ↑	The mission of KidsQuest Children's Museum is to create learning through the power of play and exploration that connects children to their communities and the world. KidsQuest helps children unleash their natural curiosity and creativity as they learn school-ready skills through play within a hands-on, interactive museum filled with engaging and innovative exhibits. KidsQuest offers a variety of unique programs throughout the year, including early learning classes, summer camps, school-age workshops, free art programs, plus special events.	\$10,000 \$4,156,000 0.2%	\$10,000 100%
Lake Washington Symphony Orchestra ↑	Our mission is to enrich and inspire our communities through performance, outreach and education. We do this through working with students in underserved schools, through offering free/reduced tickets to all concerts, creating concerts just for children or anyone with sensory sensitivities or on the autism spectrum, through culturally	\$10,000 \$250,000 4%	\$8,000 80%

	relevant programs that represent our diverse community and providing a free concert for elementary students (and anyone who would like to come) that showcases a diverse program.		
Music Works Northwest ↑	Music Works Northwest is a non-profit community music school committed to transforming lives with accessible music education and experiences. Each year, Music Works provides tuition assistance, sliding scale fees, and scholarships to numerous students who would otherwise lack access to private lessons, group classes and camps. The school's student and faculty concerts are complimentary and open to all. Additionally, Music Works faculty offer free coaching and master classes to public school music students, benefiting them and their schools without any expense. We ensure that financial barriers do not hinder students from accessing quality music education.	\$10,000 \$702,000 1.4%	\$9,000 90%
Northwest Edvard Grieg Society	The mission is to promote the music of Edvard Grieg through performance, educational outreach, and research in the NW of the US, including creating and supporting individual performances, scholars, performers, educators, and larger projects, and collaborating with organizations with mutual interests, including Nordic and/or music-focused organizations, to support and encourage events and outreach that provides mutual benefit to them and the NWEWS, looking for where our expertise and support is needed and expanding to fill those needs.	\$10,000 \$33,170 30.1%	\$6,000 60%
Northwest Sound	Using the power of a cappella music, Northwest Sound impacts lives and builds community through artistic and emotionally driven a cappella performances for diverse audiences. Northwest Sound is a fellowship of men and women united in a cappella harmony, predominately in the barbershop style, to provide joy and entertainment to all who hear and participate. Through our music, we endeavor to lift those who need lifting, cheer those who need cheering and serve those who need serving.	\$5,000 \$116,400 4.3%	\$3,000 60%
Nrityenakatha Dance-Theater Company ↑	Nrityenakatha researches and shares rare Indian history/literature through Kuchipudi (South Indian classical dance), Garba/Raas (Western Indian traditional folk dance), theater and film. Productions embody a unique movie-like musical format with real-life dynamic backdrops, custom soundtracks set to Hindustani music (North Indian classical), and original songs, scripts, and choreography. By sharing tales of powerful women leaders and unwavering faith transcending religious barriers to history, knowledge buried in ancient educational texts, and scientific concepts, Nrityenakatha bridges arts and academics. The organization supports artists through free training and career-building opportunities, showcases underrepresented Indian culture, and creates relatable work that attracts diverse communities.	\$10,000 \$22,250 44.9%	\$8,000 80%
Orquesta Northwest ↑	To enhance community life by providing inclusive Latino arts and culture programs, projects, and events in Spanish and English that build intercultural understanding, promote equity and diversity, encourage civic engagement, and strengthen the voice of the marginalized Latino community. Orquesta Northwest celebrates and promotes Latino arts and culture by featuring Latinx artists and composers and empowering marginalized community members, especially youth, through equity, diversity and inclusion, increasing civic engagement of marginalized community members.	\$10,000 \$211,900 4.7%	\$8,000 80%

Pacific Northwest Ballet Association DBA Pacific Northwest Ballet ↑	Vision: Enriching lives in the Pacific Northwest, considered a national treasure and acclaimed worldwide, PNB epitomizes excellence in the performing arts. Our fivefold mission is to set new standards for artistic excellence, innovation and creativity; attract the most talented dancers, choreographers, musicians, collaborative artists, staff and volunteers; educate and develop dance artists as well as enthusiasts; captivate a devoted, supportive, continually growing, and diverse audience; and strengthen our financial and organizational foundation.	\$10,000 \$30,780,000 0.03%	\$9,000 90%
Performing Arts Festival of the Eastside	Since 1986, the Performing Arts Festival of the Eastside's mission has been to give young music students an opportunity to perform, receive feedback, and receive tailored advice on how to improve their music skills. The festival has historically included four and a half days of K - 12 adjudications for piano, string, woodwind, and voice performers, as well as a concerto playoff concert and 4 young artists concerts that are open to the public free of charge.	\$3,000 \$55,600 5.4%	\$3,000 100%
Peyvand ↑	Peyvand, the Persian word for "synthesis/union," serves as a cultural bridge between underrepresented, multicultural communities and the wider Washington community. Peyvand is the intersection of Culture, Identity and Belonging, linking diverse communities through Arts and Cultural Engagement. We are committed to helping underrepresented multicultural and immigrant youth and their families realize their potential through community building, education opportunities, and enrichment resources. Among Peyvand's main objectives are Community Development, Meaningful Inclusion, Representation, and Artistic Expression, especially of Iranian, Afghan, and Central Asian origin.	\$10,000 \$150,000 6.7%	\$7,000 70%
Resounding Love Center for the Arts *↑	Resounding Love Center for the Arts fosters racial healing, co-laboring toward social justice for all, and transformative experiences through music and other forms of artistic expression. Resounding Love's current incarnation is an intentionally multiracial, interfaith, LGBTQIA-embracing gospel choir. In addition to creating community and music, we are proud of our collective antiracism practice. We meet regularly in racial caucus groups to address the work that is incumbent on each of those groups. This is an acknowledgment that gospel music can only be sung with integrity if we do the accompanying work of racial justice.	\$10,000 \$75,000 13.3%	\$9,000 90%
Sadhana	Sadhana aims to explore and highlight ways in which various art forms can be used to create social campaigns and awareness, explore and highlight issues that impact everyone, and explore a common thread across diverse cultural forms around the globe. We aim to "Inspire, Motivate, and Appreciate through Art." We've got a few active projects to mention. "Art 2 Elevat"- Art to Transform Lives as a Cultural Tool. "Art 4 Tagore" celebrates the legacy and work of Poet Rabindranath Tagore through poems, dance, theatre, vocals, art, and stories. "Art 2 Master" offers free master Art classes for everyone.	\$10,000 \$36,000 27.8%	\$7,000 70%
Seattle Chinese Chorus	The Seattle Chinese Chorus is dedicated to achieving a high level of artistic singing within a multicultural environment. We aim to foster self-enjoyment and entertain our community through diverse musical expressions. Our primary focus is serving the Bellevue area, where we engage with the community through performances and cultural	\$6,000 \$20,500 29.3%	\$3,500 58%

	events, promoting appreciation for the richness of Chinese and multicultural music.		
Studio East Training for the Performing Arts ↑	Studio East provides best-in-class theater education, performance skills and audience opportunities to inspire, train and entertain young people through engagement in the art and craft of theater. Our touring company, StoryBook Theater, introduces young children to live musical theater imbued with positive life lessons. We believe theater is a transformative, cultural force that develops valuable skills children can use throughout their lives, regardless of their eventual chosen vocation.	\$10,000 \$1,507,397 0.7%	\$10,000 100%
Theatre33 ↑	Theatre33 provides quality live productions and education to audiences of all ages through the power of storytelling. We provide a unique platform for transplanted immigrants and next-generation Americans to retain and maintain a connection to history, literature, and language. At the same time, we share our rich cultural heritage with the community. We serve as a cultural hub that unites diverse cultures and ages through the love of dramatic arts.	\$10,000 \$465,600 2.1%	\$10,000 100%
United Hub *↑	At United Hub, we are dedicated to empowering underserved communities, especially within the Asian demographic, through our commitment to housing justice, equitable development, and homeownership opportunities. We advocate fair housing practices and prioritize renewable energy solutions to address environmental concerns. Our goal is to bridge the gap in housing accessibility by increasing the production of affordable homes, ensuring everyone has access to sustainable housing. We champion support for vulnerable populations while promoting community resilience and wealth generation, acknowledging the intersection of housing with health, environmental justice, and climate resilience. Our vision encompasses a holistic, inclusive housing landscape that prioritizes renewable energy and equity in environmental issues.	\$10,000 \$2,930,000 0.3%	\$0 0%
(VC)Bynum Arts & Education ↑	The mission of (VC)Bynum Arts and Education is to empower communities through socially relevant programming with a focus on educating and connecting artists of color, and providing avenues to contribute their talents. Through music, dance, and poetry, we uplift the African American culture to share with all. Our primary audiences are communities of color and patrons from all backgrounds who support our mission, which includes raising funds for food equity, youth programs, and other causes.	\$10,000 \$79,500 12.6%	\$9,000 90%
Village Theatre ↑	For 44 years, Village Theatre's mission has been to be a regionally recognized and nationally influential center of excellence in family theatre, to promote a season of top-quality productions, to commission and produce new musicals that achieve national exposure, to train young people in theatre skills for career opportunities and enriched lives, to develop a broad-based appreciation for live theatre and to promote positive values through art.	\$10,000 \$15,216,117 0.1%	\$8,000 80%
* New Applicant ↑ PowerUp for Equal Access	EAP Support Total:	\$354,250 Requested	\$259,000 Awarded

2025 Powerup for Equal Access Allocations

When applying for an EAP Support Grant, applicants can choose to add on an application or the PowerUp for Equal Access bonus grant. The grant is a set \$5,000 award given to compelling applicants.

This opportunity aims to fill arts and cultural gaps for underserved communities. The application is short, and applicants who were previously awarded PowerUp grants are eligible.

What is an underserved community? Underserved communities are defined as, but are not limited to, those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, gender or gender identity, economics, age, or disability. We also welcomed applicants to define for themselves what underservice in their community looks like. Organizations may focus on reaching a particular constituency; however, they may not be exclusionary under national civil rights laws and policies prohibiting discrimination. This extends to hiring practices and participant engagement.

The four PowerUp grants were chosen based on the strength of the applicant's application and alignment with the purpose and goals of the Power Up grant.

Recommended 2025 Allocations for Powerup for Equal Access (\$5,000 awards)

Organization	Grant Impact	2025 Grant Allocation
Bellevue Youth Choirs	<p>With our growth from 50 to over 170 choristers during 2024, we need additional staff and administrative support for our Managing Artistic Director to sustain the program. These funds will allow us to hire skilled personnel focused on program development, outreach initiatives, and administrative tasks, ensuring high-quality education and program sustainability. Additionally, they will help us offer fair, competitive salaries to recruit and retain local talent.</p> <p>The grant will also enhance our marketing efforts to engage older choristers and young adults, expanding our age range to include college participants and filling cultural gaps within our community.</p> <p>Extra funds will provide flexibility to explore collaborations and projects, including workshops, interdisciplinary arts initiatives, and commissioning new choral works from local composers and composers of color. We would like to host a workshop series highlighting diverse traditions in music, dance, and performance, featuring folk dancing and other musical traditions from around the globe. We are specifically interested in partnering with the Grand Connections Program with the City of Bellevue to host these workshops celebrating global artistic expressions and fostering inclusivity. By creating lively, accessible experiences during the summer months, we can significantly enrich our community's cultural landscape and support underserved populations.</p>	\$5,000
KidsQuest Children's Museum	<p>Through its Low Sensory Program, KidsQuest provides vital community support for children and families with sensory sensitivities, sensory processing difficulties, and those living with Autism Spectrum Disorder. KidsQuest is a Certified Sensory Accessible Venue where children with special needs can engage, learn, and thrive through exclusive Low Sensory Afternoons and accommodations during public hours.</p> <p>Supporting individuals living with a disability was an identified theme in the 2023-24 Bellevue Human Services Needs Update, noting the particular need for services for children and youth and that "there is a lot of trauma that still exists for individuals with disabilities coming out of the pandemic. Connection is something that people are struggling to find."</p> <p>1 in 36 children in the US has ASD, and between 23,000-48,000 children in Washington State have some form of autism.</p> <p>KidsQuest is well positioned to address these needs, as the Museum serves families with young children at precisely the age when signs of ASD begin to appear and when early access to appropriate services is essential. Families with special needs desire social contact and support from others experiencing similar challenges. As a community gathering place, KidsQuest offers a trusted and judgment-free venue where families can feel safe bringing their children who need a low sensory environment.</p>	\$5,000
Music Works Northwest	<p>We are looking to expand our inclusive camp offerings. Our inclusive camps are new, and they welcome neurodivergent campers and provide support for those in need. In the past, these camps were separated, but we believe that all our campers should experience music together; this is a new and unified approach. We do not want to separate neurodivergent students and want them to feel a part of our community. We want the new generation of students to be aware, accepting and welcoming of people from all backgrounds. Our goal is to make these experiences positive and welcoming for everyone involved. Music education is one way of creating spaces that are accepting of all people and will also support our</p>	\$5,000

	<p>students in their school and outside activities. These experiences will benefit students in their daily lives and work outside of music.</p> <p>We offer a variety of camps, and this year, we are particularly proud of our 'Let's Make a Musical' camps, which have successfully included every student in a fun and energetic musical experience. The teacher, along with volunteers and assistants, made this a fantastic experience for all our students and successfully included our neurodivergent students as a part of the musical journey.</p>		
Theatre33	<p>These additional funds will alleviate the unanticipated expenses associated with the rental of the West Coast Drum Shop for our overflow classes. Between rehearsals and classes, we now do not have enough space. While financially burdensome, we are excited to welcome more kids and adults into our studio and grateful to West Coast Drum Shop for making their space available. These funds would also increase our capacity to hire a house manager (W-2) and additional instructors to lead classes (including programs for seniors and kids with special needs) and summer camp programs that we will launch in 2025. Lastly, these funds will help us launch the Bellevue International Theatre Festival that will become a prominent staple in the region, attracting visitors and stimulating the local art scene and economy (lodging, retail, attractions). Thus, these funds would support additional educational bilingual classes, camps, employment and revenue within and for our community.</p>	\$5,000	
Power Up Total:		\$125,000 Requested	\$20,000 Awarded

2025 Project Allocations

Program Goals

Project grants provide funding for arts, cultural and heritage projects that serve residents and visitors in Bellevue, Washington. We encourage innovative projects by artists, individuals, and communities that fill cultural gaps and inspire new forms of creative participation.

Applicants can request two levels of funding, \$1,000 and \$2,000. Non-profit organizations applying for a Project Grant may request up to \$3,000. Projects must take place in 2025.

Process and criteria for evaluation

Panelists separately reviewed and scored the applications on how well they demonstrated the stated criteria on a scale of 1-10. The scale consists of six qualities in ascending order from no achievement to most achievement: not competitive (1); fair (2-3); good (4-5); great (6-7); excellent (8-9); exceptional (10). Panelists provided scores for the following criteria:

Artistic Innovation

- Quality and promise of the proposed arts, cultural, and heritage project to meet the cultural needs of an audience and constituent group.
- Innovative approach to foster creative and civic participation by Bellevue's diverse residents and visitors, particularly underserved people and communities.
- Fills a gap in art, cultural, or heritage offerings and opportunities not regularly available to Bellevue residents and visitors.

Public Access and Benefit

- Quality and extent of public benefits offered to Bellevue residents and visitors.
- One or more compelling, feasible public events in Bellevue are clearly described.

Project Feasibility

- Demonstrated experience of project leaders to accomplish the scope and scale of the project.
- Evidence of thoughtful planning, including clearly articulated goals and processes for evaluation.
- Realistic budget and timeline.

For Project grants, applicants were either funded fully at their request amount or not at all, depending on how they scored on the three criteria.

Recommended 2025 Project Allocations (\$1,000, \$2,000 or \$3,000 awards)

Artist or Organization	Project Overview	Request	2025 Grant Allocation
Alefba Group (Seattle Iranian Choir) *	On the 10th anniversary of our choir, we are working on an ambitious project, which is a musical based on ancient Persian mythology, which is so dear to the Iranian's hearts. It is the story of a brave archer named Arash who sacrificed his body and shot an arrow to determine the border of Iran and its enemy during a mythological war. The story of Arash demonstrates how the love and sacrifice of a single person can make a difference in people's lives.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Alexander Naimushin *	This grant proposal is for the short film "An Other Guest" directed by Alexander, shooting in 2025. Grant funds will go towards paying the cast and crew a fixed daily rate. If Interlake High School agrees to this, senior students taking IB Film classes will be given an opportunity to volunteer on set. After completing the film, Alex will host a free screening in a Bellevue community space. A short talk about the filmmaking process and a Q&A session will follow this screening.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Anita Yan Wong *↑	"Coffee Portraits" is a collection of paintings created with coffee, ink, and calligraphy brush. Each portrait is painted with a cup of coffee, using painting techniques from Asian American art. The coffee painting process is filmed and made into short films. Activate the story of each portrait with the QR code to learn more about each portrait. The public can vote via my social media to nominate their favorite person in the City of Bellevue. These interactive portraits celebrate the residents in Bellevue from education, art, small business, technology fields, etc. The final exhibition will be shown to the public at a local Venue.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Anna Mia Davidson ↑	This project proposal is to exhibit in Bellevue eight portrait photographs of Sustainable Farmers from my Human Nature: Sustainable Farming in the Pacific Northwest Book (Published by Minor Matters Books). The photographs from this project are portraits taken at farms in areas surrounding Bellevue documenting the resurgence of sustainable farmers in the Pacific Northwest. Farming is a link we share with most nations on earth and is a bond that makes us more similar than different. It is a crucial time, where communities must look to alternative means of food production as an answer to environmental, social, and health issues.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Bailey Fuentes *↑	Project Overview: Completing an architecturally intriguing mural that inspires commuters throughout their day. It will engage the community through public artwork and showcasing established artists. Organize a community unveiling, a public benefit, where the Eastside community meets to hear from the artist, as well as hear about the vision behind the project and what it means for people living there.	\$3,000	\$3,000
bboy buckshot *↑	I propose hosting a high-energy, world-class breakdancing competition in Bellevue, featuring top-tier dancers from around the globe. This event will showcase incredible talent, attract diverse audiences. Bellevue's modern appeal and dynamic culture is the perfect setting for this exciting competition. Our goal is to provide an unforgettable experience with thrilling performances and spread	\$3,000	\$0

	breakdancing awareness to the youth and community of Bellevue, while promoting local businesses and creating a memorable event for the city's residents and visitors alike.		
BKirk Dance ↑	At a recent performance, I watched a percussionist play a red balloon as an instrument. This got me thinking: if you gave a balloon to a dancer, the goals, interaction, and end result would differ wildly. This project would gather dancers and musicians skilled in improvisation, surrounded by an array of props, and invite audience members to choose which props each of us gets to use and when it's time to shift to another. While the choices of how items are used belong to the performers, the trajectory of the performance rests in the hands of each individual audience member.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Elevate PR Management *↑	This immersive interactive art installation celebrates flora and fauna! This vibrant event features stunning floral sculptures, captivating garden glass art, and inspiring visual artwork that highlights the beauty of nature. Attendees can participate in hands-on workshops to create their own botanical pieces. Additionally, live performance art will bring the theme to life, engaging all senses and fostering a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of our natural world. Allowing guests to experience nature through creativity.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Global Artists Collective ↑	MUSIC SOULSTICE is an entertaining concert program tracing the Roots and Impact of Soul Music in America, from its "Golden Age" (1950s-1960s) to spin-off genres. Our project offers free to the public: 1) a main concert, 2) a Library program, and 3) a PDF presentation (distributed to schools & libraries) on Soul music, e.g., how the American cultural milieu leading to the Civil Rights Movement affected Soul and how Soul and Neo-Soul influenced the broader culture.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Ilana Zaks *↑	"Sound Worlds" is a one-hour program featuring music for violin and electronics. The program features music by Hunter Prueger, ('Silent Moment'), Brannon Warn-Johnson ('My Year with Cancer'), Patrick Long ('Shadow Steps'), and Ravi Krishnaswami (The Future of Work for Violin, Electronics). "Sound Worlds" brings awareness to underrepresented composers and sounds from their life experiences to the violin. By telling these stories through their music in live performances, we reflect on our own lives, and the sounds we hear, while also engaging with the brave stories of victims, survivors, and underrepresented artists.	\$2,000	\$2,000
Jahnvi Bela Madan *↑	I am recording my first album before the end of the year, focused on themes of "Home," and I would use this grant to be able to perform the songs from it totally free of charge for attendees, specifically targeting Bellevue's Asian community. The concert would specifically center "Ho Ho Kariyo," a traditional Kashmiri lullaby that has never been recorded yet traveled all the way across the world through my grandmother's voice, from which I transcribed it. I will market the show as a celebration of Asian identity in Bellevue, striving to build a stronger feeling of "this is home."	\$2,000	\$2,000
JIA Foundation	This is our 6th SEIJIN-shiki USA event (Coming of Age Celebration), held in English in Bellevue. Like in Japan, the Bellevue event offers SEIJIN (newly recognized adults) the chance to celebrate their newly gained freedom and responsibilities as they begin the next chapter of	\$2,000	\$2,000

	<p>their lives. We welcome all Japanese in America and those interested in joining the JIA community. The event provides an opportunity to share Japanese culture and build friendships among multinational attendees. Attendance is free.</p>		
Kai Chen	<p>The 2025 "The Voice of the Cello" concert will elevate the local music culture through a high-level cello gathering featuring professional cellists, outstanding young cellists, and vocalists. In collaboration with the local symphony orchestra, they will perform both Western and Chinese classical masterpieces, along with beloved Chinese and Western folk music. This initiative aims to inspire and enhance the community's cultural and artistic appreciation by showcasing exceptional talent and diverse musical traditions.</p>	\$3,000	\$3,000
Keerthana Venugopalan *↑	<p>My project, Oli, is an interactive musical installation designed to foster social connections in urban spaces. By allowing participants to create music through simple hand movements, Oli promotes spontaneous interaction and inclusion. This installation will be placed in public spaces, offering a community-focused experience that counters social isolation and promotes well-being through shared musical engagement.</p>	\$3,000	\$3,000
Kerry Sutton *↑	<p>This project will engage Highland Middle School students in fostering their creative expression, teaching them tangible skills in creating art out of often-discarded, everyday materials, and give them the platform to display their artwork to the larger Bellevue community. Part 1 is an immersive experience in which I will engage students in the usage of recycled materials (shoe boxes, cereal boxes and other recycled consumer goods packaging) as a sustainable medium for creating art. Part 2 will be the manifestation of their creative expression, in which the work they create in Part 1 will be on display to the public.</p>	\$3,000	\$3,000
Max Hautala *↑	<p>The Bellevue Public Printmaking Workshop: "Skate & Create" provides a free, hands-on art experience for all ages at the City of Bellevue indoor skatepark. Participants will design and print bold one-color stickers using relief or screen printmaking, exploring personal identity and symbolic imagery. Led by expert instructors, this workshop bridges visual arts and skate culture, fostering creativity and inclusion. Grant funds will cover materials, artist fees, venue, and marketing to ensure public participation and accessibility.</p>	\$3,000	\$3,000
New Young Scholars *↑	<p>NYS (New York Scholars) seeks funding to enhance our programs focused on African arts and culture. This initiative aims to organize workshops and public activities that empower youth by showcasing their traditional music, dance, songs, and storytelling. By celebrating their rich cultural heritage, we invite the community to appreciate our shared humanity, recognizing that, while we are many, we are one. Our goal is to highlight diverse cultural expressions while empowering youth to embrace their uniqueness and celebrate their identities. Together, we are many who make up the vibrant community of Bellevue.</p>	\$3,000	\$3,000
North America Art Photogra-	<p>"Washington Through the Lens" Washington State is renowned for its stunning landscapes, cultural diversity, and commitment to environmental preservation. Through this project, we aim to connect the community with the nature and culture of Washington. It will</p>	\$3,000	\$3,000

phers Association	showcase these elements through the art of photography and feature a collection of works by both emerging and established photographers. Their pieces will capture the essence of the local parks, the state's architectural character, and its communities' spirit. Also, the exhibition will include workshops, artist talks, and educational resources to engage the public, promote environmental awareness, and celebrate Washington's distinct heritage.		
Pacific Artists' Alliance *↑	The goal of this project is to foster art equity within our community by providing inclusive and accessible artistic opportunities for underrepresented groups. Our initiative, hosted in partnership with Mary's Place at downtown Bellevue, offers regular art and craft sessions specifically designed for children. These sessions are led by local high school students, who serve as mentors and role models while facilitating creative expression and skill-building for the younger participants.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Pacific Ukrainian Society ↑	NW Ukrainian International Festival is a celebration of Ukrainian culture. This festival serves as a platform to showcase the rich traditions, arts, music, and cuisine of Ukraine. Through colorful presentations and performances, the festival creates a vibrant atmosphere that allows attendees to immerse themselves in the beauty and diversity of Ukrainian culture. The program includes many activities throughout the day, including the children's area. The festival serves as a means of supporting patriotic movements within the Ukrainian community. Individuals can express their love for their homeland. By highlighting the country's history, the festival fosters a sense of Ukrainian pride and unity.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Robert Collins *↑	This project proposes engaging marginalized and vulnerable communities of Bellevue in three musical performances through ticket pricing, environmental controls, streaming and programming. I will perform on French Horn with Cassie Fry playing Piano as the "Winds of Change Duo." We will present the concert at three BelRed businesses, creating a unique and holistic experience for each concert. Each concert will feature an opportunity for audience participation. Additionally, we will explore ideas of how to feature the collaborating business as part of the event, such as Fruit and Wine Co. hosting a wine tasting that pairs wines to our music.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Seattle Young Philharmonic	The concert "Voices of Tomorrow: A Celebration of Young Talent" will feature six award-winning students from PAFE, Seattle Young Artists, and the Russian Festival, performing with the Seattle Young Philharmonic under Alexei Girsh. The initiative includes five school showcases to cultivate early interest in classical music and five senior center concerts to foster intergenerational connections. It culminates in a collaborative performance at Meydenbauer Theater, uniting professional musicians with these talented young artists.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Sustain Music Project ↑	Next year will feature a world premiere of a commissioned piece by composer Leanna Primiani. This piece explores the daily struggles faced by people experiencing homelessness. In collaboration with homeless individuals, the concert will also feature visual art responses to the music to amplify the voices of this marginalized community. We will also celebrate cultural diversity through a concert featuring Hindustani and Western classical music. This event will bring together	\$3,000	\$3,000

	musicians from both traditions, blending the rich legacies of each to create a performance that honors and celebrates the beauty of cross-cultural collaboration.		
The Evergreen FlowCase *↑	The Evergreen FlowCase, a community-funded, all-ages event in Autumn 2025 at the Bellevue Youth Theater, offers flow artists a platform to showcase their talents. Performers and support crew will be compensated via funding, with proceeds supporting the event's cause. Our mission is to foster a welcoming community, encourage creative expression, and promote the physical and mental benefits of flow arts. This is the second time the show will be produced at the Bellevue Youth Theater.	\$3,000	\$3,000
The Sound Ensemble *↑	The Sound Ensemble plans to present an interactive, immersive orchestral performance in Bellevue, blending contemporary and classical music in an inclusive and engaging environment. Audiences will have opportunities for real-time interaction with musicians and composers, enhancing their connection to the music. We will also incorporate an educational outreach initiative, partnering with local schools and music programs to introduce students to orchestral music. Free student tickets will be provided, and the performance will showcase the local winner of our Young Composer Competition.	\$2,000	\$2,000
Umoja Fest *↑	Umoja Fest & the Africatown Heritage Parade is a Seafair Sanctioned event that happens in Seattle annually in the heart of Seattle's Central District that brings The BIPOC Community together for a family reunion. The purpose of the festival and parade to highlight the history and countless contributions of African-Americans locally and abroad. We provide the Community with Economic opportunities to perform, become vendors and celebrate Culture and Art.	\$3,000	\$0
*New Applicant ↑ BelRed Bonus		\$74,000 Requested	\$68,000 Awarded
		Project Total:	

2025 BelRed Bonus Allocations

This opportunity aims to incentivize the activation of and work to bring the BelRed Arts District to life. This add-on grant 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. This grant can be applied for in future years, even if the applicant is awarded the opportunity in previous years. If the applicant brings a successful project that helps raise awareness of the BelRed Arts District or activates a space in the district, the Allocations Committee that reviews projects may want to fund the project again.

The three BelRed Bonus grants were chosen based on the strength of the applications and their alignment with the grant's purpose and goals.

Recommended 2025 Allocations for BelRed Bonus (\$1,000 awards)

Artist or Organization	Grant impact on furthering goals of the BelRed Arts District	2025 Grant Allocation
Bailey Fuentes	<p>The mural project aims to activate and bring awareness to the BelRed Arts District by transforming ordinary public spaces into masterful pieces of art and engaging directly with commuters and everyday people through artistic style and merit. I also believe this mural would connect local artists together and bring exposure to more projects going on in 2025. It would catch the attention of the public through a piece of extraordinary artwork and promote new opportunities during the opening day from both local businesses and the City of Bellevue. Painting something larger than life and then celebrating that with the community. Unveiling the project at completion and then speaking publicly about what the mural means and its impact on people who frequent the area. I believe this will generate excitement and motivate others to pursue their dreams. Cultivating a thriving arts environment in an emerging part of town. Inspiring hope in others.</p>	\$1,000
Kerry Sutton	<p>This project will further the goal of activating and bringing awareness to the BelRed Arts District in two distinct ways. First, this project will center Highland Middle School students (who live and attend school in the heart of the District) by teaching them tangible art skills and creating opportunities for them to showcase their work in a gallery-like setting. Secondly, we will activate a space for the Gallery Showcase within the BelRed Arts District that will be open and accessible to the larger Bellevue community. This showcase will display the talent of this community's young people and will bring together Bellevue's diverse residents to experience an inter-generational, multi-cultural experience centered around art and the creative output of the community's students. These two distinct focal points will bring awareness to the BelRed Arts District and its investment in furthering access to the arts through the engagement and empowering of young people.</p>	\$1,000
The Sustain Music Project	<p>Our project will play a key role in activating and bringing awareness to the BelRed Arts District by hosting an immersive concert that merges Western classical and Hindustani music, reflecting the district's mission to celebrate cultural diversity and innovation. This unique collaboration will draw attention to BelRed as a thriving creative hub, encouraging residents and visitors alike to explore the arts in this revitalized area. By partnering with local organizations, such as the Sri Balaji Temple Cultural Center, we will engage a broad audience that includes diverse cultural communities from Bellevue and beyond. Additionally, we plan to promote the concert through targeted marketing strategies, including social media, local ads, and community partnerships, to reach new audiences unfamiliar with the district. Through this event, we aim to foster meaningful connections, elevate the profile of the BelRed Arts District, and create a lasting impression of the area as a destination for innovative and inclusive artistic experiences.</p>	\$1,000
BelRed Bonus Total:		<p>\$20,000 Requested</p> <p>\$3,000 Awarded</p>