

City of Adelaide

Community Grants

Arts and Culture

Information Session

2026/2027

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Image: Heidi Kenyon and Henry Wolff, *care-fall*,
2025. Opening event. Photo: Sia Duff.



Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Adelaide acknowledges the Kaurna People of the Adelaide Plains as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and gather. We acknowledge and honour their spiritual and cultural stewardship of this Country and recognise their deep and enduring relationship with its lands, waters, the sky, and all living things. We pay our respects to Kaurna Elders past and present and recognise the important role of emerging leaders in sustaining and strengthening culture.

City of Adelaide tampinhi, ngadlu Kaurna yartangka panpapanpalyarrinhi (inparrinhi).

*Kaurna Miyurna yaitya mathanya Wama Tarntanyaku. Parnaku yailtya, parnaku
tapa purruna, parnaku yarta, ngadlu tampinhi.*

*Yalaka Kaurna miyurna ithu yailtya, tapa purruna, yarta, kawi, ngayirda kuma puru
martinhi, puru warri-apinhi, puru tangka martulayinhi.*

Kumartarna yaitya miyurna iyangka yalaka ngadlu tampinhi.

Session Overview

Part 1
Community Grants Overview

Part 2
Application Process and Tips

Q&A



Image: Jackie Saunders, Nexus Exhibition. Photo: Lana Adams

Focus area	Projects that:
Arts and Culture	Showcase Adelaide's unique cultural life, celebrate the UNESCO City of Music designation, and support creative sector career growth. Support cultural access for all, with a focus on priority groups. Support Reconciliation and truth-telling, honouring Kaurna and First Nations arts and culture. Elevate and preserve Adelaide's cultural heritage and cultural venues. Support the integration of creativity and culture into the city's daily life, including in underutilised spaces.
Community Wellbeing	Offer opportunities for everyone to participate in community life, build strong connections, social inclusion, and reduce isolation. Encourage movement, play and active recreation for people of all ages, abilities and means. Support people to contribute their cultural knowledge, lived and living experience, and develop community leadership. Strengthen people's ability to respond to challenges, support each other during difficult times and build long-term resilience. Enable people to develop skills, knowledge and confidence at any age. Prevent gender-based violence and promote healthy streets and environments.

What do we fund?

Arts and Culture Grants

Funding supports arts and cultural projects that provide value to the city community and are open to all to attend.

- Murals & temporary public artwork
- Creative performances
- Art exhibitions
- Arts and cultural festivals and events
- Reconciliation and truth-telling
- Live music



Image: Praise Mangena at Concept Sessions Episode 8. Photo: Daniel Down.

Community Wellbeing Grants

We support Free and low cost:

- Multicultural events and gatherings
- Community-led active recreation initiatives
- Community performances with community wellbeing outcomes
- Community workshops
- Neighbourhood activities



Image: South Australian Health Quigong and Tai Chi Association practice at Veale Gardens/Walyu Yarta. Photo: Cath Leo

Who can apply for an Arts and Culture Grant?

You can apply if you are one of the following:

- Community groups
- Individuals, sole traders and partnerships
- Aboriginal Corporation and Torres Strait Islander Corporations
- Charities, charitable trusts and not-for profit organisations
- Social enterprises
- Incorporated Associations
- Companies limited by guarantee
- For-profit entities earning less than \$250,000 annual revenue may apply if delivering community benefit.



Image: VAN BRUSSEL X FUTURE JUICE - RE:BORN.
Photo courtesy of Van Brussel.

Who cannot apply for an Arts and Culture Grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- A past grant recipient with an outstanding debt or an outstanding acquittal with the City of Adelaide or its subsidiaries.
- A current Council employee or former employee who ceased employment less than six months before applying.
- A State or Federal government departments (except for statutory authorities of the State Government) or other Councils
- A for-profit entity with an annual revenue of more than \$250,000

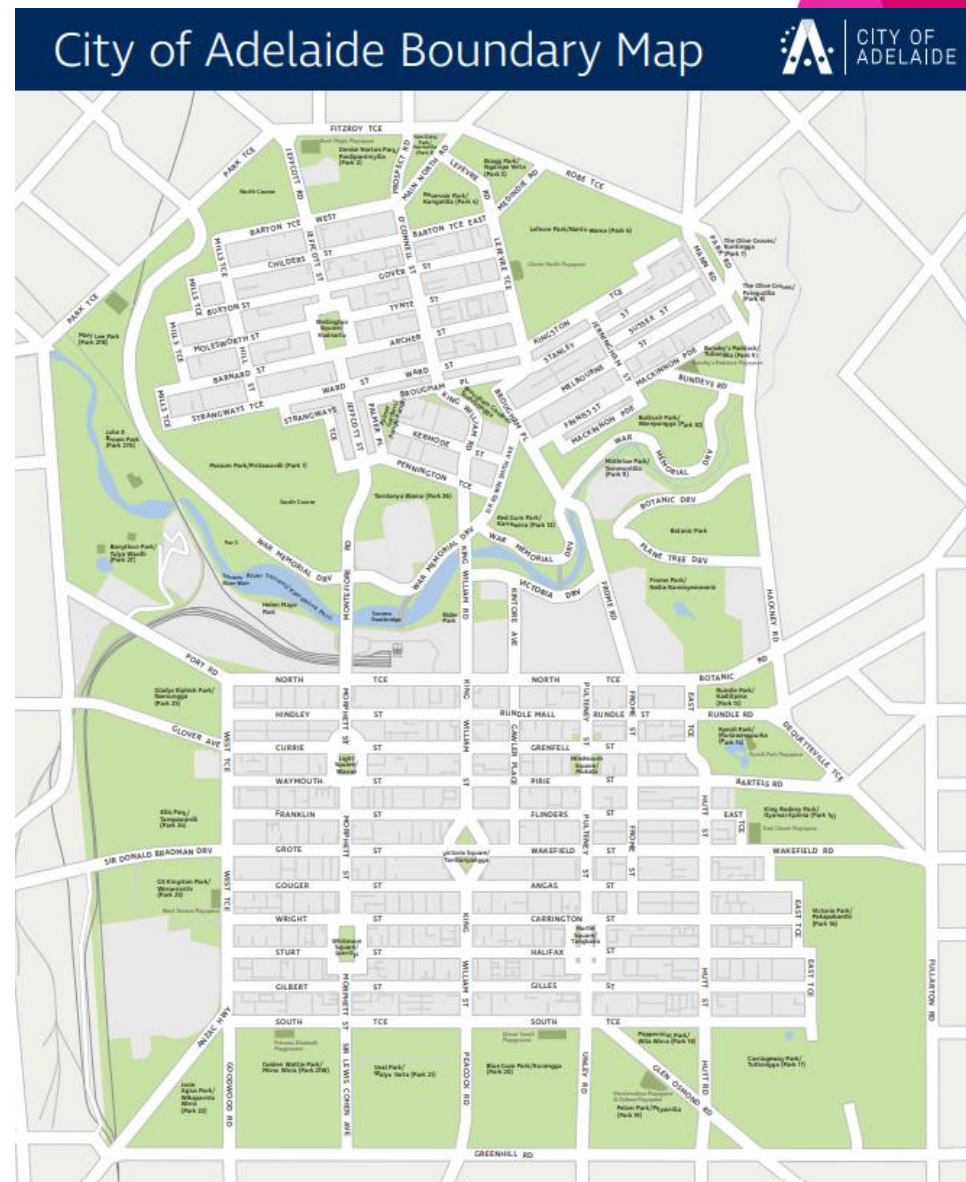
Applications from ineligible applicants will not proceed to the assessment stage



Image: Australian Migrant Resource Centre Giant Puppet Launch.
Photo: Dinuka Liyanawatte.

What we don't fund

- Projects taking place outside of the City of Adelaide boundaries. (see boundary map)
- The applicant has outstanding debts with the City of Adelaide or its subsidiaries.
- Requests for capital expenditure, contingency costs, core business activities or repayment of debts or loans
- Reimbursement of past expenses, including lease and license fees.
- The initiative is already receiving funding from the City of Adelaide or its subsidiaries.
- Conferences, trade shows, award ceremonies, and fundraising activities.
- Interstate or overseas travel and related accommodation expenses.
- Events where most participants are professional athletes or where substantial prize money is awarded.
- Support for individual elite or high-performing athletes.
- Programs and events for private or online-only audiences.
- Training or educational activities offered for assessment, and training of paid staff.
- Projects that denigrate and exclude any groups in the community.
- Activities that include, promote or encourage gambling or excessive consumption of alcohol.



Categories

	Purpose	Examples of projects supported	Requirements
Quick Response \$2,000 – \$5,000	• Pilot projects • Small activations • Grassroots community projects	• Multicultural events and gatherings • Community-led active recreation initiatives • Creative performances and exhibitions	For small projects where a small amount of money makes a clear difference, not big projects that already have a lot of funding.
Major Grants \$5,000 – \$20,000	• Ongoing community engagement • Multi-session workshops, or activations: 6 to 12 months programming • Expansion of projects to reach new audiences	• Murals and temporary public art • Medium-size events involving priority groups • Event/workshop series	Applicant must contribute 20% of the total project cost.* Show evidence of working with at least two local partners.

*Contribution: required financial and/or in-kind investment in the proposed project by the applicant.

Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Considerations	Weighting
Strategic alignment	• Alignment with the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024–2028. • Clear alignment with at least one of the Community Grants funding priorities. (Pg 5 of this booklet) • Demonstrated alignment with City of Adelaide policies and strategic documents including the Cultural Policy, Community Wellbeing Strategy, Reconciliation Action Plan, Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and the Sustainable Events Guidelines.	35%
Community and cultural benefit	• Clear benefit to the City of Adelaide community and/or cultural life and/or evidence of need or opportunity. • Proposed activity encourages participation, inclusion, wellbeing, learning and skill development and/or cultural expression. • Supports free or low-cost participation, especially for priority groups. • Locally-led arts, cultural, recreational and community activities. Risk management.	35%
Project viability	• Feasibility of the project plan, budget and timeline. • Applicant's capacity, experience and collaborators. • Defined target audience and outreach strategy.	30%

City of Adelaide Cultural Policy alignment

Cultural Policy Principle	Arts and Culture Grants Funding Priority
Amplifying our Creative Capital	Adelaide's UNESCO City of Music designation is amplified
	Employment opportunities and long-term and sustainable careers in the creative sector are improved
Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected	The project provides inclusive participation opportunities for creatives and audiences in the cultural life of the City, with a focus on priority groups
Reconciliation and Truth Telling	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and culture and Kaurna culture and connection to Country are celebrated
Preserving Cultural Heritage, Embracing Progress	Adelaide's heritage, local character and culturally significant places are elevated, including venues and Park Lands
Creating Space for Cultural Expression	This project adds to the year-round calendar of arts and cultural events, fueling the city's vitality, day and night, and all year-round.

These are the program priorities which projects should be supporting and contributing towards to enable Council's Strategic Plan and Cultural Policy priorities to be met. Applications must meet at least one of the program priorities.

Grant requirements

- Projects must include evidence of approval to use the identified venue/location. This should include the date of the program/event and be from the venue.
- Applications must demonstrate how the project will benefit the City of Adelaide community
- Applications must show consideration and alignment with the Council's Cultural Policy priorities
- Applicants may only receive funding for the same project once per financial year
- All questions in the application form must be answered and any required attachments provided for the application to be assessed
- Applicants for Major Grants must contribute at least 20% of the total project cost
- Applicants for Major Grants must show evidence they are working with at least two local partners
- Value for money, in terms of efficiency, equity or effectiveness of project outcomes, is considered in assessment. Grants must demonstrate how they produce a good return on investment for Council.
- Applicants must pay at least minimum award rates or industry-recommended rates of pay to workers involved in funded projects and programs
- Applications must be received by the deadline of the Funding Program as outlined in the relevant Operating Guidelines. Late applications will be deemed ineligible and will not be accepted.
- More weighting will be given to organisations that have not received funding of \$40,000 or more from CoA or its subsidiaries in the same or previous financial year
- Part of the requirement is anyone hiring an independent artist or contractor will most likely need to include the cost of superannuation and this should be referenced in their application and budget. Find out more [here](#).

Priority Groups

Applications in the Community Grants program will refer to priority groups. Priority groups include population groups which require greater support with social determinants of health. In Australia priority groups include:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Children and families
- Culturally and linguistically diverse people
- International students
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning/asexual (LGBTIQA)
- Older people – 50 years and over
- People experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage
- People who are refugees and asylum seekers
- People with disabilities
- Women
- Young people – 12 to 25 years



Image: The Genevieves, Queer Club 2025.
Photo: Eve Burner

Arts and Culture Grants

Categories

- Quick Response
- First Nations Arts and Culture Grants
- Major Grants

Quick Response - \$2000 (min) - \$5,000 (max)

Funding to deliver accessible and low-cost performances, exhibitions, cultural events, festivals, concerts.

Purpose: Pilot projects, small activations, grassroots community projects.

For small projects where a small amount of money makes a clear difference, not big projects that already have a lot of funding

Project must occur at least 5 weeks after application submitted, open year-round until funds expended.

OPEN
NOW
NOTIFICATION
5 WEEKS



Image: Sacred Resonance, Celestial Gardens 2026.



Image: Gigante – Giant Puppet Project, Australia Migrant Resource Centre, 2026. Photo: Dinuka Liyanawatte.

First Nations Arts & Cultural Grants - \$2000 (min) - \$5,000 (max)

Arts and cultural events, festivals, exhibitions and programming that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and creatives to practice culture and achieve their artistic aspirations.

For small projects where a small amount of money makes a clear difference, not big projects that already have a lot of funding.

Project must occur at least 5 weeks after application submitted, open year-round until funds expended.

**OPEN
NOW**
NOTIFICATION
5 WEEKS



Image: Caleena Sansbury and The Mill,
WAYIN:THI NAIDOC Performances 2026.
Photo: Ben Searcy.



Image: Carclew, Tilly Tjala Thomas performing at Blak
Seeds Fest 2025. Photo: Dinuka Liyanawatte.

Major Grants - \$5000 (min) - \$20,000 (max)

Funding for Accessible and low-cost performances, exhibitions, cultural events, festivals, concerts, public artworks, First Nations projects.

Purpose: Ongoing community engagement, multi-session workshops, or activations: 6-12 months programming, expansion of projects to reach new audiences.

You must contribute 20% of the total project cost and show that you are working with at least 2 local partners.

Applications open now and close 23 October 2026 at 3:00pm. For projects taking place during 2027.

OPEN
NOW

NOTIFICATIONS
Late December



Image: Papercuts Comics Festival, 2025. Photo: Sia Duff.



Image: Tutti Arts, The Heart Beat Club, 2026.
Photo: Emmaline Zanelli.

Murals and Public Artwork

Public art and murals share community stories and turn streets, buildings and walls into iconic places. Arts and Cultural Grants can support the creation of murals that are located on the exterior of buildings in the city and are visible to the public.

Interested in painting or commissioning a mural? Visit this webpage to learn more about the process

cityofadelaide.com.au/community/creativity-culture/public-art/creating-a-mural/

You can also contact our public art team to discuss your project or idea culture@cityofadelaide.com.au

Costs you'll need to consider include; paint and materials, artist fees, site management and equipment hire.

You will need approval from the building owner before painting or commissioning a mural. Securing a suitable wall can take time, so we encourage you to begin this process early.



Image: Jack Fran, *Untitled (Arab Steed Hotel)*, 2023.

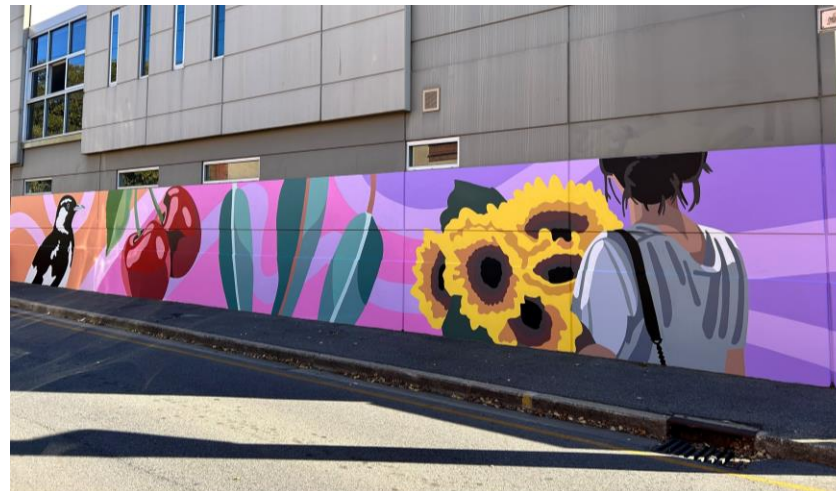


Image: Ella Simpson, *Parklands to Central Markets Community Mural*, 2024.

Ready to apply?

Image: Feast Festival's Picnic in the Park,
Photos by Jamois.



Smarty Grants

cityofadelaide.smartygrants.com.au



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City of Adelaide

Niina Marni, Welcome to City of Adelaide's portal for funding applications and acquittals.

Our grants, sponsorships and incentives programs support a diverse range of projects and services that enable Adelaide's vision as the most liveable city in the world.

Before applying please visit [City of Adelaide's grants, sponsorships, and incentives](#) webpage for detailed information about program specific eligibility, assessment criteria, and desired outcomes.

Please click through the relevant link below to find out more about program specific guidelines, eligibility criteria and deadlines. Contact details for each program are also available should you have any questions.

If you need technical help completing your online application please visit SmartyGrants [applicant help guide](#).

Current Rounds

[ARCHI Incentives Scheme 2025/26](#)

Submissions are now open.

Submissions close 5:00PM 30 June 2026 (ACST).

[Find out more about ARCHI Incentives Scheme 2025/26...](#)

[ARCHI Incentives Scheme 2025/26 Version 1.0](#)

Submissions are now open.

Submissions close midnight 30 June 2026 (ACST).

[Find out more about ARCHI Incentives Scheme 2025/26 Version 1.0...](#)

[Arts and Culture 25/26 - First Nations](#)

Submissions are now open.

[Find out more about Arts and Culture 25/26 - First Nations...](#)

[Arts and Culture 25/26 - Major Round](#)

Submissions are now open.

Submissions close 3:00PM 5 December 2025 (ACDT).

[Find out more about Arts and Culture 25/26 - Major Round...](#)

[Arts and Culture 25/26 - Quick Response](#)

Submissions are now open.

[Find out more about Arts and Culture 25/26 - Quick Response...](#)

[Community Impact 25/26 - Major Round](#)

Submissions are now open.

Submissions close 3:00PM 5 December 2025 (ACDT).

[Find out more about Community Impact 25/26 - Major Round ...](#)

[Community Impact 25/26 - Quick Response](#)

Submissions are now open.

[Find out more about Community Impact 25/26 - Quick Response ...](#)

Smarty Grants

cityofadelaide.smartygrants.com.au



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Login or Register

You must register before you can make an online submission.

Registration gives you secure access to your forms allowing you to work on them over time rather than having to complete them all at once.

It only takes a moment to register and you can get started on your submission straight after registering.

Fields marked with * must be completed.

Login

If you're already registered or have started an online form log in here.

Email Address: *

Password: *

[Forgotten your password?](#)

By clicking **Log In** you agree to Our Community's [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Use](#).

Log In

Register

If you haven't registered or started filling in a form, register here.

Register

Grant application tips

DO	DON'T
Read the Community Grants Information Booklet 2026/27	Apply if you have an overdue acquittal
Make sure you read through the FAQs on the Community Grants Webpage	Apply for a project with no public outcome in the city
Clearly explain what your project is (for example, an event at x venue, from x to x time, aiming to deliver x outcomes, facilitated by x. Provide support letters that confirm this information).	Apply for a project that is already receiving funding from City of Adelaide
Clearly express how your project will benefit the city and city communities and how it is value for money (Committing resources to a project, this can be through ticket sales, volunteer time, donated materials etc is one way you can demonstrate value for money)	Leave your application to the last minute
Pay artist fees and superannuation – include quotes or reference industry rates	Apply for a project with no/limited creative outcomes
Include venue approval for your project location. This must reference activity date, location and be from the venue	Apply for core business activity
Submit your application before the deadline	Leave any questions blank
Read & respond to hints when included with a question	Request City of Adelaide funding for ineligible expenses
Address strategic priorities of Council & the grants program	Include responses that aren't about the specific project
Ensure your budget balances	Be put off if you aren't successful, applying for grants is competitive and budgets are limited, ask for feedback and keep applying!

Budget

Income (Cash or in-kind)	\$	Expenditure	\$			
E.g. grants, donations, sponsorships and other sources of income such as sales.		E.g. Artist fees, wages, administration costs, material costs, venue hire, security, COVID marshals, Public Liability insurance, permits, waste management, marketing and project documentation.				
	*	\$		*	\$	+ -
Response required.		Response required.				
City of Adelaide G	\$8,000.00	Insurance	\$500.00			+ -
ticket sales	\$5,000.00	venue	\$800.00			+ -
In-Kind support	\$3,000.00	security	\$700.00			+ -
	\$	staging	\$1,500.00			+ -
	\$	marketing	\$2,000.00			+ -
	\$	volunteer staffing and admin	\$2,000.00			+ -
	\$	equipment donated	\$800.00			+ -
	\$	donated wine	\$200.00			+ -
	\$	Artist fees band 1	\$1,500.00			+ -
	\$	artist fees band 2	\$1,000.00			+ -
	\$	artist fees band 3	\$800.00			+ -
	\$	artist fees band 4	\$600.00			+ -
	\$	photographer	\$500.00			+ -
	\$	videographer	\$1,000.00			+ -
	\$	event producer	\$1,300.00			+ -
	\$	marketing design	\$800.00			+ -
				Add More		
Must be at least 8 rows						
Budget totals						
Total income amount	Total expenditure amount	Balance				
16000.00 *	16000.00 *	0 *		+ -		
This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.				

Sign up to Art in the City



Image: Leviathan by Jodie O'Regan performing at On the Terrace 2025.
Photo: Claudio Rauschella.

Application Support

In-Person Drop In Sessions

- Tuesday 6 & Tuesday 13 October 2026
- 2:00pm to 5:00pm at [Minor Works Building](#).
- No bookings are required

Contact us

communitygrants@cityofadelaide.com.au



Image: Push-Pull, 2025. Adelaide Contemporary Experimental.

Questions?



Image: Adelaide Cantata Band performing in the Mortlock Chamber, State Library of South Australia as part of On the Terrace 2024.

Photo: Claudio Rauschella.