

City of Adelaide

**Arts and Culture Grants
Information Session
2025/2026**



Image: DEM MOB performing at ILA, 2024

Acknowledgement of Country

City of Adelaide acknowledges that we are located on the traditional Country of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders, past, present, and emerging.

City of Adelaidelru ngadlu Kaurna Yartangka tampinhi.

Kaurna miyurna yaitya mathanya Wama Tarntanyaku.

Ngadlurlu Kaurna Miyurna, puki-unangku, yalaka, tarrkarrila tampinhi.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs, and relationship with the land.

We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kaurna people living today.

And we also extend that respect to other Aboriginal Language groups and other First Nations.



CITY OF
ADELAIDE

Session Overview

Part 1

- What Arts and Culture Grants fund
- What Community Impact Grants fund
- What is NOT funded
- Who can apply?
- Who cannot apply?
- Grant program priorities
- Assessment criteria

Part 2

- Arts and Culture Grants available
- Smarty Grants
- Application form preview
- Application advice
- Budget

Q&A

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.

- Creative performances
- Art exhibitions
- Arts and cultural festivals and events
- Reconciliation and truth-telling
- Live music
- Public artwork



Image: Downpour presented by Santosha Storm. Photo: Missy Snaps.

What do Community Impact fund?

Community Impact Grants

Funding supports free or low-cost projects focused on social inclusion, participation, reconciliation, wellbeing, and lifelong learning.

- Multicultural events and gatherings
- Community sport and active recreation programs
- Volunteer training, including first aid
- Neighbourhood activities
- Community cooking or active lifestyle initiatives (community yoga, meditation classes, etc.)
- Subsidies to support sport participation for priority groups



Image: Participants of the April 2025 Parklands Loop Collective #8 enjoying nature and good company while completing the 14km loop of Adelaide through its parklands. Photo: Peter Sansom.

Who can apply for an Arts and Culture Grant?

Applications received from:

- Arts and Culture practitioners
- Cultural organisations, community arts, music venues
- 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
- Culturally linguistically diverse people
- International students (university, English students, or VET courses)
- LGBTQIA+ people
- Young people and older people
- People experiencing socio economic disadvantage
- People with disabilities
- People from refugee backgrounds and asylum seekers



Image: Tutti Arts, Heartbeat Club, 2025.

Who cannot apply for an Arts and Culture Grant?

Applications will NOT be considered from

- Applicants with outstanding debts with the City of Adelaide or its subsidiaries
- Current Council employees or former employees who ceased employment less than six months before applying are not eligible for funding
- State or Federal government departments (with the exception of statutory authorities of the State Government) or Councils
- For-profit organisations earning more than \$250K in annual revenue.

Ineligible applications will not advance to the assessment stage and applicants will be notified



Image: *Push / Pull*, exhibition view, Adelaide Contemporary Experimental. Photo: Sam Roberts.

Arts and Culture Grants – What we don't fund

- Events outside the City of Adelaide boundaries
- Capital expenditure, contingency costs, core business activities or repayment of debts or loans
- Reimbursement of past expenses.
- Initiatives that are 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.
- Private or online-only programs and events
- Training or education activities offered for training of paid staff or training offered for assessment in education institutions
- Projects that denigrate and exclude any groups in the community.
- Activities that include, promote or encourage gambling or excessive consumption of alcohol.

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
- Value for money, in terms of efficiency, equity or effectiveness of project outcomes, is considered in assessment. Grants must demonstrate how they produces 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

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.

Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Considerations	Weighting
Strategic Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alignment with the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024–2028.• Clear alignment with at least one of the funding priorities. (Pg 4)• Alignment with City of Adelaide policies and strategic documents including the Cultural Policy, Reconciliation Action Plan, Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and the Sustainable Events Guidelines.	35%
Community and Cultural Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 access, especially for priority groups.• Locally-led arts, cultural, recreational and community activities.	35%
Project Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feasibility of the project plan, budget and timeline.• Risk management.• Applicant's capacity, experience and collaborators. Defined target audience and outreach strategy.	30%

Arts & Culture Grants

Categories

Quick Response Arts and Culture Grants

First Nations Arts and Culture Grants

Major Round Arts and Culture Grants



Image: Heidi Kenyon and Henry Wolff, *Care-Fall*, 2025.
Rain garden installation and performance. Photo: Sia Duff.

Quick Response - \$500 (min) - \$5,000 (max) over 1 year

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

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

OPEN
NOW
NOTIFICATION
5 WEEKS

Past Recipients



Queer Club 2025



Sam Brooks, *Floral Totem* mural & launch event 2025.

First Nations Arts & Cultural Grants - \$500 (min) - \$5,000 (max) over 1 year

Cultural events, festivals and exhibitions led by and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and creatives.

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

OPEN
NOW
NOTIFICATION
5 WEEKS

Past Recipients



The Mill, First Nations Choreographic Lab, 2025. Photo: Jack Fenby.



Carclew - Blak Seeds Fest, 2025.

Major Round Arts and Cultural Grants - Min \$5000 Max \$20,000

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

Applications open now and close 5 December 2025.

For projects taking place between 15 March 2026 to 15 March 2027

**OPEN
NOW**
NOTIFICATION
10 weeks from
closing date

Past Recipients



Citizens Orchestra, Our Voices, Our Dreams, 2024 presented by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra as part of the Adelaide Festival.



Papercuts Comics Festival, Market Day at Adelaide Town Hall. Photo: Rosina Possingham

Ready to apply?



Smarty Grants

cityofadelaide.smartygrants.com.au



Not logged in. [Log in](#)

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.

Register

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

Email Address: *

Register

Password: *

[Forgotten your password?](#)

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

Log In

Grant application tips

DO	DON'T
Read the Community Grants Information Booklet 2025/26	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 – 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.		
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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	+ -
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	staging	\$1,500.00	+ -
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	marketing	\$2,000.00	+ -
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	volunteer staffing and admin	\$2,000.00	+ -
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	equipment donated	\$800.00	+ -
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	donated wine	\$200.00	+ -
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	Artist fees band 1	\$1,500.00	+ -
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<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	artist fees band 3	\$800.00	+ -
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	artist fees band 4	\$600.00	+ -
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	photographer	\$500.00	+ -
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	videographer	\$1,000.00	+ -
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	event producer	\$1,300.00	+ -
<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	marketing design	\$800.00	+ -
<input type="button" value="Add More"/>				
Must be at least 8 rows				
Budget totals				
Total income amount	Total expenditure amount	Balance		
<input type="text"/> 16000.00 *	<input type="text"/> 16000.00 *	<input type="text"/> 0 *		
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Sign up to Art in the City



Image: Golden Goose 10th Anniversary, Exhibition Opening Night, 2024, Floating Goose Studios Inc,
Photo: Rosina Possingham.

Questions?



Image: Opening Night Yucky (2024), event documentation, Adelaide Contemporary Experimental. Photographer: Thomas McCammon.



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