Arts Grants Guidelines 2026-27

August 2026

fremantle.wa.gov.au

Program details

Arts Grants Program	
Applications	September 2026 March 2027
Funding amount available	General Round Up to $10,000 per application
Assessment timeframe	Up to thirty (30) working days; six (6) weeks from the closing date of the grant round.
Funding agreement length	Up to twelve (12) months.
Funding Tier	Under the City of Fremantle Grants and Sponsorships Policy. Arts Grant Allocation This program is classified as Tier 2 (Cash limit of up to $10,000 ex GST - if applicable). Whole of City consideration Applications within this program may be re-classified as Tier 1 if TOTAL support (cash + in-kind) is in excess of $10,000 ex GST from the City of Fremantle. Tier classification determines approval authority, agreement type, and acquittal requirements. GST Note Arts Grants are paid as a grant without GST, even if the recipient is registered. If Whole of City requirements include a Tier with sponsorship acknowledgement – eg. Naming Rights, GST may apply.

Overview

The City of Fremantle provides community groups, organisations, businesses and individuals a range of funding opportunities to bring to life our vision of a vibrant, inclusive, resilient and creative city.

The City of Fremantle Arts Grants program supports diverse arts and cultural projects and initiatives that engage, benefit, and have a positive impact on the Walyalup/Fremantle community.

Objectives

Applicants are required to meet at least one (1) objective in their proposed project to be considered for funding and are encouraged to align with community priorities.

Further detail on each objective – including descriptions and assessment criteria are noted in the Assessment Process.

- **OBJECTIVE ONE - Community Driven**
  Creative activities are community-driven and respond to local interests, needs or opportunities.
- **OBJECTIVE TWO – Active Participation**
  Community members actively participate, contribute or co-create.
- **OBJECTIVE THREE – Place Activation**
  Creative activity activates key city centres and publicly accessible places.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Projects that align with the priorities identified by the Walyalup/Fremantle community and reflected in the City of Fremantle Strategic Community Plan will be viewed favourably.

Applications will be strengthened if they can also address any, or multiple, of the following priorities:

- Provide multiple entry points for participation, enabling people with different interests, backgrounds, abilities, and levels of access to engage.
- Create welcoming, safe, accessible, and affordable opportunities for participation in arts and cultural activities.
- Support First Nations-led content, creative practice, and program delivery.
- Create opportunities for First Nations truth-telling, cultural expression, and knowledge sharing.
- Celebrate the cultural diversity of Walyalup/Fremantle, including First Nations stories and the contributions and experiences of migrant communities.
- Support and celebrate LGBTQIA+ communities through inclusive and representative arts and cultural experiences.
- Encourage social connection, creative participation, and community engagement among young people.

Eligibility criteria

Standard criteria

General eligibility

Applications must be submitted before project commencement, which must be at least sixty (60) days after the closing date of the application round.

Projects must be delivered within the City or demonstrate a clear contribution to the Strategic Community Plan and deliver benefit to the Fremantle community. Applicants must demonstrate they can deliver the project.

The City will not fund:

- Applicants who lobby or attempt to influence elected members or employees regarding their application.
- Political parties or organisations whose primary purpose is lobbying.
- City elected members or employees (not including casual employees) or their immediate family (except where associated with an eligible organisation and any conflict of interest is appropriately managed).
- Applicants with outstanding City debts or engaged in legal action against the City.
- Applicants who have not satisfactorily acquitted previous City funding.
- Applicants whose conduct or values are inconsistent with the City's adopted values and commitments.
- Recurrent operational costs including wages, salaries, or administrative overheads. (This does not include time-limited project costs, such as artist/facilitator fee or one-off services paid for under individual assistance programs).
- Grant funding cannot be used for City of Fremantle venue hire costs.

City support interactions

The City may provide support to a project through a combination of cash funding, fee waivers and other in-kind contributions.

Applicants may receive fee waivers and other in-kind support in addition to cash funding, provided the combined value of all City support is disclosed and assessed as a whole.

Applicants must disclose any current or pending City grant funding, sponsorships, fee waivers, rates concessions or other in-kind support relevant to the applicant organisation or proposed project.

Applicants may not receive cash funding for the same project from more than one City funding program in the same financial year.

Applicants may hold no more than one active cash funding agreement within the same funding tier at any one time (excluding rates concessions), unless otherwise approved by the City.

For the purposes of these Guidelines:

- Cash funding includes grants, sponsorships, rebates, partnerships or other funding provided in monetary form.
- In-kind support includes fee waivers, subsidised use of City facilities, staff assistance, equipment, marketing support, or other non-cash contributions.
- The value of all cash and in-kind support forms part of the recipient's total City support and may be considered when determining eligibility, approval requirements and reporting obligations.

Program specific criteria

Who can apply for this program:

- Individual artists and creatives with an ABN, including Partnership ABN, or eligible auspice*
- Not-for-profit organisations, including incorporated associations and public companies limited by guarantee, that support artists and creatives.

**If you have intentions to use an auspice organisation, this must be declared and their involvement confirmed within your application*

What will not be funded under this program:

- For-profit organisations, applying for profit making projects.
- Individuals without an ABN.

- Projects that do not engage with the Walyalup | Fremantle community or have a public outcome in Walyalup | Fremantle.
- Recurring or pre-existing events that don't demonstrate significant changes or new initiative areas.
- The application disparages or excludes any groups in the community.
- The application contravenes an existing City of Fremantle Policy or Plan (i.e. Walyalup Reconciliation Action Plan, Access and Inclusion Plan)
- Faith-based activities of religious organisations.
- Large capital expenditure, e.g., lease payments, repair or maintenance of buildings, or purchases of major equipment.
- City of Fremantle employees (excluding casuals).
- Public mural artworks may be considered, but permission must be confirmed with the building/landowner of the site – and planning@fremantle.wa.gov.au must confirm in writing whether approval is required by City of Fremantle.
- Recurrent operational costs including wages, utilities, rent, annual insurances etc.
- Applicants who haven't acquitted on any previous Council funding or finalised outstanding debts.
- Retrospective funding.
- Funding requests for training or education in government or private institutions, or research activities that will be offered for assessment in such institutions.
- Applications for conferences, tradeshows, awards or prizes or fundraising event.
  Funding for programs or services that are the core responsibility of other levels of government (i.e. schools Interstate/international travel and accommodation.

Application process

1. Contact the City's Grant Officer to discuss your project and application grantfunding@fremantle.wa.gov.au appointments are also available online.
   This is recommended to ensure your grant is as competitive as possible.

2. Complete the Arts Grant Application Form online via the City's Smarty Grants portal.

3. Submit your application.
   Once you have submitted your application successfully, you will receive an email acknowledging receipt.

Assessment process

The assessment process reviews applications against

Eligibility
Your grant will first be reviewed to ensure it is eligible. If there are missing eligibility requirements you may be requested to provide these within a limited timeframe – to remain eligible – or notified that your grant is not eligible for this round.

Assessment

An assessment panel of three (3) City of Fremantle staff members, will individually review your application against the assessment criteria. They will then meet as a panel to discuss assessments and agree on funding recommendations.

All applicants must address at least one (1) of the Arts Grants objectives, with further information provided below, and are assessed according to the following criteria.

Assessment Criteria		
ASSESSMENT CRITERION #1 One (1) or more of the below objectives are met.	WEIGHTING - 40%	
Objective	**Description**	**Assessment Criteria**
1. Community Driven Creative activities are community-driven and respond to local interests, needs or opportunities.	The project is shaped by, led by, or directly responds to people, communities or local groups in Walyalup Fremantle. *Is this something the community wants or has helped shape?*	The application ○ Identifies the community involved; name collaborators, partners, groups or individuals if applicable. ○ Demonstrates how the community has, or will, shape the project. ○ Meets a community interest, need or opportunity
2. Active Participation Community members actively participate, contribute or co-create.	Community members are active participants, contributors or co-creators, rather than only audience members *Are people actually involved in making or doing something, rather than simply attending?*	The application shows ○ Clearly outlines what community participants will do. ○ Participation is a key part of the project. ○ The application shows that the participation activities suit the target group (if identified).
3. Place Activation Creative activity activates key city centres and publicly accessible places.	The project brings creative activity into publicly accessible	The application ○ The project location, and permissions required, are confirmed.

	places within Walyalup Fremantle. *Does it bring creative activity and vibrancy into publicly accessible places?*	○ The location is publicly accessible and suitable for the activity. ○ The project adds to the vibrancy, visibility or cultural life of the place.
ASSESSMENT CRITERION #2 Artistic merit	WEIGHTING – 20%	
Project Deliverable	**Assessment Criteria**	
Artists and cultural collaborators engaged are of calibre and suitable experience.	• Participating lead artists are cited in the application, and participation is confirmed. • Artists and or creatives' expertise is demonstrated and of suitable level for the project. • Collaborators are chosen for clear artistic, cultural or community reasons.	
Artistic concepts are developed with rigour.	• Clear artistic process and / or outcomes. • The project includes appropriate research, development or testing for a quality outcome.	
ASSESSMENT CRITERION #3 One (1) or more of the community priorities are given focus	WEIGHTING – 10%	
Project Deliverable	**Assessment Criteria**	

• Provide multiple entry points for participation, enabling people with different interests, backgrounds, abilities, and levels of access to engage. • Create welcoming, safe, accessible, and affordable opportunities for participation in arts and cultural activities. • Support First Nations-led content, creative practice, and program delivery. • Create opportunities for First Nations truth-telling, cultural expression, and knowledge sharing. • Celebrate the cultural diversity of Walyalup/Fremantle, including First Nations stories and the contributions and experiences of migrant communities. • Support and celebrate LGBTQIA+ communities through inclusive and representative arts and cultural experiences. • Encourage social connection, creative participation, and community engagement among young people.	• Does the project identify any priorities in its delivery? • Are these priorities given meaningful consideration within the project? • Are there clear actions and outcomes defined for the priorities identified?
ASSESSMENT CRITERION #4 Responsible project management	**WEIGHTING – 20%**
Project Deliverable	**Assessment Criteria**
• Project feasibility	• Project milestones are clearly identified • Outcomes are realistic and achievable

	• Marketing and promotions are planned and appropriate • Permits, insurances and approvals are identified, if required
• Accessibility	• Access and inclusion has been considered and incorporated into the project • Reasonable accommodations and preparations have been made
• A clear budget	• Income and expenses are itemised, realistic and add up • Other income or support is disclosed • In Kind items are noted • All City of Fremantle in kind support is noted (whether confirmed or not)
• Responsible financial management	• Items are appropriately costed • Artists and project staff are paid fairly and appropriately (award rate or above) for their involvement • Superannuation is noted if applicable

Support Material

You are encouraged to provide supporting attachments to strengthen your application.
Please ensure supporting attachments are within submission limits and formats below.

Support material type	Limits
Text Format Word or PDF	15 x A4 pages

Images Format Word or PDF	10 x A4 pages No limit on images per page
Audio or Video Format Please provide a private / public link	8 minutes total Multiple links can be provided. If more than 8 minute provided; the first 8 minutes will be used.
Quotations Format Word or PDF	5 quotes per page No limit on pages

Some examples of support material could include:

- Project plans. Artistic outlines or summaries
- Biographies
- Examples of past work (video, audio, images)
- Quotations
- Venue or site confirmations
- Community engagement documentation or confirmation
- Marketing and audience engagement plans
- Confirmations of key collaborators
- Letters of support

Successful applicant

All successful applicants are required to sign and adhere to a funding agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the grants, including acknowledgement of the City.

Recipients are required to:

- Provide a copy of their Public Liability Insurance ‘Certificate of Currency’
- Adhere to the payment process as outlined in the signed funding agreement
- Complete the project within the funding timeframe
- Recognise the City of Fremantle appropriately (see ‘Recognition’ below)

Complete a grant acquittal (see ‘Reporting and Acquittals’ below)

Goods and Services Tax (GST) treatment of grants

Grants provided under the program are intended to be financial assistance payments rather than payments for goods or services provided to the City. The approved grant amount represents **the total funding payable**, and no additional GST will be paid on top of this amount.

If a grant is determined to involve a taxable supply, the approved grant amount is treated as GST-inclusive (i.e. the recipient's GST liability comes out of the approved funding, rather than the City topping up the payment).

Applicants are responsible for managing any GST obligations associated with their organisation and project costs, including any GST payable to third-party suppliers.

Reporting and acquittals

All successful applicants will be required to provide a report on the outcomes of the project funded by the City, in the form of an online acquittal document.

This includes completed income and expenditure statements with correlating receipts and any promotional material and images, as outlined in the funding agreement. The acquittal is due within eight (8) weeks from the completion of the project.

Any portion of the grant unspent, or not expended in accordance with the funded project must be returned to the City of Fremantle.

All funding must be acquitted before further funding is released.

Where applicable, discretionary rates concessions provided by the City require performance reporting instead of financial acquittal (where applicable).

Important information

In kind valuation

All in-kind support is assigned a monetised value for the purposes of tier classification, funding agreements and reporting.

In-kind support includes any non-cash contribution provided by the City, including foregone revenue (such as venue hire fee waivers), permits, staff time, equipment, facilities or communications support.

Please have relevant staff at City of Fremantle confirm any In-kind values, for your application, if provided by the City.

The total value of support (cash + in-kind) determines the program's Tier and reporting requirements.

Fee waivers

The City may provide fee waivers for services, facilities or approvals as a form of financial assistance. **These must be confirmed independently of the Arts Grant application, but noted within the application.**

Fee waivers are assigned a monetary value based on the City's schedule of fees and charges and are included in the total value of City support for tier classification and reporting purposes.

Where fee waivers form part of a funding agreement, they are subject to the same conditions and acquittal requirements as other forms of support.

Total City support

The City considers all forms of support provided to an organisation, including grants, sponsorships, fee waivers, in-kind support and rates concessions, when assessing applications. Applicants may be required to disclose current or pending City support as part of the application process.

Existing funding relationship

Recipients must not use an existing funding relationship with the City as a basis for seeking additional financial support outside the approved funding agreement.

Any additional requests will be assessed independently in accordance with relevant City policies.

Recognition requirements

Recognition levels scale by Tier, based on Whole of City support, and are confirmed in funding agreements. All funded recipients may be required to fulfil the following recognition requirements:

Requirements	**Tier 3** **<$1,000**	**Tier 2** **$1,001 -$10,000**		**Tier 1** **$10,000+**		
	Under $1,000	**$1,001 - $5,000**	**$5,001 - $10,000**	**$10,001 - $15,000**	**$15,001 - $20,000**	**$20,001+**
Exclusive Rights						
The City is listed as a Naming rights sponsor						X
Promotion and advertising						
Logo on all local print and digital advertising	X	X	X	X	X	X
Logo on all statewide print and digital advertising			X	X	X	X
Logo in all interstate print and digital advertising				X	X	X

Recognition in media releases				X	X	X
Digital						
Logo and hyperlink on Website	X	X	X	X	X	X
Logo/acknowledgement/link on all social media communications and promotions	X	X	X	X	X	X
Logo/acknowledgement/link in digital and EDM campaigns	X	X	X	X	X	X
On Site						
Verbal acknowledgement of the City's support on site	X	X	X	X	X	X
City signage items displayed at the event (supplied by the City)	1	2	2	4	4	6+
Opportunity for the City to be active on site				X	X	X
Other						
Allow the City to use the event's logos and images (photography and videography) in communications and marketing.	X	X	X	X	X	X
Invite key City staff and Elected Members to the event (free events).	X	X	X	X	X	X
An invitation for the mayor to speak at the event (community events only).			X	X	X	X
Provision of tickets for a Visit Fremantle competition in return for a feature in the Visit Fremantle newsletter.			X	X	X	X
Include a link on your website to the Visit Fremantle website.				X	X	X

Variations

Significant changes to scope, budget, timelines or key personnel require written approval from the City.

Breach of Agreement

The City may withhold, reduce, cancel, or recover funds, and declare applicants ineligible for future funding if conditions are breached.

Fraud and misuse

Suspected fraud or misuse of funds will be investigated under the City's Fraud & Corruption Control Policy and may be referred to authorities.

Reputational harm

The City may suspend, withdraw, or cancel funding, and/or terminate a funding agreement, if the funded individual, group or organisation becomes involved in any incident, behaviour or matter that may bring them into disrepute or has the potential to cause reputational damage to the City. In such circumstances, the City may also require the repayment of any funds already provided.

Assessment and decision-making

- Applications assessed on merit, value for money, alignment with objectives and procedural fairness.
- Decisions made under delegated authority according to the program Tier.
- The City's decision is final, subject to available budget.

Reviews / Appeals

Applicants may request feedback on unsuccessful applications or request a review on grounds of procedural error, failure to consider relevant information, or bias. Requests should be made in writing within 10 business days.

Contact information

Business Development and Sponsorship Officer
T 9432 9808 **E** grantfunding@fremantle.wa.gov.au