



Grants and sponsorship program guidelines

January 2024

CITY OF SYDNEY



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Introduction

The City of Sydney has 14 grants and sponsorship programs to support initiatives and projects that strengthen the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city. Through this program the City of Sydney partners with the community and business to further the strategic directions of Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision. These programs provide financial and in-kind support for a diverse range of activities.

Our grants and sponsorship guidelines provide applicants with detailed information on our grant management processes including who can apply for each grant program, how to apply, funding agreements, payment arrangements and reporting requirements.

Our grants and sponsorship programs are highly competitive, so please read these guidelines before applying.

We also hold information sessions during the year. We encourage you to come to an information session or speak with our staff before applying.

The grants and sponsorship policy provides the framework for managing grant and sponsorship requests. It sets the expected outcomes of our Grants and Sponsorships Program and outlines the high level principles that guide grantmaking at the City of Sydney. In the event of any inconsistency between the policy and these guidelines, the policy will prevail.

For more information about our grants and sponsorships go to: cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

You can also email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or call 02 9265 9333.

Timing

Rounds

Dates are subject to change, check the City of Sydney's website for any updates and subscribe to the grants and sponsorship newsletter to stay informed cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

	Summer Round	Winter Round
Open to applications	6 February 2024	23 July 2024
Closed to applications	5 March 2024	20 August 2024
Recommendations presented to Council	June 2024	November 2024
Project timeframe	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	1 Jan 2025 – 31 Dec 2025

Programs

Program	Timing
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund	Open all year round, until budget is exhausted
Community services grant	Open Summer Round only
Creative grant	Open Summer Round only
Business sector support grant	Open Summer Round only
Green building grant	Open Summer Round and Winter Round
Festivals and events sponsorship	Open Summer Round and Winter Round
Food support grant	Open Summer Round and Winter Round
Innovation and ideas grant	Open Summer Round and Winter Round
Quick response grant	Open all year round, until budget is exhausted
Affordable and diverse housing fund	Open all year round, until budget is exhausted
Venue hire support grants and sponsorship	Open all year round, until budget is exhausted
Street banner sponsorship	Open all year round, until budget is exhausted
Accommodation grant	Open as properties become available
Creative live/work spaces grant	Open as properties become available

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Short-term empty properties grant

Open as properties become available

Eligibility

Eligibility classifications

Our grants program receives grant applications from many types of applicants, including:

- not-for-profits, including registered charities structured as:
 - companies
 - cooperatives (non-distributing)
 - foundations
 - incorporated associations
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations
 - land councils
 - partnerships
 - trusts, including charitable trusts
 - owners' corporations
- for-profits, including those structured as:
 - companies
 - co-operatives (distributing)
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations
 - partnerships
 - trusts
- sole traders
- individuals
- owners' corporations (Strata and company owned)
- unincorporated community groups
- government departments and agencies.

Specific eligibility requirements are included in the description for each program.

Applicants may be required to provide further information to verify the structure of the applicant's entity. For example, not-for-profits including registered charities and social enterprises must be able to demonstrate they are a registered with ACNC or properly constituted with a statement of purpose/constitution reflecting that the applicant is not-for-profit.

Individuals and unincorporated community groups applying for any cash grant will require an auspice by an eligible organisation.

Applicant eligibility is determined by the applicants ABN registered entity.

For more information on each applicant type see the [definitions section](#).

General eligibility

To be eligible for funding, applicants must:

- operate within the City of Sydney's local government area or be able to demonstrate significant benefits for the area's residents, workers and/or visitors
- meet the grant program eligibility criteria stated in the guidelines
- have acquitted any previous City of Sydney grants or sponsorships and met all contractual obligations
- have no outstanding debts owing to the City of Sydney
- demonstrate the grant will be used for a purpose in the public interest
- demonstrate capacity to deliver the project
- be financially viable.

General exclusions and ineligibility

The City of Sydney does not provide grants and sponsorships for projects that:

- duplicate existing services or programs
- have already occurred (no retrospective funding)
- do not meet the identified priority needs of the City of Sydney area
- directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.

We do not accept duplicate applications. Applications that are submitted to more than one program for the same project in a round will only be considered in one program.

Grants and sponsorships do not cover:

- general donations to charities (donations and support for charities are covered by the City of Sydney's support for charities policy)
- activities that could be perceived as benefiting a political party and/or political party campaign
- activities that could be perceived as divisive within the community
- waiver of fees for development applications, health inspection fees, health approvals, street closures and other approvals and other similar statutory charges
- City of Sydney staff in their capacity as individuals, although they may participate and contribute to projects in their private capacity where the grants are auspiced by other entities.

We do not provide in-house design, printing and distribution services, or cleansing and waste services for events. However, organisations may apply for funding to undertake these activities themselves.

Application support

We encourage you to speak to us about your project, program suitability and eligibility before applying.

You'll find plenty of support to help with your application:

- **online resources** – see cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships
- **phone support** – call 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
- **briefing sessions** – for applicants to learn about the grants and sponsorship programs and ask questions.
- **free grant writing seminars** – these take place twice a year. See dates at cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/talks-courses-workshops/connect-sydney
- at our community centres and venues, libraries, and city spaces.

Dedicated support

Further support and accessible application formats that include oral applications are available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants, people with disability and culturally and linguistically diverse applicants.

To access this support, call 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Accessible applications are subject to the same assessment and approval process as other grants and may require a longer lead time to apply.

People with disability

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment, you can contact us through [National Relay Service](#). You'll need to provide our phone number, 02 9265 9333.

Our online applications comply with accessibility requirements WCAG 2.0 AA. For more information on accessibility see australia.gov.au/accessibility.

Help with grants in your language

If you need help with information about our grants in other languages, here are some useful tools and resources.

[Help with grants in your language - English](#)

[帮助您以母语了解拨款 - Simplified Chinese](#)

[한국어 보조금 안내 - Korean](#)

[ความช่วยเหลือในภาษาของท่าน เกี่ยวกับทุนอุดหนุน - Thai](#)

Find a translating or interpreting service

If you need an interpreter to help you with information on our website, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 13 14 50 and ask them to put you through to the City of Sydney on 02 9265 9333.

如果英語並非您的第一語言，而您欲使用電話傳譯員服務，請致電 131 450，要求他們代致電 02 9265 9333 聯絡 City of Sydney。

Se l'inglese non è la tua prima lingua e desideri avvalerti di un servizio telefonico di interpretariato, contatta il 131 450 e chiedi di chiamare la città di Sydney al numero 02 9265 9333.

Α ν τα Αγγλικά δεν είναι η πρώτη σας γλώσσα και θα θέλατε να χρησιμοποιήσετε διερμηνέα στο τηλέφωνο, παρακαλούμε τηλεφωνήστε 131 450 και ζητήστε τους να σας καλέσουν την Πόλη του Σύδνεϊ στο 02 9265 9333.

英語が母国語でない方で、電話通訳サービスをご利用になりたい方は、131 450 におかけの上、シドニー市 02 9265 9333 に電話をかけるよう通訳にご依頼ください。

Jika bahasa Inggris bukan bahasa pertama Anda dan Anda ingin menggunakan jasa seorang juru bahasa, silakan menghubungi 131 450 dan minta agar diteleponkan ke City of Sydney di 02 9265 9333.

إذا لم تكن الإنجليزية لغتك الأولى وأردت الاستفادة من خدمة الترجمة الشفهية الهاتفية، فالرجاء أن تتصل بالرقم 131 450 والطلب منهم الإتصال ببلدية مدينة سيدني علي الرقم 02 9265 9333 .

Si el inglés no es su primer idioma y desea utilizar un servicio de interpretación telefónica, póngase en contacto con el 131 450 y solicite que llamen a la Ciudad de Sydney al 02 9265 9333.

영어가 모국어가 아니어서 전화 통역 서비스가 필요하실 경우 131 450 에 전화하셔서 City of Sydney (02 9265 9333) 로 연결하도록 요청 하십시오 .

Nếu tiếng mẹ đẻ không phải là tiếng Anh và muốn sử dụng dịch vụ thông dịch qua điện thoại, xin quý vị gọi số 131 450 và yêu cầu họ gọi cho Thành Phố Sydney điện thoại số 02 9265 9333.

Е с л и английский не является вашим родным языком и вы хотели бы воспользоваться услугами устного перевода по телефону, то, пожалуйста, позвоните по номеру 131 450 и попросите их позвонить в муниципалитет города Сидней по номеру 02 9265 9333.

Grants management process

Applications

Applications for grants and sponsorship are completed online. Application forms are available once the grant round opens. For some programs open throughout the year, online forms are available on request after you discuss your project concept with our grants team.

Accessible application formats that include oral applications are available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants, people with disabilities and culturally and linguistically diverse applicants.

Applications must be submitted by the due date at 5pm Sydney time or Australian Eastern Daylight Time if applicable. We do not accept submissions after the cut-off time and date.

You are responsible for choosing the most appropriate program to apply for. Your application must be well-developed, address all the criteria and answer all compliance questions. It must include documentary evidence and support as required.

We encourage you to speak to us before applying.

Assessment

All grant applications are assessed by at least three City of Sydney staff, including those with knowledge and experience relevant to the grant application. Recommendations are then made to Council for approval.

Some grant applications may be assessed by external parties who have skills and professional experience which will benefit the assessment process.

When an external assessor is required, we will select a representative from one of the City of Sydney's established advisory panels with the relevant skills, experience, and availability.

External assessors are required to sign a participation agreement with the City of Sydney which outlines their responsibilities, including conflict of interest and confidentiality obligations. They cannot submit a grant application in the grant round they are assessing.

All assessors are required to make a conflict of interest declaration on each application as part of the assessment process.

Our grants and sponsorship programs are highly competitive. Even though an application may meet the criteria it may not be competitive against other applications. If an application is unsuccessful, the applicant can request feedback from City of Sydney staff.

Approval

Council has authority to approve grants and sponsorship or other financial assistance.

The CEO can approve grants consistent with City of Sydney policies and delegations from Council for the following programs: Quick response grant, Venue hire support grants and sponsorship, Street banner sponsorship, Creative live/work spaces grant and Short-term empty properties grant.

Under the Local Government Act, any waiver or reduction of fees or charges can only be approved if the application meets a pre-approved category of fee exemption in the City of Sydney's Revenue Policy.

Applicants should note that many projects including festivals and events require approvals and consents from the City of Sydney (such as development applications), NSW Police and other state government agencies. If the necessary approvals cannot be obtained, the grant or sponsorship may be revoked.

Approval of a grant or sponsorship does not imply that the City of Sydney has given any other consent.

Approval of value-in-kind is not a guarantee of booking, as all bookings are subject to availability and must be made through the usual booking process for the facility, space or location requested.

Notification process

We will notify you in writing of the outcome of your application within 10 business days after the decision of Council.

Details of the status of approval can also be found in the Council meeting minutes, which are listed on the website within the week of Council approval.

Matched funding

We recognise the importance of applicant cash and in-kind contributions. Some of our grant programs may require applicants to provide matched funding and in-kind contributions.

We may provide matched or equivalent funding with:

- direct cash input to the project through donations or income generated
- in-kind contributions such as donated supplies, materials or services
- volunteering time such as labour, set up and pack down, and meeting time to identify, plan and implement projects.

Details on the programs that require cash and in-kind matched funding are in the description for each program.

Funding agreements and negotiation

We aim to finalise funding agreements with successful applicants within five weeks of Council approval. You must enter into a funding agreement with us before funds are released and before the project can start.

The City of Sydney uses a standard funding agreement which includes:

- a description of the project for which funding is being provided
- the amount of cash funding to be received and the details of any value-in-kind support
- the obligations of the City of Sydney and the applicant (and where relevant the auspice) in relation to a grant
- specific performance criteria to be met by the applicant for each project
- any benefits to be provided to the City of Sydney in return for the grant (if applicable)
- a payment schedule
- the deadline for submission of the project acquittal.

If you fail to finalise the agreement within one month of receiving the draft agreement from us, we reserve the right to withdraw the grant or sponsorship.

Not meeting your contractual obligations, including failing to submit an acquittal report, may result in you or your organisation being unable to apply for further grant funding from the City of Sydney.

Payment arrangements

Once funding agreements are finalised, payments are processed with a standard 30-day turnaround time from the invoice date. Payments are not processed before the timeframes stipulated in the funding agreement. If you need the funds sooner due to project deliverables, please contact the grants team to enquire if an urgent payment can be made.

Reporting and monitoring

You must report on and acquit the project(s) as detailed in your funding agreement. Reports provide us with feedback on the success of the project in terms of the agreed outputs and outcomes, relevant data and any lessons learnt. You must provide detailed financial reports.

You may be asked to provide further documentation and evidence of expenses.

Final reports must be submitted no later than one month after the agreed completion date of the project as stated in the funding agreement unless otherwise agreed.

Evaluation and learning framework

The City of Sydney is committed to continuous improvement of our grants and sponsorship programs. An evaluation and learning framework has been developed to measure the effectiveness of each of the grants and sponsorship programs.

The aim of this framework is to:

- measure the degree to which stated outcomes are being achieved
- provide standard tools for collecting and analysing data within and across programs
- build evaluative capacity of City of Sydney staff and grant recipients
- identify improvements to the Grants and Sponsorship Program.

We invite feedback at the end of each application round and on each acquittal form on how we can improve the grants and sponsorship programs and processes.

More information

For more information see cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships, email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or call 02 9265 9333.

We hold grants and sponsorship information sessions during the year. We encourage you to attend one of these before applying.

Important application information

As part of the application, you will be asked to answer a series of questions, including:

- a brief description of the project
- the need for the project and the benefits to the local area
- your capacity and experience to deliver the project effectively
- how the project meets the program priorities.

Some programs may have additional questions or requirements specific to that grant program.

You will also be asked questions on how your project responds to City of Sydney policies regarding child safety, inclusion and accessibility, sustainability and collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Child safety

The City of Sydney is committed to being child safe and has zero tolerance for child abuse. The City of Sydney recognises its legal and moral responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm and abuse and promoting their best interests. The City of Sydney has specific policies, procedures and training in place to support employees and volunteers to achieve these commitments.

Where an application involves the delivery of programs and services involving child-related work you must attach a copy of your organisation's child safety/child protection policy and procedures to the application. If you do not have a formal child safety/protection policy, you must outline how you intend to comply with Child Safety law relevant to you or your organisation. This information will help us to assess whether your application has demonstrated capacity to deliver the project in line with the general eligibility requirements.

Please note, the City of Sydney does not regulate or monitor compliance with Child Safety law. Applicants should seek advice from the Office of the Children's Guardian, the Department of Education and Communities and /or the Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority regarding their child safety and protection compliance obligations as appropriate.

Inclusion and accessibility

All applicants will be asked to describe how their project considers participation, access and inclusion across the community.

The City of Sydney's Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2021-2025 guides the organisation's approach to ensure Sydney is inclusive and welcoming for everyone. This Plan includes actions that actively address barriers faced by people with disability. You can view the [Inclusion \(Disability\) Action Plan](#) on the City of Sydney's website.

The City of Sydney has developed Guidelines to assist event producers to plan and deliver events that are inclusive and accessible to everyone. The guidelines outline key access and inclusion considerations for all events. You can view the Inclusive and Accessible Event Guidelines on the City of Sydney's website.

Sustainability

All applicants are to ensure that any events or programs funded through a City of Sydney grant are delivered in an environmentally sustainable way. Please see our [sustainable event guidelines](#) and [guidelines for single use items](#) for information on how to reduce waste from events and services.

Applicants for specific programs may be asked to meet certain conditions to reduce the environmental impact of their project. The City of Sydney will provide educational material and guidance to assist applicants in understanding and meeting these conditions.

Collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

All applicants will be asked to outline any plans they have to engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander run businesses, organisations or individuals in the running of their project.

We are committed to exploring ways in which we can enhance the economic prosperity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations through our Grants Program. You are encouraged to consider engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses into all aspects of your supply chain in the planning, delivery and implementation of your project.

Other information

Budget

All applicants are required to submit a budget (in the Smartygrants template), listing all income and expenditure items for the project. All figures should be GST exclusive.

As a guide for calculating volunteer time contributed to the project, use the fees of:

- \$25 per hour for volunteers
- \$75 per hour for contractors or professionals volunteering their time

Supporting documents

You will be asked to provide the documents below with your online application. Please allow enough time for files to upload and aim to submit your application at least an hour before the due time.

Standard supporting documents include:

- quotes for equipment or material valued over \$1,000
- a copy of public liability insurance or quote for public liability insurance (to be taken up following the approval of the grant) to cover the proposed project to the minimum value of \$10 million (or \$20 million for projects that are high risk, have large numbers of the public attending or funding greater than \$250,000)
- a copy of the organisation's constitution including a statement of purpose and organisation structure if the applicant is a social enterprise or a not-for-profit organisation without charity or deductible gift recipient status
- multi-year project plan (for multi-year cash funding requests)
- child safety/child protection policy and procedures (if the proposed project involves child-related work)
- letters of support from any community or local business partners (if relevant)
- a list of community members or businesses who will be involved in the proposed project (if relevant)
- evidence to demonstrate owner's consent for the use of land (if relevant)
- a basic site plan for the proposed project (if relevant)

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- case studies of previous projects (if relevant)
- any other documents relevant to the proposed project, such as photographs, minutes from planning meetings and development approvals.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund

Overview

This funding program supports a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector to deliver projects that meet the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the local area.

Funding supports increased self-determination and equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through projects that connect people with community, Country and culture.

Key dates

This program is open all year for applications until the budget is exhausted.

Activities should be delivered within 12 months of the project start date.

Funding available

Cash funding up to \$50,000 is available, for projects to be delivered within 12 months.

Value-in-kind in the form of venue hire fee waiver is also available.

Applicants can apply for up to \$5,000 worth of capital expenditure or equipment purchase.

Applicants can include the cost of necessary insurances in their application.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that:

- are led by local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and communities
- deliver positive outcomes for local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities
- meets the needs and aspirations of local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities
- build the capacity of local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander owned and/or led organisations and businesses.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project and proposed outcomes and relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project
- demonstrated connection to and benefit for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- how the project will deliver against the funding priorities.

Eligibility

To be eligible an applicant must operate within the City of Sydney's local government area and be able to demonstrate significant benefits for the area's residents, workers and/or visitors:

- Individuals and sole traders must identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and be accepted as such by the community in which they live
- Groups must consist of majority Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander members
- Organisations must have a governing body that is majority Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people

These individuals and organisations can apply:

- Not-for-profit organisations
- For-profit organisations
- Sole traders
- Individuals or unincorporated community groups auspiced by a not-for-profit or for-profit organisation.

If you work with an auspicings organisation, we encourage you to choose one that is relevant to the sector and that can support the development of the proposal.

For more information on eligibility see the [eligibility section](#).

Proof of Aboriginality requirement

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund is dedicated to local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, groups and organisations.

To be eligible for this fund, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander individuals, sole traders and community groups will be required to provide confirmation of Aboriginality. It is preferred (but not limited to) this confirmation being from a registered Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community organisation stamped with their common seal and that confirms the applicant:

- is of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent
- identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person
- is accepted as such by the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community in which you live, or formerly lived.

Alternatively, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander businesses are required to provide proof of certification and/or registration from the following:

- NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce
- Supply Nation
- Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations.

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- applicants that do not meet the eligibility criteria
 - projects that duplicate existing services
 - projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.
-

How to apply

To apply for this grant please contact the grants team for a call back to discuss your eligibility and suitability to the program, on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Community services grant

Overview

This grant program supports projects and programs that help increase social cohesion and inclusion, develop healthy and resilient communities, and support participation in civic life.

Key dates

Applications open: Summer Round only

For relevant dates see the timing section and cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

Funding available

Cash funding from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per year is available, for a one-year program or multi-year funding (up to 3 years).

Value-in-kind in the form of street banner and venue hire is also available.

Applicants can apply for up to \$5,000 worth of capital expenditure or equipment purchase.

For applicants requesting multi-year funding, please contact the grants team for a call back to discuss your suitability to the program, on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects or programs that:

- recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and culture
- promote sustainable and equitable food systems and address food insecurity
- strengthen social cohesion, community resilience and wellbeing
- involve our communities in local decision making and community life
- improve our communities' digital literacy and skills
- support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

We encourage applications from organisations that support Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islander communities and culture, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and networks.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project or program and proposed outcomes
 - capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project or program
 - demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and communities
 - how the project or program delivers against the funding priorities
 - evidence of the project or program having direct engagement with our diverse communities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, young people, older people, people with disability, international students, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, women, LGBTIQ+ communities and low income earners.
-

Eligibility

To be eligible an applicant must operate within the City of Sydney's local government area or be able to demonstrate significant benefits for the area's residents, workers and/or visitors:

These individuals and organisations can apply:

- Not-for-profit organisations
- Individuals or unincorporated community groups auspiced by a not-for-profit that is eligible to apply in its own right.

If you work with an auspicing organisation, we encourage you to choose one that is relevant to the sector and that can support the development of the proposal.

For more information on eligibility see the [eligibility section](#).

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- for-profit organisations, including small businesses
 - projects or programs that duplicate existing services
 - projects or programs that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.
-

How to apply

Applications for grants and sponsorship must be completed online.

For applicants requesting multi-year funding, please contact the grants team for a call back to discuss your suitability to the program, on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

For more information on our grants and sponsorships see cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

You can also email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or call 02 9265 9333.

Creative grant

Overview

This grant program supports projects and initiatives that contribute to Sydney's cultural life, provide opportunities for creative participation, enliven public spaces, and strengthen the sustainability and capacity of our cultural and creative industries.

Key dates

Applications open: Summer Round only

For relevant dates see the timing section and cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

Funding available

Cash funding from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per year is available, for a one-year program or multi-year funding (up to 3 years).

Value-in-kind in the form of street banner and venue hire is also available.

Applicants can apply for up to \$5,000 worth of capital expenditure or equipment purchase.

The City of Sydney wants to support applicants to provide fair pay to the artists and creative professionals working on funded projects. Fees for artists and creative workers should be clearly included in your application budget and you are encouraged to set these fees in accordance with industry standards.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that:

- promote local culture and stories
- explore aspects of Sydney's history
- celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and culture
- represent the cultural and social diversity of our community
- increase access to creativity and culture for the city's communities
- encourage cultural organisations and artists to locate and operate in Sydney
- address challenges facing the creative industries and cultural sector.

We encourage applications from organisations that support Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islander communities and culture, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and networks.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project and proposed outcomes
 - capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project
 - demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and communities
 - evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in the planning and delivery of the project
 - how the project delivers against the funding priorities.
-

Eligibility

To be eligible an applicant must operate within the City of Sydney's local government area or be able to demonstrate significant benefits for the area's residents, workers and/or visitors:

These individuals and organisations can apply:

- Not-for-profit organisations
- For-profit organisations
- Sole traders
- Individuals or unincorporated community groups auspiced by a not-for-profit or for-profit that is eligible to apply in its own right.

If you work with an auspicing organisation, we encourage you to choose one that is relevant to the sector and that can support the development of the proposal.

For more information on eligibility see the [eligibility section](#).

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- operational costs or overheads for the core business of an organisation
 - projects which are a festival or event
 - projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.
-

How to apply

Applications for grants and sponsorship must be completed online.

For more information on our grants and sponsorships see cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

You can also email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or call 02 9265 9333.

Business sector support grant

Overview

This grant program supports sector development projects that grow the skills and capacity of local businesses, entrepreneurs and communities, advocate on key issues on behalf of local business, connect businesses to networking opportunities and promote local precincts.

Key dates

Applications open: Summer Round only

For relevant dates see the timing section and cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

Funding available

Cash funding from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per year is available, for a one-year program or multi-year funding (up to 3 years).

Value-in-kind in the form of street banner and venue hire is also available.

Applicants can apply for up to \$5,000 worth of capital expenditure or equipment purchase.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that:

- support local businesses to adapt to new technologies, explore alternative business models and increase accessibility
- upskill local businesses and entrepreneurs to meet the needs of a more innovative economy
- build the skills and capacity of our diverse communities to increase economic participation
- advocate on key industry/sector issues on behalf of local businesses
- deliver collaborative marketing to activate local precincts and promote unique experiences across the city.

We encourage applications from organisations that support Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islander communities and culture, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and networks.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project and proposed outcomes
 - capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project
 - demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and community
 - evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in the planning and delivery of the project
 - how the project delivers against the funding priorities.
-

Eligibility

To be eligible an applicant must operate within the City of Sydney's local government area or be able to demonstrate significant benefits for the area's residents, workers, sector/industry and/or visitors.

These organisations can apply:

- Not-for-profit organisations
- Members based organisations with an economic focus such as a chamber of commerce or industry association.

For more information on eligibility see the [eligibility section](#).

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- operational costs or overheads for the core business of an organisation
 - projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.
-

How to apply

Applications for grants and sponsorship must be completed online.

For more information on our grants and sponsorships see cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

You can also email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or call 02 9265 9333.

Green building grant

Overview

This grant program supports owners' corporations and building owners in the residential and accommodation sector to undertake environmental ratings, certifications, audits and assessments for existing buildings to be resource efficient and achieve net zero emissions by 2035.

Funding can support:

- NABERS, Green Star Performance or EarthCheck assessment and/or certification
 - energy audits that conform to the AS3598 standard
 - residential energy/water/waste assessments
 - renewables/electrification feasibility assessments
 - net zero action plans.
-

Key dates

Applications open: Summer Round and Winter Round

For relevant dates see the timing section and cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

Funding available

Cash funding up to \$15,000 is available per project.

For-profit organisations are required to match the funding requested with cash (value-in-kind will not be accepted).

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that:

- drive existing residential buildings to be resource efficient and achieve net zero emissions
- enable buildings in key sectors to improve their environmental performance

We encourage applications from organisations that support Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islander communities and culture, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and networks.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project and proposed outcomes

Grants and sponsorship program guidelines

- capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project
 - demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and community
 - evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in the planning and delivery of the project
 - how the project delivers against the funding priorities.
-

Eligibility

To be eligible an applicant must be an owners' corporation of an existing residential strata building or the owner of an existing building in the accommodation sector in the City of Sydney's local area.

These organisations can apply:

- Not-for-profit organisations
- For-profit organisations
- Owners' corporation.

The application must be for works on one of these building types:

- residential strata
- accommodation (hotels, hostels and serviced apartments).

For information on eligibility see the [eligibility section](#).

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- applications from new buildings
 - applications from commercial office or entertainment building types
 - applications from for-profit organisations that do not provide evidence of matched cash funding for the project
 - instances where a NABERS rating is required by government including under the commercial building disclosure scheme (at point of sale or lease)
 - projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies
 - capital expenditure or capital works.
-

More information

Applications for grants and sponsorship must be completed online.

For more information on our grants and sponsorships see cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

You can also email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or call 02 9265 9333.

Festivals and events sponsorship

We provide support for festivals and events under two tiers:

- Tier 1 – General festivals and events
- Tier 2 – Major festivals and events

Prior to applying for Tier 2 please contact our grants team to discuss your proposal, on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Key dates

Applications open: Summer Round and Winter Round

For relevant dates see the timing section and [cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships](https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships).

Tier 1 – General festivals and events

Overview

This grant program supports local festivals and events that celebrate, develop and engage the city's communities. They may provide forums to share knowledge, create opportunities for active community participation, celebrate local culture and creativity and activate local precincts. They can be one-off, annual or a series of recurring events over a set period.

Funding available

Cash funding up to \$50,000 per year is available, for a one-year program or multi-year funding (up to 3 years).

Value-in-kind in the form of street banner and venue hire is available. Not-for-profit organisations are also eligible for a 25% reduction on equipment hire fees at Landmark Venues (for equipment owned by the City of Sydney).

For-profit organisations are required to match the funding requested with cash (value-in-kind will not be accepted).

Applicants can apply for up to \$10,000 worth of capital expenditure or equipment purchase.

The City of Sydney wants to support applicants to provide fair pay to the artists and creative professionals working on funded projects. Fees for artists and creative workers should be clearly included in your application budget and you are encouraged to set these fees in accordance with industry standards.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise festivals and events that:

- celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and culture
- strengthen social inclusion, enable connectedness and reduce social isolation
- support the visitor economy through activations, events and promotion

- represent the cultural and social diversity of our community
- activate local precincts with creative programming.

We encourage applications from organisations, groups and individuals that support Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islander communities and culture, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and networks.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the festival or event and proposed outcomes
- capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the festival or event
- demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and community
- evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in the planning and delivery of the project
- how the project delivers against the funding priorities.

Tier 2 – Major festivals and events

Overview

This sponsorship program supports major festivals and events that bring significant economic, social and cultural impact to Sydney. Sponsorships provide support for significant and/or recurring festivals or events with a proven track record, which have a recognised national and/or international brand and the capacity to deliver outcomes across multiple strategic priorities.

Funding available

Festivals and/or events seeking cash funding of \$100,000 or more per year fall within this funding tier. Funding is available for up to four years in this funding tier.

Value-in-kind in the form of street banner and venue hire fee waiver, and other negotiated City of Sydney services and resources. Not-for-profit organisations are also eligible for a 25% reduction on equipment hire fees at Landmark Venues (for equipment owned by the City of Sydney).

Major Festivals and Event Sponsorships will usually include both cash and value-in-kind contributions.

For-profit organisations are required to match the funding requested with cash (value-in-kind will not be accepted).

Applicants can apply for up to \$10,000 worth of capital expenditure or equipment purchase.

The City of Sydney wants to support applicants to provide fair pay to the artists and creative professionals working on funded projects. Fees for artists and creative workers should be clearly included in your application budget and you are encouraged to set these fees in accordance with industry standards.

Funding priorities

Major festivals and events must contribute to at least three of the following priorities:

- celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and culture
- strengthen social inclusion, enable connectedness and reduce social isolation
- support the visitor economy through activations, events and promotion
- attract intrastate, interstate or international visitation and investment in Sydney
- represent the cultural and social diversity of our community
- activate local precincts with creative programming
- encourage cultural organisations and artists to locate and operate in Sydney.

Grants and sponsorship program guidelines

We encourage applications from organisations, groups and individuals that support Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islander communities and culture, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and networks.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the major festival or event and proposed outcomes
- capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the major festival or event
- demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and community
- evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in the planning and delivery of the major festival or event
- how the project delivers against the funding priorities
- evidence of track record, organisational viability for multi-year funding, large scale audience or market reach and national or international brand awareness.

Eligibility

To be eligible an applicant must operate within the City of Sydney's local government area or be able to demonstrate significant benefits for the area's residents, workers and/or visitors.

These organisations can apply for both Tier 1 and 2:

- Not-for-profit organisations
- For-profit organisations
- Government departments or agencies.

These individuals and organisations can apply for Tier 1 only:

- Sole traders
- Individuals or unincorporated community groups auspiced by a not-for-profit or for-profit that is eligible to apply in their own right.

If you work with an auspicings organisation, we encourage you to choose one that is relevant to the sector and that can support the development of the proposal.

For more information on eligibility see the [eligibility section](#).

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- operational costs or overheads for the core business of an organisation
- fees and charges associated with event personnel or staffing at landmark venues
- projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.

How to apply

Applications for grants and sponsorship must be completed online.

For more information on our grants and sponsorships see cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

Grants and sponsorship program guidelines

If you are interested in applying for Tier 2 please contact our grants team to discuss your proposal, on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Food support grants

Overview

This funding supports projects and programs that improve access to affordable and healthy food for our diverse communities.

We provide support for food support projects under 2 tiers:

- Tier 1 – Small scale projects
- Tier 2 – Large scale projects

Before applying for tier 2, contact our grants team to discuss your proposal on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Key dates

Applications open: Summer Round and Winter Round

For relevant dates see the timing section and cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that:

- increase access to affordable, healthy, safe and culturally-appropriate food
- increase community skills in sourcing and preparing healthy food
- improve supply, storage and delivery of healthy food for our diverse communities
- increase resourcing of essential food support services for our diverse communities
- increase access to affordable internet and data to support community access to food support services.

We encourage applications from organisations, groups and individuals that support Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islander communities and culture, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and networks.

Tier 1 – Small scale projects

Funding available

Cash funding up to \$250,000 per year is available, for a one-year program or multi-year funding (up to 2 years).

Value-in-kind in the form of venue hire is also available.

Applicants can apply for up to \$100,000 worth of capital expenditure, equipment purchase or other resources.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project or program and proposed outcomes
- capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project or program
- demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and community
- how the project delivers against the funding priorities
- evidence of the project or program having direct engagement with our diverse communities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, young people, older people, people with disability, international students, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, women, LGBTIQ+ communities and low-income earners.

Tier 2 – Large scale projects

Funding available

Cash funding up to \$750,000 per year is available, for a one-year program or multi-year funding (up to 2 years).

Value-in-kind in the form of venue hire is also available.

Applicants can apply for up to \$150,000 worth of capital expenditure, equipment purchase or other resources.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project or program and proposed outcomes
- capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project or program
- demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and community
- evidence of partnerships with local community organisations and networks
- how the project delivers against the funding priorities
- evidence of the project or program having direct engagement with our diverse communities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, young people, older people, people with disability, international students, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, women, LGBTIQ+ communities and low-income earners.

Eligibility

To be eligible an applicant must operate within the City of Sydney's local government area or be able to demonstrate significant benefits for the area's residents, workers and/or visitors.

These organisations can apply for both tier 1 and 2:

- not-for-profit organisations.

These individuals and groups can apply for tier 1 only:

- individuals or unincorporated community groups auspiced by a not-for-profit that is eligible to apply in its own right.

If you work with an auspicating organisation, we encourage you to choose one that is relevant to the sector and can support the development of the proposal.

If you received Food support grants funding in 2023/24, you will be eligible to apply in Winter Round 2024/25.

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- for-profit organisations, including small businesses
- projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies

If you received Food support grants funding in 2023/24 you will not be eligible to apply in Summer Round 2024/25.

How to apply

Applications for grants and sponsorship must be completed online.

For more information about our grants and sponsorships see cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

If you are interested in applying for tier 2, contact our grants team to discuss your proposal on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Innovation and ideas grants

Overview

This grant program supports projects that foster innovation, showcase local expertise and test new ideas to address local and global issues across the city's social, cultural, sustainability and business sectors.

Funding can support:

- research and feasibility studies relating to the funding priorities listed below
 - pilot projects that test new approaches for addressing local and global issues
 - demonstration projects that promote market awareness and adoption of innovations
 - development and implementation of best practice approaches and toolkits
 - new technologies and platforms that support sector development.
-

Key dates

Applications open: Summer Round and Winter Round

For relevant dates see the timing section and cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

Funding available

Cash funding from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per year is available, for a one-year program or multi-year funding (up to 3 years).

Applicants can apply for up to \$5,000 worth of capital expenditure or equipment purchase.

Value-in-kind in the form of venue hire is also available.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise innovative projects that contribute to making Sydney a city:

- that is a leading environmental performer
- that is equitable and inclusive
- with resilient and diverse communities
- with a thriving cultural and creative life

- with a transformed and innovative economy.

We encourage applications from organisations, groups and individuals that support Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islander communities and culture, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and networks.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project and proposed outcomes
 - capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project
 - demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and communities
 - evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in the planning and delivery of the project
 - how the project delivers against the funding priorities.
-

Eligibility

To be eligible an applicant must operate within the City of Sydney's local government area or be able to demonstrate significant benefits for the area's residents, workers and/or visitors.

Not-for-profit and for-profit organisations can apply.

For more information on eligibility see the [eligibility section](#).

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- operational costs or overheads for the core business of an organisation
 - projects that duplicate existing services
 - projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.
-

How to apply

Applications for grants and sponsorship must be completed online.

For more information about our grants and sponsorships see cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

You can also email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or call 02 9265 9333.

Quick response grant

Overview

This grant program supports small scale, community-led projects that encourage communities to take action to improve, enhance, represent or celebrate their local neighbourhoods.

Key dates

This program is open all year for applications until the budget is exhausted.

Decisions will be notified within 6 weeks of application.

Activities should be delivered within 12 months of the project start date.

Funding available

Cash funding up to \$10,000 is available, for projects to be delivered within 12 months.

Value-in-kind in the form of venue hire is also available.

Applicants can apply for up to \$10,000 worth of capital expenditure or equipment purchase.

Applicants can include the cost of necessary insurances in their application.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that support:

- vulnerable communities and those with the greatest need
- individuals and teams that are selected to participate in events in the sporting, academic, cultural or environmental fields
- resilience and readiness of diverse communities to respond to shocks
- sustainability and environmental projects such as community gardens, green roofs and walls, urban ecology and green workshops
- cultural projects such as public art, cultural workshops and community art projects
- minor capital works, equipment upgrades and acoustic attenuation for cultural venues
- local civic activities and events
- essential emergency support for community, cultural and sustainability projects.

We encourage applications from organisations, groups and individuals that support Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islander communities and culture, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and networks.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project and proposed outcomes
 - capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project
 - demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and community
 - evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in the planning and delivery of the project
 - how the project delivers against the funding priorities.
-

Eligibility

To be eligible an applicant must operate within the City of Sydney's local government area or be able to demonstrate significant benefits for the area's residents, workers and/or visitors.

These individuals and organisations can apply:

- Not-for-profit organisations
- Individuals or unincorporated community groups auspiced by a not-for-profit that is eligible to apply in their own right.

If you work with an auspicing organisation, we encourage you to choose one that is relevant to the sector and that can support the development of the proposal.

For more information on eligibility see the [eligibility section](#).

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- ongoing project, event or program funding
 - operational costs or overheads for the core business of an organisation
 - projects that duplicate existing services
 - projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.
-

How to apply

Applications for grants and sponsorship must be completed online.

For more information about our grants and sponsorships see <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships>.

You can also email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or call 02 9265 9333.

Affordable and diverse housing fund

Overview

The affordable and diverse housing fund promotes the development of affordable and diverse rental housing in our local government area by community housing providers, not-for-profit and for-profit organisations.

The fund is part of the City of Sydney's commitment to overcome financial barriers to affordable and diverse housing development.

Key dates

This program is open all year for applications until the fund is exhausted.

Funding available

The fund's priority is to leverage private finance for affordable rental housing.

Funds can be used for:

- acquiring land owned by third parties
- acquiring land owned by the City of Sydney
- design and construction
- associated development costs.

It is expected that the total amount of funding for any individual project will not exceed \$3 million in value.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise applications that:

- maximise the quantum of subsidised housing within the City of Sydney local area
- leverage additional funds from sources external to the City of Sydney and its programs, including private debt finance, charitable donations and grants from state and federal government
- encourage a broad range of community housing providers to invest in and operate diverse housing within the local area
- deliver positive outcomes for our diverse communities through subsidised housing within the City of Sydney local area
- ensure the continued use of funded projects as subsidised housing

Grants and sponsorship program guidelines

- facilitate the ongoing management in accordance with the applicable regulatory requirements, such as NSW affordable housing guidelines
- achieve timely delivery utilising appropriately experienced and capable principals and contractors.

We encourage applications from organisations that support Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islander communities and culture, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and networks.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- amount, nature and location of subsidised housing and any other uses or support being delivered
 - proportion of the total project cost requested as City of Sydney funding (including cash, value-in-kind and land)
 - proportion of total project cost funded by the applicant and other sources
 - property development experience, expertise and capability of the applicant/deliverer
 - experience in the operation and management of the type of housing by the applicant/manager in compliance with relevant regulations
 - financial capacity of the applicant
 - evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in the planning and delivery of the project.
-

Eligibility

To be eligible an applicant must operate within the City of Sydney's local government area or be able to demonstrate significant benefits for the area's residents, workers and/or visitors.

These organisations can apply:

- Not-for-profit organisations
- For profit organisations
- providers of community housing
- organisations that are part of a consortium that includes a community housing provider.

For more information on eligibility the [eligibility section](#).

Not eligible for funding

- Unincorporated community groups
 - Individuals
 - consent authority fees and charges
 - projects that are already in receipt of other subsidies or benefits provided by the City of Sydney
 - projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.
-

Further conditions

For funds that are used for the development of new subsidised housing developments:

Grants and sponsorship program guidelines

- funds must only be used for capital expenditures on net new subsidised housing developments
- our financial contribution will generally not exceed 30 per cent of the total cost of the subsidised housing
- funds will not be released until a construction certificate is issued for the development
- we may seek to secure the use provided through a mechanism/instrument such as a registered positive covenant, on the land used for the project
- funds may need to be repaid if the project completion date is not met, the project is terminated, the recipient becomes insolvent, or the project description changes materially
- the recipient must operate the facility in line with federal, state and local government regulatory requirements
- unless otherwise approved by the City of Sydney, housing delivered through the fund is to be rented to a range of low to moderate income earners at no more than 30 per cent of gross household income, in line with NSW affordable housing guidelines
- the facility must generally be commenced within three years of funding approval.

More information

The project can include a proportion of ‘market’ housing for sale on completion and/or a commercial component for lease, or sale, on completion if it forms a part of the project’s financing strategy or is needed to satisfy planning controls.

‘Subsidised’ housing means all forms of short and long term rental accommodation offered at below market rates, including affordable housing, social housing, assisted living, aged and respite care, crisis housing and boarding houses.

How to apply

To apply for this grant please contact the grants team for a call back to discuss your eligibility and suitability to the program, on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Venue hire support grants and sponsorship

Overview

The City of Sydney owns a number of venues that are available for hire. The venue hire support grants and sponsorship program helps community and cultural groups and organisations access these venues for events, concerts, fundraisers, conferences, meetings and community gatherings. The grant is intended for cultural, environmental and community groups and organisations that demonstrate financial hardship.

Support is available in two categories:

- community venues
 - landmark venues.
-

Key dates

This grant program is open all year to applications until the value-in-kind budget is exhausted.

All applications should be submitted online at least eight weeks before the event.

The first activity must take place within 12 months of the submission date.

Support available

Support is available in the form of one-off or multi-year reduced rates for community and landmark venue hire, subject to availability.

Not-for-profit organisations are eligible for a 25% reduction on equipment hire fees at Landmark Venues (for equipment owned by the City of Sydney).

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that:

- increase numbers of programs, events and activities that contribute to social wellbeing, social inclusion and increased cultural participation

Grants and sponsorship program guidelines

- increase services and initiatives for residents, workers and visitors that contribute to the social, cultural, economic and environmental health of the city
- increase capacity of the cultural, environmental and community sector due to the sharing of knowledge and resources.

We encourage applications from organisations, groups and individuals that support Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islander communities and culture, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and networks.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project and proposed outcomes
 - capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project
 - demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and community
 - evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in the planning and delivery of the project
 - how the project delivers against the funding priorities.
-

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding an applicant must operate within the City of Sydney's local government area or be able to demonstrate benefits for the area's residents, workers and/or visitors.

Applicants must demonstrate that payment of standard rates would cause financial hardship.

Applicants working with an auspicing organisation are encouraged to choose an organisation that is relevant to the sector and can support the development of the proposal.

For more information on eligibility the [eligibility section](#).

Community venues

These individuals and organisations can apply:

- Not-for-profit organisations
- Unincorporated community group
- Individual auspiced by a not-for-profit that is eligible to apply in its own right.

Landmark venues

These individuals and organisations can apply:

- Not-for-profit organisations
 - For profit event management companies facilitating an eligible not-for-profit's event
 - Individual auspiced by a not-for-profit that is eligible to apply in its own right.
-

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- fees and charges associated with event personnel or staffing at venues
- projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.

If an applicant has already received funding for the same project under a different grants and sponsorship program, this may impact on the decision to support the application.

Further conditions

- venue hire, and equipment fees and charges are set for the facilities each year by the City of Sydney
 - the grant covers venue hire fees only. Applicants must meet all standard conditions of hire and pay all additional charges such as deposit and bond, security/key deposit, public liability insurance, cancellation, audio visual, additional staffing such as ushers, cloakroom and security, and any food and beverages.
-

How to apply

To apply for this grant please contact the grants team for a call back to discuss your eligibility and suitability to the program, on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Street banner sponsorship

Overview

The City of Sydney has up to 1500 banner poles available for hire. Street banner sponsorship provides banner pole hire fee waiver for our network of banners, enhancing streetscape vibrancy and raising the profile of forthcoming cultural events, social issues and other activities.

Sponsorship only applies to banner pole hire fees. Applicants must meet all standard conditions of hire and pay all additional charges such as design, manufacture, installation and dismantling of banners. See fees and charges at sydneycitybanners.com.au.

Key dates

This grant program is open all year to applications until the value-in-kind budget is exhausted.

All applications must be submitted online at least 4 months before the banner campaign and take a minimum of 2 months to process and receive a decision.

The banner campaign should take place within 12 months of the grant approval.

Support available

Support is available in the form of value-in-kind for street banner poles, subject to availability.

Applicants can request up to 150 banner poles for up to two weeks, once a year.

Additional requests will be considered for significant events and depend on availability in the street banner network. Street banner sponsorship is applicable to city and urban locations only.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that:

- increase awareness and profile of issues, events and activities of registered charities, not-for-profits and cultural institutions
- positively contribute to the overall character and vibrancy of streetscapes through use of an attractive and visual medium
- strengthen cultural and community life.

We encourage applications from organisations that support Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islander communities and culture, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and networks.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- how the project delivers against the funding priorities.
-

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding an applicant must operate within the City of Sydney's local government area or be able to demonstrate benefits for the area's residents, workers and/or visitors.

Only not-for-profit organisations can apply.

Applicants must:

- demonstrate that payment of standard rates would cause financial hardship
- demonstrate that a program of events has been prepared with an appropriate publicity and promotions campaign
- acknowledge the City's assistance in any promotional material for the event.

For more information on eligibility the [eligibility section](#).

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- For-profit organisations, including small businesses, individuals or private commercial ventures
- applicants that have been funded under the same program in the past 12 months
- projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.

If an applicant has already received funding for the same project under a different grants and sponsorship program, this may impact on the decision to support the application.

Further conditions

- bookings can only be made 6 months in advance from the installation date and after you have received confirmation of a successful application
 - all banner designs must be approved by the City of Sydney, through the banners team, prior to manufacture, and include our logo. The City of Sydney reserves the right to refuse a banner design
 - the City of Sydney reserves the right to determine the number and location of banner poles provided and to relocate banners to alternative locations
 - poles are subject to availability at the time of booking
 - applicants are encouraged to consider sponsorship benefits for the City of Sydney. Examples include promotion, marketing and tickets. The City of Sydney's logo must be displayed on the banner.
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How to apply

To apply for this grant please contact the grants team for a call back to discuss your eligibility and suitability to the program, on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Accommodation grant

Overview

The City of Sydney's community facilities include different buildings and spaces that vary in size, location and function. Under our accommodation grants program, we lease facilities or spaces for up to 5 years at reduced rates (below market rental rates) or at no charge. We may offer some longer tenancies based on operational and community needs and public interest. Tenancies are informed by the strategic priorities reviewed and set by Council every 4 years.

Applicants must demonstrate that payment of commercial rents would cause financial hardship leading to a reduction or withdrawal of services.

Key dates

Applications for space through this program are invited as facilities become available, and opportunities are published on our [website](#) and [email notices](#).

Support available

Support is available in the form of waived or reduced rental charges for City of Sydney facilities. Rates vary depending on the space being leased and the financial capacity of the applicant.

The City of Sydney may require payment of a bond as part of your lease or licence agreement.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise applications that show one or more of the following:

- improved social wellbeing, reduced isolation and increased cultural participation
- increased services by community and cultural organisations that benefit residents, workers and visitors, and contribute to the social, cultural, economic and environmental health of the city
- enhanced financial sustainability for local organisations including artists
- greater public participation in arts and creative projects
- greater sharing of knowledge and resources by new and emerging groups, increasing the capacity and viability of the business and community sectors
- active solutions to sector-wide issues and provision of direct services by newly established and start-up businesses and organisations that benefit our communities.

We encourage applications from organisations that support Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islander communities and culture, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and networks.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the tenancy and proposed outcomes
 - capacity and experience of the applicant
 - demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and community
 - evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in the planning and delivery of the project
 - how the proposal delivers against the funding priorities
 - any additional criteria nominated for specific properties as they become available
 - for renewals, compliance with past agreements, lease terms and demonstration of ongoing need will be assessed.
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Eligibility

To be eligible an applicant must operate within the City of Sydney's local government area or be able to demonstrate significant benefits for the area's residents, workers and/or visitors.

Not-for-profit and for-profit organisations can apply.

Applicants must demonstrate that payment of standard rates would cause financial hardship.

For more information on eligibility see the [eligibility section](#).

Not eligible for funding

- Unincorporated community groups
 - Individuals
 - projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.
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How to apply

Opportunities are published on our website and email lists as facilities become available.

Sign up for accommodation grants notifications at confirmsubscription.com/h/j/C601462D618DBDC8.

Creative live/work spaces grant

Overview

The City of Sydney has a small number of residential properties. Under the creative live/work spaces grant, we lease residential properties to artists and creative practitioners to live and work in the city at below market rental.

This program is offered in response to the challenges artists and creative practitioners face in obtaining affordable inner city housing and creative facilities. It provides supports for up to 18 months, limited by specific lease terms, and reduced rents at below market rates.

Key dates

This program has no set dates or rounds and is responsive as properties become available.

Sign up for creative live/work spaces notifications at confirmsubscription.com/h/j/F41B9C0BDBB5B36C.

Support available

Support is available in the form of reduced rental charges for City of Sydney properties.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise applications that show:

- increased opportunity for, and awareness of creative practitioners to live and work in the city
- strengthened cultural sector connections and networks in the city.

We encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islander artists and creative practitioners.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- artistic merit, experience and qualifications, professional development aspirations
- suitability of the creative practice for the creative live/work space and experience of collaborative working
- evidence of need for the opportunity and how this will assist the applicant's creative growth
- ability to occupy the property by the specified date

- how the project delivers against the funding priorities.
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Eligibility

This program is open to all individuals working in the creative industries. This includes but is not limited to the visual arts, product design, fashion design, visual communication/graphic design, performing arts, photography, the music industry or creative writers.

Applicants must:

- be 18 years or older
- be a citizen or have residency status.

Only individuals can apply.

For more information on eligibility see the [eligibility section](#).

Not eligible for funding

- projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.
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How to apply

Opportunities are published on our website and email lists as facilities become available.

Sign up for creative live/work spaces notifications at confirmsubscription.com/h/j/F41B9C0BDBB5B36C.

Short-term empty properties grant

Overview

The City owns a number of commercial and community properties, including retail and office space, across the local area. These properties may be empty for short periods between tenancies.

The short-term empty properties program provides immediate and short-term activation of temporarily vacant or under-used properties within our portfolio. The properties are offered from one month to one year.

The program supports:

- creative practitioners and cultural organisations
- community organisations and social enterprises
- businesses and startups that support the local economy
- organisations with a focus on sustainability and the environment.

Preference is given to applicants in the local government area or to projects that can demonstrate significant benefit to the local community.

Key dates

This program has no set dates or rounds and is responsive as properties become available.

Sign up for creative spaces notifications at confirmsubscription.com/h/j/F41B9C0BDBB5B36C

Support available

Support is available in the form of reduced rental charges for City of Sydney properties that are available and suitable for the proposed activity.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise applications that:

- activate temporarily vacant City-owned properties for a short term with activities that reflect our cultural, social, economic and environmental strategies and action plans
- increase engagement with the local community, including artists and creative organisations, small business and visitors
- stimulate local economies by encouraging a diverse business mix with innovative or capacity building enterprises

Grants and sponsorship program guidelines

- increase opportunities and exposure for emerging and established enterprises including artists
- increase opportunities for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.

We encourage applications from organisations that support Aboriginal and Torres and Strait Islander communities and culture, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and networks.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- a strong concept for the space, including the project layout, look and feel
 - consideration of the local precinct and local community
 - experience in the delivery of similar projects
 - evidence of how access to the opportunity will support the growth of the organisation or business
 - ability to activate the space during business hours or a plan for how the space will be activated visually during these hours
 - quality of the pitch outlining the concept for the space including supporting images, floor plans, visual references and details of referees
 - how the project delivers against the funding priorities.
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Eligibility

Applicant must:

- demonstrate their organisation's work or proposal benefits the City of Sydney's residents, workers and/or visitors
- demonstrate that payment of commercial rents would cause financial hardship leading to a reduction or withdrawal of services.

These individuals and organisations can apply:

- Not-for-profit organisations
- For-profit organisations
- Sole trader
- Unincorporated community groups.

For more information on eligibility see the [eligibility section](#).

Not eligible for funding

- Individuals
 - projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.
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How to apply

This program has no set dates or rounds and is responsive as properties become available.

Sign up for creative spaces notifications at confirmsubscription.com/h/j/F41B9C0BDBB5B36C

Definitions

Term	Meaning/Explanation
Acquittal	A written report submitted after the funded project is complete (or annually for multi-year projects). It details how the recipient administered the grant funds and met the project outcomes in the funding agreement.
Auspice	<p>An incorporated organisation who receives, administers and acquits our funding on behalf of an applicant.</p> <p>The auspice is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – enter into a funding agreement with the City of Sydney – accept grant funds and pay the auspiced grant applicant – be responsible for any value-in-kind support we approve, including making bookings and entering into any corresponding additional agreements with us – monitor and acquit the use of funds at the completion of the project. <p>Ideally the auspice will have the technical skills to guide and support the applicant in the delivery of the project, while acknowledging project decisions remain with applicant.</p>
Child related work	As defined by the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012 and Regulation 2013
Festival or event	A public occasion for celebration and/or gathering in the community to commemorate a special occasion, local anniversary or an organised series of special events and performances, usually with a common theme and for set period or time.
Grant	Cash or value-in-kind support provided to applicants for a specified project or purpose.
Recipient	A party who has successfully applied for a grant or sponsorship. Also known as grantee.
Sponsorship	Agreements between the City of Sydney and organisations where the City receives benefits in return for the sponsorship. Examples of benefits include promotion, marketing, speaking opportunities and/or tickets.
Value-in-kind	Value-in-kind refers to an arrangement whereby the City of Sydney foregoes revenue (either in full, or a percentage) on things for which a fee normally applies. This may include park hire, venue hire, banner pole hire, or work space accommodation.
Vulnerable communities	Vulnerable communities are groups that are at higher risk of experiencing barriers to social, economic, cultural, political and environmental resources, services and support.

