



2027-2028 SPECIAL ARTS PROJECT GRANT GUIDELINES

Calendar Years 2027 and 2028

Please review this document completely before beginning application.

ABOUT THE SPECIAL ARTS PROJECT GRANT (2-YEARS)

The City of West Hollywood is pleased to offer the Special Arts Project Grant to eligible artists and nonprofit arts organizations for the production, performance, or presentation of large-scale art projects that will take place in West Hollywood and serve the local community between March and September 2028.

This special grant category responds to the *West Hollywood's Bronze Silver Gold Creative Plan (Creative Plan)*, which outlines an authentic and bespoke vision for citywide cultural programming that centers artistic excellence and community engagement in order to create immersive experiences and cultural activities which center the City of West Hollywood as a cultural hub during the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

This one time, two-year grant replaces the Arts Project Grant category to align with the anticipated increase in audiences during the 2028 Games. Applicants should plan for audiences of 100 or more.

Applicants will apply for 2 years of funding for 1 proposed project. The proposed project should have 2 phases: development/engagement and implementation. The proposed public facing project must occur between March and September 2028.

The City will curate the 2028 programming schedule, with key opportunities to present during the two-week period between the Games.

If you are a current grantee, you understand that you must forfeit existing funding if selected for this grant.

Please Note:

- Applicants may only apply to *one* Arts Grant category per year.
- An allocation of \$15,000 will be reserved for applicants who self-identify as disabled, as well as nonprofit organizations that support and serve disabled artists.
- All applications must be submitted online via the City's website: weho.org/arts

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What We're Looking For

Through visual art experiences, performances, and participatory projects, West Hollywood invites artists to examine how traditions are formed, reshaped, and redefined. Whether born from necessity, celebration, or resistance, artists will be invited to consider how global events can inspire new ways of understanding identity, community, and cultural legacy. As a hub of creative experimentation and cultural activism, the city will engage artists in questioning which traditions we carry forward, which we alter, and which we leave behind. This theme serves as both a reflection and a call to action, affirming West Hollywood's commitment to equity, inclusion, and cultural innovation by celebrating tradition as a dynamic, living process. The City is proud to spotlight the creative contributions of disabled artists through dedicated funding and outreach. This initiative places a special emphasis on elevating the voices and artistic practices of disabled artists. By prioritizing support for disabled artists, the City aims to amplify their work and ensure their representation in the cultural landscape.

Applicants are encouraged to propose innovative, participatory projects that bring energy, relevance, and global resonance to this initiative. Selected grantees will have the opportunity to present bold, forward-thinking artistic work that captures the spirit of the moment while reflecting West Hollywood's unique cultural identity and reflect the theme of *Inventing Traditions*.

Two-Year Grant Structure

Applicants may apply for two years of funding with one application:

- Year One (2027): Planning and development + Community Engagement
(January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027)

Grantees will use this year to develop their project concept, build partnerships, and prepare for implementation. As part of this phase, grantees are expected to engage the community in their creative process – this could include workshops, open studios, listening sessions, or other participatory activities that inform or shape the final project.

- Year Two (2028): Project implementation
(March 1, 2028 – September 30, 2028)

This is the public presentation phase, when the fully realized project is produced and shared with the community. Projects should be designed to accommodate audiences of 100 or more and align with the City's curated programming schedule between March-September 2028.

\$159,300 **Total amount of available funding in this category per year**
\$12,000 **Maximum award per organization per calendar year**
\$15,000 **Designated to promote disability visibility in the arts**

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS 3 P.M. JULY 1, 2026.

2027-2028 SPECIAL ARTS PROJECT GRANT CATEGORY PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES

The City of West Hollywood and Grantees in the 2028 Special Arts Project Grant category can expect to:

- Engage residents and visitors with the arts; expand arts audiences.
- Recognize and champion local cultural resources; discover and explore new places for artmaking.

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- Provide a variety of quality arts programming that is financially and geographically accessible for the residents of West Hollywood; increase access to arts experiences.
- Increase revenues for local businesses; support arts-business partnerships.

2027-2028 SPECIAL ARTS PROJECT GRANT THEME – *Inventing Traditions*

Proposed projects should respond to the 2028 creative plan's, *Inventing Traditions*, by exploring ideas such as:

- How communities create, redefine, and sustain cultural rituals.
- How new cultural practices can feel deeply rooted in tradition.
- The intersection of history and contemporary expression, especially through marginalized voices.
- Artistic invention as a tool for shaping identity, place, and community.
- The creation of new symbols, practices, and cultural expressions.

The proposed project should demonstrate 1 year of development and engagement related to the theme: *Inventing Traditions*. Upon successful completion of this project component (2027) and submittal of the year one final report, the organization will be required to submit an update for its year two project for review and approval by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. The second year should be the implementation of the proposed project in full. To receive its year two grant, the organization must be in compliance with all eligibility requirements and have submitted its Final Report for the year one component within the 30 days of completing its grant project.

2027-2028 SPECIAL ARTS PROJECT GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for consideration, organizations must satisfy all the following requirements:

Applicant Profile

- I am the presenting party for the proposed project (no fiscal sponsorship or pass-through funding).
- I am an individual artist, artist collective, or non-profit arts organization.
- I can demonstrate artistic experience in my field and an understanding of West Hollywood's cultural diversity.
- I am based in Los Angeles County.
- If you are a **current Arts Project grantee**, you understand that you must **forfeit existing funding** if selected for this grant.

Restrictions

- I am **not** a City official, employee, or immediate family member of one.
- The project **does not include**: Fundraisers, Capital campaigns, Murals, Religious-based programs or events.
- I'm applying to only one City of West Hollywood Arts Grant category this calendar year.
- I'm **not** receiving other City funding (from another Division, Department, or City Council co-sponsorship) for the same project.

Project Proposal

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- The project is **one** presentation during March-Sept 2028 (not a series).
- The project proposal includes a plan for development or community engagement to occur during 2027.
- The project will take place within a 5 block radius of the City of West Hollywood.
- The project explores the creative plan of *Inventing Traditions*.
- I've clearly described the goals, timeline, and intended impact of the project.

Budget

- I've included a simple, realistic budget showing how grant funds will be used.
- The project budget aligns with the scope of the project and includes any additional funding sources (if applicable).

Work Samples

- I've included recent work samples that reflect my artistic practice.
- My work samples are clearly labeled and easy to access (e.g., links, images, or files).

Community Engagement

- I've included a robust plan to engage the community, such as outreach, audience development, or public participation for year 1 of my project (2027).
- My project includes meaningful partnerships with artists, organizations, or communities.

Final Review

- I've reviewed all materials for clarity and completeness.
- I've submitted my application by the deadline.

2027-2028 SPECIAL ARTS PROJECT GRANT REVIEW CRITERIA

All submitted applications will first be screened by City staff to confirm eligibility. Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be forwarded to the Peer Review Panel.

Criteria	Description	Points
Thematic Alignment	Project reflects the theme of <i>"Inventing Traditions"</i> and resonates with West Hollywood's unique character.	0–10
Innovation & Inclusion	Project pushes artistic boundaries, contributes to a range of artistic styles, and offers original, site-responsive work tailored to West Hollywood. Demonstrates inclusion of historically marginalized communities, and considers accessibility for all ages and abilities.	0–10

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Criteria	Description	Points
Project Design & Feasibility	Clear, cohesive project with a realistic timeline including marketing or outreach plan. Budget is well-documented, realistic, and aligned with project goals.	0–10
Organizational Capacity	Applicant demonstrates artistic excellence, strong leadership, and a history of successful programming.	0–10
Connection to West Hollywood	Strong connection to West Hollywood through theme, site specificity, or applicant’s residence.	0–5

Peer Review Panel Scoring

Eligible applications will be evaluated and scored by a Peer Review Panel based on the following:

NOTE: Organizations whose business location is within the City of West Hollywood will receive a bonus of 1 point to their total score.

WEHO ARTS GRANT PROGRAM GENERAL INFORMATION

The City of West Hollywood, through its Arts Division and Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, provides inclusive arts and cultural programming for all residents. The Commission promotes and nurtures the City’s cultural life by supporting arts organizations, advising City Council on arts policy, and encouraging community engagement through the arts.

The City offers a variety of grants to support:

- Community-based programs, projects, and events
- Increased visibility for marginalized artists
- Career development for individual artists
- Increased support for filmmakers

Arts grants are available to eligible artists and nonprofit arts organizations for the production, performance, or presentation of projects that take place in and serve the West Hollywood community. 2027 Grant categories include: 2027-2028 Special Arts Project, Community Arts, Filmmakers, TGI+ Arts, and WeHo Artist.

We strongly encourage applications from artists and organizations representing diverse populations and artistic disciplines. As outlined in our Cultural Equity Statement, diversity includes, but is not limited to: race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, ability, socioeconomic status, religion, language, and more. We are committed to cultural equity in all our arts programs and policies. Read our full Cultural Equity Statement at weho.org/arts.

All applications must be submitted online through the City’s website: weho.org/arts

ARTS GRANT REVIEW PROCESS

Review & Approval Process

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The City of West Hollywood uses a peer panel review process, which is a standard best practice for publicly funded arts grants. Each panel includes seven qualified arts professionals with experience in various disciplines and a strong background in the arts.

The panel scores applications based on criteria set by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission. These scores are then reviewed by the Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee, which recommends funding amounts. Final decisions are approved by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission and finalized by the City Council.

Important Notes:

- All information submitted in a grant application becomes public record.
- Organizations that receive funding may be audited to ensure proper use of grant funds.
- Failure to provide accurate documentation may result in ineligibility for future funding.

EXPECTATIONS DURING FUNDED PERIOD

Once awarded, grantees must:

- Provide a Certificate of General Liability Insurance of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
- Attend a mandatory orientation meeting.
- Use no more than 10 hours of in-kind City facility time, limited to one day per grant year.
- Cover costs for technology consultants (e.g., lighting, film screenings, projections) when using City facilities.
- Ensure the project occurs within the contracted grant period.
- Submit a Newsletter Advisory Form at least 60 days before the funded program.
- Submit a Final Report within 30 days of completing the project.

ARTS GRANT PROGRAM TIMELINE

July 1, 2026	Application deadline
August 2026	Peer review of grant applications
September 2026	Performing Arts and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee make funding recommendations
September 2026	Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission consider approval of funding recommendations
October 2026	City Council considers approval of funding recommendations
October 2026	Grant recipient notifications
November 2026	Grantee Orientation (in person at Plummer Park)
February 2027	Earliest award of grant funds* <i>*Award of funds depend on grantee's compliance with contracting requirements, such as insurance.</i>

ARTS GRANT PROGRAM WORKSHOP

The City will conduct virtual and in-person Arts Grant Program Workshops scheduled between May and June (dates TBD):

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[Arts Grant Program | City of West Hollywood](#)

SPECIAL ARTS PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

Application DEADLINE is 3 p.m. July 1, 2026.

For more information please call: Eva Angeloff at (323) 848-6354 or email eangeloff@weho.org.

You can also find more information at www.weho.org/arts