

8 December 2025

At 2.00 pm

**Corporate, Finance, Properties and
Tenders Committee**

Agenda

- 1. Confirmation of Minutes**
- 2. Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest**
- 3. Investments Held as at 30 November 2025**
- 4. Public Exhibition - Grants Policy and Guidelines**
- 5. Post Exhibition - Code of Meeting Practice**
- 6. Land Classification - 99A Belmont Street, Alexandria**
- 7. Tender - T-2024-1383 - City Structures Works**
- 8. Tender - T-2025-1492 - Barges and Tugs for Sydney New Year's Eve**
- 9. Tender - Reject and Negotiate - T-2025-1437 - Board Meeting Management Solution**
- 10. Exemption from Tender - Water Feature Maintenance Services**

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As part of our democratic process, the City invites members of the community to speak directly to Councillors during Committee meetings about items on the agenda.

Webcast

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Guidelines

To enable the Committee to hear a wide range of views and concerns within the limited time available, we encourage people interested in speaking at Committee to:

1. Register to speak by calling Secretariat on 9265 9702 or emailing secretariat@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au before 10.00am on the day of the meeting.
2. Check the recommendation in the Committee report before speaking, as it may address your concerns so that you just need to indicate your support for the recommendation.
3. Note that there is a three minute time limit for each speaker (with a warning bell at two minutes) and prepare your presentation to cover your major points within that time.
4. Avoid repeating what previous speakers have said and focus on issues and information that the Committee may not already know.
5. If there is a large number of people interested in the same item as you, try to nominate three representatives to speak on your behalf and to indicate how many people they are representing.

Committee meetings can continue until very late, particularly when there is a long agenda and a large number of speakers. This impacts on speakers who have to wait until very late, as well as City staff and Councillors who are required to remain focused and alert until very late. At the start of each Committee meeting, the Committee Chair may reorder agenda items so that those items with speakers can be dealt with first.

Committee reports are available at www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Item 1.

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the following meetings of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee are submitted for confirmation:

Meeting of 10 November 2025

Item 2.**Statement of Ethical Obligations**

In accordance with section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993, the Lord Mayor and Councillors are bound by the Oath or Affirmation of Office made at the start of the Council term to undertake their civic duties in the best interests of the people of the City of Sydney and the City of Sydney Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act, to the best of their ability and judgement.

Disclosures of Interest

Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, the City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice and the City of Sydney Code of Conduct, Councillors are required to disclose and manage both pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting.

In both cases, the nature of the interest must be disclosed.

This includes receipt of reportable political donations over the previous four years.

Item 3.

Investments Held as at 30 November 2025

Document to Follow

Item 4.

Public Exhibition - Grants Policy and Guidelines

File No: X119718

Summary

The City of Sydney's Grants policy and guidelines support initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city. Sponsorship agreements are managed through the City of Sydney's Corporate Sponsorship Policy.

The Grants policy and guidelines form the framework by which the City of Sydney manages grant funding applications.

The Policy details the aims of the program, its alignment with key strategies and the principles that guide our decision making. The current Grants and Sponsorship Policy was adopted by Council in August 2022.

The Guidelines provide information about the various grants programs including eligibility, assessment criteria and key dates. They assist the community to apply for funding and support under the program. The current Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines were adopted in June 2025.

We commit to reviewing the Policy every 4 years. Following the review, changes to the Policy are recommended to clarify processes and improve guidance for applicants. The recommended changes to the Guidelines will streamline processes, continue to support strong outcomes for our communities and ensure that programs continue to deliver against Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050: Continuing the Vision.

The recommended changes are reflected in the draft Policy and Guidelines at Attachment A and Attachment B, respectively. A table of key changes to the Guidelines is at Attachment C. Current Policy and Guidelines are at Attachment D and E, respectively.

This report seeks Council approval to place the draft Grants Policy and Guidelines on public exhibition from mid December 2025 to late February 2026, for a minimum of 28 days.

Once exhibited and feedback has been received and considered, the Policy and Guidelines will be brought back to Council for decision.

The revised Policy and Guidelines will be implemented in 2026/27, after the Grants budget has been finalised for that period.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve for public exhibition the draft Grants Policy and Guidelines, as shown at Attachments A and B to the subject report;
- (B) Council approve that the Ethics Framework included in the Grants Policy and detailed in the subject report be adopted as the Ethics Framework across the Council and be posted on the City of Sydney website;
- (C) Council note that the Grants Policy and Guidelines, including any recommended changes, will be reported to Council for adoption following the exhibition period; and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor editorial amendments for clarity or correction of drafting errors prior to the exhibition of the draft Grants Policy and Guidelines.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Draft Grants Policy 2026
- Attachment B.** Draft Grants Guidelines 2026
- Attachment C.** Grants Guidelines – Key Changes
- Attachment D.** Grants and Sponsorship Policy 2022
- Attachment E.** Grants and Sponsorship Program Guidelines 2025
- Attachment F.** Engagement Report October 2025

Background

1. The Grants and Sponsorship Policy and Guidelines were last reviewed in full in 2022 and endorsed by Council in August 2022.
2. The Policy states that it will be reviewed every 4 years.
3. Following further Councillor requests and identified areas for improvement, work on reviewing the current Policy and Guidelines commenced in late 2024.
4. Draft changes to the Guidelines have been developed with input from City of Sydney staff, incorporating feedback gathered from applicant surveys in 2024 and 2 in depth workshops with recent funding applicants in September and October 2025.

Revised Grants Policy

5. On 22 August 2022, Council adopted the current Grants and Sponsorship Policy.
6. Key updates in the draft Grants Policy are:
 - (a) Alignment with strategy: the Policy outlines how the grants program aligns with our overarching vision Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050: Continuing the Vision, its supporting strategies and how funding is prioritised to meet these objectives.
 - (b) Principles of grant administration: in line with best practice, including the NSW State Government 's Grant Administration Guide 2024, the Policy outlines updated principles that underpin our program. These include our commitment to transparency, strong governance, value for money, building social sustainability and resilience and our ongoing support of First Nations communities.
 - (c) Consolidated ethics framework: the City of Sydney currently has multiple different versions of ethics frameworks across different documents. The updated Grants Policy consolidates these into a single version, which will be maintained as a standalone framework on the City of Sydney's website and will be formally applied in other policies and procedures as they are reviewed.

This Ethics Framework states:

Through the Grant program the City of Sydney does not support any activities or entities that unnecessarily:

- allow the exploitation, misrepresentation or misappropriation of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) or cultural identity;
- pollute land, air or water or derive their principal source of revenue from the extraction or sale of coal, oil or gas;
- destroy or waste non-renewable resources;
- market, promote or advertise products or services in a misleading or deceitful manner;
- produce, promote or distribute products or services likely to be harmful to the community;

- acquire land or commodities primarily for speculative gain;
 - create, encourage, or perpetuate militarism or engage in the manufacture of armaments;
 - encourage gambling or entice people into financial over-commitment;
 - exploit people through the payment of below-award wages or poor working conditions;
 - unlawfully discriminate, or encourage unlawful discriminatory behaviour, including discrimination based on ability, culture, religion, age, gender and sexual orientation in employment, marketing and/or advertising practices or contribute to the inhibition of human rights generally;
 - sell or promote any prohibited items or services on Council land, such as fur and exotic animal skin products and feathers, other than where is permitted under traditional first nation cultural practices;
 - promote pornography ;or
 - support the production of sale of tobacco.
- (d) Grant planning and program design: the planning of a grant program involves a policy decision to meet an identified need within the community. This requires considerable planning, input and collaboration across multiple internal teams. The updated policy provides for better coordination and accountability around grant planning, with the City of Sydney's Manager Grants, ultimately accountable for new initiatives or changes to the program.
- (e) Sustainability and community resilience: we want to encourage organisations to work with each other, build strong partnerships and plan for future financial sustainability.
- (f) The Policy clarifies the assessment process, including the ability for the City of Sydney to potentially engage external assessors in the future and expert advice and guidance provided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees where relevant.

Revised Grants Guidelines

7. On 23 June 2025, Council adopted the current Grants and Sponsorship Program Guidelines. The last major review was completed in August 2022.
8. The Grants programs have been under pressure due to increased community demand, shifting expectations, and new strategic priorities. These pressures include:
 - (a) 70% increase in applications since 2020. The success rate for applicants has dropped from 42% in 2020 to 31% in 2024/25. (2025/26 is not yet complete but is anticipated to be slightly less than the previous year)
 - (b) commitment to cultural strategy funding programs valued at \$2 million a year from 2026/27
 - (c) ongoing commitment to best practice in management and governance of the grants programs and
 - (d) increased expectations from community on the level of support and resources available to assist them in applying for funding and managing the contract.
9. The Grants program is one of the mechanisms by which the City of Sydney delivers on the 4 strategic pillars (economic, creative, social and environmental) identified in Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050: Continuing the Vision. One of the key aims of the review was to increase the alignment of the grants with the new strategies.
10. New grants have been developed to meet the pressures on the program, align with strategies, and ensure that the programs are run in an efficient and effective manner. The changes are listed in Attachment C.
11. The Grants program has been restructured around offering one round a year.
12. Offering one round will achieve greater clarity, ease of navigation and simplicity of design for applicants as:
 - (a) The new program is more streamlined, simpler and clearer in its purpose
 - (b) the new categories in the program are easier for applicants to navigate
 - (c) the new categories create more opportunities for new projects while continuing to support current project proposals
 - (d) one round provides clarity for planning of projects - applicants will have earlier notification of funding outcomes for the coming year
 - (e) one round allows for comprehensive assessment of all applications and alignment with funding purpose and
 - (f) one round allows the assessments to be reviewed for equity of distribution of support across the whole city (this includes addressing whether we are supporting larger or smaller organisations).
13. Currently only the Food Support, Green Building Grants, Festivals and Events and Innovation and Ideas streams are offered twice a year. Under the proposed programs, these will be open once per year.

14. Under the proposed program, the Quick Response grants and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund continue to be offered all year around as does our Value in kind (VIK) support through the Venue hire and Street banner programs.
15. In the proposed new program:
 - (a) Festivals and Events and Innovation and Ideas will no longer be stand alone programs but will be eligible activities under the 4 core categories during the single grant round;
 - (b) Green Building Grants will be a program within the broader category of Environmental grants and;
 - (c) Food Support is currently offered twice a year and will now be offered during the one main round.
16. As part of the Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy, the Haymarket Activation improvement program was to be delivered over 3 years. The last program round for this grant will open in February 2026 with delivery in the 2026/27 financial year. This will complete the 3-year availability of this program.
17. The funding caps for the Affordable and Diverse Housing fund have been adjusted, increasing maximum funding from \$3 million to \$4 million or no more than 30% of the total cost.
18. If approved, the draft Policy and Guidelines will be on public exhibition from mid-December 2025 to late February 2026. Feedback from the community will be reviewed and considered before the final Policy and Guidelines are submitted to Council for endorsement.

Engagement outcomes

19. Feedback from applicants through surveys and from staff involved in assessing and managing grants contracts over the last 18 months have asked for a simpler, more streamlined and easier to apply process for our grants. Feedback and surveys have also identified the difficulty of navigating eligibility and program requirements.
20. In addition, applicants who completed the survey asked for more guidance, in person advice and examples to help in the application process.
21. Engagement workshops, in-person and on-line, have been held with grant applicants to discuss the proposed changes. A full engagement report is at Attachment F.

22. The feedback raised during the workshop was as follows:

	Feedback provided by workshop participant	Impact	Actions
1	Single Annual Round - may disadvantage some less experienced organisations	Amalgamating 7 specific programs into 4 broader categories makes the program easier for applicants to navigate. Only 4 programs are impacted by this change There are no changes to grants currently offered all year.	Increased support for applicants throughout the year Longer lead times to funding rounds Longer application period open to applicants (6 weeks)
2	Proposed introduction of external assessors - potential to strengthen transparency but will need managing of conflict of interest	Pilot being considered for future years Managing conflicts of interest in community	Delay pilot while new program is introduced
3	Mixed view of funding caps - would support organisations experiencing increased costs but more grants can be provided if smaller amounts	Fewer applications will be funded if larger grants are approved	Due to the community response, funding caps in most categories have remained the same as current guidelines
4	Communication - needs to be clear and multi-channelled	Need to inform community of changes	Communication strategy in development

23. As a result of the feedback, the following amendments were made to the changes:
- (a) External assessment will be investigated in the future with further consultation and research to measure the effectiveness and impact of moving to external assessment and
 - (b) An engagement and communications plan will be developed to clearly communicate proposed changes, including with priority communities, during public exhibition and as part of implementation and will be delivered in mid-2026 prior to the funding rounds opening. This will include in person advice on applying, tailored brief videos on key areas such as budgets, writing project proposals and support material and more case studies demonstrating best practice in grant writing. These resources will reflect our diverse communities.

Grants and Sponsorship Program Summer Round 2026

24. Grants in the summer round are typically open for applications in February and with recommendations reported to Council in June, for projects starting from 1 July.
25. The following categories will be absorbed into wider categories as of July 2026 as part of the new program as highlighted above.:
- (a) Green Building Grants
 - (b) Innovation and Ideas
26. These categories are not time sensitive and, as part of the transition, they will not be delivered this Summer round. This will allow for the full category budget for 2026/27 to be offered with the new program, which will open in July 2026 and be reported to Council in November 2026.
27. The City of Sydney grants website will be updated to reflect this. Note that in the 2025 Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines it states 'our key dates for grants applications can change. Check our website for any updates'.

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

28. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
- (i) Direction 2 - A leading environmental performer - Grants contribute to the City's endeavours in improving environmental performance of our residents and businesses by supporting new and innovative approaches to delivering sustainability outcomes and strengthening community resilience.
 - (ii) Direction 3 - Public places for all - Grants contribute to the safe and responsible use of public spaces for community access and enjoyment of city residents, workers and visitors.
 - (iii) Direction 6 - An equitable and inclusive city - Grants contribute to community development and support active participation in civic life. They empower the community to address issues that matter to them and drive projects to create a more inclusive and resilient city.

- (iv) Direction 7 - Resilient and diverse communities - Grants contribute to improved wellbeing, well located, inclusive and affordable services that improve social connections and embrace a safe city.
- (v) Direction 8 - A thriving cultural life - Grants contribute to supporting artistic and creative endeavours in our city, helping foster initiative, experimentation and enterprise by creative workers and providing new opportunities for audiences to engage in the city's cultural life.
- (vi) Direction 9 - A transformed and innovative economy - Grants contribute to helping stimulate business and promote economic activity. They encourage partnerships with other organisations on business development and assist groups of businesses to work together for the collective benefit.
- (vii) Direction 10 - Housing for all - Grants align with the City's position on affordable housing, homelessness and social sustainability, as set out in A City For All, the social sustainability strategy, as well as Housing for All, the City's housing strategy.

Risks

29. This recommendation is within the City's risk appetite, which states:
- (a) We make decisions that align with our corporate objectives, policies and strategies and are committed to conducting our activities in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations and relevant industry standards.
 - (b) We foster a culture of ethics, integrity and responsible behaviour across our organisation. By creating a strong ethical foundation, we aim to minimise the likelihood of reputation-damaging incidents and enhance our ability to respond effectively when challenges arise.
 - (c) The City has a responsibility to ensure that it has sufficient resources in the short, medium and long term to provide the levels of service that are both affordable and considered appropriate by the community.
30. The City has a responsibility to manage the distribution of public money to community through an open and transparent process. The Grants Policy and Guidelines documents provide this transparency and allows for public input.

Social / Cultural / Environmental/Economic

31. The grants program provides the City with a platform to support social, cultural, economic and environmental initiatives from communities, community organisations and businesses within the local area.

Financial Implications

32. There are no additional financial implications beyond the grant budgets which will be submitted in May 2026 as part of the draft 2026/27 budget and future years' forward estimates. The grants budget is included in the long term financial plan.

Relevant Legislation

33. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 regulates how financial assistance can be given by local councils.
34. As part of the Local Government Act 1993 and Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements, the City is required to exhibit changes to its grants program.
35. The Grants Policy provides the governance framework for how the City of Sydney's grants program is managed, and how decisions are made. As set out in the Policy, the Guidelines provide details about each of the grant programs including funding priorities, key dates, funding available, eligibility criteria, application processes and assessment criteria. The Policy and Guidelines ensure that the City of Sydney meets the requirements of section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 in relation to its grants and sponsorship programs.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

36. The proposed changes to the Grants Policy and Guidelines will be implemented for the 2026/27 financial year subject to adoption by Council.

Public Consultation

37. Changes have been informed by feedback provided by applicants through surveys, engagement workshops held with applicants and extensive consultation with City of Sydney staff.
38. This report seeks Council approval to place the draft Grants Policy and Guidelines on public exhibition from mid December 2025 to late February 2026, for a minimum of 28 days.
39. An engagement and communications plan will be developed to clearly communicate proposed changes, including with priority communities, during public exhibition and as part of implementation and will be delivered in mid-2026 prior to the funding rounds opening. This will include in person advice on applying, tailored brief videos on key areas such as budgets, writing project proposals and support material and more case studies demonstrating best practice in grant writing. These resources will reflect our diverse communities.

EMMA RIGNEY

Executive Director City Life

Sam Wild, Manager Grants

Attachment A

Draft Grants Policy 2026

Grants policy

Purpose

This policy provides the framework for managing Grant applications at the City of Sydney. It sets the expected outcomes of our Grant programs and the principles that underpin Grant making at the City of Sydney.

Scope

This policy applies to all Grants, sponsorships and value-in-kind provisions for all not-for-profit and for-profit organisations, sole traders, individuals, owners' corporations, unincorporated community groups and government agencies who apply to the City of Sydney for Grant funding.

All Employees involved in the development, assessment and administration of Grants are required to comply with this policy.

The policy does not include the procurement of other goods and services which is covered by the City of Sydney Procurement Policy, or donations to charities which is covered by the City of Sydney's Support for Charities, and Humanitarian Aid Guidelines.

Council may approve cash and in-kind funding to individuals and organisations outside this policy.

Definitions

Term	Meaning
Assessors	Employees or external industry specialists with specific knowledge related to a Grant category engaged to evaluate Grant applications.
Eligibility criteria	The conditions which must be met by an applicant to qualify for a Grant
Employees	For the purposes of this policy, all City of Sydney permanent (full-time and part-time), temporary and casual employees, together with agency contractors (labour hire), work experience students, apprentices and volunteers.
Grant	Cash or value-in-kind support provided to applicants for a specified project or outcome
Grant administration	Refers to the processes the City of Sydney has in place to manage Grants. It includes planning and program design; promotion; assessment and decision-making; the management of Grant agreements; reporting; variation; review and evaluation; enforcement and close out.
Grant administration principles	Refers to the overarching values and standards that shapes how the City of Sydney designs, delivers, evaluates and manages the Grant program
Grant program guidelines	Refers to a set of guidelines that set out funding opportunities, eligibility requirements, funding limits, assessment criteria and program objectives and priorities

Term	Meaning
Major grants	A long-term partnership between the City of Sydney and another community focused entity to deliver mutually beneficial outcomes. This may include a long-term lease of a community building.
Relationship Manager	Is the primary point of contact within the City of Sydney responsible for maintaining communication, assistance and contract management between the City of Sydney and the Grant recipient.
Sponsorship	Agreements where the City of Sydney provides sponsorship in return for benefits. Examples may include promotion, marketing, speaking opportunities and/or tickets
Value-in-kind	A value-in-kind (VIK) Grant is a form of support where the City of Sydney provides goods, services, facilities or resources instead of cash funding.

Statement

The City of Sydney is committed to building strong and resilient communities and to maximising wellbeing and connection for all residents. One of the ways we achieve this goal is by supporting community led projects and initiatives that strengthen the social, cultural, economic and environmental life of the city.

The City of Sydney's Grants program supports communities and businesses to further the strategic outcomes of *Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision*.

This policy covers four key areas of the program:

- The Grants program and strategic alignment
- Grant administration principles
- Governance and oversight
- Grant administration.

This policy connects with several of our key strategy documents, as well as the Grant Program Guidelines, which provide detailed information on specific programs. Our website contains the Grant program guidelines and detailed information on funding opportunities, resources to support applicants and funding results. Please visit the City of Sydney's website for more information.

The Grant program and strategic alignment

The Grant program is aligned with the City of Sydney's overarching vision *Sustainable Sydney 2050*, its supporting strategies, and offers support under four strategic pillars:

- **Creative:** supports creative individuals and organisations to enhance and enrich the cultural life of the community.
- **Social:** supports initiatives that strengthen community wellbeing, inclusion and resilience.
- **Economic:** strengthens our economy innovation and promotes local precincts.
- **Environmental:** supports climate resilience, emissions reduction, and circular economy initiatives.

While some funding programs are broad in their objectives, each program aligns with the overarching vision. The City of Sydney will prioritise funding applications that best align with its strategic objectives.

The City of Sydney may set and/or revise specific funding priorities under each strategy to respond to a specific or emerging community need. These priorities are reviewed, set and communicated annually through our Grant Program Guidelines.

Principles of Grant administration

The City of Sydney is committed to the use of public funds through effective, fair and transparent processes, and clear program objectives linked to the City of Sydney's strategic goals. The guiding principles help inform decision making across the program.

1. **Strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander outcomes**

The City of Sydney is committed to strengthening outcomes for and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through its Grant program. We recognise that economic equity and inclusion are essential to achieving meaningful and lasting change. Our approach prioritises self-determination: initiatives led by First Nations communities that support the community's needs and aspirations.

The City of Sydney seeks to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across all stages of Grant design, delivery and evaluation. This ensures that Grant programs are culturally appropriate, responsive to community priorities, and contribute to long-term social, cultural and economic outcomes.

2. **Collaboration and partnerships**

Partnerships strengthen the impact of Grant programs by encouraging collaboration between the City of Sydney, community organisations, businesses, and other levels of governments, sharing of resources, expertise, and networks to deliver strategic outcomes.

Partnerships extend the reach, impact and sustainability of projects. By fostering partnerships, the City of Sydney helps ensure that funded initiatives reflect local priorities, generate greater innovation, and achieve outcomes that are more effective than could be delivered in isolation.

3. **Outcomes driven**

An outcomes-driven approach ensures that funding decisions focus on the impacts that projects deliver, rather than simply the activities. Grant programs are designed and measured against clear objectives that align with the City of Sydney's strategic priorities.

This ensures resources are invested where they will have the greatest impact. By measuring and monitoring outcomes, the City of Sydney can demonstrate the value of its investments, support continuous improvement, and deliver tangible benefits to the community.

4. **Strong Governance**

Strong governance provides the framework that ensures Grants are managed with integrity, consistency, and compliance. Clear roles, responsibilities, and delegations of authority are required, along with documented processes to manage risks and conflicts of interest.

Strong governance is critical to protecting the integrity of Grant program. It ensures that decisions are legally sound, ethically defensible, and aligned with City of Sydney policy and

strategic priorities. Effective governance safeguards public funds, supports Employees in their roles, and provides assurance to the community.

5. *Transparency*

Transparency ensures that all stages of the Grant process are clear, open, and accessible. Applicants and the broader community must be able to understand the criteria, processes, and outcomes associated with the Grant.

Transparency is vital in maintaining trust in the Grant program. It demonstrates accountability and ensures that funding decisions are made fairly and consistently. They also encourage participation by showing that access is equitable and decisions are based on merit.

6. *Proportionality*

Grant programs vary in scale and complexity. Effective Grant administration requires a customised approach where resourcing and process are scaled to the size, risk, and complexity of the Grant. Small Grants should have simple processes, while major or higher-risk Grants require greater scrutiny.

Proportional requirements reduce unnecessary administrative burdens, making programs more attractive and achievable for smaller organisations. At the same time, this ensures that larger projects are subject to appropriate oversight, protecting public money while maintaining efficiency.

7. *Value for money*

Determining value for money in a Grant project requires carefully assessing the costs of the project against the benefits and impact it delivers for the community. It is not just about minimising cost, but about balancing efficiency, effectiveness, equity, and sustainability to achieve the best possible outcomes.

The City of Sydney is committed to the responsible stewardship of public funds. Applying value for money principles ensures that limited resources deliver the greatest community benefit, supports fair decision-making, and enhances public confidence in the Grant program.

8. *Sustainability and community resilience*

The City of Sydney is committed to building the capacity of communities and business, to encourage organisations and community to work together to make a bigger impact and to plan for future financial sustainability.

The City of Sydney also supports others to take positive steps to build the resilience of our communities to mitigate, respond, adapt and recover from shock events and chronic stresses. Organisations applying for Grants are encouraged to show adequate consideration of any environmental impacts and benefits. Organisations are to ensure that any events or programs funded through a City of Sydney Grant are delivered in an environmentally sustainable way.

Governance and oversight

The City of Sydney is committed to equity, effectiveness and transparency in its management of Grants. The City has established processes and procedures in place to ensure value for money in delivery of the Grant program, oversight of assessment and decision making and support for ethical and safe practices.

Ethics framework

Through the Grant program the City of Sydney does not support any activities or entities that unnecessarily:

- allow the exploitation, misrepresentation or misappropriation of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) or cultural identity.
- pollute land, air or water or derive their principal source of revenue from the extraction or sale of coal, oil or gas
- destroy or waste non-renewable resources
- market, promote or advertise products or services in a misleading or deceitful manner
- produce, promote or distribute products or services likely to be harmful to the community
- acquire land or commodities primarily for speculative gain
- create, encourage, or perpetuate militarism or engage in the manufacture of armaments
- encourage gambling or entice people into financial over-commitment
- exploit people through the payment of below-award wages or poor working conditions
- unlawfully discriminate, or encourage unlawful discriminatory behaviour, including discrimination based on ability, culture, religion, age, gender and sexual orientation in employment, marketing and/or advertising practices or contribute to the inhibition of human rights generally
- sell or promote any prohibited items or services on City of Sydney land, such as fur and exotic animal skin products and feathers, other than where is permitted under traditional first nation cultural practices
- promote pornography
- support the production or sale of tobacco

Child Safety

The City of Sydney is committed to being a child safe organisation and has policies in place to support this commitment. Where a Grant application involves child-related programs or services, applicants must provide their child safety/child protection policy and procedures.

Making a complaint or reporting suspicions of fraudulent conduct

To make a general complaint about the Grant program or its processes you can use the City's official complaint channels, which include an online form, email, phone, or mail. For suspicions of fraud or corrupt conduct, use the dedicated online form noting that you can remain anonymous and such reports are handled with sensitivity.

Grant administration

Grant planning and design

The planning of a Grant program involves a policy decision to meet an identified strategic need within the community. This requires considerable planning, input and collaboration across multiple internal teams across the City of Sydney.

It is critical to the success of the program that all components associated with the implementation and delivery of a Grant program are considered. These include:

- identified need and how it aligns with the City of Sydney's stated strategic priorities
- capacity of Grant recipients to deliver outcomes in a sustainable way

- the costs, benefits and risks of the program over its lifecycle
- reporting and measurement of performance, impact and outcomes
- the impact on resources to effectively manage and administer the program.

No new Grant program can proceed to Executive or Council for endorsement without the approval of the Manager Grants.

Eligibility

The Local Government Act 1993 governs how Council can provide public money to the community. The Grant Program Guidelines set out the City of Sydney's eligibility requirements for each funding category.

Applications

All applications for funding must be submitted for review through the Grant program. Applicants must clearly detail the project outcomes and how they align with the City of Sydney's strategic goals and meet the eligibility requirements of the Grant Program Guidelines.

For some groups or individuals needing additional support in making their application, oral Grant applications are available through the Grants team. For more information, please refer to our website.

Assessments

All applications will be assessed by at least three people with knowledge and/or experience in the subject area of the application. Where relevant, assessments include expert advice and guidance by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employees. Assessments are made independent of both Council members and the Grants team.

The City may use industry experts and/or City of Sydney Employees to complete assessments of applications.

All assessors are required to make a conflict-of-interest declaration as part of the assessment process. Any potential or perceived conflict of interest will be managed in accordance with the City of Sydney's Code of Conduct.

Unsuccessful applications

Grant programs are highly competitive and while an application may meet the program criteria, it may not be competitive against other applications. Feedback can be made available to any applicants to the Grant program.

Approval

The CEO can approve Grants consistent with City of Sydney policies and delegations from Council for the following programs:

- Quick response Grant
- Creative live/work spaces Grant
- Short-term empty properties Grant
- venue hire support Grant and;
- street banner sponsorship.

All other grants are approved by resolution of Council.

Many projects require bookings, approvals and consents from the City of Sydney (such as development applications or event approvals), NSW Police and other government agencies.

Approval of a Grant does not imply that the City of Sydney has given any other required consent, authorisation or approval. If the necessary approvals cannot be obtained, the Grant may be revoked.

Approval of a Grant does not imply that the City of Sydney has given any other required consent, authorisation or approval.

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

Funding agreements

All Grant recipients will be required to enter into a formal funding agreement with the City of Sydney. The funding agreement is a contract that sets out the terms and conditions under which the funding is provided. The funding agreement also outlines the responsibilities of both parties, including reporting, acquittal and compliance requirements.

Variations

Variations involve changes to the agreed terms of an approved funding agreement. Variations will be considered where they are lodged via the Grants management system in consultation with the Relationship Manager and the Grants team when appropriate. Variations are assessed to ensure the scope and outcomes of the project remain consistent with its stated objectives and that any change still represents value for money.

All variations must be approved prior to implementation. Failure to obtain prior approval may constitute a breach of the funding agreement.

Reporting and acquittals

All Grant recipients are required to report on and acquit their project as detailed in their funding agreement. The acquittal may include the submission of financial information, documentation and evidence of expenditure.

- Acquittals are to be submitted using the Grants management system.
- The City of Sydney may audit Grant recipients at any time.

Grant recipients that fail to acquit their Grant in accordance with the relevant program requirements may be required to repay funding (either in full or in part) to the City of Sydney and may be considered ineligible for any further funding under the Program or any other program managed by the City of Sydney.

Responsibilities

Detailed responsibilities are outlined in the Grants Program Guidelines

City of Sydney Employees:

- Will be aware of and comply with their responsibilities under this policy and the Grants Program Guidelines and act in accordance with the City of Sydney's Code of Conduct and all relevant legislation.

Manager Grants

- Will ensure the effective management of policies, procedures, decision-making processes in line with the key principles and that all Grants recommended to Council are in accordance with the requirements of those policies, procedures and processes
- Negotiate, execute and administer Grants agreements

Executive Director City Life

- Ensures transparent and effective Grants management systems, policies, procedures and decision-making processes are in place
- Negotiate, execute and administer Grants agreements.

CEO

- May approve Grants in accordance with authority delegated by Council under the Local Government Act.

Councillors

- Approves Grants in accordance with requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.

Consultation

This policy has been developed in consultation key Employees across the organisation including the First Nations Leadership team and with external community groups, the creative sector, local business and industry associations.

References**Laws and Standards**

- Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

Policies and Procedures

- Grant Program Guidelines
- Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision
- A City for All: Social Sustainability Policy and Action Plan 2018-2028
- Creative City - Cultural Policy 2025 - 2035
- Child safety policy
- Economic Development Strategy 2025 - 2035
- Environmental Strategy 2025 - 2035
- Eora Journey Economic Development Plan 2016 - 2026
- Housing for All – Local Housing Strategy
- Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2025 - 2035
- Reducing waste from events and services: Guidelines for single use items
- Resilient Sydney
- Revenue Policy: Fees and charges
- Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan
- Modern Slavery Policy

Policies and Procedures

- City of Sydney Code of Conduct

Review period

This policy will be reviewed every four years.

Approval Status

The Council approved this policy on [DD MONTH YYYY].

Approval History

Stage	Date	Comment	TRIM Reference
Original Policy	Original Policy	Original Policy	Original Policy
Reviewed	10 December 2012	Approved by Council	2009/111025
Reviewed	15 September 2014	Approved by Council	2014/434658
Reviewed	11 December 2017	Approved by Council	2018/278803
Reviewed	22 August 2022	Updated to strengthen alignment with Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision, key pillar strategies and the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan. Approved by Council.	2018/278803

Ownership and approval

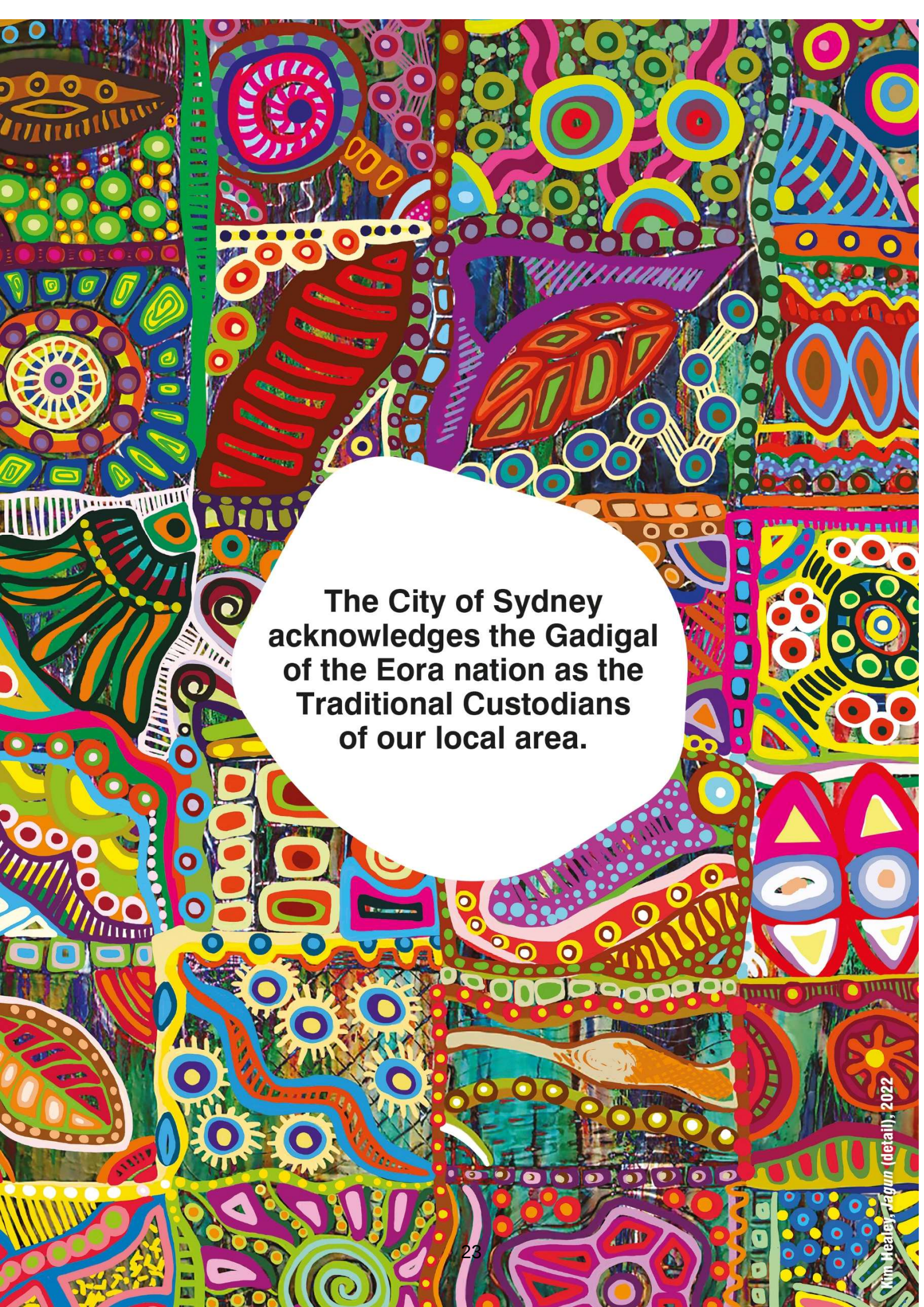
Responsibility	Role
Author	Manager, Grants
Owner	Executive Director, City Life
Endorser	City of Sydney Executive
Approver	City of Sydney Council

Attachment B

Draft Grants Guidelines 2026

Guidelines
December 2025

Grants Guidelines



**The City of Sydney
acknowledges the Gadigal
of the Eora nation as the
Traditional Custodians
of our local area.**

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When you can apply

Our key dates for grants applications can change. Check our website for any updates and subscribe to the grants newsletter to stay informed at city.sydney.gov.au/grants-newsletter.

Once a year – creative, social and community, economic, and environmental

Stage	Timing
Applications open	Late July each year
Applications close	6 weeks after opening
Council decision	November meeting each year
Project timeframe	Projects can start from 1 January each year

You must apply by **4pm on the due date**. We don't accept late applications.

All year-round programs

Program	Timing
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund	Open until budget is exhausted
Affordable and diverse housing fund	All year
Cultural Infrastructure (new projects)	All year
Dixon street improvement grants	All year
Major grants	All year
Quick response grants	Open until budget is exhausted
Accommodation grants	Open when properties become available
Short-term empty properties grants	Open when properties become available
Creative live and work spaces grants	Open when properties become available

Value-in-kind programs – venues and street banners

Program	Timing
Street banner support	All year
Venue hire support	All year

Information for applicants

General information

These guidelines provide important information about how to apply for a City of Sydney grant program.

You need to apply online through the SmartyGrants platform. Application forms are available when a grant round is open. For year-round programs, the application link is available on our website.

Before you begin, check the program page on our website for information you'll need to include in your application.

If you need help choosing a grant program, contact us on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Priority communities

Our grants programs are designed to support these communities as part of our commitment to a fairer, more inclusive city. These priority communities build on those identified in our [resilience strategy](#).

When your application is assessed, we'll look at the impact and potential community benefits of your project and may consider how you'll engage with these communities. For more information, see the funding priorities and assessment criteria for each program.

Our priority communities include:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- people on low incomes
- people renting including social housing residents
- people experiencing homelessness
- people with disability
- people with lived experience of a mental health and/or chronic condition
- people over 65
- young people and children under 5
- new immigrants, non-citizens and refugees
- people with English as a second language
- people of diverse sexualities and genders
- women and girls.

General eligibility

To be eligible for our grants programs you must:

- be an individual or legal entity, or have an auspice arrangement with a legal entity willing to enter into a contract with the City of Sydney
- operate in the [City of Sydney local area](#) or demonstrate significant benefits to our communities¹
- meet the specific eligibility criteria for the grant program
- comply with the [City of Sydney's ethics framework](#)
- have an active Australian Business Number (ABN) if you're applying as a business
- have satisfactorily completed any previous City of Sydney grants projects
- be free of any debts owed to the City of Sydney.

For the economic, social and community, creative and environmental programs, you can apply for 3 projects in total.

If you work with an auspice organisation, we encourage you to choose a grant relevant to their sector so they can support the development of your proposal.

Eligibility varies for each grant program. Refer to the table below to determine if you can apply for a specific program. There may be further requirements within a program's description.

City of Sydney employees may not apply for, or benefit from, a grant directly. City of Sydney employees should not write letters of support for grant applications.²

For definitions of each applicant or entity type, refer to the [glossary of terms and entities](#).

General exclusions and ineligibility

We don't provide grants to applicants or projects that:

- duplicate existing services or programs or have already occurred
- breach the [City of Sydney's ethics framework](#) or [policies](#)
- didn't comply with the terms of agreement for previous grants
- didn't complete a previous grants project satisfactorily
- could be perceived as benefiting a political party
- could be perceived as creating division within our communities.

Grants can't include:

- general donations to charities, which are covered by the our [support for charities policy](#)
- funding for operational costs or overheads for the core business of an organisation
- funding for City of Sydney fees, including development applications, outdoor venue hire, health inspection fees, health approvals, street closures and other approvals or charges beyond what is specified in the grant programs
- design, printing and distribution services or cleansing and waste services already supplied by the City of Sydney.

¹ Please note, creative live and work grants and artist support includes applicants operating/living in Greater Sydney. See the glossary/definitions section for a definition of Greater Sydney.

² For the purposes of the Environmental Grants only, an Owners' Corporation, in which a City of Sydney employee is a lot owner, may benefit from a grant, provided that the employee is not a majority owner and is not directly involved in the application and assessment process.

Grants Guidelines

	Quick response grants	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund	Economic grants	Social and community grants	Creative grants – projects and infrastructure	Creative grants – artist support	Environmental grants	Major grants	Affordable and diverse housing fund	Accommodation grants	Creative live and work spaces grants	Short-term empty properties grants	Street banner sponsorship	Venue hire support grants
Eligible not-for-profit organisation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Incorporated association	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Individual without an ABN	✓													
Unincorporated community group under auspice with an eligible not-for-profit organisation	✓	✓		✓ ¹	✓						✓	✓		
Unincorporated community group Note, an individual or eligible not-for-profit organisation will need to enter into the venue hire agreement, licence or lease on your behalf													*	
Individual under auspice with an eligible not-for-profit organisation		✓		✓ ²	✓ ³	✓								
Government entity							✓		✓					
Government cultural institution				✓ ⁴			✓					✓		
Community housing provider								✓						
Cooperative		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Corporation		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Partnership	✓				✓		✓		✓		✓			
Sole trader	✓	✓	✓		✓ ⁵	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Owners corporation of apartment buildings						✓								
Trustee of a trust		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Business advocacy organisation			✓											

¹ Social and community projects and small scale food support projects only

² Social and community projects and small scale food support projects only

³ Creative projects only

⁴ Creative projects only

⁵ Creative projects only

* Community venues only

Support for applicants

Visit our website for more resources and guidance on applying at city.sydney/grants, or sign up to our Grants newsletter at city.sydney/grants-newsletter.

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 including:

- online resources – see city.sydney/grants
- briefing sessions – learn about the grants programs and ask questions
- free grant application writing seminars – see dates at city.sydney/connect-sydney

Dedicated support

We can provide support in making an application. Accessible application formats may be available to you, such as an oral application. This support is available to people including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. To access this support or seek more information as to whether this is right for you, 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. This may require a longer lead time to apply.

Contact us

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

If you require help in your language, please visit our website at [url to be added when website live]

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

People with disability

If you are d/Deaf or hard of hearing or have complex communication needs or speech difficulties, you can contact us through the [National Relay Service](#). You'll need to provide our phone number: 02 9265 9333.

Our online applications comply with accessibility requirements under WCAG 2.0 AA. For more information about accessibility, visit the [web accessibility initiative](#).

Quick response grants

This program supports priority communities who face immediate or urgent need.

We invite grant applications for projects that reduce barriers and improve access to opportunities, services and programs.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects for:

- emergency support for community, cultural and sustainability projects
- resilience and readiness of communities to respond to shocks
- local residents and teams representing the local area in sporting, academic or environmental fields.

Funding available

Cash funding up to \$5,000 is available for each project. Projects must be delivered within 4 months of receipt of funding.

Cash funding can be used for capital expenditure or equipment purchases.

Value in kind in the form of street banner pole hire and indoor venue hire is available.

Key dates

These grants are open all year for applications until the budget is exhausted.

Projects should start at least 4 weeks after submitting your application.

Projects should be completed within 4 months of receiving your funding.

Eligibility

For more information, refer to the [general eligibility section](#).

You can't apply for projects that were previously unsuccessful for quick response grant funding in the past 6 months.

Assessment criteria

Criteria 1: Immediate need or urgency

Assessors will look at the immediate need by looking at timing, how relevant the project is, the positive impact it could have, the negative impact if it doesn't happen and which priority community groups are involved or affected.

Criteria 2: Community benefit

Assessors will consider how your project shows benefits to selected community groups, that it is inclusive, builds community capacity and strengthens resilience.

Criteria 3: Capacity and experience

Assessors will look at the skills and experience of people involved, ability to provide the proposed activities or services, how realistic the budget is and planning.

Criteria 4: Meets funding priorities

Assessors will consider how your proposal addresses a funding priority or priorities.

How to apply

You need to apply online through the SmartyGrants platform.

Before you begin, check the program page on our website for [information you'll need to include in your application](#).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund

This program works to address the priorities, needs and aspirations of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, while supporting a sustainable local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector.

The program aligns with our [community strategic plan](#) and our commitment to reconciliation.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that:

- support events and other activities to strengthen cultural identity and local community
- improve access to spaces, tools and resources to provide services or run programs
- provide crisis support for organisations with existing relationships, programs and services embedded in the local community.

Funding available

Cash funding up to \$50,000 is available for each project up to one year. The final project allocations will be based on the size, complexity and demonstrated need of each project.

This can include up to \$10,000 for capital expenditure or equipment purchases. Your application can also include the cost of relevant insurances for the project.

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

Key dates

These grants are open all year for applications until the budget is exhausted.

Eligibility

To be eligible, an applicant must operate in the [City of Sydney local area](#) and benefit local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

For more information, refer to the [general eligibility section](#).

Who can apply

- Individuals and sole traders must be local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people
- Groups must consist of majority local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members

- Organisations must have a governing body that is majority local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

For definitions of each applicant or entity type, refer to the [glossary of terms and entities](#).

Proof of Aboriginality requirement

To be eligible for this fund, applicants will be required to provide confirmation of Aboriginality. We prefer that this confirmation is from a registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisation and stamped with its common seal, which 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 they live or formerly lived.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations are required to provide proof of certification or registration from one of the following organisations:

- [NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Supply Nation](#)
- [Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations](#).

What you can apply for

For examples of the types of activities supported under this grant see the [City of Sydney website](#).

Other funding programs also support projects produced for and by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants.

Assessment criteria

Criteria 1: Community need

Assessors will look at how your project addresses the needs of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community by filling a gap or creating a new opportunity that is relevant and timely.

Criteria 2: Community benefit

Assessors may consider how your project benefits the community or community groups, strengthens local culture, identity or connection and demonstrates outcomes and positive impacts.

Criteria 3: Capacity and experience

Assessors will consider if your proposal shows that your planning and resources are appropriate to complete the project. This may include the skills and experience of key people involved, a realistic budget and a clear, achievable timeline.

Criteria 4: Meets funding priorities

Assessors will consider how your proposal addresses a funding priority or priorities.

How to apply

You need to apply online through the SmartyGrants platform.

Before you begin, check the program page on our website for [information you'll need to include in your application](#).

Economic grants

This program supports projects that help create vibrant local economies that are inclusive, sustainable and innovative. It encourages proposals that bring economic benefits such as improving local areas, supporting important skills development and creating partnerships to attract long-term local investment.

The program aligns with the [economic development strategy 2025–2035](#).

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that:

- support place-based initiatives led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and community-controlled organisations
- create distinct experiences and a sense of place in precincts and neighbourhoods
- build the skills, capacity and resilience of local businesses, entrepreneurs and priority communities
- adapt to new technology, explore alternative business models and improve accessibility.

Funding categories

Precinct and place activation

This category supports projects that will activate places and precincts with economic benefits, such as workshops, pop-ups, street performances, installations, live music and local festivals.

Innovation and business capacity building

This category supports projects that grow the skills, capability and capacity of local businesses, promote sector-wide innovation and connect businesses to networking opportunities. For example, upskilling programs, pilot projects, proposals that test new approaches, advocacy and research.

Funding available

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

This can include up to \$10,000 for capital expenditure or equipment purchases.

Applications for \$25,000 or more will be required to match funding in cash or value in kind and address further criteria.

Value in kind in the form of street banner pole hire and indoor venue hire may also be available.

Key dates

One round a year. Opens late July each year and closes six weeks later.

Eligibility

For more information, refer to the [general eligibility section](#).

Local businesses, industry associations, business collectives and business chambers can apply if they are one of the eligible entities and meet other eligibility criteria.

For definitions of each applicant or entity type, refer to the [glossary of terms and entities](#).

What you can apply for

For examples of the types of activities supported under this grant, see the City of Sydney website at [url to be added when website live].

Assessment criteria

Criteria 1: Impact and economic opportunity

Assessors will consider how your project creates economic benefits. This may include how it supports local businesses or communities, responds to a local need or opportunity, boosts precinct activity and engagement, or helps build skills and capacity in the area.

Criteria 2: Community benefit

Assessors will consider how your proposal benefits selected community groups, supports inclusive participation and shows local support and partnerships. They will also look at how people from priority communities are engaged and involved in project leadership or key roles.

Criteria 3: Capacity and experience

Assessors will consider if your proposal shows that your planning and resources are appropriate to complete the project. This may include the skills and experience of key people involved, a realistic budget and a clear, achievable timeline.

Criteria 4: Meets funding priorities

Assessors will consider how your proposal clearly addresses a funding priority or priorities.

Criteria 5: Sustainability

For projects requesting more than \$25,000, you'll need to provide further information which may include how your proposal shows strong partnerships, identifies and mitigates risk and plans for future financial sustainability.

How to apply

You need to apply online through the SmartyGrants platform.

Before you begin, check the program page on our website for information you'll need to include in your application.

Social and community grants

This program helps bring our vision of a fair and resilient city to life by supporting community projects that encourage inclusion, connection and wellbeing. It helps communities to take the lead in solving local challenges, encourages people to work together and makes it easier to access the support and services they need. It also works to strengthen community organisations so they can keep going and plan for the future.

The program aligns with the [social sustainability policy and action plan](#).

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects and activities that:

- are led by, or developed in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- strengthen social cohesion, community resilience and wellbeing
- use creative approaches to meet changing community needs
- support people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- build skills for sourcing and preparing healthy food
- improve how healthy food is supplied, stored and delivered to priority communities
- make it easier for people to access food support services by improving affordable internet access.

Funding categories

Social and community projects

Supports community-based organisations to provide programs that help increase social cohesion and inclusion, develop healthy and resilient communities, and support participation in civic life.

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

This can include up to \$10,000 for capital expenditure or equipment purchases.

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

Food support projects

Supports community-based organisations to deliver long term and sustainable projects and programs that increase access to affordable and healthy food for our priority communities. All applications must demonstrate delivery of food safety requirements.

Food support – small scale projects

Cash funding up to \$250,000 a year is available, for a one-year program or multi-year funding (up to 3 years).

This can include up to \$100,000 for capital expenditure, equipment purchases or other resources.

Food support – large scale projects

Cash funding up to \$500,000 a year is available, for a one-year program or multi-year funding (up to 3 years).

This can include up to \$150,000 for capital expenditure, equipment purchases or other resources.

Applicants for food support projects can also apply for value-in-kind indoor venue hire.

Key dates

One round a year. Opens late July each year and closes six weeks later.

Eligibility

For more information, refer to the [general eligibility section](#).

What you can apply for

For examples of the types of activities supported under this grant, see the City of Sydney website at [url to be added when website live].

Assessment criteria

Criteria 1: Need

Assessors will look at the social or community need at the centre of your proposal, including its relevance, how the project addresses a gap, its timing and potential impact.

Criteria 2: Community benefit

Assessors will consider how your proposal benefits selected community groups, supports inclusive participation and shows local support and partnerships. They will also look at how people from priority communities are engaged and involved in project leadership or key roles.

Large scale food support projects must provide evidence of partnerships with local community organisations and networks.

Criteria 3: Capacity and experience

Assessors will consider if your proposal shows that your planning and resources are appropriate to complete the project. This may include the skills and experience of key people involved, a realistic budget and a clear, achievable timeline.

Criteria 4: Meets funding priorities

Assessors will consider how your proposal clearly addresses a funding priority or priorities.

Criteria 5: Sustainability

For social and community projects requesting more than \$25,000, you'll need to provide further information which will include how your proposal shows strong partnerships, identifies and mitigates risk and plans for future financial sustainability.

How to apply

You need to apply online through the SmartyGrants platform.

Before you begin, check the program page on our website for information you'll need to include in your application.

Creative grants

This program aims to support creative individuals and organisations to enhance and enrich the cultural life of the community. These grants will grow and retain Sydney's creative workforce, improve access to affordable and suitable spaces and ensure creative experiences reflect our diverse communities. Grants are available for creative projects, individual artist support and cultural infrastructure.

The program aligns with the [cultural strategy 2025–2035](#).

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise proposals that:

- are led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and organisations or engage creatives from our priority communities
- support the development of new or improved affordable and accessible creative spaces
- improve access to arts, culture and creative experiences by reducing barriers to participation
- support creative ideas and artists that contribute to Sydney's culture and strengthen the creative sector.

Funding categories

Creative projects

Supports artists and cultural organisations to create new artistic and creative works, presents events, festivals and cultural experiences. It also supports projects that tell Sydney's stories and reach new audiences.

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

This can include up to \$10,000 for capital expenditure or equipment purchases

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

Artist support

Supports professional practicing artists to continue to live and practice in the City of Sydney and Greater Sydney areas. It aims to rebuild our creative workforce by supporting artists from priority communities across a range of artforms and at different stages of their career.

Cash funding of \$25,000 per person for one year.

This funding will support any aspect of creative practice, cost of living and costs of producing new work.

Cultural infrastructure

Aims to strengthen Sydney's cultural life by supporting new creative spaces that are affordable, accessible and fit for purpose, and by improving existing spaces for creative purposes in the local area.

Funding can assist with spaces used for the development, production and presentation of creative practice. This includes music and performing arts, visual arts and crafts, film, screen arts, literature, fashion and creative design.

Cash funding up to \$100,000 is available for each project.

Applications of more than \$100,000 may be considered after discussion with City of Sydney staff.

Key dates

One round a year. Opens late July each year and closes six weeks later.

Eligibility

For more information, refer to the [general eligibility section](#).

Eligibility – artist support

You must be:

- working as a professional practicing artist
- living in Greater Sydney
- 18 years or older
- a citizen or permanent resident of Australia.

You must also contribute to or be connected to the creative and cultural network in the [City of Sydney local area](#).

Eligible artists include writers, visual artists, craft practitioners, actors and directors, dancers and choreographers, musicians and singers, composers, songwriters and arrangers, community cultural development artists and Aboriginal cultural practitioners.

We cannot accept applications for this grant from:

- current recipients of the creative live and work spaces, accommodation or short-term empty properties grants
- artists who have received artist support funding in the past 12 months.

For definitions of each applicant or entity type, refer to the [glossary of terms and entities](#).

Eligibility - cultural infrastructure

You must:

- operate or intend to operate a cultural venue or creative space in the City of Sydney local area
- show that you have permission to use the space for creative use (through ownership, lease or other agreement) for at least 12 months from the date of receiving the grant
- make a commitment to operating a creative space in this location for a minimum of 12 months from the date of receiving a grant.

You may be required to provide:

- proof of owner's consent for any works to be undertaken
- evidence of development consent, a development application or complying development certification as part of the assessment process.

Where a project is contingent on development consent (a DA), funding will be provided upon receipt of development approval.

What you can apply for

For examples of the types of activities supported under this grant, see the City of Sydney website at [url to be added when website live].

Assessment criteria

Criteria 1: Creative and cultural impact

Assessors will look at the creative and cultural impact of your proposal, its creative vision or your track record and need for support to continue your practice in Sydney. This may include the benefits to the local sector, how your proposal supports inclusion, addresses sector need or opportunity and improves access to suitable spaces and resources.

Criteria 2: Community benefit

Assessors will consider how your proposal benefits selected community groups, supports inclusive participation and shows local support and partnerships. They will also look at how people from priority communities are engaged and involved in project leadership or key roles.

Criteria 3: Capacity and experience

Assessors will consider if your proposal shows that your planning and resources are appropriate to complete the project. This may include the skills and experience of key people involved, a realistic budget and a clear, achievable timeline.

Criteria 4: Meets funding priorities

Assessors will consider how your proposal clearly addresses funding priority or priorities.

Criteria 5: Sustainability

For projects requesting more than \$25,000, you'll need to provide further information which will include information such as how your proposal shows strong partnerships, identifies and mitigates risk and plans for future financial sustainability.

How to apply

Applications for Cultural Infrastructure (new projects), if time sensitive, can apply at any time.

You need to apply online through the SmartyGrants platform.

Before you begin, check the program page on our website for information you'll need to include in your application.

Environmental grants

This program supports a sustainable, fair and inclusive city by funding projects that enhance climate resilience, reduce emissions and promote a circular economy. These grants aim to help the city reach net zero emissions by 2035, build climate resilience, make sustainability more accessible, and encourage new ideas and solutions for a changing environment.

The program aligns with the [environmental strategy 2025–2030](#), [resilience strategy 2023–2028](#) and waste reduction and circular materials strategy 2025–2035.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects and activities that:

- support apartment building owners and renters to improve energy and water efficiency, transition to all-electric and renewable energy systems and mitigate increasing heat risks
- help commercial offices, hotels, retail building owners and tenants to save energy and water, and reduce waste
- create circular economy services, systems and programs
- support community-led projects that help people adapt and prepare for climate risks and extreme weather
- innovate or scale new ideas, technologies or projects that reduce emissions and waste and build resilience to climate change.

Funding categories

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

This can include up to \$10,000 for capital expenditure or equipment purchases.

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

Green buildings

Supports upgrades in existing buildings to reduce emissions, waste generation and water use.

Climate resilience

Innovation and collaboration projects that create a more adaptive and thriving city and support our communities to be better prepared for future challenges.

Circular materials

Projects that create services and systems for sharing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and repurposing products or materials many times before they need to be recycled. This will help Sydney transition to a circular economy.

Key dates

One round a year. Opens late July each year and closes six weeks later.

Eligibility

This program is open to for-profit entities. For example, strata and building management companies and qualified service providers on behalf of building owners and owners corporations.

For definitions of each applicant or entity type, refer to the [glossary of terms and entities](#).

For more information, refer to the [general eligibility section](#).

What can't be funded

Along with the [general exclusions](#) in these guidelines, funding can't be used for:

- upgrades to new buildings
- a NABERS rating mandated by any government scheme.

What you can apply for

For examples of the types of activities supported under this grant, see the City of Sydney website website at [url to be added when website live].

Assessment criteria

Criteria 1: Environmental impact

Assessors will consider the positive environmental impact of your project, including how it addresses key challenges and improves sustainability or resilience through measurable outcomes. They may also look for long-term benefits such as reduced waste or emissions.

Criteria 2: Community benefit

Assessors will consider how your proposal benefits community, supports inclusive participation and shows local support and partnerships. They will also look at how people from priority communities are engaged and involved in project leadership or key roles.

Criteria 3: Capacity and experience

Assessors will consider if your proposal shows that your planning and resources are appropriate to complete the project. This may include the skills and experience of key people involved, a realistic budget and a clear, achievable timeline.

Criteria 4: Meets funding priorities

Assessors will consider how your proposal clearly addresses funding priority or priorities.

Criteria 5: Sustainability

For projects requesting more than \$25,000, you'll need to provide further information which will include information such as how your proposal shows strong partnerships, identifies and mitigates risk and plans for future financial sustainability.

How to apply

You need to apply through the SmartyGrants platform.

Before you begin, check the program page on our website for information you'll need to include in your application.

Major grants

This program supports projects that bring significant and long-term economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits to Sydney. Organisations must have a proven track record, significant community engagement, multiple sources of income and a recognised brand.

The program fosters collaborations between established and emerging organisations and showcases Sydney as a global city.

Funding priorities

Major grants must contribute to strategic priorities that:

- support and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, histories and cultures
- support truth-telling and projects that create connections with local Elders or organisations

You can select to address priorities in the following 3 areas.

Social priorities

- Support and significantly improve social cohesion, inclusion, community resilience and connectedness
- Improve the quality of life and social outcomes in Sydney for priority communities
- Invest in services and build the capacity in organisations who support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness

Economic priorities

- Support the visitor economy and activate local precincts through creative programming, events and promotion
- Attract intrastate or international visitation and investment in Sydney

Creative priorities

- Support artists, creative industries and local businesses and priority communities
 - Encourage cultural organisations, businesses and talent to locate and operate in Sydney
 - Secure and maintain local community and cultural assets
 - Address challenges facing the creative industries and cultural sector
-

Funding available

Funding is available for up to 5 years and may include capital expenditure or equipment.

Outcomes from the funding will be negotiated between the City of Sydney and the applicant.

Value in kind in the form of indoor venue hire and other negotiated City of Sydney services and resources is available.

Value in kind and a 25% reduction on equipment hire fees at landmark venues (for equipment the City of Sydney owns).

Key dates

This program is open all year for applications.

Eligibility

An applicant must:

- operate in the City of Sydney local area or be able to demonstrate significant benefits for the community
- have previously received funding from the City of Sydney
- have demonstrated history of completing projects that have impact.

For more information, refer to the general eligibility section.

Assessment criteria

Criteria 1: Impact

Assessors will look at the impact your proposal will have for the City of Sydney area, its residents and visitors. They may consider:

- how clear and strong the proposal's vision is
- whether it addresses an important need or gap
- how innovative it is in providing services or engaging communities
- how it activates our precincts to boost the visitor economy
- how it protects or improves community and cultural assets for sustainability and accessibility
- how it could attract talent and investment.

Criteria 2: Community benefit

Assessors will consider how your proposal benefits selected community groups, supports inclusive participation and shows local support and partnerships. They will also look at how people from priority communities are engaged and involved in project leadership or key roles.

Criteria 3: Capacity and experience

Assessors will consider if your proposal shows that your planning and resources are appropriate to complete the project. This may include the skills and experience of key people involved, a realistic budget and a clear, achievable timeline.

Criteria 4: Meets funding priorities

Assessors will consider how your proposal clearly addresses a funding priority or priorities.

Criteria 5: Sustainability

For projects requesting more than \$25,000, you'll need to provide further information which may include how your proposal shows strong partnerships, identifies and mitigates risk and plans for future financial sustainability.

How to apply

Applications for this program are only open to select organisations with the capacity to complete high-profile projects.

Applicants will be required to meet with relevant staff to discuss funding and shared strategic outcomes before applying.

Contact our grants team to discuss your proposal on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Applications must be completed online through the SmartyGrants platform.

Affordable and diverse housing fund

This program helps make our city more inclusive and functional by improving access to different housing options for our diverse communities.

We provide funding to community housing providers and other organisations to develop and manage a range of affordable and diverse local housing. The program supports culturally appropriate, self-determined housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, encourages a broader mix of housing types and attracts investment from partners to create long-term benefits for our communities.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that:

- support and are led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and our priority communities
- provide support services to residents
- demonstrate best practice in quality housing including access to safe, secure places that promote wellbeing and social cohesion
- demonstrate financial or in-kind contributions from other sources
- use private finance for affordable rental housing.

Funding available

Funding for each project will be up to \$4 million or be no more than 30% of the total cost.

Key dates

This program is open all year for applications.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the affordable and diverse housing project must be in the City of Sydney local area. For more information, refer to the general eligibility section.

What can be funded

All applications must be for a not-for-profit purpose and can be for:

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

Note, affordable rental housing is aimed at very low, low and moderate income households and managed by a registered community housing provider with rent capped at 30% of gross household income.

What can't be funded

Along with the general exclusions in these guidelines, funding can't be used for:

- consent authority fees and charges
- projects already receiving other subsidies or benefits from the City of Sydney, including projects that have received discounted land sales or leases.

Assessment criteria

Criteria 1: Need

Assessors will consider the amount, nature and location of subsidised housing and any other uses or support.

Criteria 2: Community benefit

Assessors will consider evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in the project.

Criteria 3: Capacity and experience

Assessors will consider the proportion of total project costs covered by the City of Sydney (including cash, in kind and land) and contributions from the applicant and other sources. They will also look at the applicant's financial capacity and experience in property development and housing regulations.

Criteria 4: Meets funding priorities

Assessors will consider how your proposal clearly addresses a funding priority or priorities.

Criteria 5: Sustainability

Assessors may consider how your proposal shows strong partnerships, identifies and mitigates risk and plans for future financial sustainability.

Further conditions

The following conditions also apply:

- our financial contribution won't be more than 30% of the total cost
- recipients will be required to place a covenant securing use of the land for subsidised housing, and containing terms required by the City of Sydney, on the title to the land
- funds may need to be repaid if the project completion date isn't 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 provided through the fund is to be rented to a range of very low to moderate income earners at no more than 30% of gross household income
- the build must start within 3 years of funding approval

- the project can include some market housing for sale, or a commercial component for lease or sale, if this helps finance the project or helps meet planning requirements.

How to apply

Contact our grants team with your first enquiry about this program on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Applications must be completed online using the SmartyGrants platform.

Dixon Street improvement grants

This program supports capital works that improve shop and building frontages on Dixon Street south, with matched funding that contributes to the visible renewal of Dixon Street (south) shopfronts and façades, making the street more active and attractive, creating a 'chefs gallery' by bringing the theatre of food preparation to Dixon Street and the distinct character and identity of Dixon Street as the historic heart of Chinatown.

We provide support for 3 types of capital works projects:

- type 1 – street level major works
- type 2 – street level minor works
- type 3 – upper storey works.

Figure 2. Map of Dixon Street south properties



Funding priorities

1. Street level major works

- Building works to bring food preparation to the front window to be visible from Dixon Street (required for this type of grant)
- Upgrades to shopfronts
- Upgrades to external signs and lighting
- Installation of larger windows or bi-fold windows to open views from Dixon Street

- Repair or restoration of the awnings

2. Street level minor works

- Upgrades to Dixon Street shopfronts
- Upgrades to external signs and lighting
- Installation of larger windows or bi-fold windows to open views from Dixon Street
- Repair or restoration of existing awnings

3. Upper storey works

- Restoration or installation of signs or street art that maintains Dixon Street's character
- Cleaning, repairing or repainting external building façade
- Repair or restoration of the awning and upper storey windows
- Removal of redundant air conditioning units, utilities, wiring or fixtures

Funding available

1. Street level major works

Cash funding up to \$60,000 is available per shopfront.

2. Street level minor works

Cash funding of up to \$20,000 is available per shopfront.

3. Upper storey works

Cash funding up to \$60,000 is available per property.

All applicants are required to match the funding requested with cash (value in kind will not be accepted).

Key dates

This program will open for 3 years from 2024/25 or until the budget is exhausted.

Eligibility

To be eligible:

- the building must be located on one of the properties highlighted in blue in figure 2
- the proposed works must be to a frontage visible from Dixon Street
- the applicant must be the landowner or lessee with a letter of support from the landowner
- the applicant must have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- the proposed works will need to meet certain standards including planning regulations, certification regulations and the Building Code of Australia (National Construction Code).

Your proposal may need to go through a development application process.

Also, to be eligible for street level major works (type 1) the proposed improvements must bring food preparation to the front window and be visible from Dixon Street. This will contribute to a 'chefs gallery' on Dixon Street.

For more information, refer to the [general eligibility section](#).

What can't be funded

Along with the [general exclusions](#) in these guidelines, funding is not available for:

- purchase of buildings
- extensions or additions to properties
- relocation of businesses
- internal fitouts or works that don't improve the frontage as viewed from Dixon Street
- fees for development applications, health inspection fees, health approvals, street closures and other approvals or similar statutory charges
- reimbursement of funds already spent; funds spent in relation to the project itself can be included towards your matched funds
- operational costs, staffing, wages and marketing.

Assessment criteria

Criteria 1: Impact

Assessors will look at significant and visible improvements to the shop and building frontages as viewed from Dixon Street and design excellence that responds to local heritage and character.

Criteria 2: Community benefit

Assessors will look at how your proposal supports local and small businesses.

Criteria 3: Capacity

Assessors will consider value for money of your proposal and appropriate planning.

Criteria 4: Meets funding Priorities

Assessors will look at how the proposal addresses a priority or priorities.

How to apply

This program has 5 steps in the application process:

1. Design concierge
2. Grant application (at the same time as step 3)
3. Planning approvals or certification (at the same time as step 2)
4. Grant assessment
5. If successful, contracting, payment and construction – works can begin.

For more detailed information on each of these 5 steps, see [our website](#).

Accommodation grants

This program provides affordable access to buildings we own for organisations and individuals focused on community, cultural, economic and sustainability outcomes.

We offer support by waiving or reducing rent for organisations and individuals whose activities align with our priorities and benefit local communities. Spaces vary in size, location and function. Tenancies may be offered through an expression of interest process and are highly competitive.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects and activities that:

- support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities to access affordable spaces
- activate spaces in new ways for the benefit of the community
- support greater public participation in creative, social, economic and environmental programs
- support our priority communities.

Other funding priorities may apply for specific properties when they become available.

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.

Support is available for up to 5 years.

We may require payment of a bond as part of the lease agreement.

Key dates

Applications for space through this program are open when facilities become available.

Opportunities are published on [our website](#) and in our email newsletters.

To find out when spaces become available, we encourage you to [sign up to our mailing list](#).

Eligibility

To apply for these spaces, you must demonstrate that payment of commercial rent would cause financial hardship leading to a reduction or withdrawal of services to our priority communities.

For more information, refer to the [general eligibility section](#).

Who can't apply

Along with the [general exclusions](#) in these guidelines, if you already have an artist support grant, you can't apply for the short-term empty properties or creative live and work space programs, or an accommodation grant at the same time.

Assessment criteria

Criteria 1: Need and impact

Assessors will look at things like the need for the tenancy, why it is needed and relevant for now. They will also look at the impact the opportunity will provide to participants in building skills, networks and/or improving their wellbeing or the wellbeing of the community. In addition, they will consider whether you're using new or creative approaches to address gaps or seize opportunities.

Criteria 2: Community benefit

Assessors will consider how your proposal benefits selected community groups, supports inclusive participation and shows local support and partnerships. They will also look at how people from priority communities are engaged and involved in project leadership or key roles.

Criteria 3: Capacity and experience

Assessors will consider if your proposal shows that your planning and resources are appropriate to complete the project. This may include the skills and experience of key people involved, a realistic budget and a clear, achievable timeline.

Criteria 4: Meets funding priorities

Assessors will consider how your proposal clearly addresses a funding priority or priorities.

Other criteria

Other criteria may apply for specific properties when they become available.

How to apply

You need to apply online through the SmartyGrants platform.

Some opportunities may be offered through an expression of interest process, and we may interview short-listed candidates.

When properties become available, opportunities are published on our website and in our email newsletters.

Creative live and work spaces grants

The creative live and work spaces grants provide professional practicing artists with affordable space to live and work in Sydney, helping them to maintain their creative practice in the city.

By offering affordable space, the grants contribute to a vibrant, resilient and connected creative sector. The diversity of tenants reflects the richness of our communities. For co-located apartments, the program fosters a unique living environment where artists can live as neighbours for a set period. This supports peer connection, expands networks and opens new opportunities for collaboration.

These grants respond to key sector challenges outlined in the [cultural strategy 2025–2035](#).

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects and activities that:

- support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artists
- support artists from culturally and socially diverse backgrounds
- enrich Sydney's communities and the local creative sector.

Other funding priorities may apply for specific properties when they become available.

Support categories

Support is available in the form of reduced rental charges for City of Sydney properties for up to 2 years. We may require payment of a bond as part of your lease agreement.

Work spaces

We have a small number of studio and workspaces suitable for artists and creative workers to carry out projects, cultural production or arts practice.

Live and work spaces

We have a small number of residential properties in inner city locations available for use by professional practicing artists to live and work at below market rates.

There are one-bedroom apartments for individuals and 3-bedroom apartments for multiple people.

Key dates

We open applications for space through this program when facilities become available. Opportunities are published on [our website](#) and in our email newsletters.

To find out when spaces become available, we encourage you to [sign up to our mailing list](#).

Eligibility

For more information, refer to the [general eligibility section](#).

You must also be:

- working as a professional practicing artist
- living in Greater Sydney
- 18 years or older
- a citizen or permanent resident of Australia.

Eligible artists include writers, visual artists, craft practitioners, actors and directors, dancers and choreographers, musicians and singers, composers, songwriters and arrangers, community cultural development artists and Aboriginal cultural practitioners.

For definitions of each applicant or entity type, refer to the [glossary of terms and entities](#).

Who can't apply

Along with the [general exclusions](#) in these guidelines, if you already have an artist support grant, you can't apply for the short-term empty properties or creative live and work space programs, or an accommodation grant at the same time.

Assessment criteria

Criteria 1: Creative and cultural impact

Assessors will look at the creative and cultural impact of your proposal. They may consider the applicant's artistic achievements, experience and qualifications, their need for support to keep living and working in Sydney, how this opportunity will affect their creative practice and the value their work brings to Sydney.

Criteria 2: Community benefit

Assessors may consider how the opportunity will community groups, local communities and the creative sector. They may also look at the applicant's connection with priority communities, their engagement and the value their work brings to Sydney.

Criteria 3: Capacity and experience

Assessors will see if you have shown that you have capacity and experience to complete your proposal. They may consider your ability to occupy the property by the specified date, suitability of the creative practice for the space and capacity and experience to complete your creative goals for the period.

Criteria 4: Priorities

Assessors will consider how your proposal clearly addresses a funding priority or priorities.

Other criteria

Other criteria may apply for specific properties when they become available.

How to apply

You need to apply online through the SmartyGrants platform.

Grants Guidelines

Some opportunities may be offered through an expression of interest process, and we may interview short-listed candidates.

When properties become available, opportunities are published on our website and in our email newsletters.

Short-term empty properties grants

This program offers short-term use of City of Sydney properties that are empty for a limited time. The properties are available for at least one month.

The program supports businesses and startups, community organisations and social enterprises, creative practitioners and cultural organisations, and organisations with a focus on sustainability and the environment.

Preference is given to applicants in the City of Sydney local area or to projects that can demonstrate significant benefit for local communities.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects and activities that:

- support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders to access affordable spaces
- activate spaces in new ways for the benefit of the community
- support greater public participation in creative, social, economic and environmental programs
- support our priority communities.

Other funding priorities may apply for specific properties when they become available.

Funding available

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

We may require payment of a bond as part of the lease agreement.

Key dates

We invite applications for space through this program when facilities become available. Opportunities are published on our website and in our email newsletters.

To find out when spaces become available, we encourage you to sign up to our mailing list.

Eligibility

For more information, refer to the general eligibility section.

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

For definitions of each applicant or entity type, refer to the glossary of terms and entities.

Who can't apply

Along with the [general exclusions](#) in these guidelines, if you already have an artist support grant, you can't apply for the short-term empty properties or creative live and work space programs, or an accommodation grant at the same time.

Assessment criteria

Criteria 1: Purpose and fit

Assessors will consider how well your proposal aligns with the purpose of the opportunity and the suitability of the space for your activities. They may also look at how frequently and consistently you plan to activate the space, and the potential benefits for your practice and goals.

Criteria 2: Community benefit

Assessors may consider how your proposal shows clear benefits to selected community groups, benefits our residents, workers and visitors, and if the applicant is a member of a priority community or if the organisation is owned or led by members of priority communities.

Criteria 3: Capacity and experience

Assessors will see if you have shown that you have capacity and experience to complete your proposal. They may consider if the budget is realistic and reasonable for the proposal.

Criteria 4: Priorities

Assessors will consider how your proposal clearly addresses a funding priority or priorities.

Other criteria

Other criteria may apply for specific properties when they become available.

How to apply

You need to apply online through the SmartyGrants platform.

Some opportunities may be offered through an expression of interest process and we may interview short-listed candidates.

When properties become available, opportunities are published on [our website](#) and in our [email newsletters](#).

Value-in-kind support

Our support for venues and street banner hire helps individuals and organisations produce community-focused activities by reducing some of the associated costs. The program encourages a diverse mix of services and users in the city's spaces.

It aligns with [Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050 Continuing the Vision](#).

Support categories

The following grants are offered through in-kind support:

- [street banner support](#)
- [venue hire support](#).

The fee waiver can range depending on your capacity to pay.

Detailed funding requirements are set out under each funding program.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects and activities that:

- activate spaces in new ways for the benefit of the community
- support greater public participation in creative, social, economic and environmental programs
- support our priority communities.

Street banner support

We have up to 1,500 banner poles available for hire. This sponsorship provides value in kind banner pole hire to enhance the streetscape and raise the profile of cultural events, social issues and other activities.

Support available

Support is available in the form of value in kind or reduced hire rates for street banner poles, subject to availability.

You can request up to 150 banner poles for up to 2 weeks, once a year.

Further requests will be considered for significant events and depend on availability in the street banner network. Street banner support applies only to the city centre and urban locations.

Support only applies to banner pole hire fees. You must meet all standard conditions of hire and pay all other costs for the design, production, installation and dismantling of the banners. We're unable to provide value in kind or waive these fees.

See fees and charges at sydneycitybanners.com.au.

Key dates

This grant program is open all year for applications.

Your application must be submitted online at least 6 months before the banner campaign begins.

It will take at least 2 months to process your application and make a decision.

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

Eligibility

For more information, refer to the [general eligibility section](#).

You must also demonstrate that:

- payment of standard rates would cause financial hardship
- a program of events has been prepared with an appropriate publicity and promotions campaign.

Who can't apply

Along with [general exclusions](#) in these guidelines, you can't apply if you've been funded under the same program in the past 12 months.

Further conditions

- Bookings can only be made 6 months in advance from the installation date, after your application is confirmed as successful
- All banner designs must be approved by the City of Sydney before manufacture and include our logo
- We reserve the right to refuse a banner design
- We reserve the right to determine the number and location of banner poles provided and to relocate banners to other locations
- Poles are subject to availability at the time of booking

Assessment criteria

After eligibility checks, proposals are assessed against how the project aligns with the funding priorities.

How to apply

You need to apply online through the SmartyGrants platform.

To discuss hiring costs, email banners@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

To apply for this grant, contact the grants team on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Venue hire support grants

Community venues

We have a range of community venues available for hire. Our venue hire support grants help community and cultural groups and organisations host events, fundraisers, meetings and community gatherings.

Landmark venues

We have 8 landmark venues for hire. Our venue hire support grants help community and cultural groups and organisations host events, concerts, fundraisers, conferences, meetings and community gatherings.

Support available

Community venues

Support is available in the form of one-off or multi-year (up to 3 years) reduced rates for community groups and organisations, subject to availability.

Fee waivers of up to 100% are available.

Landmark venues

Support is available in the form of one-off or multi-year (up to 3 years) reduced rates for landmark venue hire, subject to availability.

Approved applicants are eligible for a 25% reduction on equipment hire fees at landmark venues for equipment the City of Sydney owns.

Outdoor venues aren't available for value-in-kind requests.

For outdoor events, email openspacebookings@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Key dates

Community venue grants

These are open all year for applications while venues are available.

For community venues, you should apply online at least 8 weeks before your event.

Landmark venue grants

These are open all year for applications while venues are available.

For landmark venues, you should apply online at least 6 months before your event.

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

Eligibility

You must demonstrate that payment of fees for hire would cause financial hardship.

For more information, refer to the [general eligibility section](#).

Assessment criteria

Criteria 1: Need

Assessors will look at the social or community need at the centre of your proposal, including its relevance, timing and potential impact. They may consider how the project addresses a gap, builds on existing work or offers something new, and if there will be any consequences if it doesn't go ahead.

Criteria 2: Community benefit

Assessors will consider how your proposal benefits selected community groups, supports inclusive participation and shows local support and partnerships. They will also look at how people from priority communities are engaged and involved in project leadership or key roles.

Criteria 3: Capacity and experience

Assessors will consider if your proposal shows that your planning and resources are appropriate to complete the project. This may include the skills and experience of key people involved, a realistic budget and a clear, achievable timeline.

Criteria 4: Priorities

Assessors consider how your proposal clearly addresses a funding priority or priorities.

Further conditions

The grant covers venue hire fees only. Venue hire and equipment fees and charges are set for the facilities each year by the City of Sydney.

You will need to enter into a venue hire agreement and pay all other charges, including:

- deposit and bond
 - security/key deposit
 - public liability insurance
 - cancellation fees
 - audio visual
 - staffing such as ushers
 - cloakroom and security
 - any food and beverages.
-

How to apply

When you request your venue hire quote, let the team know you're applying for a grant.

Grants Guidelines

To apply for a **community venues grant**, email communityvenues@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au to make a tentative booking and get a quote and application link.

To apply for **landmark venues**, submit a [venue booking enquiry](#) and email thm@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au for a quote.

When you have a quote, contact the grants team to apply for this grant on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

You need to apply online through the SmartyGrants platform.

The application process

How to apply

You need to apply online through the SmartyGrants platform. Application forms are available when the grant round opens.

Choose the most appropriate grant for your project. You can't apply in multiple program categories at the same time for the same project.

You must apply by **4pm on the due date**. We don't accept any applications after the cut-off time and date.

We don't accept duplicate applications. Applications submitted for more than one grant program, for the same project, will only be considered for one program. We'll ask you to confirm which application you want to progress with.

Before you apply, we encourage you to speak to us well before the closing date.

What happens to your application

Your application will be checked for eligibility before it's moved on to assessment.

We may request additional information from you in order to check your eligibility and/or as part of the assessment process.

Eligible applications are assessed individually by at least 3 assessors, including those with knowledge and experience relevant to the grant program.

An assessment panel of assessors and specialist advisors will review the assessments and make final recommendations. These are based on the selection criteria and funding priorities of the grant program

In most cases, recommendations are sent to a Council committee and then Council for decision. Some grants programs are delegated by Council to the CEO for decision.

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

All assessors are required to agree with the requirements of their role, including conflict of interest and confidentiality obligations. Assessors cannot have any interests or perceived conflicts of interest in a grant application they assess.

If we deem it necessary, the assessment panel may conduct interviews with shortlisted applicants.

Our grants programs are highly competitive. Even though an application may meet the criteria, it may not be competitive against other applications. If your application is unsuccessful, you can request feedback from us on reasons why.

How decisions are made

Council has authority to approve grants or other financial assistance. Find out more about [Council decision-making](#).

The CEO can approve grants under delegation from Council for the quick response grant, venue hire support grants, street banner support, creative live and work spaces grants and short-term empty properties grants.

When you'll know

Recommendations that will be put to Council are published before each committee meeting. This is where and when you can see if your grant is recommended or not.

Details of your application's status can also be found in the Council meeting minutes. This is listed within the week of approval on the [Council meetings website](#).

We'll notify you in writing about the outcome of your application within 10 business days after Council's decision.

For grant programs where the CEO approves grants, those recommendations are not published prior. We'll notify you in writing about the outcome of your application within 10 business days after the CEO's decision.

If you're successful

You'll receive an email informing you of the result. It will include how much support is being provided and for what period of time. The email will include a link to arrange a feedback session if you wish.

You'll then be contacted by a staff member who'll tell you about the contract that you must enter into for the grant. The contract will be prepared by us and must be on the terms we require.

Before your project starts, you must enter into a contract on the terms we require, before funds are released, or before you can use, work or live in our properties. If you fail to enter into the contract, we reserve the right to withdraw the grant, including the use of our properties.

As part of finalising the contract, you'll be asked to provide a copy of your public liability insurance certificate of currency for a minimum 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.

The insurance must list the applicant or auspice as insured and will need to remain current for the duration of the contract. For most of our grants, you can't ask us to fund this insurance as part of your grant request.

You'll also be asked to provide an invoice to the City of Sydney for your first cash payment and evidence of any conditions having been met, required as pre-conditions to entering into the contract.

Other approvals

If you're successful for a grant, this doesn't imply the City of Sydney has given or undertakes to give any other required consent or approval.

Many applications will require other approvals and consents from us or other authorities. This may include agencies such as the NSW Police Force or Transport for NSW, for example.

If the necessary approvals cannot be obtained, your grant may not be able to proceed.

Development applications

Any grant application involving capital works, minor developments, outdoor dining or changes to a building's current development approvals may need to go through a development application (DA) process. You can [make an appointment to speak to a duty planner](#) for general advice on whether a development application is required for your grant.

Public art

Projects that involve public art (temporary or permanent) are required to have written permission to install the artwork from the landowner. You can read the [public art policy](#) and speak to our public art team before you apply for funding.

Street art is a visible and accessible art form and we support lawfully created works in [appropriate locations](#). We recognise the artistic and social value of street art and owners consent is required for all projects to [commission or create street art on a property in the city](#). See our website to determine if your location is [DA exempt](#).

Value in kind

The provision of value in kind as part of a grant, for example, reduced indoor venue hire or street banner pole hire fees, isn't a guarantee of a booking. All bookings must follow the usual hiring process for the facility, space or location requested and are subject to availability.

Outdoor events

If you're planning to run an event in a City of Sydney managed outdoor space, you'll need to submit an event application form and supporting documentation to our outdoor events and filming team for approval before your event can take place. Sufficient lead times are required, which are listed in our [outdoor event guidelines](#).

Road closures, service of alcohol or food permits

Depending on the type of event and its included activities, you may need further approvals and permits from other external authorities for the grant to proceed.

This could include:

- Food and beverages – operators serving food and beverages must have a [temporary food permit](#) from our health and building unit. It can take up to 28 days for new registration.
- Alcohol – serving alcohol at an event requires a [liquor licence](#) from the Office of Liquor and Gaming and an accompanying alcohol management plan.
- Road closures – events where a road is closed to vehicles for an event requires approval from the [Local Pedestrian, Cycling, Traffic Calming and Transport Forum](#). You must supply a traffic management plan around 5 to 6 weeks before the committee meeting dates. These are usually held on the third Thursday of each month.

When grants are paid

Payments of any cash grants are processed with a standard 30-day turnaround time from the date we receive your invoice and only once your contract with us has been fully signed.

Payments are made in line with the timeframes in the contract.

For some grant programs or some contracts, payments may be progressive over the life of the project. For example, payments are made at particular milestones or when certain obligations are completed.

Your responsibilities during and after the project

You'll need to comply with the obligations set out in your contract with the City of Sydney that applies to your grant.

If you fail to comply with your contractual obligations, including not completing the project, we may withdraw or require repayment of the grant, including the use of our properties.

The nature of your obligations in the contract will depend on the grant program, your project, and the form of agreement with us.

For most grants, you must complete and report on the project in line with your approved grant application. Reports provide us with feedback on the success of the project, agreed outcomes, relevant data and any lessons learnt.

If you're provided with a cash grant, you must provide detailed financial reports and may be required to provide evidence your expenditure was for the project and in line with the approved budget.

If you have challenges completing your project, contact us as soon as possible.

Final reports must be submitted no later than one month after the agreed completion date of the project, unless otherwise agreed.

Not meeting your contractual obligations, including failing to submit an acquittal report, may be considered when we assess further applications from you or with which you are associated with, your organisation or related entities for other grants from us.

If your application isn't successful

You'll receive an email informing you of the result. This email will include a link to arrange a feedback session if you wish.

Not all applications can be supported; you can request feedback from us on reasons why.

You can also attend grant writing workshops and talk to our staff about other sources of support before you submit future applications.

We welcome your feedback

We're committed to continuous improvement of our grants programs. We've developed an evaluation and learning framework to measure the effectiveness of each grant program.

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 feedback capacity of City of Sydney and grant recipients
- identify improvements to the grants program.

After each grant round, applicants will be invited to complete a survey on the application process and the guidelines. We welcome your comments to help us improve the process.

Glossary of terms and entities

Terms and definitions

Term	Definition
Acquittal	A written report submitted after the funded project is completed, or yearly for multi-year projects. It details how the recipient administered the grant funds and met the project outcomes in the funding agreement.
Auspice	An incorporated organisation who receives, administers and manages the grant on behalf of an applicant. The auspice is required to: – enter into the relevant agreement with the City of Sydney – accept grant funds and pay the grant applicant – be responsible for any value-in-kind support we approve, including making bookings and entering into any related agreements with us – manage grant funds during the project – be responsible for all obligations in the agreement with us including providing insurances on behalf of the grant applicant. The auspice should have the technical skills to guide and support the applicant in the project, while acknowledging project decisions remain with the applicant.
Capital expenditure	Funding specifically requested for purchase, maintaining or upgrading items the applicant owns and that will be used beyond the time of the project. This includes building maintenance, upgrading technology or buying new equipment. These expenses are different from regular costs like salaries or utilities because they build and improve the offerings to communities in a more permanent way.
Child-related work	Child-related work (including voluntary work) is: – providing services for children and young people under 18 – where the work normally involves being face to face with children – where contact with children is more than incidental to the work. This is defined by the <u><i>Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012</i></u> and <u><i>Regulation 2013</i></u>.
Festival or event	A public occasion for celebration or gathering to commemorate a milestone, local anniversary or an organised series of special events and performances, usually with a common theme and for a set period of time.

Term	Definition
Greater Sydney	Greater Sydney is the metropolitan area of the city of Sydney, including surrounding regions. Its populations regularly socialise, shop or work in Sydney, but live in the city's suburbs or in the small towns and rural areas surrounding the city. <u>Greater Sydney</u> stretches across southern and western areas in an arc to the Central Coast. It includes the Southern Highlands, Blue Mountains and Northern Beaches.
Professional practicing artist	A professional practicing artist is defined as meeting one or more of the following criteria: 1. In the past 3 to 5 years has had an artistic achievement in their art form, such as: – a work of creative fiction or imagination accepted for publication by a recognised publishing outlet or performed by a professional stage, radio, television or film company, where a fee or royalties was received – a work or works shown or performed at a professional gallery or exhibition, or published by a recognised publishing outlet, or received a major public or private commission – an original composition, other than advertising jingles or other commercial music, performed under professional circumstances, either live, broadcast, recorded or filmed – a professional engagement as a director or dramatic actor or performer with a professional stage, television or film company – a professional engagement as a choreographer, dancer, musician or singer in a professional capacity – contributed to the development of a major community arts project, or played an important part in encouraging members of the community to create works of art, or a substantial artistic role in a festival or other important community arts event 2. has been engaged in the past 5 years in creating a serious and substantial body of work in their art form 3. has undertaken full-time training in their art form or in the past 3 to 5 years has received a grant to work in their art form through a public or private grant.
Priority communities	Communities that may experience heightened inequality and experience barriers to social, economic, cultural, political and environmental resources, services and support. This includes: – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – people on low incomes – people renting including social housing residents – people experiencing homelessness – people with disability – people with lived experience of a mental health and/or chronic condition – people over 65

Term	Definition
	– young people and children under 5 – new immigrants, non-citizens and refugees – people with English as a second language – people of diverse sexualities and genders – women and girls.
Recipient	A party who has successfully applied for a grant. Also known as grantee.
Social enterprise	A business with a clear and stated social, environmental or cultural mission. They are usually driven by a public or community cause, derive most of their income from trade (not donations or grants) and use most of their profits to work towards their social mission as defined by their constitution.
Value in kind	Value in kind refers to an arrangement where the City of Sydney gives up revenue, either in full or a percentage, on things for which a fee normally applies. This may include venue hire, banner pole hire or rent.

Entities and definitions

Entity	Definition
Business advocacy organisation	An organisation that represents and/or advocates for businesses in a particular industry, sector or area, and is either a Corporation that is limited by guarantee, a Co-operative that is non-distributing, or an organisation registered under the <i>Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009</i> (Cth), and that has an active ABN.
Community housing provider	An entity providing community housing that is registered in NSW under the <i>Community Housing Providers (Adoption of National Law) Act 2012</i> (NSW) and has an active ABN.
Co-operative	A co-operative registered under the <i>Co-operatives (Adoption of National Law) Act 2012</i> (NSW) or equivalent State/Territory legislation with an active ABN.
Corporation	A company incorporated under the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth) with a current ACN and active ABN, or a company incorporated under the <i>Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006</i> (Cth) with a current ICN and active ABN.
Eligible not-for-profit organisation	An organisation registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission that is an incorporated association, trust, corporation, or co-operative with an active ABN. This category does not include unincorporated associations (including unincorporated groups or clubs) – refer to unincorporated community group.
Government entity	An entity with an active ABN that is either a department, executive or statutory agency of, or Corporation owned by, the Commonwealth or any state or territory; any entity within the meaning of section 41 of <i>A New Tax System (Australian Business Number) Act 1999</i> (Cth); or a local governing body as defined by the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> (Cth), and includes government cultural institutions.
Incorporated association	An entity incorporated under the <i>Associations Incorporation Act 2009</i> (NSW) or other NSW legislation with an active ABN, or an association incorporated under equivalent State/Territory legislation with an active ABN and Australian Registered Body Number (ABRN).
Individual	An individual who is not running a business and does not have an ABN.
Government cultural institution	The following NSW cultural institutions: Art Gallery of NSW, Australian Museum, Museum of Applied Arts & Applied Sciences, Museums of History, State Library of NSW, Sydney Opera House; and the following national cultural institutions: Australian National Maritime Museum, Bundanon Trust, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, National Archives of Australia, National Film and Sound Archive of Australia, National Gallery of Australia, National Library of Australia, National Museum of Australia, National Portrait Gallery of Australia.

Entity	Definition
Trustee of a trust	An individual or corporation acting in its capacity as a trustee of a trust. This category does not include trusts that are government entities – refer to government entities.
Owners corporation	An owners corporation constituted under the <i>Strata Schemes Management Act 2015</i> (NSW) with an active ABN.
Partnership	A partnership regulated by the <i>Partnership Act 1892</i> (NSW) or equivalent state or territory legislation with an active ABN.
Sole trader	An Individual running a business with an active ABN.
Unincorporated community group	A group of people who have agreed to pursue a common purpose or interest, including groups such as a club, society or association (that is not incorporated).

Attachment C

Grants Guidelines – Key Changes

Grants guidelines – summary of key changes

Recommended change	Details	Change driver
Guidelines simplified	The content has been simplified.	Reduce duplication. More information, tools and resources to support applicants will be available on the City of Sydney website.
New grants structure	Four grants categories: Creative, Social and community, Economic, and Environmental Previously Community services, Food support grants, Innovation and ideas, Green buildings, Business sector support and Festivals and events.	Simplified categories. Clearly aligns with the strategic priorities of Sustainable Sydney 2030–2050 – Continuing the Vision. Expands the opportunities for applicants, while streamlining the application and assessment processes.
Social and community grants: includes previous Community services grants, Food Support, Innovation and ideas and Festival and events grants	Support available for: - Social and community projects - Food support program (Tier 1 and 2) Tier 2 funding capped at \$500,000 each year. Applicants will also be able to apply for festivals and events and innovative projects that are focused on social and community outcomes.	Expands the opportunities for applicants, while streamlining the application and assessment processes. Funding levels capped to reflect need. Aligns with A City for All – Social Sustainability Policy and Action Plan
Creative grants: includes and expands upon previous Creative, Innovation and ideas, and Festival and events grants	New grants with support available for: Artist support, and Cultural infrastructure. Applicants will also be able to apply for creative projects, festivals and events and innovative projects that are focused on creative outcomes.	Expands the opportunities for applicants, while streamlining the application and assessment processes. Aligns with Cultural Strategy 2025-2035.

Recommended change	Details	Change driver
Economic grants: includes previous Business sector support, Innovation and ideas, and Festivals and events grants	New grants with support available for: Precinct and place activation and Innovation and business capacity building. Applicants will also be able to apply for festivals and events and innovative projects that are focused on economic outcomes.	Expands the opportunities for applicants, while streamlining the application and assessment processes. Program is aligned with the City of Sydney Economic development Strategy 2025-2035.
Environmental grants: includes and expands on Green building, Innovation and ideas, and Festivals and events grants.	New grants with support available for 3 categories: - Green buildings - Climate resilience - Circular materials Applicants will also be able to apply for festivals and events and innovative projects that are focused on environmental outcomes.	Expands the opportunities for applicants, while streamlining the application and assessment processes. Aligns with Environmental strategy 2025-2030, Resilience strategy 2023-2028 and Waste reduction and circular materials strategy 2025-2035.
Haymarket Activation grant: Program has ended	As part of the Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy, this program was to be delivered over 3 years.	The last program round will open in February 2026 with delivery in the 2026/27 financial year. This will complete the three year availability of this program.
One round a year	There were only 4 grants that had two rounds a year: Food support grants, Innovation and Ideas, Green building grants and Festivals and events sponsorship. There is no change to grants that are offered all year round. Applications can be open for 6 weeks instead of 4 week.	Streamlined and simplified process for applicants. For applicants this provides a more consistent annual cycle, more time to prepare, less frequent deadlines, improved resources and support available. Increased pre-application support and resources and also feedback applicants.

Recommended change	Details	Change driver
Timing of grants	Program will open in late July and be open for 6 weeks. Applicants will be notified of outcomes in November for projects and proposals that can start after 1 January. There is no change to grants offered all year.	An increase in application time being open. Funding certainty for the year ahead supporting improved planning.
For-profit entities	The eligibility for for-profit entities in Economic and Environmental grants are now included to cover elements of Innovation and ideas and Festival and events grants which have always allowed for profits to apply.	Eligibility for for-profit organisations
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund: Funding available	Applicants can apply for one year of funding. Multi-year funding (up to 3 years) is no longer offered. This is the original offering for this fund when it started 4 years ago.	Shorter funding periods allow flexibility to changing community needs while ensuring funds are distributed more widely and fairly within the community.
Affordable and diverse housing: Funding available and eligibility	Funding for each project will now be up to \$4 million or be no more than 30% of the total cost. This is an increase from \$3 million in 2025/26. All applications must be for a not-for-profit purpose.	Responds to increased costs (land, property, materials, labour).
Creative live and work space, Short-term empty properties program and Accommodation grant: Eligibility	You can't receive a short-term empty properties program, Creative Live and work space opportunities or Accommodation grant for the same period within which you have an Artist support grant and vice versa.	Opportunities are shared and create the greatest possible impact.
Venue hire support grants: Landmark venue grants – Key dates	Lead time for Landmark venues has been increased, and applicants should apply online at least 6 months before their event for landmark venues. The lead time for community venues remains at least 8 weeks.	Reflects processes. Realistic and more accurate information for applicants.

Attachment D

Grants and Sponsorship Policy 2022

Grants and Sponsorship Policy

Purpose

The City's grants and sponsorship program aims to support projects that promote:

- strong partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- leading environmental performance
- connected, resilient and inclusive communities
- a thriving cultural and creative life
- a transformed and innovative economy

This policy provides guidance to individuals and organisations when applying for cash and value-in-kind grant funding and to City of Sydney employees and Council when responding to and managing grants and sponsorship requests.

Scope

This policy applies to all outgoing grants, sponsorships, and value-in-kind provisions.

Council may approve grants and sponsorship outside this policy. The policy does not prevent Council giving occasional small contributions to organisations, providing support for civic functions or one-off events in accordance with the relevant legislation.

This policy applies to all not-for-profit organisations, for-profit organisations, sole traders, individuals, owners' corporations, unincorporated community groups and government agencies who apply to the City of Sydney for grant or sponsorship funding.

Grants and sponsorships are different from the purchase of services, where the City of Sydney determines the type of project, product or service it requires and develops a contract to manage how this is delivered. Procurement of goods, services, works and facilities are covered by the City of Sydney's Procurement and Contract Management Policy.

Donations and support for charities are covered by the City of Sydney's Support for Charities Guidelines, and Humanitarian Aid Guideline. Incoming corporate sponsorships are covered by the City of Sydney's Corporate Sponsorship Policy.

Definitions

Term	Meaning
Grant	Cash or value-in-kind support provided to applicants for a specified project or purpose as outlined in the funding agreements between the City of Sydney and the recipient.
Sponsorship	Agreements between the City of Sydney and organisations where the City of Sydney receives benefits in return for the sponsorship. Examples of benefits include promotion, marketing, speaking opportunities and/or tickets.
Value-in-kind	An arrangement where the City of Sydney foregoes revenue (either in full or in part) on things for which a fee would normally be charged.

	This may include park hire, venue hire, banner pole hire, or workspace accommodation. Applicants receiving value-in-kind support may need to enter an agreement with the City of Sydney in addition to a corresponding funding agreement. Services incurring real cash cost are not supported within the City of Sydney's grants and sponsorship program. These services include cleansing and waste, development application fees, health inspection fees, health approvals, section 68 approvals, temporary road closures, in-house design, and printing and distribution services.
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Policy statement

The City of Sydney's grants and sponsorship program supports initiatives and projects that strengthen the social, cultural, economic and environmental 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.

The City of Sydney acknowledges the importance of partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to deliver social, cultural, economic and environmental outcomes for their communities.

The City of Sydney recognises and respects the vital contribution of community and business in developing and delivering projects that contribute to a vibrant, inclusive, resilient, innovative and sustainable city. Through this program the City of Sydney provides financial and in-kind support for a diverse range of projects.

This policy provides the framework for managing grants and sponsorship applications. It sets the expected outcomes of our Grants and Sponsorships Program and the principles that guide grantmaking at the City of Sydney.

This policy covers four areas:

1. Grants and sponsorship outcomes
2. Grantmaking principles
3. Ethics framework
4. Grant assessment and approval

Grants and sponsorship outcomes

The Grants and Sponsorship Program aligns with the following strategic directions of Sustainable Sydney 2030-50 Continuing the Vision:

- A leading environmental performer
- An equitable and inclusive city
- Resilient and diverse communities
- A thriving cultural and creative life
- A transformed and innovative economy
- Good governance and stewardship

Some of our grants and sponsorship programs are categorised by their primary strategic outcome. However, several of our grants and sponsorship programs are designed to deliver across a range of strategic outcomes.

Grants can also provide a powerful incentive to residents and businesses to act and make the changes necessary to improve environmental performance. They support new and innovative approaches to delivering sustainability outcomes and strengthening community resilience.

Grants and sponsorships play an important role in community development and support active participation in civic life. They empower the community to address issues that matter to them and drive projects to create a more inclusive and resilient city.

Grants are a valuable method of supporting artistic and creative endeavour in our city, helping foster initiative, experimentation and enterprise by creative workers and providing new opportunities for audiences to engage in the city's cultural life.

Grants and sponsorships help stimulate business and promote economic activity. They encourage partnerships with other organisations on business development and assist groups of businesses to work together for the collective benefit.

Our Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines provide details about each of our grant programs including funding priorities, key dates, funding available, eligibility criteria, application processes and assessment criteria.

We are committed to ensuring that our grants and sponsorship programs are responsive to emerging needs and opportunities within our community and may make changes to the Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines as required and in accordance with the relevant approval process.

Grantmaking principles

The following principles guide the City of Sydney's funding and value-in-kind assistance to deliver strong relationships between the City of Sydney, our communities and business.

Strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships

We acknowledge the city's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of this local area. We support the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to self-determination. The City of Sydney is committed to ensuring our funding programs provide an ongoing process of choice to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities can meet their social, cultural, economic and environmental needs and aspirations. Organisations applying for grants are encouraged to engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, organisations and individuals into all aspects of their project.

Partnerships and building relationships

The City of Sydney is committed to building and maintaining relationships based on trust and respect with individuals and organisations committed to addressing social, cultural, economic and environmental issues. The City of Sydney recognises the financial contributions, skills, resources and commitment that individuals, communities and businesses bring to the grant partnership. The City of Sydney is committed to connecting individuals and organisations to networks, resources and knowledge which can strengthen the delivery of projects.

The City of Sydney partners with a wide range of organisations to deliver on its objectives. This includes funding for-profit organisations who have demonstrated they are best placed to deliver public benefit and meet the relevant grant program outcomes.

Diversity and inclusion

The City of Sydney values the identities, perspectives, and experiences of the communities that live, work, and visit our local area and believe this diversity strengthens our city. We support the development and delivery of projects that contribute to a more inclusive and equitable city where

everyone has access to essential services and facilities to support wellbeing and quality of life. The City of Sydney partners with organisations and local communities to build on the strengths of our communities and enable them to thrive and be resilient.

The City of Sydney is committed to ensuring that our grant program is inclusive and accessible to our diverse communities. We encourage applications from our diverse communities including young people, older people, people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, women and LGBTIQA+ communities. Organisations applying for grants are encouraged to promote gender pay equity - valuing skills, responsibilities and working conditions in a non-discriminatory way.

Climate emergency and community resilience

The City of Sydney is committed to building the capacity of communities and business to lead initiatives that respond to the climate emergency and reduce their environmental impact. The City of Sydney partners with organisations and local communities to promote transformative change in energy generation, resource consumption, water use, transport and climate adaptation.

The City of Sydney supports others to take positive steps to build the resilience of our communities to mitigate, respond, adapt and recover from shock events and chronic stresses. Organisations applying for grants are encouraged to show adequate consideration of any environmental impacts and benefits. Organisations are to ensure that any events or programs funded through a City of Sydney grant are delivered in an environmentally sustainable way.

Empowering communities

The City of Sydney generates wealth for our local area by investing in the best mix of grants to meet the needs of our diverse communities and business. We strengthen relationships with community by actively building and maintaining networks, connecting people and business, and ensuring all our diverse communities can participate in civic life. The City of Sydney funds and supports organisations, businesses, and individuals to address local issues and needs through programs, projects, and events.

Good governance, transparency, and value for money

We are committed to transparent, equitable, open and effective processes and decision making that is in the public interest. Applications are assessed objectively against policy and program guidelines and criteria. Application forms, acquittal requirements and contractual obligations will be in proportion to the size of the grant awarded and the expected outcomes of the grant program.

The City of Sydney invests in projects that represent good value for the level of cash or value-in-kind support provided with a focus on supporting thriving organisations and outcomes that can create a long-term positive impact for the community. The City of Sydney ensures there are systems and opportunities for feedback on the City of Sydney's grant processes.

Ethics framework

Through the Grants and Sponsorship Program the City of Sydney does not support any activities or entities that unnecessarily:

- pollute land, air or water
- destroy or waste non-renewable resources
- market, promote or advertise products or services in a misleading or deceitful manner
- produce, promote or distribute products or services likely to be harmful to the community

- acquire land or commodities primarily for speculative gain
- create, encourage, or perpetuate militarism or engage in the manufacture of armaments
- entice people into financial over-commitment
- exploit people through the payment of below-award wages or poor working conditions
- unlawfully discriminate, or encourage unlawful discriminatory behaviour, including discrimination based on ability, culture, religion, age, gender and sexual orientation in employment, marketing and/or advertising practices
- sell or promote any prohibited items or services on Council land, such as fur and exotic animal skin products and feathers, other than where is permitted under traditional first nation cultural practices
- contribute to the inhibition of human rights generally.

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 wellbeing and best interests. The City of Sydney has specific policies, procedures and training in place to support employees and volunteers to achieve these commitments.

Where a grant application involves the delivery of programs and services involving child-related work organisations must provide their child safety/child protection policy and procedures. Where they do not have a formal child safety/protection policy, organisations must outline how they intend to comply with child safety law relevant to their organisation.

The City of Sydney does not regulate or monitor an organisations compliance with child safety law, nor is able to determine whether their policies and procedures are fit for purpose. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their policies and procedures are appropriate and sufficient to ensure child safety and 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.

Grant assessment and approval

Assessment

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

If considered relevant, 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 will be paid for their time.

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.

Oral grant applications are available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and individuals and can be requested by any other group or organisation. Support can also be provided on request for people with disability or those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

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, Creative live/work spaces grant, Short-term empty properties grant, Venue hire support grants and sponsorship and Street banner sponsorship.

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.

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 required consent, authorisation or approval.

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.

Responsibilities

Detailed responsibilities are outlined in the Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines

All City of Sydney Staff involved in the management of grants and sponsorships must:

- be aware of, and comply with their responsibilities under the Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines
- act in accordance with the City of Sydney's Code of Conduct and all relevant legislation.

Manager Grants

- Ensure transparent and effective grants management systems, policies, procedures and decision-making processes are in place and that all grant applicants recommended to Council for support are in accordance with the requirements of those policies, procedures and processes
- Negotiate, execute and administer grants and sponsorship agreements.

Director City Life

- Ensures transparent and effective grants management systems, policies, procedures and decision-making processes are in place
- Negotiate, execute and administer grants and sponsorship agreements.

CEO

- May approve grants in accordance with authority delegated by Council under the Local Government Act.

Consultation

This policy has been informed by the insights gained from the program of community engagement undertaken for Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision.

This policy has been developed in consultation with external stakeholders including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel, the Nightlife and Creative City Advisory panel, festival and event organisers, local business chambers, industry associations.

This policy has been developed in consultation with internal stakeholders from Creative City, City Business and Safety, Grants, Indigenous Leadership and Engagement, Social City, Strategy and Communications, Sustainability Programs, Sustainability, Strategic Planning and Urban Design, Venue Management, Finance and Legal and Governance.

References

Laws and Standards
• Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
• Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998
• Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012
• Children's Guardian Act 2019
Policies and Procedures
• <u>Grants and Sponsorship Program Guidelines</u>
• Sustainable Sydney 2030-205 Continuing the Vision
• A City for All: Social Sustainability Policy and Action Plan 2018-2028
• Creative City - Cultural Policy and Action Plan 2014-2024
• Economic Development Strategy
• Environmental Strategy 2021-2025
• Eora Journey Economic Development Plan
• Housing for All – Local Housing Strategy
• Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2021–2025
• Reducing waste from events and services: Guidelines for single use items
• Resilient Sydney
• Revenue Policy: Fees and charges
• Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan

- Sustainable event guidelines

Review period

This policy will be reviewed every 4 years.

Approval Status

The Council approved this policy on 22 August 2022.

Approval History

Stage	Date	Comment	TRIM Reference
Original Policy	15 December 2008	Approved by Council	2009/111025
Reviewed	10 December 2012	Approved by Council	2009/111025
Reviewed	15 September 2014	Approved by Council	2014/434658
Reviewed	11 December 2017	Approved by Council	2018/278803
Reviewed	22 August 2022	Full review. Updated to strengthen alignment with the strategic directions of Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision, key pillar strategies and the Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan. Approved by Council.	2018/278803
Commence Review Date	22 November 2025		
Approval Due Date	22 August 2026		

Ownership and approval

Responsibility	Role
Author	Manager Grants
Owner	Director, City Life
Endorser	City of Sydney Executive
Approver	City of Sydney Council

Attachment E

Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines 2025



Grants and sponsorship program guidelines

July 2025

Introduction

The City of Sydney acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora nation as the Traditional Custodians of our local area.

The City of Sydney has a number of grants and sponsorship programs to support the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of our area. Through these programs, we partner with communities and businesses to further the strategic directions of Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision. These programs provide financial and in-kind support for a range of activities.

Our grants and sponsorship guidelines cover who can apply, when to apply and how to apply. In addition, it will tell you what happens to your application and where you can get further support.

Please read these guidelines before applying for a grant as funding rounds are highly competitive. We encourage you to attend a grants information session or grant writing workshop which are held during the year.

These guidelines use certain words or expression in a particular defined way. Defined words or expressions are capitalised (e.g. Eligible Not-For-Profit Organisation, Value-in-Kind) with the meaning set out in the [Glossary and definitions](#) at the end of the guidelines.

The grants and sponsorship policy provides the framework for managing applications. It sets the expected results of our grants and sponsorships and outlines the high-level principles that guide funding from the City of Sydney. If the policy and guidelines don't match, the policy takes priority.

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.

Image credit for front cover: Kilia Pahulu. K'AINGA Commonwealth - K'lub Measina. Lead Artists Latai Taumoepeau and Rosanna Raymond. Liveworks 2023. Photographed by Joseph Mayers. Courtesy of Performance Space

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When can you apply?

Rounds

Dates can 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	Beginning of calendar year (summer round)	Middle of calendar year (winter round)
Closed to applications	Approximately five weeks after opening	Approximately five weeks after opening
Recommendations presented to Council	Middle of calendar year	End of calendar year
Project timeframe	Starts middle of calendar year for 12 months	Starts beginning of calendar year for 12 months

Programs

Cash programs	Timing
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund	Open all year round, until budget is exhausted
Affordable and diverse housing fund	Open all year round
Business sector support grant	Open summer round
Community services grant	Open summer round
Creative grant	Open summer round
Dixon street improvement grant	Open all year round
Festivals and events sponsorship	Open summer and winter round
Food support grant	Open summer and winter round
Green building grant	Open summer and winter round
Haymarket activation grant	Open summer round
Innovation and ideas grant	Open summer and winter round

Grants and sponsorship programs guidelines – July 2025

Major grants	Open all year round
Quick response grant	Open all year round, until budget is exhausted

Value-in-Kind only programs	Timing
Accommodation grant	Open as properties become available
Creative live/work spaces grant	Open as properties become available
Short-term empty properties grant	Open as properties become available
Street banner sponsorship	Open all year round
Venue hire support grant	Open all year round

Who can apply?

General eligibility

To be eligible you must:

- be an individual or legal entity or have an arrangement with a legal entity who is willing to enter into a contract with the City of Sydney on your behalf
- operate in the City of Sydney's area or demonstrate significant benefits for our residents, workers or visitors¹
- meet the grant programs' eligibility criteria
- if applying as a business, have an active ABN
- have satisfactorily completed any previous City of Sydney grants or sponsorship projects and met all contractual obligations
- be free of any debts owing to the City of Sydney.

Eligible applicants vary for each grant program, so please read the eligibility information within each grant program to determine if you or your organisation are eligible for that grant or sponsorship.

City of Sydney employees may not apply for, or benefit from, a grant or sponsorship directly. City of Sydney employees should not write letters of support for grant or sponsorship applications.

For definitions of each applicant or entity type as they apply to these Guidelines, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

General exclusions and ineligibility

The City of Sydney doesn't provide grants and sponsorships:

- for projects that duplicate existing services or programs or
- for projects or expenditure that have already occurred (no retrospective funding) or
- to applicants or projects that breach the City's ethics framework, including those that unnecessarily:
 - pollute land, air or water;
 - destroy or waste non-renewable resources;
 - market, promote or advertise products or services in a misleading or deceitful manner;
 - produce, promote or distribute products or services likely to be harmful to the community;
 - acquire land or commodities primarily for speculative gain;
 - create, encourage, or perpetuate militarism or engage in the manufacture of armaments;
 - entice people into financial over-commitment;

¹ Please note Creative live/work grant covers applicants operating in the Greater Sydney area. For the definition of Greater Sydney Area, see the [glossary/definitions section](#) for more information.

- exploit people through the payment of below-award wages or poor working conditions;
- unlawfully discriminate, or encourage unlawful discriminatory behaviour, including discrimination based on ability, culture, religion, age, gender and sexual orientation in employment, marketing and/or advertising practices;
- sell or promote any prohibited items or services on City of Sydney land, such as fur and exotic animal skin products and feathers, other than where is permitted under traditional first nation cultural practices; or
- contribute to the inhibition of human rights generally, or
- to applicants that pay a subminimum wage to workers, including applicants that are or engage Australian disability enterprises (ADEs), or
- to applicants or for projects that do not respect Indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights, or
- to applicants or for projects where persons associated with the applicant or project have been involved in a previous project for which a City of Sydney grant or sponsorship was provided and the project was not satisfactorily completed or the applicable contract terms not complied with, or
- to applicants or for projects that may cause harm to the reputation of the City of Sydney or the grants and sponsorship program, or
- for projects that could be perceived as benefiting a political party, or
- for projects that could be perceived as creating division within our communities, or
- to applicants or for projects that breach applicable City of Sydney policies, or
- to applicants that are tertiary education providers (including universities) seeking support for core business. Where tertiary education providers would like for support for an eligible project outside their core business which they believe justifies council support, we request that they speak to Grants staff before applying.

Grants and sponsorships cannot include:

- general donations to charities. Donations and support for charities are covered by the City of Sydney's support for charities policy.
- City of Sydney fees for development applications, outdoor venue hire fees, health inspection fees, health approvals, street closures and other approvals and other charges beyond what is specified in the grant programs.
- the provision of design, printing and distribution services or cleansing and waste services for events by the City of Sydney.

The programs listed below are open to for-profit entities:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund
- Creative grant
- Dixon Street improvement grant
- Festivals and events sponsorship
- Green building grant
- Haymarket activation grant
- Innovation and ideas grant
- Major grant
- Quick response grant
- Affordable and diverse housing fund
- Accommodation grant
- Creative live/work spaces (individuals)
- Short-term empty properties grant

Support for applicants

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 and email:** contact us on 02 9265 9333 or communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
- **briefing sessions:** learn about the grants and sponsorship programs and ask questions.
- **free grant writing seminars:** See dates at cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/talks-courses-workshops/connect-sydney

Dedicated support

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

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.

Contact us

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.

People with disability

If you are Deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment, you can contact us through the [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 about accessibility, visit the [web accessibility initiative](#).

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.

الإتصال منهم والطلب 131 450 بالرقم تتصل أن فالرجاء،الهاتفية الشفهية الترجمة خدمة من الإستفادة وأردت الأولي لغتك الإنجليزية تكن لم إذا الرقم علي سيدني مدينة بلدية 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.

How can I apply?

How to apply

Applications for grants and sponsorship are completed online using the SmartyGrants platform. Forms are available once the grant round opens. Choose the most appropriate grant for your project. You can't apply in multiple program categories at the same time for the same project.

You must apply by the **due date at 4pm**, Sydney time. We don't accept any applications after the cut-off time and date.

We encourage you to speak to us well before the closing date before applying.

We don't accept duplicate applications. Applications submitted to more than one program for the same project will only be considered for one program. Staff will ask you to confirm which application you want to progress with.

What happens to your application

All applications are checked for eligibility before being moved on to assessment.

Eligible applications are assessed individually by at least three assessors including those with knowledge and experience relevant to the grant program.

An assessment panel consisting of assessors and specialist advisors review the assessments and make final recommendations based on the selection criteria and funding priorities of the grant program².

In most cases, recommendations are sent to a Council committee and then Council for decision.

Applications that CEO can approve as part of grants and sponsorship delegations from Council are sent to the CEO for a decision.

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

All assessors are required to agree with the requirements of their role, including conflict of interest and confidentiality obligations. Assessors can't have any interests or perceived conflicts of interest in a grant application they are assessing.

If we deem it necessary, the assessment panel may conduct interviews with shortlisted applicants.

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 us on reasons why.

Who decides?

Council has authority to approve grants and sponsorship or other financial assistance. Find out more about [Council decision-making](#).

² For all grant programs except Quick Response Grants. For this program applications are ranked based on the assessor scores alongside the available budget. This will determine which applications are recommended for funding

The CEO can approve grants under delegation from Council for the quick response grant, venue hire support grants and sponsorship, street banner sponsorship, creative live/work spaces grant and short-term empty properties grant.

When you'll know

Recommendations that will be put to Council are published before each committee meeting. This is where and when you can see whether your grant is recommended or not.

Details of your application's status can also be found in the Council meeting minutes, listed on the website within the week of approval. See our website: [City of Sydney Council meetings](#).

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

For grant and sponsorship programs where the CEO can approve grants, those recommendations are not published prior. We'll notify you in writing of the outcome of your application within 10 business days after the CEO's decision.

If you're successful

You'll receive an email informing you of the result. It will include how much support is being provided and for what period of time. The email will include a link to arrange a feedback session if you wish.

You'll then be contacted by a staff member who'll tell you about the contract that you must enter into for the grant or sponsorship.

You will either enter into a funding agreement for cash and Value-in-kind grants or a lease or license for Value-in-kind only grants, including those offering reduced rates on our properties.

You must enter into a funding agreement, lease or license with us before funds are released, before you can use, work or live in our properties and before your project starts.

If you fail to enter into the agreement, lease or license, we reserve the right to withdraw the grant or sponsorship, including the use of our properties.

As part of finalising the funding agreement, you will be asked to provide:

- a copy of your public liability insurance certificate of currency for a minimum 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. The insurance must list the applicant or auspice as insured and will need to remain current for the duration of the agreement. For most of our grants, you can't ask us to fund this insurance as part of your grant request.
 - an invoice to the City of Sydney for your first cash payment
 - evidence of any conditions having been met, required as pre-conditions to entering into the agreement, lease or license.
-

Other approvals

If you're successful for a grant or sponsorship, this doesn't imply the City of Sydney has given or undertakes to give any other required consent or approval.

Many applications will require other approvals and consents from the City of Sydney or other authorities and possibly agencies such as NSW Police Force or Transport for NSW etc.

If the necessary approvals can't be obtained, your grant or sponsorship may not be able to proceed.

Development applications (DA)

Any grant application involving capital works, minor developments, outdoor dining or changes to a building's current development approvals may need to go through a development application process. You can make an appointment to speak to a duty planner for general advice on whether a development application is required for your grant or sponsorship.

Public art

Projects that involve Public Art (temporary or permanent) are required to have written permission to install the artwork from the land owner. You can speak to our Public Art team and read the public art policy prior to applying for funding.

Street art is a visible and accessible art form and we support lawfully created works in appropriate locations. We recognise the artistic and social value of street art and owners consent is required for all projects commissioning or creating street art on a property in the city. Please see our website to determine if your location is DA exempt.

Value-in-kind

The provision of Value-in-kind as part of a grant (e.g. reduced indoor venue hire or street banner pole hire fees) isn't a guarantee of a booking. All bookings must follow the usual hiring process for the facility, space or location requested and are subject to availability.

Outdoor events

If you are planning to run an event in a City of Sydney managed outdoor space, you will need to submit an event application form and supporting documentation to our Outdoor Events and Filming team for approval prior to your event occurring. Sufficient lead times are required, as listed within our outdoor event guidelines.

Road closures, service of alcohol or food permits

Depending on the type of event and its included activities you may require subsequent approvals and permits from other external authorities for the grant or sponsorship to proceed.

This could include:

- **Food and beverages:** Operators serving food and beverages must have a temporary food permit from the City of Sydney's health and building unit. It can take up to 28 days for new registration.
- **Alcohol:** Serving alcohol at an event requires a liquor license from the Office of Liquor and Gaming and an accompanying alcohol management plan.
- **Road closures:** Events where a road is closed to vehicles for an event requires approval from the Local Pedestrian Cycling and Traffic Committee. You must supply a traffic management plan around 5 to 6 weeks before the committee meeting dates. These are usually held on the third Thursday of each month.

When are grants paid?

Once funding agreements are finalised, payments of any cash grants or sponsorships are processed with a standard 30-day turnaround time from the date we receive your invoice.

Payments are made in accordance with the timeframes in the funding agreement. For some grants programs or some agreements, payments may be progressive over the life of the project (e.g. payments made at particular milestones or on completion of certain obligations).

Your responsibilities during and after the project

You will need to comply with the obligations set out in your agreement, lease or license with the City of Sydney that applies to your grant or sponsorship. If you fail to comply with the obligations in the agreement, including not delivering the project, we may withdraw or require repayment of the grant or sponsorship, including the use of our properties.

The nature of your obligations in the agreement, lease or license will depend on the grant program, your project, and the form of agreement with the City.

For most grants, you must deliver and report on the project in accordance with your approved grant application. Reports provide us with feedback on the success of the project, agreed outcomes, relevant data and any lessons learnt.

If you are provided with a cash grant or sponsorship, you must provide detailed financial reports and may be required to provide evidence that your expenditure of the grant or sponsorship was for the project and in accordance with the approved budget.

If you are having challenges completing your project, please contact City of Sydney staff as soon as possible.

Final reports must be submitted no later than one month after the agreed completion date of the project, unless otherwise agreed.

Not meeting your contractual obligations, including failing to submit an acquittal report, may be considered when assessing applications from you, your organisation or related entities for other grants or sponsorships from the City of Sydney.

If you aren't successful

You'll receive an email informing you of the result. The email will include a link to arrange a feedback session if you wish.

Not all applications can be supported. You can request feedback from us on reasons why, attend grant writing workshops and talk to City staff about other sources of support prior to submitting future applications.

We welcome your feedback

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 feedback capacity of City of Sydney and grant recipients
- identify improvements to the grants and sponsorship program.

After each round, you'll be invited to complete a survey on the application process and the guidelines. We welcome your comments to help us to improve the process.

Application tips

Before you apply

- check you're eligible to apply for the specific funding program and that funding program is appropriate to your project, including being clear on the legal entity who is applying for the grant.
 - plan your project and review the application form and what it requires. Arrange support letters, request quotes for costs and an auspice if you need one. Please note that City of Sydney employees and Councillors cannot provide you with support letters for our grants program.
 - don't leave submitting your application to the last minute as applications will not be accepted after the closing time and date.
 - consider the location in which you plan to deliver your project, do you need any approvals, e.g. a development application (DA), or permits. There can be hidden costs for these items, and it is important to factor these things in when scoping your project and preparing your application.
-

Hiring our indoor venues or street banner poles

In some of our grant programs, you can apply for Value-in-kind in the form of reduced rates for the hire of indoor venues or street banner pole hire. Requests through the grants program for venue or banner pole hire Value-in-kind must be accompanied by a tentative booking and a quote.

- to book a community venue, please contact communityvenues@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au for a quote and make a tentative booking if your project is time sensitive
- to book Sydney Town Hall, Paddington Town Hall or Customs House, please submit a venue booking request and contact thm@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au for a quote
- to hire street banner poles, please contact banners@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au to discuss hiring costs.

When requesting a quote, please notify the City of Sydney staff that you're applying for a grant.

All requests for quotes should be submitted no later than 2 weeks before the closing date of the grant round.

Please note that for indoor venues or street banner pole hire there will be additional charges you will be responsible for, that we are unable provide Value-in-kind for, or waive, these fees:

- for indoor venue hire, the deposit and bond, security/key deposit, public liability insurance, cancellation, audio visual, extra staffing such as ushers, cloakroom and security, and any food and beverages
- for street banner pole hire, the cost of the design, production, installation and dismantling of the banners.

The list of hireable indoor spaces can be located on our website.

Outdoor events

Any applications that require a City of Sydney owned park or turf area must be discussed with our Outdoor Events and Filming Team prior completing an application, as certain restrictions and additional requirements apply.

For fees, event application form, event guidelines, the list of hireable outdoor spaces (interactive map at the bottom of the webpage) and further information, see the [apply to hold an outdoor event webpage](#).

Application form

As part of the application, you'll be asked to provide this information:

- a brief description of the project
- the need for the project
- who from the local diverse communities will benefit and how they are engaged in the planning and delivery of the project
- your capacity and experience to deliver the project
- how the project meets the funding priorities.

Some programs may have more questions or requirements.

When writing your application, be clear and straightforward in your language and don't assume any knowledge.

Your application must be well-developed, address all the criteria and answer all compliance questions. It may need supporting documents.

You'll be asked to address the following:

Collaboration with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities

We aim to enhance the economic prosperity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations through our grants program.

You're encouraged to consider including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses into all aspects of your project. If you plan to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-run businesses, organisations or individuals in your project, you should clearly outline this in your project plan with appropriate support letters attached.

Additionally, if your project focus is with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community members, you will need to consider how your project meaningfully supports, respects, and empowers local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through culturally responsive and community-driven initiatives.

Applicants working with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artists, communities, or subject matter are required to adhere to the [Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property rights](#) protocols. Under these protocols you must provide evidence of appropriate support or permissions from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander participants, communities, organisations or Elders.

Diversity, equity and inclusion

Consider how your project considers participation, access, and inclusion across our communities.

Our diverse communities include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, people experiencing transport disadvantage, young people, older people, people

with disability, international students, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, women, people of diverse sexualities and genders and intersex people, and low-income earners.

Our [inclusion \(disability\) action plan](#) guides our approach to ensure Sydney welcomes everyone. This plan includes actions that actively address barriers faced by people with disability.

Our [inclusive and accessible event guidelines](#) help producers plan and create events that welcome everyone. The guidelines outline key access and inclusion considerations for all events.

If your project focus is on people with disability, we strongly encourage you to review these documents.

Sustainability

Ensure that any projects or events funded through our grant or sponsorship are created in an environmentally sustainable way. Please see our [sustainable event guidelines](#) and [guidelines for single use items](#) for information about 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. We'll provide educational material and guidance to help you understand and meet these conditions.

Child safety

If your project involves [child-related work](#), you must attach a copy of your organisation's child safety/protection policy to the application.

Applicants without a formal child safety/protection policy must outline how they, their organisation or project intend to comply with child safety laws. This information will help us to assess whether your application has demonstrated capacity to deliver the project.

You can seek advice from the [Office of the Children's Guardian](#), the Department of Education and Communities /or the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority. Our [Child Safety Policy](#) is available on our website.

You'll be asked to confirm that:

- you are not engaging Australian Disability Enterprises or companies that pay less than the national minimum wage
- you respect [Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property rights](#) (ICIP) protocols (where relevant)
- your entity and activities comply with our ethics framework.
- if successful, you will maintain public liability insurance throughout the duration of your project, including any project extensions
- if successful, you develop a data collection plan to report on the outcomes of your grant against the funding priorities chosen.

Budget

Most programs require applicants submit a budget (in the SmartyGrants template), listing all income and expenditure items for their project. All figures should exclude GST.

Allow yourself enough time to think through the costs involved to bring your idea to life. For more expensive items, research how much they cost and compare prices. Quotes from suppliers can be useful when we assess if a budget is realistic. Detailed and realistic budgets that balance reflect a well-planned project.

We support fair pay to all workers employed or contracted for funded projects, including Aboriginal Elders performing Welcome to Country, artists, creative professionals, people with disability and child performers.

Fees for contracted workers should be clearly included in your application budget, including associated on-costs and entitlements (e.g. superannuation). We encourage you to determine costs for workers in accordance with industry standards and relevant industrial awards.

We encourage cash contributions from other sources, however, you can include contributions that are not cash and are provided through in-kind support, such as volunteer time, equipment already acquired, space provided for free, pro-bono services etc.

If you request value-in-kind from the City of Sydney for venue hire or street banner pole hire, include those costs in your income and expenditure. You can get these costs from the quote you must obtain as part of your application.

Budget support material

Support material such as quotations or detailed budgets (attached to your application) are encouraged.

- quotes for equipment or material valued more than \$1,000
- evidence that the costs for workers (employees and independent contractors) are in line with industry standards, applicable awards, and relevant entitlements.
- quotes and evidence of a tentative booking for venue hire if you are applying for Value-in-kind for the use of a City of Sydney venue
- how staff, contractors, businesses or artists involved in this project represent our diverse communities.

Matched funding and in-kind contributions

In some of our grant programs, you may be required to match the cash funding. This must be shown by you or your partners financial contributions in the income table.

You may be required to provide matched or equivalent funding with:

- direct cash 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 put on projects.

Program descriptions contain more information about matching funds.

Project plan

A project plan is required for a cash grant or sponsorship request.

A project plan outlines its goals and objectives, and details activities, timeline and available resources. It should show how you've planned your project well and have thought through all the elements that will make it a success.

When developing a project plan, consider the following depending on the complexity of the project:

- **objectives:** Why I am doing this, what do I want to achieve by delivering this project?
- **stakeholders:** Who is the audience, who am I going to be working with, who do I need to tell about this project?
- **actions:** What is involved – what do I need to do to make this project happen?
- **timeframe:** What do I need to get done when? What milestones will show me I am on track?

Projects requesting less than \$20,000 in cash will, at minimum, need to provide a timeline of activities. Requests for larger grants might follow the project plan example detailed in this document. The level of detail of your project plan should be in line with the amount of funding requested.

Supporting documents

You'll be asked to provide supporting documents including:

- relevant evidence of your entity type and legal status such as your organisation's constitution, trust deed, letter of incorporation, or registration with applicable bodies such as the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
- letters of support from any community members or local organisations that demonstrates your project is important for the local community and is supported by the local community. Please note that the City of Sydney employees and Councillors cannot provide you with support letters for our grants program.
- letters of support from any partner organisations, key professionals, artists, specialists, consultants or businesses who'll be involved in the proposed project
- case studies of previous projects
- resumes of key professionals working on this project
- any other evidence to demonstrate your eligibility and/or ability to deliver the project

Allow plenty of time to upload your documents.

Support material for venue permission

If your project is not being held in a venue or location your organisation owns, please include:

- evidence to demonstrate owner's consent for the use of the venue or land if required
- a basic site plan for the proposed project if relevant
- any other documents relevant to the proposed project, such as photographs, minutes from planning meetings and development approvals.

What the assessment criteria means

Assessment criteria are used when reviewing applications.

In the application form we will ask you a series of questions. The questions and the level of detail you need to provide will differ depending on the value of the grant or sponsorship you are seeking. The assessors will review your responses and give you a score against the assessment criteria.

The table below demonstrates the connection between the question asked in the application form and the assessment criteria used at assessment stage for applications for grants or sponsorships valued at up to \$50,000. Please note that applications requesting above \$50,000 will be required to address different criteria.

	Questions for applications up to \$50k	Assessment criteria	What the assessors will be looking for you to address
1	- what are you going to do? - describe why this project is important	evidence of the need for the project	Need - why is your project needed? - how is your project new and different to what is already available? - what gap is your project addressing in the community? - what will happen as a result of you doing this project?

			- what will the impact be if you do not do this project?
2	- which City of Sydney community will benefit from this project the most? - describe the cultural significance and community benefit of the project? - describe how have you included the local diverse community and how will they be engaged?	demonstrated connection, benefit to, and engagement with, the local diverse community in the planning and delivery of the project	Community benefit - who will benefit from this project and how? - is there support from local community members for your project, including the targeting beneficiary group, through letters of support? - what collaboration and partnerships are there with locally based organisations, services, businesses, suppliers or creatives? - will staff, contractors, businesses or artists involved in your project represent our diverse communities? - Do you identify as or is your organisation owned or led by members of a diverse community group?
3	- describe your organisation - how will you deliver the project and what skills do you bring? - provide your income and expenditure budgets - upload your project plan - what is your experience in delivering projects?	your capacity and experience to deliver the project	Capacity and experience - do you have previous experience in completing similar projects and have you provided supporting documents to confirm this? - is your project budget reasonable given the intended outreach/impact? - does your project plan include a clear timeline for project development, implementation and managing transition at the end of the funding period? - for projects over \$20k: how have you appropriately identified and mitigated risks?
Only for projects requesting greater than \$20,000			
4	- how will your project contribute to this funding priority?	how your project delivers against the funding priorities	City of Sydney funding priorities - how well does your project address the funding priorities? - how does your project align with relevant <u>City of Sydney strategies and action plans</u>?

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund

Overview

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

Funding supports increased self-determination and equity led by, or in partnership with, local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 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.

Funding available

Cash funding up to \$50,000 a 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 pole hire and indoor venue hire is also available.

You can apply for up to \$5,000 for capital expenditure or equipment.

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

For multi-year funding, please contact the grants team on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that:

- are led by local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities
- achieve positive results for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities

- support local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander owned or led organisations to sustain their capacity, impact, and ability to survive, thrive and flourish.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project or program
- demonstrated connection, benefit to, and engagement with, the local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community in the planning and delivery of the project or program
- your capacity and experience to deliver the project or program

Additional criteria for projects requesting more than \$20,000:

- how the project or program delivers against the funding priorities

See the [what the assessment criteria means section](#) for further information.

Eligibility

Individuals must identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and be accepted as such by their community.

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:

- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association
- Corporation
- Co-operative
- Partnership
- Sole Trader
- Trustee of a Trust
- Individual auspiced by an Eligible Not For Profit Organisation or Corporation
- Unincorporated Community Group auspiced by an Eligible Not For Profit Organisation or Corporation

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.

This program is open to for profit entities.

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

Proof of Aboriginality requirement

To be eligible for this fund, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Individuals, Sole Traders or Unincorporated Community Groups will be required to provide confirmation of Aboriginality. It's preferred this confirmation comes from a registered Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community organisation stamped with its 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.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander organisations are required to provide proof of certification and/or registration from one of the following:

- [NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Supply Nation](#)
- [Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations](#).

Not eligible for funding

For information on what is not eligible for funding in this program, see the [general exclusions and ineligibility section](#).

How to apply

To apply for this grant, contact the grants team on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Business sector support grant

Overview

This grant program supports projects delivered by local business chambers, industry associations and other organisations that grow the skills and capacity of local businesses, connect businesses to networking opportunities, advocate on key issues on behalf of local businesses, and promote local precincts.

Key dates

Applications open: Summer 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).

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

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

Cash funding may be provided progressively or on completion of certain milestones for this program.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that address one or more of the following priorities:

- 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 and sustainable economy
- build the skills and capacity of our businesses to meet the needs of our diverse communities to increase economic participation
- advocate on key industry issues on behalf of local businesses
- support vibrant local precincts and unique experiences in our area.

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

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project
- demonstrated connection, benefit to, and engagement with, the local diverse community in the planning and delivery of the project
- your capacity and experience to deliver the project

Additional criteria for projects requesting more than \$20,000:

- how the project delivers against the funding priorities

See the [what the assessment criteria means section](#) for further information.

Eligibility

To be eligible, you must operate within the City of Sydney's local area or demonstrate significant benefits for our residents, workers, businesses or visitors.

These organisations can apply:

- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association
- Business Advocacy Organisation

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- operational costs or overheads for the core business of an organisation.

For more information on what is not eligible for funding in this program, see the [general exclusions and ineligibility section](#).

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.

Community services grant

Overview

This grant 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

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

Funding available

Cash funding up to \$50,000 a 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 pole hire and indoor venue hire is also available.

You can apply for up to \$5,000 for capital expenditure or equipment.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects or programs that:

- recognise and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and cultures
- strengthen social cohesion, community resilience and wellbeing
- involve our communities in local decision making and community life
- improve digital literacy and skills
- support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

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

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project or program
- demonstrated connection, benefit to, and engagement with, the local priority communities in the planning and delivery of the project
- your capacity and experience to deliver the project or program

Additional criteria for projects requesting more than \$20,000:

- how the project or program delivers against the funding priorities

See the [what the assessment criteria means section](#) for further information.

For the definition of Priority Communities, see the [glossary/definitions section](#) for more information.

Eligibility

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

These individuals and organisations can apply:

- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association
- Individual auspiced by an Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Unincorporated Community Group auspiced by an Eligible Not For Profit Organisation

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

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

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

Not eligible for funding

For information on what is not eligible for funding in this program, see the [general exclusions and ineligibility section](#).

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.

Creative grant

Overview

This grant program supports projects that contribute to Sydney's cultural life. We support creative projects that showcase our local artistic talent and provide opportunities for everyone to engage in a creative practice or take part in cultural activities.

For our cultural life to thrive, we need a well-resourced and resilient creative sector. This grant program will help build the sustainability of the creative industries by investing in new work, new audiences and new opportunities to unlock the creative potential of our city.

Key dates

Applications open: Summer round

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

Funding available

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

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

You can apply for up to \$10,000 for capital expenditure or equipment.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that:

- celebrate and acknowledge Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities and cultures
- increase equitable access to creativity and culture for our community.
- promote local stories and talent, or explore Sydney's history
- reflect and connect with our diverse communities
- enhance professional skills and opportunities for local creative workers
- address challenges facing the creative industries and cultural sector

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

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project
- demonstrated connection, benefit to, and engagement with, the local diverse community in the planning and delivery of the project
- your capacity and experience to deliver the project

Additional criteria for projects requesting more than \$20,000:

- how the project delivers against the funding priorities

See the [what the assessment criteria means section](#) for further information.

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 or visitors.

These individuals and organisations can apply:

- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association
- Individual auspiced by an Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Unincorporated Community Group auspiced by an Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Corporation
- Co-operative
- Partnership
- Sole Trader
- Trustee of a Trust
- Government Cultural Institution

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.

This program is open to for profit entities.

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

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 are a festival or event.

For more information on what is not eligible for funding in this program, see the [general exclusions and ineligibility section](#).

How to apply

Applications for grants and sponsorship must be completed online.

Grants and sponsorship programs guidelines – July 2025

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.

Dixon street improvement grant

Overview

This funding program supports capital works that improve shop and building frontages on Dixon Street south with matched funding that contributes to:

- the visible renewal of Dixon Street (south) shopfronts and facades, making the street more active and attractive
- the creation of a 'chef's gallery' bringing the theatre of food preparation to Dixon Street – the distinct character and identity of Dixon Street as the historic heart of Chinatown.

We provide support for 3 types of capital works projects:

- type 1 - street level major works
- type 2 - street level minor works
- type 3 - upper storey works

Key dates

This program will open for 3 years from 2024/25 or until the budget is exhausted.

See 'how to apply for Dixon street' for more information on the application process.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise:

1. Street level major works
 - building works to bring food preparation to the front window to be visible from Dixon Street (required for this type of grant)
 - upgrades to shopfronts
 - upgrades to external signs and lighting
 - installation of larger windows or bi-fold windows (opening up views from Dixon Street)
 - repair or restoration of the awnings
2. Street level minor works
 - upgrades to Dixon Street shopfronts

- upgrades to external signs and lighting
- installation of larger windows or bi-fold windows (opening up views from Dixon Street)
- repair or restoration of existing awnings

3. Upper storey works

- restoration or installation of signs or street art that maintains Dixon Street's character
- cleaning, repairing or repainting external building façade
- repair or restoration of the awning and upper storey windows
- removal of redundant air conditioning units, utilities, wiring or fixtures.

Funding available

Type 1 – Street level major works: Cash funding up to \$60,000 is available per shopfront.

Type 2 – Street level minor works: Cash funding of up to \$20,000 is available per shopfront.

Type 3 – Upper storey works: Cash funding up to \$60,000 is available per property.

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

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against the following criteria:

- significant and visible improvements to the shop and building frontages as viewed from Dixon Street
- design excellence and responds to local heritage and character
- supports local and small businesses
- value for money
- how the project meets the funding priorities.

Eligibility

To be eligible:

- the building must be located on one of the properties highlighted in blue in Figure 1
- the proposed works must be to a frontage visible from Dixon Street
- the applicant must be the landowner or lessee with a letter of support from the landowner
- the applicant must have an ABN (Australian Business Number)
- the proposed works will need to meet certain standards including planning regulations, certification regulations and the Building Code of Australia (National Construction Code).

Your proposal may need to go through a development application process.



Figure 1

Also, for street level major works applications (type 1) to be eligible the proposed improvements must bring food preparation to the front window to be visible from Dixon Street, contributing to a 'chefs gallery' on Dixon Street.

This program is open to for profit entities.

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- purchase of buildings
- extensions or additions to properties
- relocation of businesses
- internal fit outs or works which do not improve the frontage as viewed from Dixon Street
- fees for development applications, health inspection fees, health approvals, street closures and other approvals and other similar statutory charges
- reimbursement of funds already spent (funds spent in relation to the project itself can be included towards your matched funds)
- operational costs, staffing, wages and marketing.

How to apply for Dixon street

This program has 4 steps in the application process:

Step 1. Design concierge

- submit your design consign request online
- meet with the concierge team to discuss your site and what type of improvements could be eligible for grant funding
- develop your proposal with advice from the concierge team
- you may need to engage a design team
- the design concierge will carry out eligibility, scope of work and design checks.

Step 2. Grant application (at the same time as Step 3)

- submit your grant application and provide quotes for the proposed work
- for more significant works, the grant payment may be on the condition of an approved development application.

Step 3. Planning approvals or certification (at the same time as Step 2)

- your proposal may require a development application consent or complying development certificate.
- the design concierge team can provide advice.
- the applicant will need to make the necessary applications and pay any applicable fees.

Step 4: Grant assessment

- once you submit your grant application and upload any required approvals or certificates, your grant application will be assessed.

Grants and sponsorship programs guidelines – July 2025

- recommendations then are made to Council, who decide on the final outcome.
- applicant will be notified when application will be going to Council, and later be notified of the outcome.

Step 5: Contracting, payment and construction (if successful) – Works can commence.

- grant funding will be provided in 2 staged payments: 50% when works begin and 50% when works are completed and verified through a site inspection and review of receipts.

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

Festivals and events sponsorship

Overview

This grant program supports local festivals and events that celebrate, develop and engage our diverse 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, yearly or a series of recurring events over a set period.

Key dates

Applications open: Summer and winter round

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

Funding available

Cash funding up to \$50,000 a 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 pole hire and indoor hire of indoor venues is available. Sponsorship recipients provided Value-in-kind venue hire for a landmark venue are also eligible for a 25% reduction on equipment hire fees.

If you are not an Eligible Not For Profit Organisation, a Business Advocacy Organisation or an Incorporated Association, you're required to match the cash funding requested with cash and/or value in kind.

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

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise festivals and events that:

- celebrate and acknowledge Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities and cultures
- 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 communities
- activate local precincts with creative programming.

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

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project
- demonstrated connection, benefit to, and engagement with, the local diverse community in the planning and delivery of the project
- your capacity and experience to deliver the project

Additional criteria for projects requesting more than \$20,000:

- how the project delivers against the funding priorities

See the [what the assessment criteria means section](#) for further information.

Eligibility

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

These individuals and organisations can apply:

- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association
- Individual auspiced by an Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Unincorporated Community Group auspiced by an Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Corporation
- Co-operative
- Sole Trader
- Trustee of a Trust
- Business Advocacy Organisation
- Government Entity

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.

This program is open to for profit entities.

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

For 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 for landmark venues
- outdoor venues aren't available for Value-in-kind requests. For outdoor events contact openspacebookings@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

For more information on what is not eligible for funding in this program, see the [general exclusions and ineligibility section](#).

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.

Food support grant

Overview

This funding supports 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

Key dates

Applications open: Summer 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 that helps people connect 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 a year is available, for a one-year program or multi-year funding (up to 3 years).

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

You 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
- demonstrated connection, benefit to, and engagement with, the local diverse community in the planning and delivery of the project
- your capacity and experience to deliver the project
- how the project delivers against the funding priorities

See the [what the assessment criteria means section](#) for further information.

Tier 2 – Large scale projects

Funding available

Cash funding up to \$750,000 a year is available for a one-year program or multi-year funding (up to 3 years).

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

You 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
- demonstrated connection, benefit to, and engagement with, the local diverse community in the planning and delivery of the project
- your capacity and experience to deliver the project
- how the project delivers against the funding priorities
- evidence of partnerships with local community organisations and networks

See the [‘what the assessment criteria means section](#) for further information.

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 tiers 1 and 2:

- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association

These additional individuals and organisations can apply for tier 1 only:

- Individual auspiced by an Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Unincorporated Community Group auspiced by an Eligible Not For Profit Organisation

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

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

Not eligible for funding

For information on what is not eligible for funding in this program, see the [general exclusions and ineligibility section](#).

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.

Green building grant

Overview

This grant program supports building owners and owners corporations to receive environmental ratings, certifications and assessments to make their buildings resource-efficient and achieve net zero emissions by 2035.

These are examples of what funding can support:

Residential apartment buildings

- building electrification feasibility assessments
 - upgrades of domestic gas hot water systems to heat pump systems
 - full building electrification including common areas, in-apartments and electric vehicle charging
- renewable energy feasibility assessments
 - onsite solar, especially shared solar that enables renters access to renewable energy
- energy, water, and waste assessments
 - identification of no-/low-cost efficiency opportunities
 - identification of larger projects that future-proof buildings
- establishment of local resource recovery hubs (non-capital works)
- multi-year NABERS energy and water ratings
 - initial rating year and action plan, second year rating and evaluation plan for implemented upgrades, final rating year with measured saving and outcomes.

Applicants should demonstrate intent to implement feasible solutions, as indicated in the assessments, and sufficient budget in the building's Capital Works Fund to do so.

Accommodation buildings, including hotels, hostels and serviced apartments

- electrification feasibility assessment for gas dependent boiler, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and kitchen systems.
- multi-year NABERS energy and water ratings and waste verification
 - initial rating year and action plan, second year rating and evaluation plan for implemented upgrades, final rating year with measured saving and outcomes.
- Green Star Performance rating
- EarthCheck certification
- Ecotourism certification
- energy, water and waste assessments
- renewables feasibility assessments
- net zero action plan.

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 \$50,000 is available for each project, per year up to 3 years.

Accommodation buildings, including hotels, hostels and serviced apartments: If you don't meet the guidelines definition Eligible Not For Profit Organisation or Incorporated Association, you're required to match the cash funding request with cash and/or value-in-kind.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that enable existing residential and accommodation buildings to improve their environmental performance, electrify gas systems and achieve net zero emissions.

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

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project
- your capacity and experience to deliver the project
- how the project delivers against the funding priorities

See the [what the assessment criteria means section](#) for further information.

Eligibility

The owners corporation of a residential apartment building or owner of an accommodation building in the City of Sydney's local area that is one of the following organisation types:

- Owners Corporation
- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association
- Corporation
- Co-operative
- Trustee of a Trust

This program is open to for profit entities.

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

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

Not eligible for funding

- capital expenditure or capital works
- new buildings
- commercial office or entertainment building types
- requests for tender, quote comparisons
- a NABERS rating mandated by government including under the commercial building disclosure scheme at point of sale or lease.

For more information on what is not eligible for funding in this program, see the [general exclusions and ineligibility section](#).

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.

Haymarket activation grant

Overview

This grant program will support one major activation in the Haymarket precinct per year to the value of \$200,000.

The activation will attract people to Haymarket (defined as the area within the dotted lines on Figure 1), celebrate Asian cultures and strengthen community inclusion and cohesion. The project will be produced through collaborations and will activate public places, business premises and vacant space with cultural programming.

Project collaborators may include:

- businesses in Haymarket
- landowners and others in Haymarket wanting to activate vacant space
- a media agency
- an arts/cultural operator
- a creative producer or event manager
- a local community group wanting to reinvigorate Haymarket.

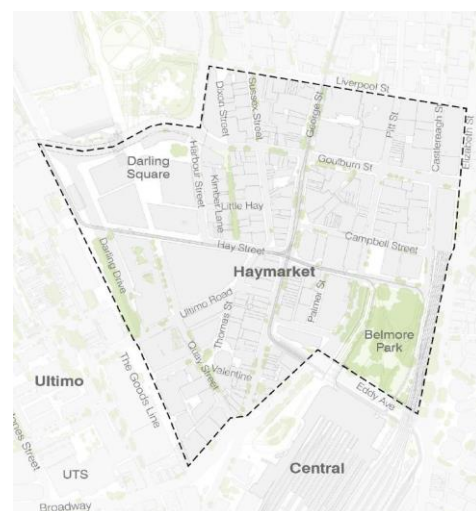


Figure 1

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 of \$200,000 plus up to \$100,000 of Value-in-kind (for example banners, venue hire) is available for one major activation. Within the cash funding component, applicants can apply for up to \$20,000 worth of capital expenditure or equipment purchase.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that support:

- celebrate Asian cultures and communities
- 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

- activates Haymarket with creative and cultural programming.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- potential reach and impact of the activation including proposed timing
- capacity and experience of the applicant and their partners to produce the activation
- demonstrated partnerships, connection and benefit to Haymarket and the local community
- evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in planning and producing the activation
- how the project meets the funding priorities.

Eligibility

These organisations can apply:

- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association
- Corporation
- Co-operative
- Trustee of a Trust

This program is open to for profit entities.

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

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

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- activations proposed outside of the Haymarket area (marked on Figure 1 in these guidelines)
- operational costs or overheads for the core business of an organisation
- activations that are part of or at the same time as existing festivals and events taking place within or in the vicinity of the Haymarket area (for example Sydney Lunar Festival, Vivid Sydney or SXSW Sydney).

For more information on what is not eligible for funding in this program, see the [general exclusions and ineligibility section](#).

How to apply

Applications for grants and sponsorship must be completed online.

If you are planning to hold your activation at a City of Sydney managed outdoor space, please review the fees and charges for outdoor venue hire and contact the outdoor venue management team by email openspacebookings@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

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

Innovation and ideas grant

Overview

This grant program supports projects that foster innovation, expand opportunities, showcase local expertise, and test new ideas to address local and global issues across our strategic priorities.

Projects that deliver across multiple priorities are encouraged.

Funding can support:

- research and feasibility studies relating to the funding priorities listed below
 - projects that test and extend 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 that support the delivery of the funding priorities
 - initiatives that increase the scale of delivery for existing projects.
-

Key dates

Applications open: Summer and winter round

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

Funding available

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

If you are not an Eligible Not For Profit Organisation or an Incorporated Association, you're required to match the cash funding request with cash and/or value-in-kind.

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

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

Research or reports funded through a City of Sydney grant should be made readily accessible to the public. Council may choose to vary this requirement as part of the grant conditions, where appropriate

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise innovative projects that make Sydney:

- a leading environmental performer
- a circular economy that supports reuse and repair
- a place with a transformed and innovative economy

- more equitable and inclusive
- more resilient and diverse
- thrive culturally and creatively.

We encourage applications from organisations, groups and individuals that support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities and culture, including Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and networks, along with those that support Priority Communities, including renters and people living in apartments.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project
- demonstrated connection, benefit to, and engagement with, the local diverse community in the planning and delivery of the project
- your capacity and experience to deliver the project

Additional criteria for projects requesting more than \$20,000:

- how the project delivers against the funding priorities

See the [what the assessment criteria means section](#) for further information.

For the definition of a priority community, see the [glossary/definitions section](#) for more information.

Eligibility

To be eligible, an applicant must operate within the City of Sydney's area or demonstrate significant benefits for our residents, workers or visitors.

These organisations can apply:

- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association
- Corporation
- Co-operative
- Trustee of a Trust

This program is open to for profit entities.

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

For 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

For more information on what is not eligible for funding in this program, see the [general exclusions and ineligibility section](#).

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.

You can review all [our Strategies and Action plans](#) on our website.

Major grants

Overview

This program supports projects that bring significant and long term economic, environmental, social and cultural impact to Sydney.

This program provides support for significant recurring major festivals, events, programs or capital works from organisations with a proven track record, have multiple sources of income, recognised brand, support increased visitation, economic activity and investment in Sydney.

This will achieve results across our multiple strategic priorities, support our diverse communities and enhance the vibrancy and sustainability of the City of Sydney.

Key dates

This program is open all year for applications.

Please contact our grants team to discuss your proposal on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Funding available

Funding is available for up to 5 years and may include capital expenditure or equipment.

Value-in-kind in the form of indoor venue hire and other negotiated City of Sydney services and resources is available.

Eligible Not-For-Profit organisations are also eligible for street banner pole hire Value-in-kind and a 25% reduction on equipment hire fees at Landmark Venues (for equipment owned by the City of Sydney).

If you are not an Eligible Not-For-Profit or an Incorporated Association, you're required to match the funding request with cash and/or value-in-kind.

Funding priorities

Major grants must contribute to at least 3 of the following priorities:

- celebrate, support and acknowledge Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities and cultures
- support and significantly improve social cohesion, inclusion, community resilience and connectedness
- increase access and engagement in the social, cultural and economic life of Sydney for diverse communities
- support the visitor economy and activate local precincts through creative programming, events and promotion
- attract intrastate, interstate or international visitation and investment in Sydney

- support artists, creative industries and local businesses
- encourage cultural organisations, businesses and talent to locate and operate in Sydney
- secure and maintain local community and cultural assets
- address challenges facing the creative industries and cultural sector
- support improvements for priority communities
- invest in services and build the organisational capacity of organisations that support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

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

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project
- demonstrated connection, benefit to, and engagement with, the local diverse community in the planning and delivery of the project
- demonstration of sustainable practices and minimising environmental impact and implementation of resource recovery approaches
- capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver quality projects of this size, impact and reach
- how the project delivers against the funding priorities
- demonstration of value for money, financial capacity and ongoing viability of the project
- evidence of partnerships with local community organisations and networks
- for event-based projects: evidence of track record, organisational viability and market demand to support future events, large scale audience or market reach and national or international brand awareness

You may be assessed against additional criteria based on the specific strategic outcomes as endorsed by council in City of Sydney Strategic Plans and Strategies. These will be negotiated prior to any submission.

Application requirements and process

We will advise an applicant of the requirements when they apply.

The requirements may include:

- strategic business plan, including:
 - financial plan for five years
 - strategic plan
- audited financial statements
- marketing plan
- operational plan
- key performance indicators
- detailed project for first year
- reconciliation action plan (RAP)

- inclusion plan
- sustainability plan

Outcomes from the funding will be negotiated between the City of Sydney and the applicant.

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:

- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association
- Corporation
- Co-operative
- Partnership
- Trustee of a Trust
- Government Cultural Institution
- Government Entity

This program is open to for profit entities.

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- fees and charges for landmark venues.

For more information on what is not eligible for funding in this program, see the [general exclusions and ineligibility section](#).

How to apply

If you are interested learning more about major grants, please contact our grants team to discuss your proposal on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Quick response grant

Overview

This grant program supports time sensitive, small scale, community-led projects that assist in meeting urgent needs in our Priority Communities. Priority Communities may experience heightened inequality and experience barriers to social, economic, cultural, political and environmental resources, services and support. This program will support project supports the immediate needs of these communities.

Key dates

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

Projects should start at least 4 weeks after submitting your application.

Projects should be delivered within 4 months.

Funding available

Cash funding up to \$5,000 is available for projects up to 4 months.

Value-in-kind in the form of indoor venue hire is also available for organisations only.

Cash funding can be used for capital expenditure or equipment.

The cost of necessary insurances can be included in your application.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise time-sensitive projects that support Priority Communities and those with the greatest need through:

- emergency support for community, cultural and sustainability projects
- resilience and readiness of communities to respond to shocks
- local residents and teams representing the local area in sporting, academic or environmental fields
- minor capital works, equipment upgrades and acoustic upgrades for venues

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

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of how the project addresses an immediate need or emergency

- demonstrated connection, benefit to, and engagement with, local Priority Communities
- your capacity and experience to deliver the project

See the [what the assessment criteria means section](#) for further information.

For the definition of Priority Communities, see the [glossary/definitions section](#) for more information.

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,

- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association
- Partnership
- Sole Trader
- Individual without an ABN
- Unincorporated Community Group auspiced by an Eligible Not For Profit Organisation

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.

This program is open to for profit entities.

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

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

Not eligible for funding

- ongoing project, event or program funding
- operational costs or overheads for the core business of an organisation
- projects that have been unsuccessful for Quick response grant funding within the previous 6 months

For more information on what is not eligible for funding in this program, see the [general exclusions and ineligibility section](#).

How to apply

Applications for grants and sponsorship must be completed online.

It is anticipated that successful applicants should be notified 4 weeks after submission of application.

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

This fund promotes the development of affordable and diverse rental housing in our area by community housing providers as well as other organisations.

It's part of the City of Sydney's commitment to overcome financial barriers to affordable and diverse housing.

Key dates

This program is open all year for applications.

Funding available

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

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.

Funding for each project will be up to \$3 million.

Funding priorities

- maximise the amount of subsidised housing within the City of Sydney's area
- leverage additional funds from sources other than City of Sydney, 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 locally
- achieve positive results for our diverse communities through subsidised housing
- ensure the continued use of funded projects as subsidised housing

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

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

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- amount, nature and location of subsidised housing and any other uses or support
- 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
- experience with housing in line with relevant regulations
- financial capacity
- evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in planning and build of the project.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the affordable and diverse housing will be in the City of Sydney's local government area.

These organisations can apply:

- Community Housing Provider
- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association
- Corporation
- Co-operative
- Trustee of a Trust

This program is open to for profit entities.

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

Not eligible for funding

- consent authority fees and charges
- projects already receiving other subsidies or benefits from the City of Sydney, including projects that have received discounted land sales or leases.

For more information on what is not eligible for funding in this program, see the [general exclusions and ineligibility section](#).

Further conditions

- funds must only be used for capital expenditures on new subsidised housing developments
- our financial contribution won't be more than 30% of the total cost
- funds won't be released until a construction certificate is issued for the development and a covenant securing use of the land for subsidised housing (and containing terms required by the City) is registered on the title to the land
- funds may need to be repaid if the project completion date isn't 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% of gross household income, in line with NSW affordable housing guidelines
- the build must start within three years of funding approval
- the project can include some market housing for sale or a commercial component for lease or sale if this helps finance the project or helps meet planning requirements.

Additional information

Please contact us if your idea supports innovation or project development outside of the funding priorities.

How to apply

Contact senior planner Central Sydney planning to discuss your proposal on 9265 9333 or email council@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.

Tenancies are offered through an expression of interest process as spaces become available and are highly competitive. We encourage you to sign up to our mailing list to be notified when spaces become available at confirmsubscription.com/h/j/C601462D618DBDC8.

To apply for these spaces, you must demonstrate that payment of commercial rents would cause financial hardship leading to a reduction or withdrawal of services to our Priority Communities.

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 agreement.

Funding priorities

- 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 their social, cultural, economic and environmental health
- 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 startup businesses and organisations that benefit our communities.

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

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- the need for the tenancy and proposed results
 - your capacity and experience
 - connection and benefit to the local area and communities
 - diversity, inclusion and equity in the planning and development of the project
 - how the proposal aligns with the funding priorities
 - any other criteria for specific properties as they become available
 - for renewals, compliance with past agreements, lease terms and demonstration of ongoing need.
-

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:

- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association
- Corporation
- Co-operative
- Partnership
- Sole Trader
- Trustee of a Trust
- Government Entities

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

This program is open to for profit entities.

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

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

Not eligible for funding

For information on what is not eligible for funding in this program, see the [general exclusions and ineligibility section](#).

How to apply

The Accommodation grant program is run as an expression of interest. The first step will be a call for community members' interest, followed by an application stage. We may interview short-listed candidates.

Grants and sponsorship programs guidelines – July 2025

Opportunities are published on our website and email newsletters as facilities become available. You can sign up for accommodation grants notifications at confirmsubscription.com/h/j/C601462D618DBDC8.

Creative live/work spaces grant

Overview

The creative live/work spaces grant will support Practising Professional Artists to live in Sydney and practice their creative discipline by providing space to live and/or work in central Sydney at below market rates.

Tenancies are offered through an expression of interest process as properties become available.

This program provides support for up to 2 years, under 2 categories:

Category A: Work spaces

The City of Sydney has a small number of studio and work spaces suitable for artists and creative workers to undertake projects, cultural production or arts practice. Size and suitability for different processes and practice depend on location and zoning.

Category B: Live and work spaces

The City of Sydney has a small number of residential properties in inner city locations available for use by Practising Professional Artists to live and work at below market rates.

There are one bedroom apartments for individuals and three-bedroom apartments for multiple people.

Occupying a property within this program enables a cohort of artists to be neighbours for a set duration, nurturing a unique day to day living experience, expanding artists' networks and enabling new collaborative possibilities.

Key dates

This program has no set dates or rounds. Applications are invited as properties become available.

Support available

Support is available in the form of reduced rental charges for City of Sydney properties for up to 2 years.

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

Funding priorities

We will prioritise applications that:

- support artists to continue to live and work in Sydney

- support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artists
 - support artists from culturally and socially diverse backgrounds
 - demonstrate an applicant's need for support to continue to live and work in Sydney
 - demonstrate the value of the applicant's artistic output to the City of Sydney
 - enrich Sydney's communities and the local creative sector
-

Assessment criteria

Applications are assessed against:

- artistic or creative achievements of the applicant
 - experience and/or qualifications of the applicant
 - impact this opportunity will have on the applicant's creative practice
 - impact this opportunity will have on local communities and the creative sector
 - suitability of the creative practice for the space and experience of collaborative/co-operation working
 - ability to occupy the property by the specified date
 - how the application delivers against the funding priorities
 - any other criteria for the specific properties as they become available.
-

Eligibility

To be eligible you must be:

- working as a Professional Practicing Artist
- living in the Greater Sydney Area
- 18 years or older
- a citizen or permanent resident of Australia
- a Sole Trader.

We will assess eligibility for this program using the definition of artistic professions used in the Artists as Workers study undertaken by Creative Australia.

Eligible artists include:

- writers
- visual artists
- craft practitioners
- actors and directors
- dancers and choreographers
- musicians and singers
- composers, songwriters and arrangers
- community cultural development artists.

For the definition of a Professional Practicing Artist, and Greater Sydney Area see the [glossary/definitions section](#) for more information.

This program is open to for profit entities.

Not eligible for funding

For information on what is not eligible for funding in this program, see the [general exclusions and ineligibility section](#).

How to apply

This grant program is run as an expression of interest. The first step will be a call for community members' interest, followed by an application stage. We may interview short-listed candidates.

Opportunities are published on our website and email newsletters as spaces become available.

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

Short-term empty properties grant

Overview

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

The short-term empty properties program provides immediate and short-term occupancy of temporarily vacant or under-used properties within our portfolio. The properties are offered for a minimum of one month occupancy. 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 our area or to projects that can demonstrate significant benefit to the local communities.

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 available and suitable for the proposed activity. The City of Sydney may require payment of a bond as part of your lease agreement.

Funding priorities

- activities that reflect our cultural, social, economic and environmental strategies and action plans
- increasing connection with local communities, including artists and creative organisations, small business and visitors
- stimulating local economies by encouraging a diverse business mix with innovative or capacity building enterprises

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

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

Assessment criteria

- idea for the space – how you will use the space?
- use of space - why is this space suitable?
- support - how will this opportunity support you (including how often you will use the space)?
- how does the project deliver against the funding priorities set out above?

Eligibility

You must show how your proposal benefits our residents, workers and visitors.

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

These individuals and organisations can apply:

- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association
- Unincorporated Community Group auspiced by an Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Corporation
- Co-operative
- Partnership
- Sole Trader
- Trustee of a Trust

This program is open to for profit entities.

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

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

Not eligible for funding

For information on what is not eligible for funding in this program, see the [general exclusions and ineligibility section](#).

How to apply

This grant program is run as an expression of interest. The first step will be a call for community members' interest, followed by an application stage. We may interview short-listed candidates.

Grants and sponsorship programs guidelines – July 2025

This program has no set dates or rounds and is open when properties become available.

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

Street banner sponsorship

Overview

The City of Sydney has up to 1500 banner poles available for hire. This sponsorship provides banner pole hire Value-in-kind for our 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. You must meet all standard conditions of hire and pay all other 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.

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 or reduced hire rates for street banner poles, subject to availability.
- you can request up to 150 banner poles for up to 2 weeks, once a year.

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

Please note that your organisation will be responsible for the cost of the design, production, installation and dismantling of the banners, as we are unable provide Value-in-kind for, or waive, these fees.

Funding priorities

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

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

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against how the project aligns with 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.

These organisations can apply:

- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association
- Unincorporated Community Group auspiced by an Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Government Cultural Institution

You 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 of Sydney's assistance in any promotional material for the event.

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

For more information, read the general [eligibility section](#).

Not eligible for funding

- applicants that have been funded under the same program in the past 12 months
 - projects that have already received cash funding from a different City of Sydney grant program.
-

Further conditions

- bookings can only be made 6 months in advance from the installation date and after you've received confirmation of a successful application.
 - all banner designs must be approved by the City of Sydney prior to manufacture and include our logo. We reserve the right to refuse a banner design.
 - we reserve the right to determine the number and location of banner poles provided and to relocate banners to other locations.
 - poles are subject to availability at the time of booking.
-

How to apply

To hire street banner poles, please contact banners@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au to discuss hiring costs.

To apply for this grant, contact the grants team on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Venue hire support grant

Overview

The City of Sydney owns various indoor venues available for hire. The venue hire support grants program helps community and cultural groups and organisations host events, concerts, fundraisers, conferences, meetings and community gatherings. Cultural, environmental and community groups and organisations that demonstrate financial hardship can apply.

Support is available for community venues and landmark venues.

Outdoor venues aren't available for value-in-kind requests. For outdoor events, contact openspacebookings@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Key dates

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

Apply online at least 8 weeks before your event.

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

Support available

Support is available in the form of one-off or multi-year (up to 3 years) 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

- increasing numbers of programs, events and activities that contribute to social wellbeing, social inclusion and increased cultural participation
- improve services and projects for residents, workers and visitors that contribute to their social, cultural, economic and environmental health
- boost capacity of the cultural, environmental and community sector through the sharing of knowledge and resources.

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

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the project
- demonstrated connection, benefit to, and engagement with, the local diverse community in the planning and delivery of the project
- your capacity and experience to deliver 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.

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

Community venues

These organisations can apply:

- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association
- Unincorporated Community Group (note that an Individual or Eligible Not For Profit Organisation will need to enter into the venue hire agreement on your behalf)

Landmark venues

These organisations can apply:

- Eligible Not For Profit Organisation
- Incorporated Association

For the definition of each eligible applicant above, see the [glossary/definitions section](#).

For more information, read the general [eligibility section](#).

Not eligible for funding

- fees and charges associated with event staffing at venues
- projects that have already received funding from another grant.

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.

You will need to enter into a venue hire agreement and pay all other charges such as deposit and bond, security/key deposit, public liability insurance, cancellation, audio visual, extra staffing such as ushers, cloakroom and security, and any food and beverages.

How to apply

The list of [venues](#) can be located on our website.

- To book a community venue, please contact communityvenues@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au for a quote and make a tentative booking if your project is time sensitive
- To book Sydney Town Hall, Paddington Town Hall or Customs House, please submit a [venue booking request](#) and contact thm@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au for a quote

When requesting a quote, please notify the City of Sydney staff that you're applying for a grant.

To apply for this grant, once you have a quote, contact the grants team on 02 9265 9333 or email communitygrants@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Glossary/Definitions

Term	Meaning/Explanation
Acquittal	A written report submitted after the funded project is complete or yearly for multi-year projects. It details how the recipient administered the grant funds and met the project outcomes in the funding agreement.
Auspice	An incorporated organisation who receives, administers and manages the grant or sponsorship on behalf of an applicant. The auspice is required to: - enter into the relevant 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 related agreements with us - manages grant funds during the project - be responsible for all obligations in the agreement with us including providing insurances on behalf of the auspiced grant applicant. The auspice should have the technical skills to guide and support the applicant in the project, while acknowledging project decisions remain with applicant.
Capital expenditure	Funding specifically requested for purchase, maintaining or upgrading items the applicant owns and that will be used beyond the time of the project, such as building maintenance, upgrading technology or buying new equipment. These expenses are different from regular costs like salaries or utilities because they build and improve the offerings to communities in a more permanent way.
Child related work	Child-related work (including voluntary work) is: - providing services for children and young people under 18 - where the work normally involves being face to face with children - where contact with children is more than incidental to the work. As defined by the <u>Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012</u> and <u>Regulation 2013</u>
Festival or event	A public occasion for celebration or gathering to commemorate a milestone, local anniversary or an organised series of special events and performances, usually with a common theme and for set period of time.
Grant	Cash or value-in-kind support provided to applicants for a specified project or purpose.
Greater Sydney area	Greater Sydney area is a suburban region that represents the functional area of Sydney city which includes populations who regularly socialise, shop or work within Sydney, but may live either in the city or in the small towns and rural areas surrounding Sydney. Greater Sydney area stretches across Western and Southern Sydney in an arc to the Northern beaches and Central Coast.

The boundaries are listed here <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/community-profiles/2021/1GSYD>



Practicing Professional Artist

A Practicing professional artist is defined as meeting one or more of the following criteria:

1. In the last three to five years, have had an artistic achievement in their art form, such as:
 - a work of creative fiction or imagination accepted for publication by a recognized publishing outlet or performed by a professional stage, radio, television or film company, for which a fee or royalties was received;
 - a work or works shown or performed at a professional gallery or exhibition, or published by a recognised publishing outlet, or have received a major public or private commission;
 - an original composition, other than advertising jingles or other commercial music, performed under professional circumstances, either live, broadcast, recorded or filmed;
 - a professional engagement as a director or dramatic actor or performer with a professional stage, television or film company;
 - a professional engagement as a choreographer, dancer, musician or singer in a professional capacity;
 - contributed to the development of a major community arts project, or played an important part in encouraging members of the community to create works of art, or had a substantial artistic role in a festival or other important community arts event; or
2. have been engaged in the last five years in creating a serious and substantial body of work in their art form; or
3. have undertaken full-time training in their art form; or
4. in the last three to five years, have received a grant to work in their art form from a public or private grant-giving agency.

Priority Communities

Communities that may experience heightened inequality and experience barriers to social, economic, cultural, political and environmental resources, services and support.

These include Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples, people on low incomes, people renting including social housing residents, people experiencing homelessness, people with disability, people with lived experience of a mental health and/or chronic condition, people over 65, young people, and children under 5, new immigrants, non-citizens and refugees, people with English as second language, people of diverse sexualities and genders, and women and girls.

Research	the academic research report being produced by or on behalf of the Recipient as part of the Project, to which the City's grant funding pertains.
Recipient	A party who has successfully applied for a grant or sponsorship. Also known as grantee.
Social enterprise	A business with a clear and stated social, environmental or cultural mission. They are usually driven by a public or community cause, derive most of their income from trade (not donations or grants) and use the majority of their profits to work towards their social mission as defined by their constitution.
Sponsorship	Agreements between the City of Sydney and organisations where the City of Sydney receives benefits in return for the sponsorship. Examples of benefits include promotion, marketing, speaking opportunities or tickets.
Value-in-kind	Value-in-kind refers to an arrangement where the City of Sydney gives up revenue, either in full or a percentage, on things for which a fee normally applies. This may include venue hire, banner pole hire, or rent.

Entity	Definition
Sole Trader	An individual running a business with an active ABN.
Eligible Not For Profit Organisation	An organisation registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission that is an Incorporated Association, Trust, Corporation, or Co-operative and that has an active ABN. This category does not include unincorporated associations (including unincorporated groups or clubs) – refer to Unincorporated Community Group.
Corporation	A company incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) with a current ACN and active ABN, or a company incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth) with a current ICN and active ABN.
Incorporated Association	An association incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW) with an active ABN, or an association incorporated under equivalent State/Territory legislation with an active ABN.
Co-operative	A co-operative registered under the Co-operatives (Adoption of National Law) Act 2012 (NSW) or equivalent State/Territory legislation with an Australian Registered Body Number (ABRN) and active ABN.
Individual	An individual that is not running a business and does not have an ABN.
Partnership	A partnership regulated by the Partnership Act 1892 (NSW) or equivalent State/Territory legislation with an active ABN.
Government Entity	An entity with an active ABN that is either a department, executive or statutory agency of, or corporation owned by, the Commonwealth or any State or Territory; any entity within the meaning of section 41 of A New Tax System (Australian Business Number) Act 1999 (Cth); or a local governing body as defined by the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth), and includes Government Cultural Institutions.

Business Advocacy Organisation	An organisation that represents and/or advocates for businesses in a particular industry, sector or area and this is either a Corporation that is limited by guarantee, a Co-operative that is non-distributing, or an organisation registered under the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 (Cth).
Trustee of a Trust	An Individual or Corporation acting in its capacity as a trustee of a trust. This category does not include trusts that are government entities – refer to Government Entities.
Community Housing Provider	An entity that provides community housing that is registered in NSW under the Community Housing Providers (Adoption of National Law) Act 2012 (NSW) and that has an active ABN.
Government Cultural Institution	A Government Entity that is either a NSW State cultural institution as defined by Create NSW or a National Cultural Institution as defined by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.
Owners Corporation	An owners corporation constituted under the Strata Schemes Management Act 2015 (NSW) and that has an active ABN.
Unincorporated Community Group	A group of people that have agreed to pursue a common purpose or interest, including groups such as a club, society or association (that is not incorporated).



Attachment F

Engagement Report October 2025

Engagement report – Grants program review



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Overview

Background

The City of Sydney is reviewing its Grants and Sponsorships Program to make it easier to use, fairer and more effective. The program supports community, environmental, cultural and business initiatives that make Sydney a more inclusive, creative and sustainable city.

As part of this review, a two-phase consultation will seek feedback from the community to create a streamlined, accessible program that provides stronger support for applicants.

The first phase focused on targeted consultation with past grant applicants and program users, with the aim of testing proposed changes and identifying support needs. Phase 2 will be a public exhibition of the revised guidelines for broad community feedback.

Engagement summary

In **September/October 2025** we ran 2 workshops with previous grant applicants to test proposed changes and understand what support organisations will need under a revised system.

A **face-to-face workshop** was held on **Tuesday 30 September 2025** at Town Hall House.

An **online workshop** was held on **Thursday 16 October 2025** via zoom.

In total, **21 organisations** took part.

Participants represented a broad cross-section of the community including arts, cultural and festival organisations, local businesses, community service providers, sustainability initiatives and culturally diverse groups. The groups included small and large organisations, experienced applicants and newer groups, and representatives from across our villages.

The workshops focused on four topics:

- The proposed single annual funding round and revised application model
- The introduction of external assessors
- The level and impact of grant funding caps
- How we can best communicate and support organisations through the changes

Feedback from these sessions has helped refine the draft guidelines before they are presented to Council in late 2025 for public exhibition in 2026.

About the workshops

Workshop structure

The workshops followed a structured and interactive format designed to gather detailed feedback on four key aspects of the proposed grants program review.

Facilitators shared short presentations outlining each proposed change before guided activities where participants discussed potential challenges, benefits and support needs.

Activity 1 – Application model

Participants discussed the shift to one main funding round per year and one main category per Council strategy ie Social, Economic, Environmental and Creative. They identified potential challenges, then suggested support measures that could make the model easier to navigate.

Activity 2 – External assessors

Facilitators presented a proposal to introduce industry local expert assessors. Participants explored the benefits, concerns and safeguards needed for trust and transparency in the process.

Activity 3 – Funding caps

Participants considered the potential impact of increasing grant funding limits. Using boards marked with +\$10K increments, they recorded what they would do with additional funds and what benefits this could create for their communities.

Activity 4 – Communicating the changes

Groups brainstormed how best to communicate the changes to the wider community and what resources or channels would help applicants understand and adapt to the new system.

Feedback summary

Across both sessions, participants supported the review and appreciated being involved early in the process. They valued the opportunity to shape the design of the revisions and offered clear, constructive suggestions.

Across both workshops, participants expressed strong support for simplifying the application program and improving accessibility. There was consistent enthusiasm for support materials such as clear templates, feedback, and one-to-one help.

In both sessions there was concern that a single annual funding round could disadvantage smaller and less experienced organisations, and general agreement that external assessors could strengthen transparency, provided they are diverse, well trained, and guided by clear criteria.

Participants had mixed views on funding cap increases. Some saw benefits for balancing increased costs and expanding project scale and impact, while others preferred to maintain the current cap so more, smaller grants can be given.

Both groups recommended clear communication and multi-channel outreach about any changes.

The face-to-face group focused more on operational challenges like application processes, timing, and support needs. They provided detailed ideas around their concerns and possible support.

The online group focused more on principles like transparency, diversity of assessors, and how to balance accessibility with fairness. They discussed community confidence and asked how success would be measured.

What we heard

This section of the report describes in detail the feedback we heard in about each topic in the workshops. It combines feedback and discussion points from both the face-to-face session and the online session.

1. Application model and process

Participants supported simplifying the application process but raised concerns about how the new timing model could affect smaller organisations and those with less administrative capacity. Most participants agreed that having one main funding round each year would make it easier for the City of Sydney to manage applications and appreciated the resulting increase in support that would enable. A key concern raised was that the length of time between applications would make it harder for a smaller and less experienced community organisations to utilise the learnings from their application feedback to re-apply after an unsuccessful application. There was concern about the challenge of aligning the timing of funding applications with creative opportunities.

Clarity was provided to the participants that this change would only impact four categories that have been delivered twice a year. There were no changes proposed to the grants that are open all year round or as properties become available.

There was broad support for keeping quick-response grants open year-round, and for introducing clearer, more transparent processes for applicants. Participants said the structure should be designed around accessibility, equity and ongoing communication.

Key themes

- **Accessibility and equity:** The 'one round per year' model risks disadvantaging small or less experienced organisations that don't have dedicated staff to manage applications.
- **Risk and pressure:** Participants said missing the single application window could prevent them from delivering projects that respond to new needs or opportunities.
- **Clarity and feedback:** Applicants want simpler forms, templates and more feedback, especially for unsuccessful applications, to help improve over time.
- **Support for first-time applicants:** Participants emphasised the need for help navigating the system, especially for smaller, diverse organisations, and appreciated the extra support proposed as part of this change
- **Keep flexibility:** Participants supported retaining quick-response funding open all year.

"Longer lead time might help, clearer sense of project"

"Concentration into one application disadvantages smaller orgs with smaller staffing"

"Marginalisation – bigger orgs advantaged, smaller squeezed"

"Stifles creativity + innovation"

"What if orgs miss the deadline?"

"People miss out – system/economic driven not support innovation"

2. Assessment process (external panels)

Participants were broadly supportive of using external assessors to bring greater transparency, fairness and expertise to the grants process. Many saw this as a positive step toward shared decision-making and community involvement.

At the same time, participants highlighted risks around consistency, potential bias, and the need for appropriate training and representation. They stressed that assessors should reflect the diversity of Sydney's communities and creative sectors, not just established or well-connected organisations.

Key themes

- **Diversity and representation:** Participants expressed strong support for external panels that include assessors with lived experience, particularly people from First Nations, culturally diverse, disability and community-based organisations.
- **Training and guidelines:** There was strong agreement that all assessors should be trained on equity, conflict of interest and our assessment criteria.
- **Hybrid model:** There was strong support for a mixed panel of our staff and external assessors to balance community insight with program consistency.
- **Transparency and renewal:** Regular rotation of assessors and clear terms of reference were seen as essential to maintain confidence in the process.
- **Shared decision-making:** Participants valued the opportunity for the community to have a voice in allocation decisions, provided governance and oversight are strong.

“Diversity of expertise / lived experience”

“Assessors / representation (First Nations)”

“Global / broader perspective”

“Transparent / equitable”

“Manage COI, allocate more \$, define industry”

“Hybrid approach, terms for assessors to build knowledge”

“Facilitation of intercultural communication”

3. Funding caps

Participants had mixed views on increasing the maximum grant amount.

While many supported higher caps to match the rising cost of delivering programs, others were concerned that larger grants could mean fewer projects receive funding overall.

Participants were asked to describe what they could achieve with additional funding in \$10,000 increments. However, the following discussions focused less on the exact amount and more on how any increase would work in practice.

Participants who supported an increased funding cap said extra funds could be used for wages, artist fees, marketing, equipment and expanded community engagement. Some participants stressed that an increase in funding is necessary to balance the rising cost of living, and would

enable their organisation to continue delivering the same level of service. Many others said they would not seek a higher amount, noting that the current \$50,000 cap was appropriate for their project scale and that the priority should be supporting more organisations overall.

Key themes

- **Value of an increase:** A higher cap could help organisations balance higher costs, hire more staff, attract skilled staff and deliver longer-term outcomes.
- **Equity concerns:** Some participants expressed concern that increasing caps could reduce access for smaller or emerging organisations.
- **Different scales:** Some projects are already well served by the existing cap, while others could benefit from modest increases.

+\$10K:

“Wages (1E person)”

“More money to artists / more community engagement”

“Will cover costs”

“No – 50k is enough, it is always a portion of our external funding”

“Not enough arts funded now”

+\$30K:

“More marketing / shop fronts”

“Wages for more detailed data collection”

“Spend less time chasing money from other sources”

“More money to artists / more community engagement”

“No need”

“Not enough apps are funded now”

+\$50K:

“Staff wage to focus on making the project financially sustainable”

“Permanent infrastructure such as vehicle”

“Buy equipment for lasting impact”

“More ambitious and transformative projects”

“More leverage on external/matched funding”

“No need”

4. Communication and support

Participants emphasised that how the changes are communicated will be critical to the success of the revised program.

They said it is important to provide clear and transparent communication of what is changing and why those changes are being made.

Participants highlighted the importance of practical support including training, one-on-one help and case studies, especially for smaller organisations and less experienced applicants. They encouraged us to use trusted community networks and multiple formats to make information accessible to everyone.

Key themes

- **Plain English communication:** Explain the changes clearly, including what is new, what is staying the same, and why the review is happening.
- **Multiple channels:** Use our libraries, social media, newsletters and community networks to share information widely.

- **Practical support:** Offer webinars, drop-in sessions and short videos to guide people through the new process.
- **Community advocates:** Partner with local and sector leaders to help reach diverse audiences.
- **Transparency:** Emphasise that changes are designed to improve fairness and access, not to reduce funding.

“Social media”

“Text messages?”

“Comms via library”

“Face-to-face sessions”

“Be clear about why”

“Plain English”

“Be aware of impact of changes at other levels”

“What is the why / opportunity / benefits”

“Don’t oversell opportunity”

“Webinars (recorded) – accessible”

“Workshops”

“1:1s”

“Be clear not a cut to \$ but process change”

“Community advocates involved”

Engagement approach

We invited a targeted group of past grant applicants to take part in this early consultation. These organisations were selected to reflect a mix of program experience, focus areas and community perspectives.

Participants were chosen to include:

- community service organisations
- arts and cultural organisations
- sustainability initiatives
- festival and events organisers
- First Nations and culturally diverse organisations
- small, medium and large organisations working across different villages.

Two workshops were held:

- **Face-to-face workshop** – 30 September 2025, 10am to 12 noon, Marconi Room, Town Hall House, 456 Kent Street Sydney
- **Online workshop** – 16 October 2025, 12 noon to 1pm via Zoom

A total of **21 organisations** participated (16 in person and 5 online).

Both sessions were facilitated by staff from the City Engagement and Grants teams.

Activities were designed to explore participant views on the four key areas of proposed change:

1. the new application model and process
2. use of external assessors
3. changes to funding caps
4. how to communicate and support applicants during implementation.

Participants worked in small groups using worksheets, discussion boards and post-it notes to record feedback. For the online session, participants contributed through facilitated discussion and chat.

All feedback was recorded and analysed to identify consistent themes and practical suggestions for improving the draft guidelines.

Response

Feedback received has been taken into account during the review of the Policy and Guidelines.

In addition, as a result of the feedback received, the new Grants programs outlined in the draft Grants Guidelines have been restructured around offering one round a year.

One round will achieve greater clarity, ease of navigation and simplicity of design for City of Sydney applicants due to the following reasons:

- the new program is more streamlined, simpler and clearer in its purpose.
- the new categories in the program are easier for applicants to navigate.
- the new categories create more opportunities for new projects while continuing to support current project proposals.
- one round provides clarity for planning of projects - applicants will have earlier notification of funding outcomes for the coming year.
- one round allows for comprehensive assessment of all applications and alignment with funding purpose
- one round allows the assessments to be reviewed for equity of distribution of support across the whole city (this includes addressing whether we are supporting larger or smaller organisations).

Currently only the Food Support, Green Building Grants, Festivals and Events and Innovation and Ideas programs are offered twice a year. In the proposed new program Festivals and Events and Innovation and Ideas will no longer be stand alone programs but are eligible activities under the four core categories.

Green Building Grants is a program within the broader category of Environmental grants. Food Support remains a flexible program that could be offered either twice a year or a year long program, but for efficiency purposes would be best run during the one main round.

Quick Response grants and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fund continues to be offered all year around as does our Value in kind (VIK) support through venue hire and street banner.



Item 5.

Post Exhibition – Code of Meeting Practice

Document to Follow

Item 6.

Land Classification - 99A Belmont Street, Alexandria

File No: **2025/654437**

Summary

On 23 June 2025, Council endorsed public notification of the proposed resolution to classify proposed Lot 101 in the plan of subdivision of Lot 100 in Deposited Plan 1290374 as operational land. The land is to be transferred to the City by the current registered proprietor BELMONT RESIDUAL PTY LTD, JWM BELMONT HOLDINGS PTY LTD and POINT NO 3 PTY LTD (the Developer, ABN : 92 524 358 959) in accordance with registered Planning Agreement AS335823.

Since June 2025, this land has been subdivided and is now legally known as Lot 101 in Deposited Plan 1314191. The address was also updated from 59-99 Belmont Street, Alexandria, to 99A Belmont Street, Alexandria.

The proposed resolution to classify this land as operational land was publicly notified for a period of 28 days from 27 August 2025 to 24 September 2025. No submissions were received.

This report seeks Council's endorsement to classify 99A Belmont Street, Alexandria (being Lot 101 in Deposited Plan 1314191) as operational land under the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council endorse the classification of 99A Belmont Street, Alexandria (being Lot 101 in Deposited Plan 1314191) as operational land in accordance with section 31 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Attachments

Attachment A. Identification Map

Background

1. On 23 September 2020, development consent was granted for a development at 59-99 Belmont Street, Alexandria (now known as 99A Belmont Street). The development comprises the demolition of existing buildings excluding the front façade, tree removal, and construction of a new 4-storey residential development with 23 apartments, basement parking, private rooftop open space and landscaping (D/2019/1249).
2. On 21 September 2021, the City entered into registered Planning Agreement AS335823 with the then registered proprietor Aqualand Belmont Developments Pty Ltd (ACN 629 673 383), which provided for land dedication and embellishment works for a widened pedestrian and cycle shared path, and a monetary contribution towards community infrastructure in Green Square.
3. The existing pedestrian and cycle shared path runs from Belmont Street to Buckland Street and is adjacent to the Alexandria Park Community School.
4. The shared path is part of the City's network of bike routes identified in the Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2030.
5. The shared path is partly made up of a 2m wide easement for public access over the school's land, and publicly dedicated land from the development of 92-94 Buckland Street. The land from 99A Belmont Street will result in a total width of approximately 3.6m for the length of the shared path.
6. An easement for drainage will be required over the shared path to accommodate stormwater drainage infrastructure constructed on the land that services the new development at 59-99 Belmont Street. This easement will be created by the developer as part of the subdivision process.
7. Stormwater infrastructure for 55-88 Belmont Street is contained entirely underneath this lot, being Lot 101. The lot is also adjacent to land with an existing easement to facilitate the use of the shared path. A classification of the land as 'operational' will support the City's management and use of the land.
8. A subdivision plan was registered subdividing Lot 100 in DP1290374 and creating two new lots, being Lot 100 in DP 1314191 (the Building) and 101 in DP 1314191 (the Pedestrian and Cycle Shared Path). An easement to drain water has been creating over Lot 101.
9. Lot 100 (the Building) will remain in private ownership.
10. Following completion of the embellishment works to the pedestrian and cycle shared path, Lot 101 in DP 1314191 will be transferred to the City.

The development at 55-88 Belmont Street, Alexandria is nearing completion and the transfer of the land for the shared path is expected by the end of 2025.

Key Implications

Organisational Impact

11. There is no organisational impact arising from this proposed resolution to classify this parcel of land as operational land.

Risks

12. There is a minimal appetite for risk when considering the classification of land within the City's local area. Classifying land correctly ensures compliance with all applicable laws and regulations associated with land management.

Financial Implications

13. The classification of land under the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) does not have any direct budgetary implications. Once 99A Belmont Street, Alexandria is transferred to the City, it will be recognised as in-kind contributions income, and held as a land asset in accordance with the City's Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment (IPPE) Asset Recognition and Capitalisation Policy.

Relevant Legislation

14. The following sections of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) are relevant:
 - (a) Section 25 requires all public land to be classified as either community or operational land
 - (b) Section 31(2) permits Council to resolve to classify land prior to acquisition
 - (c) In satisfaction of section 31(3), the proposed resolution is not inconsistent with the planning agreement (as registered on title) nor any other Act or the terms of any trust applying to the land and
 - (d) Section 34 requires the proposed resolution to classify land be publicly notified and made available for inspection by the public for a period of not less than 28 days.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

15. The land needs to be classified within 3 months of land transfer to the City or the land automatically reverts to a community classification.
16. The land is proposed to be transferred to the City by the end of 2025.

Public Consultation

17. The proposed resolution to classify the land was publicly notified for a period of 28 days commencing 27 August 2025 and closing on 24 September 2025.
18. No submissions were received.

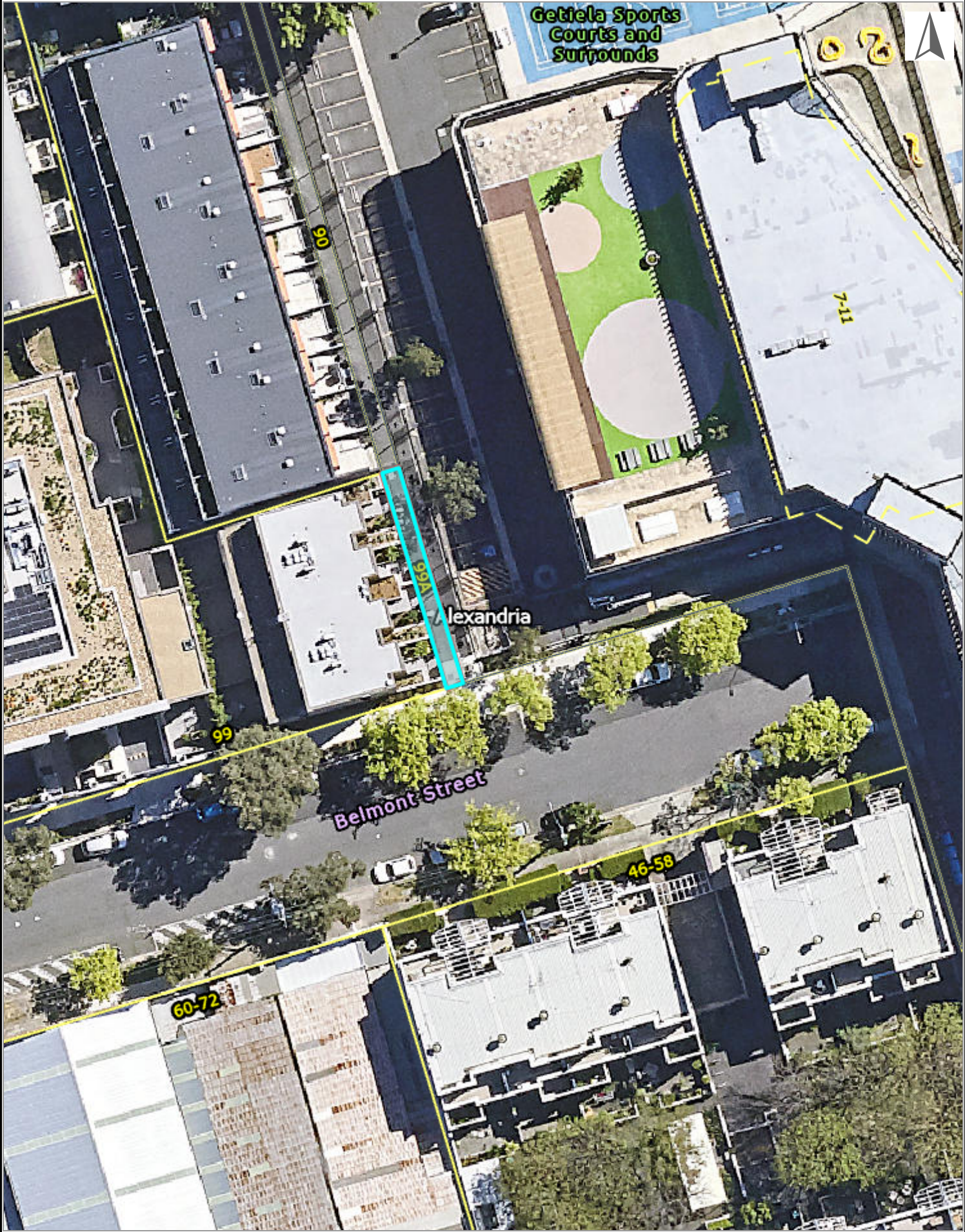
KIM WOODBURY

Chief Operating Officer

Mary Ghaly, Public Lands Coordinator

Attachment A

Identification Map



Item 7.

Tender - T-2024-1383 - City Structures Works

File No: X118015.003

Tender No: T-2024-1383

Summary

This report provides details of the tenders received for the City Structures Works tender.

This tender is for the provision of inspection, design, maintenance and construction services for the upgrade, addition, renewal, and repair of civil structures assets on City owned streets, parks, open spaces, and along foreshores, in line with the City of Sydney's operational plans.

The tender is for the replacement of specialist services currently provided through the Structures Maintenance Contract, which expires on 3 January 2026. The current contract has effectively supported the delivery of the City's capital works programs, and reactive and proactive maintenance programs since 2021.

The City of Sydney is responsible for managing a wide range of civil structural assets in the public domain across its local area. These include bridges, underpasses and boardwalks, retaining walls and cliffs, seawalls, jetties and pontoons, and stairs, ramps and fencing. The work is generally complex and high-risk, and the City requires the services of a capable and highly experienced service provider to effectively deliver the required work. The City Structures Works Tender was released in June 2025. The tendered services include design and construction works under a schedule of rates contract.

This report recommends that Council accept the tender offer of Tenderer E for the delivery of works required under T-2024-383 City Structures Works.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council accept the tender offer of Tenderer E for the City Structures Works contract for:
 - (i) the price and contingency outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report; and
 - (ii) the Schedule of Rates outlined in Confidential Attachment B to this report, for a contract term of 4 years, with the option for 2 two-year extensions, subject to satisfactory performance and other relevant considerations;
- (B) Council note that the total contract value and contingency for City Structures Works Contract is outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise, execute and administer the contracts relating to the tender; and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the options referred to in clause (A), if appropriate.

Attachments

Attachment A. Tender Evaluation Summary (Confidential)

Attachment B. Schedule of Rates (Confidential)

Background

1. The City of Sydney currently manages 36 assets classified as bridges, underpasses or boardwalks, 705 assets classified as retaining walls and cliffs, 2.8km of seawalls, 12 jetties and pontoons, and 408 assets classified as stairs, ramps or fencing with an approximate asset value of \$190m.
2. The City uses internal resources that are complemented by structures works service contractors to maintain and improve the City's civil structural assets. This arrangement has successfully operated the last 5 years, and it continues to ensure the City has a resilient and effective approach to delivering and managing civil structural infrastructure.
3. The successful tenderer will deliver the City's structural capital works programs, corrective and preventive maintenance programs, and civil structure asset inspection, design and investigation work. Much of the work is complex and high-risk, and the service provider must have relevant experience and be capable of delivering a high standard of work within set time constraints.
4. Each job is based on the tendered Schedule of Rates pricing.
5. Due to the variability of civil structural infrastructure, it is anticipated that there will be circumstances where works will be required that are not envisaged in the Schedule of Rates that are unusual, unique or unknown at the time of tender, but which are of the general nature contemplated by the contract. This may include works for cultural or heritage items, utility works or a customised design arrangement.
6. To cater for these circumstances, the City Structures Works contract allows for service providers to provide quotes on items not envisaged in the Schedule of Rates. The successful tenderer must obtain competitive quotes for any such services (except in limited circumstances where this is not feasible, including emergency works). This arrangement is restricted to a cumulative upper limit of \$250,000 inclusive of GST per project.
7. In circumstances where the total amount of non-Schedule of Rates items exceeds the cumulative upper limit per project, a separate procurement process or approval will be required.
8. The City Structures Works contract will ensure the City has the capability to:
 - (a) promptly respond to all forms of emergency civil structural work
 - (b) scale resources required for minor work through to programs and projects
 - (c) effectively coordinate a complex mix of service disciplines and high risk works
 - (d) foster innovation and sustainability improvements and
 - (e) ensure ongoing consistency of the City's approach to structural services.

Invitation to Tender

9. The request for tender was advertised on Tenderlink on 6 June 2025 and closed on 28 July 2025.
10. The Request for Tender was also available on the Supply Nation and NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce websites via their member opportunity boards.

Tender Submissions

11. 6 submissions were received from the following organisations:
 - Bayswater Projects Pty Ltd (ACN/ABN: 33 610 213 397)
 - Bedrule Pty Ltd T/as TOBCO (ACN/ABN: 37 158 027 260)
 - Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd (ACN/ABN: 15 097 350 957)
 - Quality Management & Construction Pty Ltd T/as QMC Civil (ACN/ABN: 82 073 170 279)
 - Rapid Construction Pty. Limited (ABN: 35ACN 003 963 620)
 - Stone Mason & Artist Pty. Limited (ABN: 80ACN 003 589 277)
12. No late submissions were received.

Tender Evaluation

13. All members of the Tender Evaluation Panel have signed Pecuniary Interest Declarations. No pecuniary interests were noted.
14. The relative ranking of tenders as determined from the total weighted score is provided in the Confidential Tender Evaluation Summary – Attachment A.
15. All submissions were assessed in accordance with the approved evaluation criteria being:
 - (a) Demonstrated Experience, Capability
 - (i) The Tenderer is to demonstrate organisational experience relevant to the works delivered under the contract (including qualifications and experience of local technical staff), current resources and track record
 - (ii) Demonstrated experience delivering similar works across the range of civil structures
 - (iii) Company systems and capability to work within the City's nominated asset, data and business intelligence reporting requirements, including capability for Systems integration

- (b) Demonstrated Capacity to Deliver and Allocation of Resources/Personnel
 - (i) Ability to fully comply with the tender requirements set out in the RFT Returnable Schedules with quality of compliance assessed
 - (ii) The Tenderer is to provide details of all current and future commitments, start date, duration of project, expected end date. As well as resource management plan, Subcontractors, Plant and equipment, Contract Team and Management
- (c) Methodology and Program
 - (i) Detailed understanding of the Works
 - (ii) Site Management
 - (iii) Pedestrian and Traffic Management
 - (iv) Community Management
 - (v) Sample Quote Analysis and understanding of the SOR Application
- (d) Modern Slavery, and Work, Health and Safety
- (e) Social Procurement, Environment, Sustainability
 - (i) The Tenderer is to demonstrate capability to provide environmental and sustainable outcomes during the contract period with consideration given to innovation, and compliance with requirements for warranty conditions.
- (f) Schedule of Rates Pricing
 - (i) The Tenderer is to demonstrate capability to provide environmental and sustainable outcomes during the contract period with consideration given to innovation, and compliance with requirements for warranty conditions.

Performance Measurement

16. The performance of the appointed service provider will be assessed against a comprehensive list of key performance indicators to manage, monitor and evaluate performance against the Contract requirements. These are:
- (a) work health and safety
 - (b) administration and document management
 - (c) data management
 - (d) environmental performance
 - (e) worksite and traffic management
 - (f) communications with the City

- (g) community engagement
 - (h) utility management
 - (i) quality
 - (j) program management and
 - (k) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement.
17. Performance reviews will be held periodically against these criteria to ensure, quality of service, sustainability and contribution to the City's strategic objectives relevant to the services.

Risks

18. A risk assessment was undertaken early in the procurement process to identify risks associated with the services. The risks associated with the services are high given the complexity of the assets, their location and accessibility, and the environmental and structural load bearing characteristics of assets such as bridges, stairs, boardwalks, seawalls, retaining walls and cliffs.
19. To address these risks, the tender evaluation focused on highly experienced and capable tenderers that demonstrated significant relevant experience, sufficient resources to deliver the work, and a high level of competency and understanding of the service requirements.
20. The Contract and works will be managed in line with the tolerances set out in the City's Risk Appetite Statement, particularly the following:
- (a) Financial Risk Appetite
 - The City has a responsibility to ensure that it has sufficient resources in the short, medium and long term to provide the levels of service that are both affordable and considered appropriate by the community.
 - (b) Environmental and Sustainability Risk Appetite
 - We are dedicated to actively identifying and addressing environmental risks associated with our activities and services. We prioritise prevention and proactive measures to minimise our ecological footprint, conserve resources and protect ecosystems
 - (c) Service Delivery Risk Appetite
 - We recognise that external threats, shocks and disasters may cause disruption to our services and core functions. We aim to enhance our resilience, crisis management and business continuity capabilities in readiness for these events.

(d) People

- We are committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of our workers, residents, visitors and others who interact with our assets, operations and services.

(e) Infrastructure, Technology, Assets and Property Risk Appetite

- We place a high priority on ensuring the continuity of essential services delivered through infrastructure assets. Our risk appetite emphasises the need to protect and maintain critical infrastructure to minimise disruption to services, meet community expectations and to ensure public safety.

(f) Legal and Compliance

- We make decisions that align with our corporate objectives, policies and strategies.

Financial Implications

21. The total contract value and contingency for the Program City Structures Works contract is detailed in Confidential Attachment A.
22. The Schedule of Rates is detailed in Confidential Attachment B.
23. The Schedule of Rates offered are considered competitive and in numerous instances compare favourably to the rates presently available within the City's Structures Maintenance Contract.
24. Funds are allocated for these works within the relevant capital and operational budgets and future years' forward estimates.
25. The quantity of work awarded each year is subject to approved works programs required to achieve desired service levels set out in asset management plans and expected by the community. The City does not guarantee any minimum quantity of works in any year.

Relevant Legislation

26. The tender has been conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.
27. Local Government Act 1993 - Section 10A provides that a council may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises the discussion of information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
28. Attachments A and B contain confidential commercial information of the tenderers and details of Council's tender evaluation and contingencies which, if disclosed, would:
 - (a) confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business; and
 - (b) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.
29. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest because it would compromise Council's ability to negotiate fairly and commercially to achieve the best outcome for its ratepayers.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

30. The existing Structures Maintenance contract expires on 3 January 2026. The new contract is proposed to start on 1 February 2026.
31. Postponing the decision to award the tender would result in delays in the commencement of the required services, potentially disrupting service delivery and creating gaps in continuity. Such a deferral could negatively impact operational efficiency, stakeholder satisfaction, and the timely achievement of project objectives.
32. The proposed initial contract term is 4 years, with the option of up to 2 two-year extensions. The total proposed contract length if the options are exercised is 8 years, ending in 2034.

Public Consultation

33. Public consultation was not required prior to the tender being advertised.
34. The City Structures Works contract incorporates the requirement for the appointed service providers to support the City's public consultation activities, including:
 - (a) preparation of concepts, visualisations and designs
 - (b) distribution of notification letters to nearby residents and businesses about forthcoming civil works
 - (c) provision of site management, signage and traffic management plans
 - (d) preparation of Communications Management Plans that are scaled to suit the type and complexity of civil works
 - (e) dedicated project community liaison officers who continue to proactively engage with the community where warranted.

VERONICA LEE

Executive Director City Services

Simon Fay, Capital Programs Manager

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Item 8.**Tender - T-2025-1492 - Barges and Tugs for Sydney New Year's Eve**

File No: X117678.003

Tender No: T-2025-1492

Summary

This report provides details of the tenders received for Barges and Tugs for Sydney New Year's Eve.

Owned and produced by the City of Sydney (the City), Sydney New Year's Eve is a local and global celebration.

The fireworks displays are an essential element of the event. Platform barges are required as the main firing platforms for the fireworks displays on Sydney Harbour, along with tugs to move the barges to and from their allocated positions.

The City undertook a Request for Tender (RFT) for the supply of Barges and Tugs for Sydney New Year's Eve for an initial period of 2 years to cover the 2026 and 2027 events with the option to extend for a further 2 years to cover the 2028 and 2029 events.

This report recommends that Council accept the tender offer of Tenderer A for the provision of Barges and Tugs for Sydney New Year's Eve.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council accept the tender offer of Tenderer A for the provision of Barges and Tugs for Sydney New Year's Eve for:
 - (i) the price and contingency outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report; and
 - (ii) the schedule of rates outlined in Confidential Attachment B to the subject report, for a period of 2 years (2026 and 2027), with the option of an extension of 2 years (2028 and 2029) if appropriate;
- (B) Council note that the total contract sum and contingency for Barges and Tugs for Sydney New Year's Eve is outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise, execute and administer the contracts relating to the tender; and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the option referred to in clause (A), if appropriate.

Attachments

Attachment A. Tender Evaluation Summary (Confidential)

Attachment B. Schedule of Rates (Confidential)

Background

1. Sydney New Year's Eve is one of the world's biggest annual celebrations, and a Hallmark Event for NSW. The event includes 2 main fireworks displays, a Welcome to Country ceremony on Sydney Harbour, and lighting and projections on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. In addition, the City provides a number of free vantage points and services for the general public.
2. To provide the necessary platforms from which to fire the fireworks displays, the City requires a number of barges, configured into specific firing platforms, as well as tugs and coordination services to move the barges into position to ensure their correct placement during the event as conditions change (e.g. wind, tides).
3. The City undertook a Request for Tender (RFT) for the supply of barges and tugs for the 2026 and 2027 Sydney New Year's Eve, with an option to extend for a further 2 years to cover the 2028 and 2029 events.
4. The scope of work in the Request for Tender included:
 - (a) Provision of firing platforms comprising steel barges of specified dimensions and configurations
 - (b) Sufficient tugs and labour to manoeuvre barges for loading, positioning, firing, and unloading during the event
 - (c) Installation and removal of moorings and anchoring systems for firing platforms
 - (d) A qualified coordinator to manage barge and tug operations from the event control room and
 - (e) Delivery of planning, approvals, WHS documentation, and post-event reporting.

Invitation to Tender

5. The Request for Tender was available on the City's eTendering portal, Tenderlink, on 11 September 2025. The closing date was on 10 October 2025.
6. The Request for Tender was also available on the Supply Nation and NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce websites via their member opportunity boards.

Tender Submissions

7. A total of 2 submissions were received from the following organisations:
 - Ausbarge Marine Services Pty Ltd (ABN: 79 681 804 240)
 - Polaris Marine Pty Ltd (ABN: 47 147 809 667)
8. No late submissions were received.

Tender Evaluation

9. All members of the Tender Evaluation Panel have signed Pecuniary Interest Declarations. No pecuniary interests were noted.
10. The relative ranking of tenders as determined from the total weighted score is provided in the Confidential Tender Evaluation Summary – Attachment A.
11. All submissions were assessed in accordance with the approved evaluation criteria being:
 - (a) The lump sum price and schedule of prices
 - (b) Demonstrated organisational capacity to deliver the services and relevant experience in delivering comparable services as required under the contract
 - (c) Proposed methodology and demonstrated procedural competency in event environment including operations, communications and maintenance
 - (d) Relevant experience and technical ability of the key personnel and allocation of personnel resources in order to deliver the services
 - (e) Demonstrated commitment to sustainability outcomes
 - (f) Demonstrated commitment to engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees, modern slavery and fair work guidelines
 - (g) Insurances are compliant with the City's standard insurance requirements as detailed in the Agreement
 - (h) WHS documentation and
 - (i) Financial and commercial integrity.

Performance Measurement

12. General Key Performance Indicators:
 - (a) Key Objectives /Deliverables
 - (i) Services are delivered as per the specification.
 - (b) Quality of work
 - (i) Quality services are delivered as per the specification.
 - (c) Time
 - (i) Key tasks are delivered as per the key dates in the specification, and other tasks carried out per the schedule agreed in operational meetings and correspondence.

- (d) Reporting
 - (i) The Service Provider provides regular, effective and accurate reporting to the contract manager or nominated delegate. The Service Provider delivers the post event report.
- (e) Communication
 - (i) The Service Provider provides regular and effective communication regarding operational and contract managers – both in the delivery of expected tasks, and in particular informing the Contract Manager or nominated delegate of unexpected issues, challenges or necessary changes to the tasks or services being undertaken.
- (f) WH&S compliance
 - (i) The Service Provider and all their workers perform and deliver the services both safely and in line with WH&S laws & regulations and City of Sydney policy.

Financial Implications

- 13. Sufficient funds will be allocated for this project in the draft 2026/27 budget and future year forward estimates.
- 14. The total contract sum and contingency for Barges and Tugs for Sydney New Year's Eve is detailed in Confidential Attachment A.

Risk

- 15. Risks associated with the service and delivery have been considered as part of the contract. Our approach to market is within the City's risk appetite, which states:
 - (a) We are open to taking risks that align with our strategic objectives and are within our capacity to manage effectively.
 - (b) We identify and evaluate emerging risks to ensure timely and appropriate responses.
 - (c) We comply with our legal and regulatory requirements.
 - (d) Our risk appetite emphasises the integration of sustainable practices into infrastructure asset management, considering environmental impacts, climate change resilience and community engagement.

Relevant Legislation

16. The tender has been conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.
17. Local Government Act 1993 - Section 10A provides that a council may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises the discussion of information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
18. Attachments A and B contain confidential commercial information of the tenderers and details of Council's tender evaluation and contingencies which, if disclosed, would:
 - (a) confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business; and
 - (b) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.
19. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest because it would compromise Council's ability to negotiate fairly and commercially to achieve the best outcome for its ratepayers.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

20. To ensure the organisation has sufficient time to plan and deliver event services for 2026 Sydney New Year's Eve, executed contracts must be in place by early 2026.

Options

21. No alternate options were identified.

EMMA RIGNEY

Executive Director City Life

Elliot Chambers, Head of Production, Major Events and Festivals

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Item 9.**Tender - Reject and Negotiate - T-2025-1437 - Board Meeting Management Solution**

File No: X111683

Tender No: T-2025-1437

Summary

The City currently utilises a Board Meeting Management Solution (BMMS) to securely manage Executive, Council and Committee meetings, CEO Updates and a number of other meetings. The system is primarily used by Councillors, Councillor Support Officers, City Executive and the Office of the CEO. External users (members of the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee and members of the Central Sydney Planning Committee) also use the platform.

The current BMMS has been in use for over 10 years and it was appropriate to undertake a procurement process. An initial market scan was conducted to test the market and determine available options to upgrade or replace the system based on the City's requirements. A tender was conducted in June 2025 to select a suitable vendor for the replacement of the City's BMMS.

The City proposed to enter into an initial 4-year agreement with 2 optional 2-year extensions for a possible total of 8 years.

This report recommends that Council decline to accept the tender offers received for the Board Meeting Management Solution and enter into negotiations with suitable vendor(s) for the provision of a Board Meeting Management Solution.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council decline to accept the tender offers for the Board Meeting Management Solution for the reasons set out in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council does not invite fresh tenders, as it is considered that inviting fresh tenders would not attract additional suitable vendors over and above those that have responded to this tender;
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into negotiations with any person with a view to entering into a contract on terms that are appropriate in relation to the subject matter of the tender;
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer the contracts relating to the tender; and
- (E) Council be informed of the successful vendor via the CEO Update.

Attachments

Attachment A. Tender Evaluation Summary (Confidential)

Background

1. The current Board Meeting Management Solution (BMMS), Diligent Boardbooks, has been in use for over 10 years. The BMMS project aims to implement a system with enhanced capabilities that meets the City's requirements for use by Councillors, Councillor Support Officers, Executive and the Office of the CEO to securely manage Executive, Council and Committee meetings, CEO Updates and a number of other meetings. The current system is also used by external users (members of the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee and members of the Central Sydney Planning Committee).
2. During 2024, an initial market scan was conducted to determine the approach to the platform and assess the City's requirements. Subsequently, the BMMS project undertook a full market scan of board meeting management platforms available globally, evaluated the options and determined the procurement pathway, being an open tender process.
3. The City commenced a tender process to invite responses from BMMS providers to select the solution that best meets the City's requirements and provides value for money.
4. The tender requirements included:
 - (a) Configuration and implementation of a Board Meeting Management Solution that meets the City's requirements
 - (b) Implementation of Single Sign on for City employees and a secure authentication solution for external members
 - (c) Support during testing, including resolution of any defects identified
 - (d) Training for users and administrators on the new system
 - (e) Warranty support following go-live
 - (f) Ongoing support and maintenance of the solution.
5. Following the tender evaluation process, it is recommended that Council decline to accept all tender submissions for the Board Meeting Management Solution project and enter into direct negotiations with suitably qualified vendor(s).

Invitation to Tender

6. A request for tender was issued on 2 June 2025 via the City's e-tendering portal, Tenderlink and closed on 4 July 2025.
7. The Request for Tender was also available on the Supply Nation and NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce (NSW ICC) websites via their member opportunity boards.

Tender Submissions

8. 5 submissions were received from the following organisations:
- Convene Pty Ltd (ABN 46 604 029 932)
 - Dess Technologies LLC (Foreign Entity)
 - Diligent Board Services Australia Pty. Ltd (ABN 97 154 472 045)
 - Intermarc Global Pty Ltd (ABN 71 602 484 122)
 - Nasdaq Pty Ltd (ABN 33 079 832 358)
9. No late submissions were received.

Tender Evaluation

10. All members of the Tender Evaluation Panel have signed conflict of interest declarations. No conflicts of interest were noted.
11. The relative ranking of tenders as determined from the total weighted score is provided in the Confidential Tender Evaluation Summary – Attachment A.
12. All submissions were assessed in accordance with the approved evaluation criteria being:

Evaluation Criteria
Ability to meet the City of Sydney's Functional and Non-Functional Requirements
Implementation approach, including: • Resource Availability • Implementation Plan & Methodology • Project Schedule / Timeframe • Quality Assurance and Testing Procedures • Training plan and approach
Support and Maintenance, including: • Service and Engagement Plan • Approach to maintaining the solution • Account management approach

Evaluation Criteria
Demonstrated company and staff experience in the successful provisioning of a BMMS, including: • Demonstrated capacity and technical ability to carry out the work under the contract • Experience in delivering the same or similar service in recent projects
Company profile and alignment with the City's values • Company history, Organisational chart and experience • Ability to carry out the work/service under the Contract, Modern Slavery Act compliance, Work Health and Safety compliance, Aboriginal and Indigenous involvement and compliance with the code of conduct.
Financial and commercial trading integrity
Insurances are compliant with the City's standard insurance requirements
Material acceptance of the City's standard form contract
The lump sum price and schedule of rates

Performance Measurement

13. The City will use the following general Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to evaluate and monitor the performance of the successful vendor:
 - (a) Key objectives and deliverables
 - (b) Quality of service
 - (c) Timelines
 - (d) Availability of resources.
14. The quality of the implementation will be measured to ensure it meets the requirements and aligns with the intended solution architecture and design.

Risks

15. The City's risk appetite for infrastructure, technology, assets and property ranges from No appetite to Open.
16. Given the sensitivity of information in this system, the City has minimal appetite for data loss and/or privacy breaches resulting from cyber incidents. The rejection of this tender and a period of negotiation with appropriate suppliers will ensure that the BMMS system meets the City's needs and risk appetite.

Financial Implications

17. There are sufficient funds allocated for this project within the current year's capital works budget and future years' forward estimates.

Relevant Legislation

18. The tender has been conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.
19. Local Government Act 1993 - Section 10A provides that a council may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises the discussion of information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
20. Attachment A contains confidential commercial information of the tenderers and details of Council's tender evaluation and contingencies which, if disclosed, would:
 - (a) confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business; and
 - (b) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.
21. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest because it would compromise Council's ability to negotiate fairly and commercially to achieve the best outcome for its ratepayers.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

22. It is anticipated that the City will complete negotiations and execute a contract with suitably qualified vendor by June 2026.
23. An exemption from tender until January 2027 for the current provider was approved by Council in November 2025 to ensure there is continuity of service due to the delayed finalisation of this procurement process.

Options

- 24. Cancel and re-advertise the tender. This option is not recommended as it is highly probable to result in the same outcome.
- 25. Cancel the tender and discontinue the project. This option is not recommended because it would not address the project objective of reviewing the market to meet the City's requirements to implement a product that allows papers to be centrally stored and securely managed and demonstrating value for the investment.

Public Consultation

- 26. No public consultation has been undertaken.

KIRSTEN MORRIN

Executive Director Legal and Governance

Anna O'Sullivan, Senior Project Manager

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Item 10.**Exemption from Tender - Water Feature Maintenance Services**

File No: X018336

Tender No: T-2018-1855

Summary

This report seeks an exemption from tender for the provision of water feature maintenance services to allow time to complete the procurement of the new services. This report requests Council approve a contract variation for the Water Feature Maintenance Services contract (the contract).

The City of Sydney (the City) owns and maintains 48 water features located in outdoor public spaces across the Sydney Local Government Area.

The City's water features are significant in terms of their cultural value, heritage status, and contribution to the quality of the City's public spaces. Water features are serviced on a regular basis to maintain presentation, hygiene, function, asset condition and to meet legislative compliance for water quality.

The current contract commenced on 1 January 2019 and expires 31 December 2025.

Due to operational challenges, the original timeframe for issuing the tender to market as reported in the CEO Update on 18 July 2025, has not been met. The issuing of the tender will be postponed to early 2026, following the completion of the Christmas holiday period. Tenders are generally not issued by the City during the Christmas holiday period due to the large proportion of the supplier market taking leave thus risking the City not obtaining best value for money.

This report recommends that Council grant an exemption from tender for the provision of water features maintenance services to allow sufficient time to complete the procurement of the new services, and that Council approve a contract variation for the contract to extend the existing services until 31 August 2026.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve an exemption from tender in accordance with section 55(3)(i) of the local Government Act 1993 to extend the existing contract for water features maintenance services for 8 months, noting that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders at this time;
- (B) Council note that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders for this work because there is insufficient time to conduct a tender process for the services and execute a new contract before the expiry of the existing contract for water feature maintenance services;
- (C) Council note that the tender documents for the procurement are near completion and will be issued in early 2026;
- (D) Council approve a variation to the existing contract with Water Features Australia Pty Ltd (ABN: 66 076 262 809) to extend the contract term, with a revised expiry date of 31 August 2026;
- (E) Council note the revised contract sum for the extended term is set out in the Confidential Attachment A to the subject report; and
- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and vary the contract relating to water feature maintenance services.

Attachments

Attachment A. Financial Implications (Confidential)

Background

1. The City of Sydney has 48 water features located in parks and public spaces across the Sydney Local Government Area.
2. The City's water features are significant in terms of their cultural value, heritage status, and contribution to the quality of the City's parks and public spaces.
3. Water feature assets include interactive features for play, ornamental and fogging/misting features and garden ponds with koi fish. Drinking fountains and swimming pools are excluded from the scope of the services and are maintained by other internal and external City-managed service provision.
4. Water features are maintained under the Water Feature Maintenance Services Contract (the contract). Council resolved to accept the tender offer of Water Features Australia Pty Ltd on 19 November 2018 for water feature maintenance services. The contract commenced 1 January 2019 with an initial term of 4 years and one further term of 3 years that was exercised in 2022 and expires on 31 December 2025.
5. Water features are inspected and maintained on a regular basis to ensure they are clean, presentable, functional and meet legislative compliance for water quality. Maintenance plays a key role in ensuring efficient use of water and power to contribute to the City's Environmental Strategy 2025-2030.
6. The contract services include:
 - (a) reporting for asset condition, performance and environmental targets
 - (b) 24 hour emergency response
 - (c) daily proactive inspections and reactive inspections when required
 - (d) maintenance including cleaning and hydraulic system management
 - (e) water quality management including automatic and manual chemical dosing, managing chemical dosing systems and water quality testing and analysis
 - (f) water feature repairs and capital renewals and
 - (g) aquatic life management.
7. The contract services are highly specialised with expertise required in consultancy, hydraulic engineering, water chemistry and water quality management, waterproofing, koi fish management and electrical and plumbing; with emphasis on 24/7 out-of-hours response. Many of the service requirements are delivered within confined spaces. Coordination with the City's Public Art team is also required for artwork collection maintenance and conservation.
8. Due to operational challenges, the original timeframe for issuing the tender to market, as reported in the CEO Update on 18 July 2025, has not been met. The issuing of the tender will be postponed to early 2026 following the completion of the Christmas holiday period. Tenders are not issued during the Christmas holiday period due to the large proportion of the supplier market taking leave, risking the City obtaining best value for money.

9. Varying the contract to extend the expiry until 31 August 2026 will allow for issuing the tender to market once the Christmas holiday period ends and the subsequent evaluation, approval, contract execution and transition-in process for the tendered services.

Performance Measurement

10. Operational key performance indicators are monitored on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis and through a combination approach of meetings, desk top quality assurance, inspections and reporting. This will continue for the remainder of the contract.

Financial Implications

11. There are sufficient funds allocated for the extension of the contract within the current year's operating budget and future years' forward estimates.
12. The financial implications for the extension of the contract until 31 August 2026 are detailed in Confidential Attachment A.

Relevant Legislation

13. The exemption from tender process has been conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.
14. Local Government Act 1993 - Section 10A provides that a council may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises the discussion of information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
15. Attachment A contains confidential commercial information of the tenderers and details of Council's tender evaluation and contingencies which, if disclosed, would:
 - (a) confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business; and
 - (b) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.
16. Discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest because it would compromise Council's ability to negotiate fairly and commercially to achieve the best outcome for its ratepayers.
17. Public Health Act (NSW) 2010 and Public Health Regulation 2022.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

18. The current contract term commenced on 1 January 2019 and expires 31 December 2025. The tender will be issued to the market in early 2026 following the completion of the Christmas holiday period. Tenders are generally not issued by the City during the Christmas holiday period due to the large proportion of the supplier market taking leave thus risking the City not obtaining best value for money.
19. The term of the contract extension will commence 1 January 2026 and expire 31 August 2026, allowing the time required to procure the new services, seek approval, execute a contract and transition-in the tendered services.

VERONICA LEE

Executive Director City Services

William Pearce, Program Manager - Strategy and Contracts

CONFIDENTIAL

By virtue of the Local Government Act 1993 Section 10A Paragraph 2

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