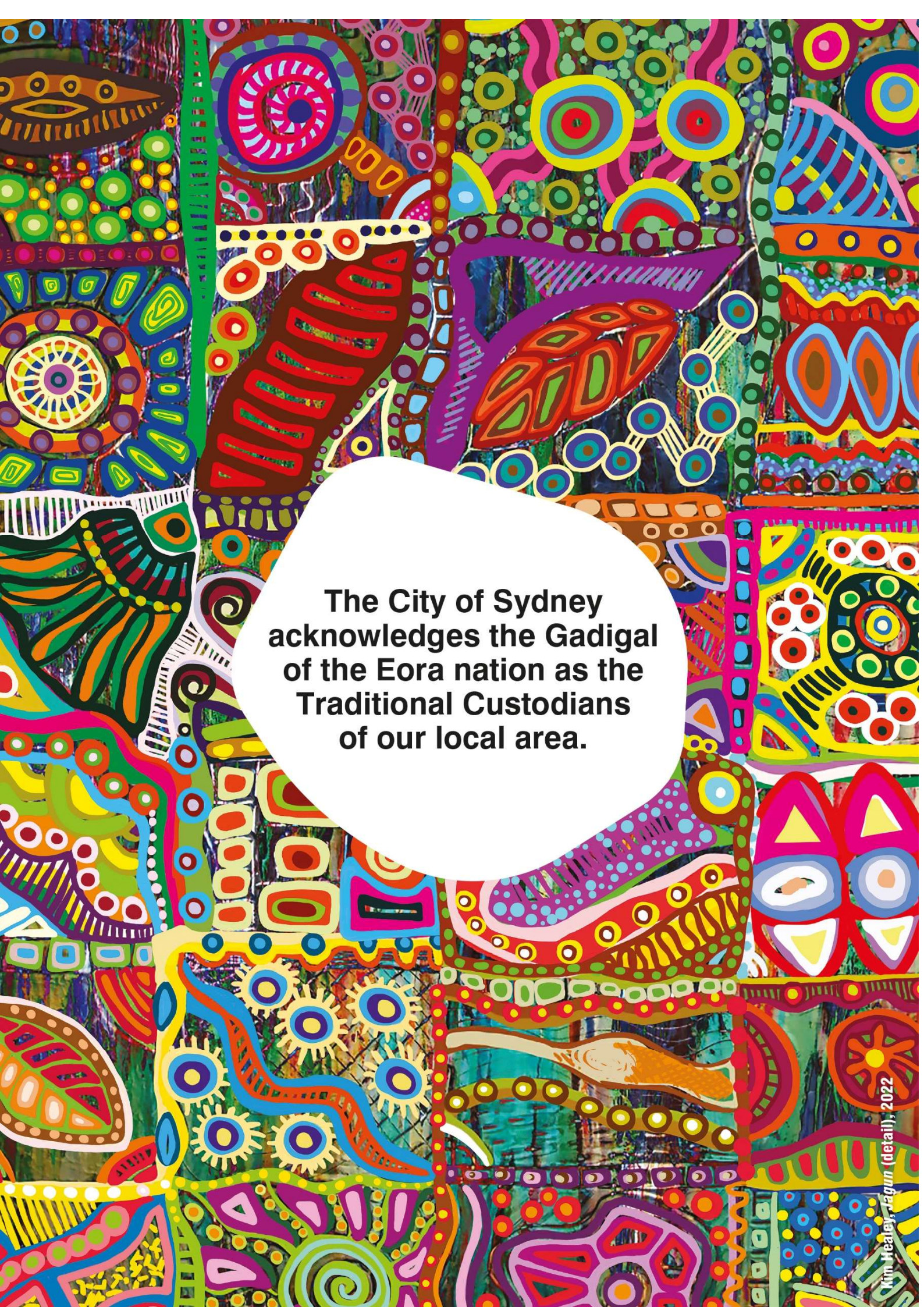


Attachment B

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/grants-newsletter](https://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

Grants Guidelines

- 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

Grants Guidelines

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).

