

Small Project Grant Guidelines 2024/2025



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Cover image: At the Eid Al-Adha Yarra Festival at the Collingwood Neighbourhood House in July 2023.
Photo by Nuraini Mahamud.

Small Project Grant Guidelines 2024/2025

The Small Project Grants (SPG) respond to funding requests throughout the year, providing an opportunity for applicants to engage with Council and gain an understanding of the grants process. The grants allow organisations and individual artists to access small amounts of funding quickly, (usually within four weeks from the grant submission). There are three categories in the SPG program: Community Projects, Arts & Culture and Climate Action.

Community Projects (up to \$1,000) is a broad category encompassing the many programs and events run by not-for-profit community groups within Yarra. Eligible community projects include cultural celebrations, sporting events and programs which promote and support communities, such as social involvement, community connectedness, environmental sustainability, health, well-being, and cultural diversity.

Only incorporated not-for-profit community groups are eligible to apply for grants under this category. However, community groups that are not incorporated or do not have their own ABN can be auspiced by an eligible incorporated organisation. Individuals are not eligible.

Arts & Culture Projects (up to \$2,000) funds projects and events run by professional artists, arts organisations, and community groups. Eligible arts and culture projects include the development, production and showing of new art works or performances, or community arts festivals, events, or arts projects.

Eligible applicants may be individual artists with an ABN, incorporated not-for-profit artistic groups and organisations, and commercial galleries running not-for-profit events. Individual artists and organisations without an ABN may be auspiced. It is strongly recommended that applicants for the Arts and Culture Projects category provide supporting documentation as part of their application. This can be uploaded through the online application form.

Only incorporated not-for-profit community groups are eligible to apply for grants under this category. However, community groups that are not incorporated or do not have their own ABN can be auspiced by an eligible incorporated organisation. Individuals are not eligible.

**The SPG 2024-2025 grants open on 1 July 2024.
Applications will be accepted until 30 May 2025
or until the funding pool is exhausted.**

If you have previously had a grant from Yarra City Council for a project which is now complete, this grant must be acquitted before any new applications can be assessed.

Acquittals can be submitted via: <https://cityofyarra.smartygrants.com.au>.

Program Objectives

Each project/activity funded as part of the SPG Program is expected to address one or more of Council's strategic objectives as stated in the current [Council Plan](#). These are:

Objective 1: Climate and environment

Objective 2: Social equity and health

Objective 3: Local economy

Objective 4: Place and nature

Objective 5: Transport and movement

Objective 6: Democracy and governance

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Applicants

- Applicants must have an active ABN*.
 - Not-for-profit community groups that meet all other eligibility criteria but do not have an ABN can have their applications auspiced by an eligible incorporated organisation or Neighbourhood House.
- Applicants must be a not-for-profit, incorporated community group (that is a group with a voluntary membership who come together to pursue a common goal) **OR** meet one of the following specific exceptions:
 - be a registered charity, public benevolent institution or have DGR status;
 - be a state government entity seeking funding for activities beyond those considered the responsibility of State or Federal Government;
 - unincorporated not-for-profit community groups can have their applications auspiced by an eligible incorporated organisation or Neighbourhood House;
 - individual artists or Arts-related businesses operating under an active sole-trader ABN* can apply as individuals under the Arts and Cultural Projects Category;
 - Arts-related businesses with active ABNs* registered as other than sole-trader entities can apply under the Arts and Cultural Projects Category. These applications are contingent on successfully demonstrating that the project being funded will run on a not-for-profit basis. This will require detailed financial reporting.
- Applicants can only receive one SPG per financial year and the maximum grant is \$2,000.
- Applicants must have acquitted previous Council grants to Yarra City Council.
- Applicants must have public liability insurance with a suitable level of coverage, working with children checks, WorkCover and superannuation coverage are required to be held by recipients of funding.
- Relevant applicants must, as required by law, implement and adhere to the Victorian Child Safe Standards. <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/being-a-child-safe-organisation/>.

*The applicant names must match the entity (legal) name for the ABN, or a registered business name associated with the ABN **and** the name on the bank account provided for payment. The ABN Entity name can be checked when entering your ABN into the application form.

Eligible Projects

- Council will support a maximum of three exhibitions per grant round at any one art gallery.
- All applicants must be locally based and/or be applying for a program, service or activity that is of benefit to the Yarra community.
- Projects must have a public outcome within the City of Yarra boundaries.
- Projects and programs will only be eligible for both SPG and Annual Grants if applications are for distinct activities or stages of development.
- Sport and Recreation groups can apply for the purchase of specialised equipment including defibrillators.
- Applications to the Community category addressing priorities of the Access and Inclusion Strategy may include funding for specialised equipment or materials that facilitate new and innovative accessibility programs. Renovation works or the upgrading of permanent fixtures remain ineligible.
- All questions marked 'response required' must be completed for the application to be eligible.

Applicants that are not eligible

- Neighbourhood Houses are funded through Council's Neighbourhood House Funding Program and are therefore not eligible for SPGs. However, Neighbourhood Houses can act as an auspice for other community groups.
- Businesses or for-profit organisations, unless exempted above.
- Individuals, unless exempted above.
- Previous grant recipients with overdue acquittals.
- Applicants who have already received an SPG in the current round.

Projects that are not eligible

- A program that is considered the responsibility of State or Federal Government e.g., core school curriculum activities.
- Activities that take place outside the City of Yarra (including touring costs), unless part of a larger project with a proven and public benefit to the Yarra community.
- A new building, capital works or facility maintenance works.
- Ongoing staff salaries or administration costs not specific to the project.
- The purchase of equipment only, unless exempted above.
- Projects with the singular purpose of promoting religion or that may be perceived as for the purpose of proselytizing.
- Training, study or academic research in Australia or overseas.
- A project that will be offered for assessment in the above training courses.
- Applications that are solely for attending forums, workshops and conferences.
- Competitions (excluding one-off sporting events).
- Prizes and award exhibitions or exclusively fundraising events.
- Applications to fund projects retrospectively.

Assessment

Assessment Criteria

All applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Does the project have clearly defined aims?
- Does the project clearly meet the program objectives?
- Does the local community benefit from this project?
- Does the organisation have the capacity to successfully complete the project?
- Is the budget for this project realistic, balanced, and complete?
- Arts and Cultural Projects – Does the project have high artistic merit?

Assessment Process

Small Grants are assessed on a competitive basis. Being successful one year does not automatically mean success in subsequent years. Small Grant applications are checked for eligibility, internally assessed by two Council Officers and then the recommendations are reported to Council on a quarterly basis.

Timelines

Applications should be received a minimum of 4 weeks before a project starts. Applications for projects that have already taken place will not be assessed. Assessment and payment of grants usually takes 4-6 weeks provided all necessary documentation is provided in a timely fashion.

Auspiced Applications

Auspicing is a practice which enables small or new organisations who are not incorporated or who do not have an ABN access grant funds.

An auspice organisation must be incorporated and have an ABN. They accept legal and financial responsibility for the grant if successful.

Applications can be submitted directly by groups being auspiced. However, as the funding agreement for successful grants will be made between the auspice organisation and Council, any financial transactions must be made through the auspice organisation. Be advised that you need to provide information from the auspice organisation including: their contact details, ABN, and most recent financial report.

What you need for your application

Public Liability Insurance

All applicants need to provide a certificate of currency for the public liability insurance policy that will cover the funded project. Depending on the nature of the funded activities, the relevant policy may be in the applicant's name, the auspicing organisation's name or the activities may be covered by the public liability insurance of the venue being used.

Financial Statements

All those applying as an organisation must upload a copy of the organisation's (or auspicing organisation's) most recent annual financial statement to their Annual Grant application. For most applicants, this will be the previous year's Financial Statement. Alternatively, you can upload the organisation's most recent profit and loss statement. Applicants who do not provide a financial statement will be ineligible.

Child Safe Standards

Victorian organisations that provide services or facilities for children (anyone under 18 years old) are required by law to implement Child Safe Standards to protect children from harm. Therefore, if your project/program will engage children as either participants or audience members you will be required to demonstrate that you are complying with the Child Safe Standards by uploading a copy of your organisation's Child Safe Policy or Statement of Commitment to Child Safety.

If your organisation does not yet have a Child Safe Policy or Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, a template document is available on the Small Project Grants website: <https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/about-us/grants/small-project-grants>. Tailor this document to suit your organisation and activities, then attach the document to your application as evidence. Remember to make sure a copy is distributed to your members.

Individual artists will need to upload a copy of your current working with children check and/or your exhibition space's Child Safe Policy or Statement of Commitment to Child Safety.

For further information on the Child Safe Standards see: <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/resources/>

Arts & Culture applicants

Arts & Culture applicants should also provide a CV and relevant artistic documentation.

Having trouble writing your application?

The Grants Team are available to help all applicants with preparing their application. Call us on 9205 5170 or 9205 5146 to talk about your project and application or to make an appointment for help submitting your application online. Interpreters can be booked if requested.

Video pitches can be included as supporting documentation to your application; however, you will still need to complete the written application form. Please ensure any videos are kept short to a maximum five minutes as assessors have many applications to review. SmartyGrants recommends keeping attachments to 5MB, so you may need to provide a link to an external video-hosting site instead.

If you are having trouble accessing your SmartyGrants user account, please contact SmartyGrants directly on 9320 6888 or via service@smartygrants.com.au.

Successful applications

If you are successful, a funding agreement which outlines the conditions of your grant will be sent to you (or your auspice organisation). You will be required to sign and return an electronic copy of the funding agreement. You will also need to provide a copy of your organisation's bank statement showing the account number, BSB number and name. All payments will be made by electronic transfer.

Acquittal

Each grant recipient is required to submit an acquittal form within two months of completion of the project. The acquittal includes questions about how many people and Yarra residents participated in the event/program, what adjustments were made to the project as it unfolded, and whether the aims and objectives outlined in the application were met. The acquittal also includes a financial report in which you are required to demonstrate that the funds were spent in accordance with the budget submitted. You are required to keep accurate, up-to-date records in relation to the project including, but not limited to, itemised receipts issued when funding is spent. We request that you include receipts for items/services over \$250 in your acquittal.

The required acquittal form will be linked to your application in the My Submissions area of SmartyGrants. When you are ready to submit the acquittal form please log onto <https://cityofyarra.smartygrants.com.au> and submit it in the same way you submitted your grant application. Applications from past grant recipients will not be considered while they have overdue acquittals.

Council may also require organisations to fully participate in any audit of the program/activity by making readily available all income/expenditure records, correspondence, meeting notes, promotional material, and any other document relating to the funded program/activity. This may include site visits and the collection of documents relating to the funded program/activity.

Submitting Your Application

SPG applications will be accepted at any time until 30 May 2025 or until the funding has been exhausted.

Applicants are required to submit their application and supporting documentation using the online form on <https://cityofyarra.smartygrants.com.au/>.