



**COMMUNITY ARTS
GRANT PROGRAM**

2027-28 COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES



**CALL FOR ARTISTS & ARTS ORGANIZATIONS TO
PROPOSE PROJECTS IN THE CITY OF BURBANK**

OPEN: September 8, 2026

SUBMISSIONS DUE: Friday, October 16, 2026 by 5pm PST

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Burbank Parks and Recreation Department and the Burbank Cultural Arts Commission are pleased to announce a new funding cycle for the Community Arts Grant Program. The purpose of the grant is to support local artists and arts organizations and to engage Burbank residents with diverse and outstanding cultural arts projects.

The mission of the Burbank Cultural Arts Commission is to enrich the lives of Burbank residents by celebrating its diverse arts and media community and to promote Burbank as a vibrant and enticing regional arts center. We encourage applications and projects that:

- Expand public access to the arts and build awareness and appreciation for the art form presented.
- Educate, entertain, and inspire by thoughtfully engaging residents, businesses, artists, and visitors.
- Offer a wide range of perspectives and reflect our community's rich cultural diversity.

Individual professional artists and arts non-profits based in Los Angeles County and working in the visual and performing arts are invited to apply.

TIMELINE & APPLICATION DEADLINE

Tuesday, September 8, 2026	Application Opens
Wednesday, September 16, 2026	Application Workshop 4:00pm – 5:00pm via Zoom
Wednesday, September 30, 2026	Office Hours Workshop/Q&A 11:00am – noon via Zoom
Friday, October 16, 2026	Application Deadline 5pm PST
November - December 2026	Panel Review
Week of January 4, 2027	Grant Recipient Notification
March 1, 2027 – February 28, 2028	Project Period

AWARDS & USE OF FUNDS

With \$50,000 in total available funding in the 2027-28 grant cycle, the Commission will approve project grants up to \$5,000 for individual professional artists or arts organizations with 501c3 status resulting in approximately 10-18 possible awards.

City grant funds may be used for artist compensation, production/exhibit costs, marketing, rental costs and supplies related to the funded project. Applicants are encouraged to present projects where the City of Burbank is not the sole funder, with budgets that include matching funds equal to, or greater than, the requested grant, but matching funds are not required.

All grant expenditures must take place during the project period March 1, 2027 – February 28, 2028. Funds will be distributed 50/50 – half the award upon signing the grant agreement and the balance upon successful completion of the project, including all reporting and grantee requirements. If full funding is not granted, applicants are asked during the contracting process to identify other possible sources of support and/or modify the project plan to ensure success.

ELIGIBILITY (INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS)

- Individual professional artists based in Los Angeles County and working in the visual and performing arts are invited to apply.
- Artists currently based in Burbank take priority (see evaluation criteria). Proof of residence or studio space required.
- Individual artist applicants must be 21 or older at the time of application submission, show that they have been working as a practicing artist for a minimum of two years, and provide a Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) if awarded a grant,
- Professional artists need to show education or training in the proposed arts disciplines; recognition in the artistic disciplines (i.e., awards, commendations, reviews); and/or experience as a community artist for one or more arts organizations.

ELIGIBILITY (ARTS ORGANIZATIONS)

- Arts non-profits based in Los Angeles County and working in the visual and performing arts are invited to apply.
- Arts organizations currently based in Burbank take priority (see evaluation criteria). Proof of office or studio space required.
- Arts organizations must be established as a 501c3 non-profit, able to provide IRS determination letter, most recent financial statement, and annual budget, and must have at least two years of public arts programming experience.

NOT ELIGIBLE

- Artist or arts organizations based outside Los Angeles County.
- City of Burbank elected and appointed officials, employees and immediate family members are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants engaged in active litigation with the City and/or with active code enforcement violations, or a history of code enforcement violations are not eligible.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Proposed projects must be completed in Burbank and directly serve Burbank residents, businesses, and visitors.
- Projects must provide a public benefit via a culminating performance, exhibition, or presentation of artwork that is open to the general public.
- Ticket prices for grant-funded events must be within fair market value; preference will be given to events that are free or low-cost.
- Only one application per project will be accepted. Participating artists and arts organizations may not apply separately for the same project. Applicants are allowed to submit one project for consideration.
- Grant funds must be utilized as proposed, and within the project period or shall be returned.

WE DO NOT FUND

- Recreational arts and crafts projects or programs.
- Arts education, workshops, or teaching programs.
- Administrative and operational expenses.
- Scholarly research, tuition, or academic expenses.
- Projects held, performed, or exhibited outside of the City of Burbank.
- Programs that are not accessible to the public.
- Trusts, endowments, cash reserves, fundraisers or capital campaigns.
- Programs that are religious in nature or contain elements of proselytizing.
- Programs that aid or service political campaigns or political groups.
- Artwork may not contain advertising, sexual content, or hate speech.
- Permanent art in public places (ie murals, sculptures, or the like). For more information on Burbank's Art in Public Places Program:
<https://burbankca.gov/web/parks-recreation/art-in-public-places>

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants are required to submit an online application form with all required uploads by the application deadline. Applicants are encouraged to utilize the sample application template to prepare their answers in advance to streamline the submission process. Document uploads should include the applicant's name and document type (ex. **ApplicantName_Letter**).

Applicants are either individual professional artists or non-profit organizations and there are several different questions/requirements for each type of applicant so make sure to note the differences in PART 1: APPLICANT PROFILE SECTION 2.

Applicants will be able to save and return to the application by clicking "Save" at the bottom of the application form and following the link and instructions sent via email. You may edit the application until the application deadline at 5 p.m. of October 16, 2026, but we encourage applicants to submit early to avoid any technical issues.

ALL REQUIRED APPLICATION SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE DEADLINE. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

APPLY HERE: <https://form.jotform.com/262454473311150>

Here is an overview of the requirements within each section of the form:

PART 1: APPLICANT PROFILE SECTION 1: (All Applicants)

This section contains important contact information and identifies the applicant as an individual professional artist or non-profit organization. IMPORTANT: This is the organization or artist who will enter into a legal contract with the City of Burbank and receive payment if awarded funds.

PART 1: APPLICANT PROFILE SECTION 2: (Individual Artist Applicants)

Applicants are asked to upload an Artist Resume/CV showing at least two years working as a practicing artist. Include education or training in the arts disciplines of the proposed programs and any recognition in the artistic disciplines (i.e., awards, commendations). An Artistic Statement is also required. Describe your work philosophy and how receiving this grant would further your development as an artist. Upload Proof of Residency (driver's license or utility bill) if a Burbank resident.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS (cont.)

PART 1: APPLICANT PROFILE SECTION 2: **(Organization Applicants)**

Non-profit arts organizations are asked to include a mission statement, brief program history, a description of your core community/audience, operating budget, cultural equity statement (if available), proof of non-profit status, screenshot of active non-profit status with the CA Secretary of State (see sample), board of directors list, and most recent fiscal year financial statement.

Here is a sample of the screenshot for the [CA Secretary of State](https://bizfileonline.sos.ca.gov/search/business):

The screenshot displays the California Secretary of State's Business Search interface. The search results for 'BURBANK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (485716)' are shown. The entity is a Nonprofit Corporation - CA - Mutual Benefit, formed in California, with a status of Active. The initial filing date is 02/10/1965. The principal address is 200 W. MAGNOLIA BLVD., BURBANK, CA 91502. The mailing address is 200 W. MAGNOLIA BLVD., BURBANK, CA 91502. The statement of info due date is 02/28/2025. The agent is JAMIE KEYSER.

Entity Information	Initial Filing Date	Status	Entity Type	Formed In	Agent
BURBANK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (485716)	02/10/1965	Active	Nonprofit Corporation - CA - Mutual Benefit	CALIFORNIA	JAMIE KEYSER

PART 2: PROJECT DESCRIPTION: **(All Applicants)**

This section consists of questions that highlight the details of your proposed project (who, what, when, where, why). You are asked whether this is a new or existing project, grant request amount, project discipline, project title, proposed date(s) and venue (must be in the City of Burbank), project description, list of key project personnel/artists, and venue letter. **Be detailed and thorough in your description.** Include all of the key people involved in the project, especially those that will be compensated through grant funds.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS (cont.)

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING VENUES: Applicants are encouraged to identify and engage with proposed venues in development of the project and preparation of this application. Those conversations should be held well in advance of the deadline. While a venue letter is optional, it is highly recommended and will contribute to scoring under Project Viability/Managerial and Fiscal Competence.

A [sample Venue Letter of Intent](#) is available for use. A copy of an email or letter from the venue noting their willingness to engage with the applicant is also acceptable. Review our Venue Resource Section on Page 11.

PART 3: COMMUNITY ACCESS, EQUITY AND IMPACT **(All Applicants)**

This section consists of questions that highlight the project's public impact and engagement. Community Arts Grant projects require an engagement component or culminating event that is open to the public. You are asked to share the project's community engagement/promotional strategies, expected number of participants, and metrics for evaluating success.

PART 4: PROJECT BUDGET **(All Applicants)**

This is an opportunity to share the financial scope of the project. Include project costs expected to be incurred during the project period March 1, 2027 – February 28, 2028, and how you plan to cover these costs.

Applicants are encouraged to present projects where the City of Burbank is not the sole funder, with budgets that include matching funds equal to, or greater than, their requested grant, but matching funding is not required.

Applicants are asked to provide brief budget narratives for income and expenses. Provide panelists with enough detail that helps explain the sources of income (including other income) for the project and projected expenses (including other expenses). You must provide a project budget where Total Project Income EQUALS Total Project Expenses.

IMPORTANT: Your application will be deemed ineligible if your project budget does not balance.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS (cont.)

PART 5: ARTISTIC SAMPLES & SUPPORT MATERIALS: (All Applicants)

Artistic Samples

Artistic work samples are crucial for evaluating the artistic quality of the applicant and project. Samples should reflect the concepts and quality of the applicant's work. Please provide two (2) high-quality video, audio, or images relevant to the project. Do not submit marketing/promotional materials in place of artistic samples. Each video/audio sample should be no longer than 5 minutes.

Applicants have an option to submit 2 hyperlinks, 2 file uploads, or 1 hyperlink/1 file upload, depending on the types of samples available. Links to Soundcloud, YouTube, Vimeo, or other online music/video showcases or cloud services are preferred. Provide the title, description, and date (and password if applicable) for each sample as indicated. All links must remain active and viewable until March 2027. If a sample is longer than 5 minutes, please identify the 5-minute section that panelists should view.

Uploads are restricted to file sizes no larger than 500MB. Formats such as .jpg, .mp4, .mov, and .mpg are accepted. If a sample is larger than the maximum size allowed, please use a link.

DISCLAIMER: Upon submission, application materials become documents of public record and are subject to public records requests. Please do not submit original artwork. Submissions will not be returned.

Support Materials

Applicant may include a maximum of two pieces of collateral material (such as articles, reviews, marketing material, blog posts, newsletters, etc.) with the application. Published reviews critiquing the quality of the applicant's work are preferable. Applicants should provide a short description of each collateral piece included.

PART 6: APPLICATION CERTIFICATION: (All Applicants)

All applicants are asked to include the name of the contact with authority to submit and certify this application by checking the certification box. For organizations, this must be a designated representative or an authorized board member. As a final step, applicants are prompted to preview and sign the document electronically.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Artistic Quality and Merit (40 points)

Proposal articulates a creative, compelling, and cohesive project vision that includes the participation of professional artists as evidenced by resumes/bios. Project exhibits high artistic quality as evidenced by artistic samples.

Community Access and Impact (30 points)

Applicant demonstrates an understanding of the Burbank community and details how the project will make a positive impact for City residents and visitors. Proposal includes a high level of community engagement and outreach as evidenced by project marketing plan and a project design that increases access to the arts, including free or low-cost events. Proposal demonstrates an ability to serve various cultural constituencies in Burbank, including a diversity of families, genders, age groups, economic classes, racial and ethnic communities, neighborhoods, LGBTQ+ people, and persons with disabilities. Projects that promote collaboration with local businesses and/or partnerships with non-profit organizations serving the community are encouraged.

Project Viability/Managerial and Fiscal Competence (20 points)

Managerial and fiscal competence are demonstrated through submission of a thorough application with detailed project budget and project evaluation plan (for organizations this also includes review of organization financials). Project budget, timeline, and goals are realistic. Proposed project budget includes budget notes and clearly show efforts to identify funding in addition to the Burbank community arts grant. Application and accompanying materials are neat, legible and follow the guidelines. A venue letter is included.

Cultural Equity & Inclusion (10 points)

Applicants and projects demonstrate values, policies, and/or practices that ensure that all people—including but not limited to those who have been historically underrepresented or marginalized based on race/ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, citizenship status, or religion—are represented and included.

Burbank Residency Credit (5 points)

Automatically awarded to any artist or organization applying that is located in Burbank as evidenced by mailing address for office, residence or studio space.

SELECTION PROCESS

All applications, artistic documentation and support materials are first reviewed by City staff for satisfaction of eligibility requirements. Eligible proposals are then reviewed by a diverse panel of arts professionals with expertise in performing and visual arts.

Panelists evaluate applications, scoring them on the one hundred five (105) point scale referenced in the publicly stated Evaluation Criteria. City staff members are present at the panel meetings, but do not participate in the deliberations. After the panel's review, all scores, comments, rankings, and recommended grant allocations are forwarded to the Burbank Cultural Arts Commission and presented for approval at the City of Burbank Parks & Recreation Board meeting in early 2027. Award levels are determined by scores, the amount of available funds, request amounts, and the number of qualified applicants. Decisions are final and may not be appealed.

Staff document the comments of grant review panels for its records and share with applicants, upon request. Comments will be available to applicants following the announcement of grant awards. To receive panel comments, contact: communityartsgrant@burbankca.gov.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Burbank Cultural Arts Commission members are active stewards of the arts in the community and may be involved in the arts professionally and/or personally. The Commission desires to avoid situations which may compromise, or appear to compromise, members' objectivity while not preventing their continuing involvement in the arts or in projects supported by the Commission and City.

If the Commission member has a professional, fiduciary, and/or personal relationship with an applicant, the Commission member must notify the Commission of the relationship before the panel meeting or review of the applicant. The Commission member must also excuse him/herself from the room during the discussion of the applicant and may not discuss the application with any other member of the Commission prior to, during, or after discussion of the application.

AWARD PROCESS & REQUIREMENTS

During the award process, grantees may adjust the project scope and budget if funding is below the requested amount. Upon signing the grant agreement, grantees may invoice for 50% of their award. A final report with itemized budget and expense documentation must be submitted at the close of the project and approved by staff to receive final payment. Grantees are subject to audit by the City to ensure grant funds were used for the project as reported. Should a grantee not adequately account for use of the grant funds, they may be ineligible for any further grant funding from the City. If the proposed project is not completed by February 28, 2027, awarded funds shall be returned to the City of Burbank.

Grantees selected must agree to maintain liability insurance, which will insure and indemnify the grantees and the City of Burbank during the term of the contract and for one year after acceptance of the project. A complete list of grantee obligations will be provided to grantees with the grant agreement. **The list may also be provided to applicants upon request.**

VENUE RESOURCES

The Community Arts Grant Program welcomes projects that take place in a variety of public spaces, including but not limited to community spaces, parks, churches, and local businesses as long as the venue is open to the public during normal business hours and ADA-compliant. For ideas, check out [our list of Burbank venues](#)

If you are interested in connecting with a city-owned space but not sure who to contact, please email communityartsgrant@burbankca.gov.

Some of the venues used by past grantees include:

Boys & Girls Club of Burbank
Buena Vista Library
The Colony Theatre
CML Studios
Everything Recording Studio
First Christian Church
Dolores Huerta MS Auditorium
LA Connection Comedy Theatre

Magnolia Park United Methodist Church
Salit Conservatory of Music
Stough Canyon Park
Stu Space
The Victory Theatre Center
Wolfson Auditorium (BHS)

FAQs & APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

1. Check out our [FAQs](#) for answers to frequently asked questions.

2. Attend a Workshop

Wednesday, September 16, 2026: Application Workshop 4:00pm – 5:00pm
via Zoom [REGISTER](#)

Wednesday, September 30, 2026: Office Hours Workshop/Q&A 11:00am – noon
via Zoom [REGISTER](#)

It is highly recommended to attend one of the grant workshops. The Application Workshop, where staff will review the guidelines, criteria, and application process, will be recorded and posted for those who cannot attend. The Office Hours Workshop/Q&A Session will be a quick review and an opportunity for applicants to ask questions in a group.

Staff is available on a limited basis to offer guidance and clarification in preparing to submit applications. Be sure to review the [FAQs](#) and application workshop before contacting staff and do so far enough ahead of the deadline to ensure you can be accommodated. Staff cannot guarantee a response for questions sent after Monday, October 12, 2026. Contact City staff via email with questions or to schedule a call.

✉ CommunityArtsGrant@burbankca.gov

🖱 <https://www.burbankca.gov/CommunityArtsGrant>