

CITY OF BURBANK COMMUNITY ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM  
FAQs

**Q. What kind of projects are you looking for?**

A. We're seeking projects that reflect the creativity and diversity of Burbank—"The Media Capital of the World." Eligible projects may take many artistic forms including original film, video and other audio-visual works, two dimensional, visual, pictorial and sculptural works, multi-disciplinary and live performance arts. We encourage projects that educate, entertain, or inspire participants; build awareness and appreciation for different art forms; respond to community needs with clearly defined audiences; and celebrate the cultural richness of Burbank. For inspiration, you can explore our previously-funded grantees/projects.

[2024 Grantees](#)

[2025 Grantees](#)

**Q. What is the intent of this funding?**

To support local artists and non-profit arts organizations and to engage Burbank residents with diverse and outstanding cultural arts projects.

**Q. My organization is based in Burbank but we regularly perform/exhibit in venues outside the city, are we eligible?**

A. Your organization is eligible to apply, but the project proposed must be performed, exhibited, or conducted in zip codes for the City of Burbank (91501, 91502, 91503, 91504, 91505, 91506, 91507, 91508, 91510, 91521, 91522, 91523, and 91526). Consider developing a project for consideration that engages residents within city limits.

**Q. Does the venue for my project need to be a traditional theatre or arts space?**

A. Be creative! The community arts grant program welcomes projects that take place in a variety of public spaces, including but not limited to community spaces, parks, places of worship, galleries, studios, 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](#).

**Q. What is your definition of visual and performing arts?**

A. Performing arts include theater, music, spoken word, and dance, while visual arts encompass painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, photography, video, filmmaking, design, textiles, and applied arts and crafts. We also welcome multidisciplinary projects that combine elements across these categories, as we are eager to highlight the full range of work being created by local artists. If you have questions about whether your work is a fit, reach out to us at [communityartsgrant@burbankca.gov](mailto:communityartsgrant@burbankca.gov).

**Q. I run a commercial business that sells the work of local artists. Can I apply?**

No. We understand that artwork can also be sold and is a livelihood for many, but applicants must be non-profit organizations or individual artists.

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**Q. Our non-profit supports art programs in schools. Can we apply for funding to support an annual performance event featuring student performers?**

The Community Arts Grant Program does not currently fund recreational or youth arts programs in schools or other community spaces.

**Q. Does the project need to be a new program/activity?**

A. A project may be a part of an applicant's ongoing regular season or activities. Organizations that undertake a single "one-off" short-term project in a year—a dance festival, for example—could apply for support for that event, or they could identify components of their operations, such as securing rehearsal space, marketing activities, paying artists a salary or stipend, pay for materials and supplies, etc., as their project requires.

**Q. What criteria are used to review my application?**

The four criteria areas include Artistic Quality and Merit, Community Access and Impact, Project Viability/Managerial and Fiscal Competence, and Cultural Equity & Inclusion. A Burbank residency credit will be awarded automatically to any artist or organization applying that is located in Burbank as evidenced by mailing address for office, residence or studio space.

**Q. I would like to apply for a grant to present a painting workshop for seniors. Is that an eligible project?**

We do not fund "arts education or teaching programs" since other park programs, local art centers and local colleges offer classes/workshops. That is not to say that a workshop cannot be part of a project, but a professional artistic presentation open the public should be central to the project.

**Q. I am having a hard time figuring out where I might present my project. Do you have any venue suggestions?**

Some of the venues used by previous grantees include the Boys & Girls Club of Burbank and the Greater East Valley, The Colony Theatre, Salit Conservatory of Music, The Victory Theatre Center (Big Victory and Little Victory), LA Connection Comedy Theatre, Stu Space, Stough Canyon Park, First Christian Church, and Lincoln Beer Company. For additional ideas, check out [our list of Burbank venues](#).

**Q. I am not able to get a hold of my preferred venue. Is a Venue Letter required to apply?**

Applicants are encouraged to identify and engage with proposed venues in the preparation of this application. While a venue letter of intent is optional, it is highly recommended. You can use our sample template or upload a copy of an email /letter from the venue with the same information.

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**Q. We are a group of artists that want to stage a performance or mount an exhibition. The application for individual artist or non-profit arts organization does not seem to apply in our case. Can we still apply?**

A. In this case, we recommend the lead artist/curator apply for the grant as an individual artist and articulate their artistic vision for the project. Note the lead artists will be the perso

**Q. Will the grant award be the same as the amount requested?**

A. The review panel may approve an amount that is less than what the applicant requested depending on scores and the amount of applications received. Applicants are encouraged to have other potential funding sources identified for their project.

**Q. Who can I contact for questions or further explanation?**

Contact City staff via email with questions or to schedule a call at [communityartsgrant@burbankca.gov](mailto:communityartsgrant@burbankca.gov). Staff cannot guarantee a response for questions sent after Monday, October 13, 2025.

**Q. Who is serving on the grants panel?**

Proposals are reviewed by a diverse panel of arts professionals with expertise in performing and visual arts. The list of panelists will be available in February 2026.

**Q. I know someone who is perfect to be involved in reviewing applications. How can they get more information?**

We are seeking individuals who have one or more of these qualifications to serve as review panelists for the Community Arts Grant Program: expertise in visual and performing arts disciplines, experience in arts administration and nonprofit service, and familiarity with the work of local nonprofits, the arts ecology of Los Angeles (LA) County, and the City of Burbank. Panelists must reside in LA County, be able to report scores and comments digitally, and be available to participate in an in-person, one-day review meeting. Nominations are accepted year-round, but [must be submitted online](#) by October 6 to be included in the 2026 panel.

**Q. I am a visual artist/filmmaker and not sure how to engage the community with my work. Do you have any advice or suggestions as to the type of projects a visual artist or filmmaker might consider?**

For inspiration, here are a few projects we created as examples of how you might engage the community with your work.

**1. "Portraits of Burbank" – Community Photography Exhibition**

A professional photographer partners with local residents to create a public portrait series capturing the diversity of Burbank's people and neighborhoods. Participants are invited to share personal stories alongside their portraits, which are then displayed in a gallery-style

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installation at a local community center, library, or small business. The project includes a free opening reception and a facilitated storytelling session where featured residents can share more about their lives and communities.

**2. “Layers of Burbank” – Mixed Media Community Collage Installation**

A Burbank-based mixed media artist leads a series of interactive collage sessions open to all ages, where residents contribute to a large-scale community artwork. Using recycled materials, photographs, and personal mementos, the piece will reflect the cultural history and layered identities of Burbank’s diverse population. The final collage will be unveiled at a local venue with a family-friendly launch event featuring music and light refreshments,

**3. “Lightbox: Illuminating Burbank Stories” – Curated Light Art Exhibit**

A lead visual artist curates a temporary light-based installation in an indoor community space, featuring illuminated shadow boxes and light sculptures that interpret personal stories gathered from Burbank residents. The artist works with a small cohort of artists to co-create pieces based on oral histories, poems, or short narratives collected during pre-event workshops. The final exhibit is open to the public with scheduled guided tours, and includes an artist talk about the intersection of memory, storytelling, and visual form.

**4. “Modern Myths of Burbank” – Curated Narrative Illustration Showcase**

A professional illustrator assembles a group exhibition exploring modern-day “myths” or symbolic stories rooted in Burbank’s cultural or geographic landscape. Through surreal or imaginative illustrations, participating artists reinterpret local landmarks, traditions, or urban legends. The project includes a call for submissions curated by the lead artist, a printed catalog or zine, and a panel discussion during the exhibit’s opening that explores how local storytelling influences visual arts. Admission to the event is free or low-cost, and all artworks are accessible to the general public in a central location.

**5. “Burbank in 5” – A Short Film Series of Micro-Stories**

A filmmaker produces a curated collection of five-minute narrative shorts that capture overlooked slices of life in Burbank—from a day in the life of a Magnolia Park barista to a father-daughter duo restoring classic cars. All films are shot within Burbank and feature local talent and locations. The series culminates in a public screening event at a community venue, followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers and featured community members. The project encourages neighbors to see their everyday lives as cinematic and meaningful.

**6. “Sound & Sightlines” – Experimental Shorts on Burbank’s Public Spaces**

A lead artist an experimental short film that use Burbank’s urban landscape as a canvas—playing with sound design, architecture, and human movement. The project invites collaboration with dancers, musicians, or spoken word artists, with each film shot in a recognizable public location. Screenings are free and staged outdoors in partnership with a

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local arts organization or park, with accompanying live performances or artist commentary that deepen the audience experience.

**7. “Echoes of the Valley” – Oral History Documentary Shorts**

This short-form documentary project collects and visually interprets personal oral histories from long-time Burbank residents—focusing on themes of immigration, resilience, or generational change. Each 7–10 minute film pairs an interview with rich visual storytelling using archival photos, re-enactments, and animation. A culminating screening is held at a community venue or senior center, with an open forum for intergenerational dialogue and reflection. The project may also be adapted into a digital archive for ongoing access.