



COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT 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.

[2024-25 Grantees](#)

[2025-26 Grantees](#)

[2026-27 Grantees](#)

Q. What is the intent of this funding?

A. 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 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.

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

A. 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.

Q. Our unincorporated arts collective uses a fiscal sponsor. Can we apply?

A. Yes. The Community Arts Grant Program may accept applications from an unincorporated arts collective working with a 501(c)(3) nonprofit fiscal sponsor, provided the proposed project meets all other program eligibility requirements. The fiscal sponsor will be responsible for entering into the grant agreement and managing grant funds. Please contact communityartsgrant@burbankca.gov before applying to confirm eligibility and receive further instructions.

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

A. The Community Arts Grant Program does not currently fund recreational or youth arts instruction programs and performances in schools or other community spaces by student performers.

Q. How much can I request, and will the grant award be the same as the amount requested?

A. Applicants may request up to \$5,000. The review panel may recommend an award that is less than the amount requested, depending on application scores, the number of qualified applications, and available funding. If an award is less than requested, grantees may work with City staff to adjust the project scope and budget to reflect the final award. Applicants are encouraged to identify other potential funding sources for their project.

Q. Can I charge admission for my project?

A. Yes. Projects may charge admission, but ticket prices for grant-funded events must be within fair market value. Preference will be given to projects that are free or low-cost to the public.

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

A. No. A project may be part of an applicant's ongoing season or regular activities. However, the grant should support a specific project and related expenses rather than general administrative or operational costs. Eligible expenses may include artist compensation, production or exhibit costs, marketing, venue rental, and supplies related to the funded project.

For example, an organization presenting an annual dance festival could apply for support for that specific festival, or an artist could propose a new exhibition, performance, screening, or other public presentation as part of their ongoing practice.

Q. What criteria are used to review my application?

A. 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 workshop. Is that an eligible project?

A. The Community Arts Grant Program does not fund arts education, instruction, or teaching programs. However, a workshop or participatory activity may be included as part of a larger project. The project should be centered on a professional artistic presentation, exhibition, performance, or other public presentation that is open to the general public

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

A. Some venues used by previous grantees include the Boys & Girls Club of Burbank, Buena Vista Library, The Colony Theatre, Salit Conservatory of Music, The Victory Theatre Center, LA Connection Comedy Theatre, Stu Space, Stough Canyon Park, First Christian Church, and Wolfson Auditorium, Burbank High. 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?

A. A venue letter of intent is highly recommended. Applicants are encouraged to identify and engage with proposed venues in the development of your project and well in advance of the application deadline. You can use [our sample template](#) or upload a copy of an email /letter from the venue with the same information.

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. Yes. We recommend the lead artist or curator apply for the grant as an individual artist and articulate their artistic vision and role in the project. The lead artist will be legally responsible for the grant funds and execution of the project. If your group has an established fiscal sponsor, you may also contact City staff before applying to confirm eligibility and receive additional instructions.

Q. I am a filmmaker and want to apply for a grant to support my independent film shooting on location in Burbank and. Is my project eligible?

A. Grant funds can be used to support a film production, however there must be a culminating performance, exhibition, or presentation that is open to the general public. Filming alone is not eligible in this grant program.

Q. Who is serving on the grants panel?

A. 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 2027.

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

A. 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 10, 2026, to be included in the 2027 panel.

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

A. Contact City staff via email with questions or to schedule a call at communityartsgrant@burbankca.gov. Staff cannot guarantee a response for questions sent after Monday, October 12, 2026. Make sure to fully read the program guidelines.

SAMPLE PROJECTS

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?

A. 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 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 creates an experimental short film that uses 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 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.