

Creative Sparks Grant

Program Guidelines 2026–27



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Introduction

Creative Sparks is delivered by Brisbane City Council in partnership with the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

These guidelines outline the program, eligibility requirements, and how applications are assessed.

About the program

Program overview

Creative Sparks supports Brisbane professional artists, creative workers, and eligible not-for-profit organisations to create and present an accessible creative public outcome in Brisbane.

The program aims to:

- increase opportunities for community participation in arts and culture
- encourage creative excellence and innovation
- support a sustainable creative sector.

Funding available

- up to \$15,000 per application (GST exclusive)
- for individual professional artists, creative workers and not-for-profit community arts, historical and cultural organisations based in Brisbane.

Key dates

- Applications open: 28 September 2026 at 9am
- Applications close: 9 November 2026 at 3pm
- Notification: Mid-March 2027
- Supported activity: Must occur between 16 March 2027 and 18 January 2028.

Eligibility and grant requirements

Who can apply

Applicants must:

- be professional artists, creative workers, or eligible not-for-profit organisations with a track record of creative practice
- submit one application per round and do not apply to the Lord Mayor's Creative Fellowships in the same financial year
- have no overdue acquittals with Council
- have an ABN linked to a Brisbane postcode or be supported by an eligible Brisbane-based auspice organisation. The ABN and address postcodes must match.
- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident status aged 17 or over
- live in Brisbane, or if organisation, be based in Brisbane.

Priority may be given to applicants who did not receive Council creative grant funding in the previous financial year.



Who cannot apply

You cannot apply if you are:

- a government or political organisation
- a school or university
- an organisation that is a for-profit business
- Council or Arts Queensland staff
- currently in receipt of creative funding from Council to the value of \$10,000 or more in the same financial year that the grant round is open
- using an ABN registered outside the Brisbane local government area.

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Project eligibility

Projects must:

- deliver a new accessible public creative outcome in Brisbane
- not start before funding is approved
- be completed within 10 months of notification.

Other eligibility requirements

Applicants must submit a complete application that:

- shows evidence of the applicant's professional artistic practice
- includes a co-contribution (cash or in-kind)
- includes a balanced, GST-exclusive budget
- provides supporting evidence for all grant-funded costs; current quotes (≤ 6 months) required for grant-funded items over \$500
- includes the required support material (for example curriculum vitae, timeline, relevant letters, venue confirmations and auspice or cultural permissions, where needed).

Applications that are incomplete or do not include required documents will not be assessed.

Assessment criteria

Applications are assessed against:

Criteria	Description	Weighting
Creative Excellence	A clear, original project with a strong creative vision, supported by the applicant's experience and past work.	30%
Impact	Provides meaningful opportunities for people to participate in and benefit from arts and culture.	40%
Viability	A clear, realistic plan, budget and timeline showing you can deliver the project.	30%



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What we fund

- Artists and creative workers fees (industry rates)
- Production and project costs
- Project management
- Marketing and promotion
- Superannuation (where required).

What we do not fund

Ineligible projects

We do not fund projects that:

- start before funding is approved
- request full project funding (no applicant contribution)
- allocate more than 50% of grant funding for publishing or printing
- do not pay industry rates
- do not deliver a new accessible public creative outcome in Brisbane
- do not involve or benefit Brisbane-based artists or creative workers
- duplicate an existing service or ongoing program, including Council initiatives
- are unclear or incomplete
- have not supplied the required supporting material
- cannot be completed within the timeframe
- are submitted late
- are for:
 - public artworks or mural production
 - competitions, awards, fundraising, charities or political activity
 - individual professional development
 - coursework, training or degree activities.

Ineligible costs

We do not fund:

- ongoing core business operational costs (e.g. salaries, ongoing programs)
- equipment or capital purchases
- contingency or general consumables
- insurance, research, study or childcare costs
- debts or loans
- individual professional development
- course, training or degree activities
- business start-up costs
- travel and accommodation
- food or alcohol.

Successful applicants

Successful applicants must:

- sign a funding agreement with Council
- hold \$20 million public liability insurance in name of applicant (or auspice) for the duration of project
- deliver the project as approved
- acknowledge Brisbane City Council and Arts Queensland in all promotion using required wording and logos
- submit an acquittal within 8 weeks of the project end date, and no later than 10 months after notification, including receipts for all grant-funded expenses.