



Funding Guidelines and Procedures

The Redwood City Arts Commission, on behalf of the City Council, provides grants to connect our community through arts and cultural programming, events, visual and performing arts, and activities that enhance Redwood City's culture. Redwood City's organizations play an important role in bringing quality projects and programs to the community, contributing to the quality of life for Redwood City's residents and visitors. The Commission operates on a yearly budget that begins July 1 each year. The Arts Commission has set aside \$65,000 of their annual budget for Large and Small Grants for Fiscal Year 2026-2027:

- Large Grants (*\$1,501 or more, applications period is March-April 2026-*) = \$55,000
- Small Grants (*\$1,500 or less, applications are accepted monthly*) = \$10,000

The Commission considers the following priorities in making its funding decisions in 2026:

- Projects that celebrate diversity and equity
- Projects that are inclusive to all ages and abilities
- Projects that engage youth through performing arts, visual arts, and cultural experiences
- Projects that span a spectrum of art forms (music, theater, cinema, literature, painting, sculpture, and architecture, etc.)

Requests for Large Grants

Requests for large grants (\$1,501 or more) are reviewed in June and funded in July. Applications for large grants are available on the Redwood City website (<http://bit.ly/rwcarts>), or at the Community Activities Building at 1400 Roosevelt Avenue. Applicants may also email Joanna Barrett at jbarrett@redwoodcity.org for an application. All large grant applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2026, to be considered.

In 2025, there were 13 large grant applications, and 13 grants were awarded with a median allocation amount of \$3,700 of the Commission's \$55,000 Large Grant budget.

Requests for Small Grants

Requests for small grants (\$1,500 or less) are accepted year-round. Applications must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the date of the Commission meeting where action is requested. Each organization can apply for up to two small grants for separate projects during the same fiscal year.



All applications for funding by the Redwood City Arts Commission must meet the following criteria:

Application Evaluation

1. Applicants must request funds for a project based in Redwood City.
2. Applicants requesting funds must be a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit or have a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. The Commission may request copies of past financial statements.
3. Funding requests must represent no more than 20% of an applicant's operating income.
4. The Commission does not fund staff salaries.
5. A complete and accurate application detailing the proposed project along with attainable goals, objectives, time frames, and an evaluation procedure must be submitted by all established due dates.
6. The applicant must first obtain permission for the use of the facility and coordinate the time, date and specific requirements for the event or project with the facility owners prior to applying for Commission funding.
7. All grant applications must be completed and presented to the Commission by an official representative of the requesting organization.
8. The Commission will give additional consideration to a grant request if the requesting organization has applied for matching funds.

If funded by the Commission

9. The organization must complete a final report within 90 days of the project.
10. Applicants are required to promote their project and acknowledge the Redwood City Arts Commission as a sponsor.
11. Funds shall be used only for the specific purpose stated in the application. Unused funds must be returned to the Arts Commission.
12. Passes to the funded event should be made available to the Commission for the purpose of review and evaluation upon request.

For further information concerning these funding guidelines and procedures, please contact the Redwood City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at (650) 780-7252 or email Joanna Barrett at jbarrett@redwoodcity.org.