

Major Cultural Organisation Grant Guideline

This guideline outlines the eligibility, assessment criteria and application process for the Major Cultural Organisation Grant.

OVERVIEW

The Major Cultural Organisation Grant supports organisations that make a significant contribution to the cultural life of Nipaluna (Hobart).

The grant aligns with the Creative City Strategy, recognising the role of cultural organisations in strengthening the city's creative identity, supporting cultural participation, building community connection, and contributing to the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of Hobart.

Funding supports the delivery of annual public programs that demonstrate cultural leadership, community benefit and alignment with the City's strategic priorities.

WHAT CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

The Major Cultural Organisation Grant provides support towards ongoing public program costs. This may include artistic programming, audience development, artist development, community outreach, or other activities that constitute the annual program of activities of the organisation.

Eligible organisations may apply for other funding within the City of Hobart grants program for special events, projects and activities in addition to the organisation's annual public program.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

This grant provides cash support over \$10,000.

The grant request should be commensurate with the scale of the proposed activity taking into account expected audience numbers and participants involved. This is a competitive grant round and funding is determined by the applications merits against the assessment

criteria. Due to the high interest in the funding, partial funding may be offered.

HOW TO APPLY

Read the Guidelines in full, review the previous rounds Application Form and start preparing your documentation.

All applications are to be submitted through the grants system, Smarty Grants hobartcity.com.au/Grants.

Speak to us before you apply so we can help you with tips for a successful application.

Contact our Customer Service Centre on **03 6238 2711** and mention that you are interested in the Major Cultural Organisation Grant. Or email your enquiry to our Grants Team at fundingprogram@hobartcity.com.au.

WHO CAN APPLY?

To be eligible for the Major Cultural Organisation Grant, applicants must be:

- ✓ a not-for-profit organisation that delivers programming in community and public spaces
- ✓ constitutionally established to primarily support and deliver creative outputs and outcomes
- ✓ able to demonstrate an annual income of at least \$1 million
- ✓ employing professional permanent staff
- ✓ delivering year-round public outcomes

ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY

Applications for the Creative Hobart Major Cultural Organisation Grant must demonstrate that the activity:

- ✓ demonstrates alignment with the Creative City Strategy and contributes to one or more of its four outcome areas:
 - Champion – strengthening visibility, communication and advocacy of Nipaluna (Hobart)'s creative identity
 - Custodian – caring for cultural assets, stories and the creative workforce through sustainable investment
 - Curator – shaping connected, place-based creative programming across communities, precincts and public spaces
 - Catalyst – enabling participation, experimentation and creative opportunities through reduced barriers and increased access.
- ✓ has outcomes that are delivered in the City of Hobart local government area (LGA Map located on Page 8 of City Economy Strategy)
- ✓ incorporates relevant City of Hobart strategic commitments where appropriate, including:
 - Country, Culture, People 2025-2028 (Cultural Safety Strategy)
 - Hobart: A City for All - Community Inclusion and Equity Framework
 - Waste Management Strategy
 - other relevant City of Hobart plans and strategies applicable to the proposed activity.
- ✓ demonstrates a commitment to accessibility, inclusion and cultural safety appropriate to the scale and nature of the organisation and its activities.

ACTIVITY INELIGIBILITY

Applications will be ineligible if the request for support:

- ✗ duplicates existing activities already available within the Hobart local government area
- ✗ is from an applicant that has not fulfilled the conditions of a previous City of Hobart grant by the due date
- ✗ is commercial, has the potential to make significant profit or be self-sustaining.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Late applications will not be accepted, please ensure you prepare all documentation and upload well before the due date and time. If you require technical support, get in touch with us as soon as possible.

FUNDING USE

This grant cannot be used to fund:

- ✗ donations or fundraising activities that support the recurrent operations of the applicant
- ✗ contribution towards payment of rates
- ✗ activities that have already commenced, or are scheduled to, prior to the published activity start date
- ✗ retrospective payments or deficit funding
- ✗ capital works, construction, or improvements to buildings not part of a recognised public art installation
- ✗ individual pursuits or professional development, unless there is a significant, demonstrated public outcome
- ✗ the purchase of equipment that is not specific to activity delivery and would otherwise support the operations of the organisation
- ✗ the core delivery of national conferences or seminars to be staged in Hobart.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment of the Major Cultural Organisation Grants are undertaken by a panel of council officers and external representatives with relative experience in the subject matter. Panel recommendations are reported to the Council, or their delegate, for approval.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Each eligible application will be assessed on its individual merit against the following criteria:

1. Strategic Alignment
 - contributes to one or more outcomes of the Creative City Strategy
 - supports the cultural, social and economic wellbeing of Nipaluna (Hobart) Community Benefit
 - demonstrates meaningful public benefit, participation and community impact
 - provides accessible, welcoming and inclusive opportunities for audiences and participants
2. Cultural Leadership and Contribution
 - demonstrates cultural leadership, artistic excellence, collaboration, audience development, sector development or community engagement
3. Organisational Capacity
 - demonstrates sound governance, financial sustainability, organisational capability and the capacity to successfully deliver the proposed outcomes.

WHEN TO APPLY

Applications open

18 August 2026

Applications close

Friday 18 September 2026

Notification of application outcome

November 2026

Activity timeframe

1 January 2027 to 31 December 2027

Creative City Strategy

The Creative City Strategy provides the framework for the City of Hobart's investment in creativity and culture. The Strategy recognises creativity as a vital contributor to community wellbeing, identity, participation, economic prosperity and cultural life.

Applications should demonstrate how their activities contribute to one or more of the four outcome areas outlined below.

1. Champion

Strengthen the visibility, communication and advocacy of Nipaluna (Hobart)'s creative identity, reinforcing a shared narrative across the city.

- 1.1 Elevate Tasmanian Aboriginal leadership, visibility and cultural safety across the City's creative activity.
- 1.2 Enhance communication of creative activity and opportunities and maintain ongoing engagement with communities, creatives and organisations.
- 1.3 Advocate for creativity as essential to belonging, wellbeing, identity and economic prosperity.
- 1.4 Strengthen Nipaluna (Hobart)'s identity as a UNESCO City of Literature where writing, reading and storytelling are visible, celebrated and embedded in public life.

2. Custodian

Care for the City's cultural assets, heritage, stories and creative workforce through long-term sustainable investment and integrity.

- 2.1 Support long-term investment that builds capability and strengthens creative infrastructure.
- 2.2 Commission and share stories of people and place so the City's cultural, social and environmental transformation is understood over time.

- 2.3 Maintain and sustainably resource the creative workforce, facilities and assets required for a resilient cultural ecosystem.
- 2.4 Support public art that reflects Nipaluna (Hobart)'s unique identity through innovative and accessible works.

3. Curator

Shape coherent, connected and place-based creative programming across seasons, communities, precincts and public spaces.

- 3.1 Build cohesive programming frameworks aligned with the City's seasons, stories and places.
- 3.2 Build partnerships with cultural institutions, creative businesses and organisations to develop integrated storytelling and shared experiences.
- 3.3 Support local vibrancy through distributed and place-responsive programming.
- 3.4 Program family-friendly creative opportunities across neighbourhoods and key visitation periods.

4. Catalyst

Enable creative experimentation by reducing barriers to participation and expanding access to diverse spaces for making, testing and activating ideas.

- 4.1 Support creative development and practitioner pathways and strengthen a culture of experimentation.
- 4.2 Increase access to diverse and unexpected spaces for small-scale, exploratory and creative activity.
- 4.3 Streamline processes, permits and regulation to reduce barriers and enable creative participation.
- 4.4 Support live music and creative activity through enabling approaches that encourage experimentation and participation.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

Agreement

A formal agreement will be sent to the successful applicants. Inability to comply with the agreement may result in withdrawal of support.

Applicants who do not meet their obligations under a grant agreement may not be eligible to apply for future grants.

Payment and GST

Payment information will be provided with the letter of offer. Grants will be paid in full upon receipt of a tax invoice or the City can generate a recipient created tax invoice (RCTI).

Organisations registered for GST should add GST to the grant amount.

Recognition of assistance

Successful applicants must acknowledge the City of Hobart's assistance for their activity. Please refer to the Grant Partnership Acknowledgement Guidelines.

Activity variations

If there are significant changes to the funded activity, applicants must contact the Grants Team to confirm the variation is acceptable.

This includes, but is not limited, to activity start and end dates, venues, fees and charges.

Acquittal

Upon completion of the activity, successful applicants will be required to acquit their grant, providing evidence of the execution of their activity, expenditure and outcomes.

The acquittal form is available on Smarty Grants, and must be completed online within three months of the activity completion date.

Organisations that do not satisfactorily acquit their grant may not be eligible for future funding and may be required to return the funds allocated to their activity.

UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

Unsuccessful applicants are strongly encouraged to request feedback on their application. To request feedback, email us at fundingprogram@hobartcity.com.au.

INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES

Accessibility

The City of Hobart is committed to inclusion, accessibility and cultural safety. Applicants are encouraged to consider accessibility, participation and cultural inclusion when designing and delivering activities.

Please contact the Accessible City Coordinator on **03 6238 2413**.

For Interpreter Services, please telephone an interpreter on **13 14 50** and state the language you wish to speak.

Then ask the interpreter to call us on **03 6238 2711**.

Documents

Copies of all City of Hobart documentation referred to throughout these guidelines can be found via the hyperlinks contained in this document and on the City of Hobart website.

Contact Our Grants Team

To discuss your proposal or administrative and technical matters, please contact us on **03 6238 2711** or fundingprogram@hobartcity.com.au.