



smART ventures is a Seattle-based, flexible small awards program that aims to encourage innovative ideas, create community impact, and **provide new access for individuals and groups not served by our other programs**. Planting small seeds can yield big outcomes. smART ventures seeks to **widen arts and culture participation, particularly of diverse or underserved communities**.

smART ventures provides support in the range of \$500 to \$1,000 for projects, opportunities, events proposed by individuals, groups, organizations or communities of interest that offer a potential arts or cultural impact within the city of Seattle and needing start-up or final investment funds. Events must be open to the public and take place within Seattle. **Funds may NOT be used** for food and drink, equipment purchase, religious services, fundraising, or for activity that takes place before a contract has been awarded.

Who May Apply

- Individuals or groups of people – including youth and older adults – seeking support for a unique project, opportunity or event involving arts and culture and not currently funded by our office;
- Organizations – arts and culture and others – organizations do NOT have to have 501(c)(3) non-profit status:
 - Organizations that are emerging (less than 3 years old), OR
 - Organizations that are not currently funded by our office, OR
 - Organizations that are grassroots or business organizations;
- Practicing artists not currently funded by our office and who have never received a CityArtist grant before.

If You Are Interested In Applying

you must speak with a project manager to discuss your idea. This is to answer your questions and help you write a competitive proposal. Then simply fill out the smART ventures application and submit one completed signed copy.

Start the process as far in advance as possible – at least two months before your project start or event date.

When To Apply - How Soon You'll Hear Back

There is no deadline; applications are reviewed monthly. However, application review and contracting take time.

Submit your application at least a month before the project/event you want us to fund.

You will get a response within 45 days.

Key Project Goals

smART Ventures projects will address one or more of the following:

- **Audience Expansion:** Will this project serve/reach underserved artists, communities or distinct audience? Does the project expand or diversify the audience for arts/culture?
- **Innovation:** Is this a project that provides a new or unique perspective on arts/culture? Is this project something that is innovative and out of the ordinary, using the arts in a distinct way?
- **Community Impact:** Does the project address a community need or build community through arts and culture?

Criteria

- **Public Access:** Projects must have a strong public access element and effective outreach strategy to reach their intended audience.
- **Artistic Potential:** Provide at least one sample—written, image or video—that exhibits the potential for artistic quality or development for the artists or organizations involved. Supporting material can include but is not limited to: pictures, videos, excerpts of previous works or works in progress, letters of recommendation, etc.
- **Feasibility:** Your ability to carry out the project, a well thought-out plan, realistic budget, and timeline.

Looking Ahead

If your project is funded, you will be asked to:

- Sign a Letter of Agreement with the City of Seattle to accomplish the project within the year.
- Have a Social Security number or federal tax identification number issued by the Internal Revenue Service.
- Have a City of Seattle business license. (Not needed to apply — only if you are funded.)
- *For events only:* Insurance may be required.
- Give credit to the City of Seattle Office of Arts & Culture.
- Submit a signed invoice and brief Final Project Report for payment. Note that payment is made **at the end of your project**, not in advance.

Can I Apply More Than Once?

If you are funded, you may apply again for smART ventures funding twelve months from the project end date of your previous contract. You may not receive funding from more than one program of the Office of Arts & Culture for the same project. You may be funded a maximum of two times through the smART ventures program.

Additional Information

[Read the Frequently Asked Questions.](#)

To Get Started

Email Kristi Woo at Kristi.Woo@seattle.gov, or call (206) 727-8671. **We have interpreters who can speak to you in your language, including American Sign Language.** Just call and tell us what language you speak. Expect a short pause while we find an interpreter to join the call.