

smART ventures Funding Program

smART ventures is a three-year pilot program of the Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, city of Seattle. It is a flexible small awards program that aims to encourage innovative ideas, respond to one-time opportunities, and create 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. 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 took place before a contract has been awarded.

Who Can Apply

- Individuals or groups of people – including youth and older adults – seeking support for a one-time 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:
 - emerging (less than 3 years old), OR
 - not currently funded by our office, OR
 - grassroots or business organizations;
- Practicing artists not currently funded by our office.

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 – a minimum of 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 two months before the project/event you want us to sponsor.

You will get a response within 45 days.

Criteria and Some Ideas for smART ventures

- **Impact** : one-time cultural opportunities; artists and audiences from diverse communities; projects or applicants exposing a new audience to arts or culture; new or unique ideas using arts/culture; challenge or matching funds for citizen-commissioned new works or projects; projects and applicants not eligible for our other programs.
- **Urgency**: one-time opportunities or projects; projects needing start-up or final investment.
- **Feasibility**: ability to carry out project; 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 one 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 & Cultural Affairs.
- 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 end date of your previous contract. You may not receive funding from more than one program of the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs for the same project.

For additional information

See the Frequently Asked Questions at www.seattle.gov/arts/funding/smart_ventures_faq.asp.

To get started

Contact Kathy Hsieh, (206) 733-9926 or Kathy.Hsieh@seattle.gov. She will assign a project manager to work with you.