

# City Community Grants 2025/26

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Public

**Tuesday, 16 September 2025**  
**City Finance and Governance Committee**

**Program Contact:**  
Jennifer Kalionis, Associate  
Director City Culture

**Approving Officer:**  
Jo Podoliak, Director City  
Community

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the City Community Grants Operating Guideline and the 2024/25 grants annual report for noting.

The City Community Grants Program includes two focus areas: Arts and Culture and Community Impact, servicing the cultural and community development sectors respectively.

The implementation of the City Community Grants Operating Guideline will enable the delivery of the City Community Grants in 2025/26 in line with the Business Plan and Budget through the Quick Response (up to \$5,000) and Major Grants (\$5,000 - \$20,000) available to the community across the two funding streams.

## RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 23 September 2025 for consideration

THAT THE CITY FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL  
THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the City Community Grants Program for 2025/26, which includes two focus areas – Arts and Culture and Community Impact.
2. Notes the City Community Grants Program Operating Guideline contained in Attachment A to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of Finance and Governance Committee held on Tuesday 16 September 2025.
3. Notes that the City Community Grants will open to the community in October 2025 with targeted promotions delivered to the cultural and community development sectors.
4. Notes that due to funding availability, multi-year Strategic Partnerships are not considered at this stage but will be reviewed on an annual basis through the Business Plan and Budget process.
5. Notes the Community Grants Program Annual Report 2024/25 contained in Attachment B to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of Finance and Governance Committee held on Tuesday 16 September 2025.

## IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	<b>Strategic Alignment – Our Community</b> Vibrant, connected and inclusive Our objective is to support our communities to thrive, create fun, lively and interesting experiences, celebrate and honour community and cultures.
Policy	The CoA Funding Programs Policy ( <a href="#">Link 1</a> ) provides a framework for how the City of Adelaide provides and manages funding to individuals and organisations applying for support through the City of Adelaide funding programs, including the City Community Grants.
Consultation	Consultation on Operating Guidelines is not required under the Funding Programs Policy.
Resource	Not as a result of this report.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report.
Opportunities	Application of the Cultural Policy through revised Arts and Culture Grants Operating Guideline to ensure that Council investment in community projects meets identified priorities.
25/26 Budget Allocation	The 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget outlines an allocation of \$630,000 for the City Community Grants distributed across the Arts and Culture focus area (including the Aboriginal Protocol Grant administered as First Nations Arts and Culture Grant) and the Community Impact focus area.
Proposed 26/27 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The City Community Grants Program supports community and cultural initiatives in the city in 2025/26 in line with the Strategic Plan objectives.
25/26 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report.
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report.
Other Funding Sources	Applicant funding contributors, including in-kind support, are recorded as part of grant applications and acquittals.

## DISCUSSION

1. The City of Adelaide's (CoA)'s Strategic Plan 2024-2028 outlines our commitment to working with the community to shape the future of the city through partnerships that leverage co-investment and grants.
2. The City Community Grants Program supports community groups, organisations and individuals to deliver free and affordable community-led initiatives fostering a vibrant, connected, and inclusive community. By investing in grassroots creativity and collaboration, the Program helps build a city that is welcoming, resilient, and full of life – where everyone feels they belong.
3. At its meeting on 11 June 2024, Council adopted the Funding Programs Policy. To ensure consistency with the Policy, the Operating Guidelines for the CoA Community funding programs were updated prior to their implementation in 2024/25.
4. The 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget allocated a total pool of \$630,000 for City Community Grants, which will be distributed through two focus areas: **Arts and Culture** and **Community Impact**.
5. In 2024/25 and prior years, the Operating Guidelines for the City Community Grants were presented in two individual documents: the Arts and Culture Grants Operating Guideline ([Link 2](#)) and the Community Impact Grants Operating Guideline ([Link 3](#)).
6. These Operating Guidelines have been reviewed and consolidated into one Operating Guideline, with two streams: Arts and Culture and Community Impact. Consolidation of these documents provides a unified Guideline, making it easier for the community to access our grant funds.
7. Consistency with the parent Policy has enabled the integration of the two existing Guidelines into a single Operating Guideline with two distinct streams and clear priorities. This includes aligning eligibility criteria, timeframes, assessment criteria, and the application process.
8. The Operating Guideline aligns with the Funding Programs Policy, the Cultural Policy adopted in 2025 and the Strategic Plan 2024-2028.
9. Key enhancements to the Guidelines for the 2025/27 program include:
  - 9.1. Reduced processing timeframes;
  - 9.2. Major Round strengthened with the addition to the Assessment Panel of an external subject matter expert;
  - 9.3. Major Round Assessment Panel to make recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer for final approval;
  - 9.4. Additional clarity for applicants on the role of Council Members with regards to Canvassing and Lobbying
10. The funding priorities and beneficiaries for each focus area of the program are outlined below:

City Community Grants		
Focus Area	Arts and Culture	Community Impact
Funding Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amplifying creative capital</li> <li>• Culturally inclusive and socially connected</li> <li>• Reconciliation and truth-telling</li> <li>• Preserving cultural heritage</li> <li>• Creating space for cultural expression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming and inclusive</li> <li>• Social inclusion</li> <li>• Active lifestyles</li> <li>• Reconciliation</li> <li>• Connection, learning and wellbeing</li> </ul>
Customers	Cultural Sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts and cultural practitioners</li> <li>• Cultural organisations, including community arts and music venues</li> <li>• Priority groups</li> </ul>	Community Development Sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community groups and non-profit organisations</li> <li>• Volunteers and local leaders</li> <li>• Social enterprises and grassroots initiatives</li> <li>• Priority groups</li> </ul>

11. The City Community Grants Program will open in October 2025 with Quick Response Grants (up to \$5,000) and Major Grants (\$5,000 to \$20,000) available across the two focus areas.
12. Multi-year funding agreements are no longer possible within the scope of the available budget.

13. The CoA Funding Programs Policy requires all funding programs to report outcomes to Council annually and the 2024/25 Community Grants Program Annual Report is presented in **Attachment B**.
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## DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**Link 1** – City of Adelaide Funding Programs Policy

**Link 2** – Arts and Cultural Grant Operating Guideline marked-up version

**Link 3** – Community Impact Grants Operating Guideline marked-up version

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## ATTACHMENTS

**Attachment A** – Community Impact Grants Operating Guideline.

**Attachment B** – Community Grants Program Annual Report 2024/2025.

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