Maribyrnong
CITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2026/27

Quick Response

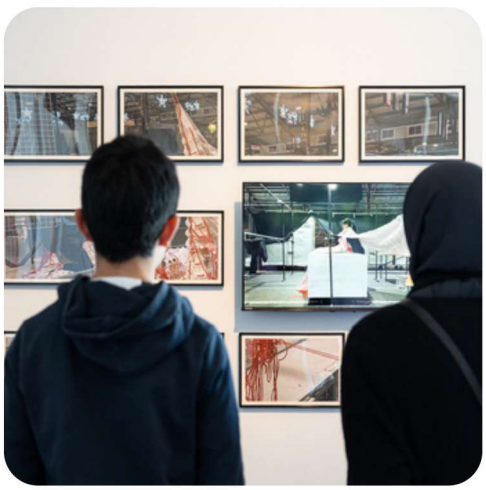
Guidelines













Acknowledgement

Maribyrnong City Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung Bunurong Peoples of the Kulin Nation and pays its respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

About the program

The Maribyrnong City Council Community Grants Program provides funding to support projects that will benefit the Maribyrnong community. The delivery of the Community Grants Program is an identified action in the Council Plan.

The Community Grants (Quick Response) Program 2026-27 provides funding for projects that address one or more of the following:

- Support new and emerging community groups
- Establish partnerships between local organisations/community groups
- Trial a new idea
- Respond to a time sensitive opportunity

Funding

Funding amounts of up to $2000 are available until exhausted.

Cover photography: Kit Edwards, Yixin Wang, Supplied

Eligibility

In order to be eligible applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Project aligns with one of the broader identified focus areas of the Community Grants Program being:
  - Build social connection and belonging
  - Increase participation in community life
  - Support community resilience and wellbing
  - Demonstrate environmental sustainability in action and strenghten climate resilience
- Have not made an application to the Community Grants Program (Annual OR Quick Response) in the previous 12 month period regardless of the outcome
- Have not received grant funding from any Maribyrnong City Council Grants Program in the previous 12 month period
- Be a Maribyrnong based not-for-profit community group, community organisation, agency or certified social enterprise
- All funded activity takes place within the geographic boundaries of the City of Maribyrnong
- Have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Have Public Liability Insurance cover of $20 million
- Have no outstanding grant acquittals or debt owing to Council
- The majority of project participants live, work, study, or volunteer in the City of Maribyrnong.

Not eligible for funding:

- Projects that do not align with Council policies and values
- Projects already funded or partly funded by any Council funding program
- Projects better suited to funding through another Council Grant Program
- Festivals
- Events and activations without community development outcome/s
- Projects that are the primary responsibility of other levels of Government
- Projects that duplicate existing projects/services
- Projects that replicate the core business of organisation applying
- Artists seeking funding for their own creative/professional practice
- Fundraisers, awards and prizes
- Material aid
- Sport equipment and uniforms
- Capital works and facilities maintenance
- Projects with a religious or political focus
- Educational institutions unless working in partnership with an eligible organisation
- Projects that have already started or have been completed.

Additional factors:

- You can make one application to the Community Grants Program (Annual or Quick Response) per 12 month period
- If you do not have not-for profit status, ABN number or Public Liability Insurance you may still be eligible to apply via an auspice organisation
- Social enterprises must provide evidence of current certification by Social Traders
- First Nations focused projects should be First Nations led
- When applying to 'Support New & Emerging Groups', organisations/groups must be no older than 2 years
- Successful applications to 'Support New & Emerging Groups' will be awarded once only per organisation/group
- When applying to 'Respond to a time sensitive opportunity' applicants will be required to provide an explanation as to how the opportunity was unforeseen, unexpected &/or urgent. Funds will be awarded only in the most compelling cases
- Funding cannot be guaranteed
- Applications for projects better suited to another Council funding program will not be accepted and will instead be directed to the appropriate program

Assessment process

Eligible applications will be assessed by Council Officers and endorsed by the relevant Manager/Director. Applicants will be notified of the outcome within 28 days of an application being received.

Assessment criteria

Each application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- How does the project address the nominated focus area?
- Does the target community align with one or more of Councils identified priority communities?
- Does the project incorporate a genuine partnership or collaboration?
- Is there evidence of community need and support for the project?
- What are the expected outcomes of the project and what benefit will the project provide to participants?
- Has the applicant demonstrated capacity to deliver the project?
- To what extent have any project risks been identified and addressed?
- Is the project plan and budget detailed and realistic providing value for money?

The following applications will be prioritised:

- First Nations led projects
- Projects from or developed in partnership with one or more of Councils identified priority communities
    - Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people
    - People living with a disability
    - Children and young people (up to 25)
    - Older people (65+)
    - LGBTQIA+ people
    - CLAD communities
    - Newly arrived, migrant and refugee communities
    - People experiencing poverty and homelessness
- Projects incorporating genuine partnerships between Maribyrnong based not-for-profit community groups, organisations, agencies or certified social enterprise

Successful applicants

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Sign and return Funding Agreement
- Provide EFT details and an invoice
- Meet requirements of any relevant permits and permissions
- Hold $20M public liability insurance cover for the duration of the grant
- Complete a Child Safe Compliance Assessment and Declaration
- Meet monitoring and reporting requirements
- Complete the project no later than 6 months from funding being awarded

Monitoring and reporting requirements:	
Attend successful applicant meeting	✅
Share participant survey	✅
Submit acquittal	✅

Acquittals are due **six** weeks from the project end date and will require you to:

- Outline work undertaken and the benefit of the project
- Identify primary beneficiary/ies
- Provide participation numbers
- Describe challenges and learnings
- Complete a Financial Report (including budget)
- Sign a Financial Declaration

How to apply

Applications are submitted online via maribyrnong.smartygrants.com.au

For technical support see SmartyGrants Help Guide or SmartyGrants FAQ.

Assistance with applications

The Community Grants Officer can provide guidance and support to applicants. application. Copies of Guidelines can be made available in community languages if required.

Questions

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maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/communitygrants