



# Annual Grant Guidelines 2025



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Cover image: Spirit of Timor Dancers as part of the Leaps and Bounds Festival at the Collingwood Town Hall  
Photograph by Ursula Harrison. 13 July 2023.

National Relay Service  
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**Languages**    中文 9280 1937    Italiano 9280 1931    Tiếng Việt 9280 1939  
العربية 9280 1930    Ελληνικά 9280 1934    Español 9280 1935    Other 9280 1940

Ref: 18321

## Why do we provide these grants?

The Community Grants Program is one of the ways in which Council supports the strategies presented in the Council Plan. The Council Plan guides how Council responds to the opportunities and challenges the municipality faces. The Council Plan 2021-25 can be found at: <https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/about-us/council-plan>

The Community Grants Program aims to:

- a. develop partnerships between Council and community groups to achieve Council's strategic directives.
- b. direct resources to the emerging and specific needs of disadvantaged groups;
- c. develop a positive approach to the resolution of local social issues;
- d. support local groups, activities and community connectedness; and
- e. support community organisations to develop skills and increase participation.

The annual grants provide funding towards small to medium-sized projects that respond to the social, cultural, recreational, economic and sustainability needs of Yarra residents.

## Key dates for the 2025 Annual Grants

Application form available for preview in SmartyGrants	Monday 3 June 2025
Grants Information Sessions	<b>Tuesday 4 June 2024</b> <b>2.00-2.45pm</b> Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library, Seminar Room 1, Ground floor, 182 St Georges Rd, North Fitzroy  <b>Wednesday 5 June 2024</b> <b>10:30 to 11:15</b> Richmond Town Hall Meeting Room 1, 333 Bridge Rd Richmond  <b>Thursday 6 June 2024</b> <b>11.00-11.45pm</b> Collingwood Library, Meeting Room, 11 Stanton St, Abbotsford
Grant round opens	Monday 10 June 2024
Applications close	<b>11:59pm, Wednesday 31 July 2024</b>
Announcement of grant outcomes	November 2024
Projects commence	From January 2025

## Annual Grants Streams and Categories

The Annual Grants program has seven funding streams:

- Major Community Projects.
- Arts and Culture
- Community Development;
- Climate Action and Environment;
- Family, Youth and Children;
- Sports and Recreation;
- Community Housing

## Eligibility Criteria

Applicants for Annual Grants **must** meet the following eligibility requirements. Ineligible applications will not be assessed.

### Eligible Applicants

- Applicants must have an active ABN\*.
- Not-for-profit community groups that meet all other eligibility criteria but do not have an ABN can be auspiced by an incorporated organisation or neighbourhood house.
- Applicants must be a not-for-profit, incorporated group **OR** meet one of the following specific exceptions:
  - be a registered charity, public benevolent institution or have DGR status;
  - be a state government entity seeking funding for activities beyond those considered the responsibility of State or Federal Government;
  - unincorporated not-for-profit community groups can have their applications auspiced by an eligible incorporated organisation or Neighbourhood House;
  - individual artists or arts-related businesses operating under an active sole-trader ABN\* can apply as individuals under the Arts and Culture stream. Arts-related businesses must successfully demonstrate that their project will run on a not-for-profit basis.
  - Social enterprise businesses can apply to the Social Enterprise category in the Community Development stream. Social enterprises certified by Social Traders are preferred. <https://www.socialtraders.com.au/>
- Applicants must have acquitted all previous grants and have no outstanding debts to Yarra Council.
- Applicants (other than individual artists) must provide a financial statement.
- Applicants must have public liability insurance with a suitable level of coverage\*\*, Working With Children Checks, WorkCover and superannuation coverage.
- Relevant applicants must, as required by law, implement and adhere to the *Victorian Child Safe Standards*: <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/being-a-child-safe-organisation/>.
- Applicants must meet any other specific requirements outlined in the individual stream fact sheets.

### Applicants that are not eligible

- Neighbourhood houses funded through Council's Neighbourhood House Funding Program are therefore not eligible for Annual Grants, however, they can act as an auspice for other community groups.
- Businesses or for-profit organisations, unless exempted above.
- Individuals and sole-traders, unless exempted above.

\*Applicant names must match the entity (legal) name for the ABN, or a registered business name or trading name associated with the ABN and the name on the bank account provided for payment. The ABN Entity name can be checked when entering your ABN into the application form. Applications with an active sole-trader ABN listed on their application, except for those submitted under the Arts and Culture Stream, will be deemed ineligible and not assessed.

### \*\* Professional Indemnity

Yarra City Council seeks a minimum of **\$10,000,000** Professional Indemnity Insurance for Contractors & Suppliers engaged to provide advice.

### Public Liability Insurance

Yarra City Council seeks a minimum of **\$20,000,000** Public Liability Insurance cover from Contractors & Suppliers engaged to undertake works.

## Eligible Projects

- Applicants must be locally based and/or applying for a program, service or activity of benefit to the Yarra community.
- Applicants can submit multiple applications for different projects; however only one application per project will be considered.

Do not submit applications:

- for the same project to different categories/streams. If you believe your application crosses multiple streams, please contact the grants team for advice; and/or
- for the same project from multiple organisations.

The following applications are only eligible in the streams and categories specified:

Application Type	Eligible Stream	Category
Projects which may include funding for specialised equipment or materials that facilitate new and innovative accessibility programs, provided they address priorities of the <a href="#">Access and Inclusion Strategy</a> .	Community Development	Community Strengthening / Support
Solely for the purchase of an approved Australian portable defibrillator.		
Solely for the purchase of an approved Australian portable defibrillator; or Solely for projects covering the cost of purchasing specific equipment.	Sports and Recreation	Sports and Recreation Equipment
Applications to cover the cost of training volunteers in relevant club skills.		Coach/Volunteer Training & Education

- Projects must meet any other specific requirements outlined in the individual stream fact sheets.
- Projects must be completed by 31 December 2025, unless otherwise agreed through a project variation.

## Projects that are not eligible

- A program that is considered the responsibility of State or Federal Government, e.g. Core school curriculum activities.
- Activities that take place outside the City of Yarra (including touring costs), unless part of a larger project with a proven and public benefit to the Yarra community.
- Building, renovation works, capital works\*, upgrading of permanent fixtures, or facility maintenance works, unless exempted above.
- Staff salaries or administration costs not specific to the project.
- The purchase of equipment only, unless exempted above.
- Activities that are sponsored by gambling businesses or take place at inappropriate venues.
- Projects with the singular purpose of promoting religion or that may be perceived as for the purpose of proselytizing.
- Competitions (other than one-off sporting events).
- Prize-events, award exhibitions or exclusively fundraising events.
- Applications to fund projects retrospectively.

## Before submitting your application

### **Information and Training Sessions**

Council will hold **information sessions** for applicants seeking further information on this grant program and how to apply. Each session will include time for one-on-one discussions about your project. Please let Council know if you require an interpreter for these sessions. For further details please visit <https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/about-us/grants/annual-grants>

### **Having trouble writing your application?**

The Grants Team are available to help all applicants with preparing their application. You can call us on 9205 5170 or 9205 5146 to talk about your project and your application. We can also help in person with completing your application form to submit it online. This needs to be **by appointment** (to make sure we are available). Interpreters can be booked if requested.

Applicants should also call the Council Contact listed for the stream they are applying.

Video pitches can support your application. However, you will still need to complete some of the written application form. Please ensure any videos are kept short (to a maximum 5 minutes) as assessors have a large number of applications to review. SmartyGrants recommends keeping attachments to 5MB, so you may need to provide a link to an external video-hosting site instead.

If you are having trouble accessing your SmartyGrants user account, please contact SmartyGrants directly via [service@smartygrants.com.au](mailto:service@smartygrants.com.au).

### **Auspiced Applications**

Auspicing helps small or new organisations who are not incorporated or who do not have an ABN access grant funds. They accept legal and financial responsibility for the grant if successful.

### **An auspice organisation must be incorporated and have an ABN.**

Applications can be submitted directly by groups being auspiced. However, the funding agreement for successful grants will be made between the auspice organisation and Council, and grant money will be paid directly to the auspice organisation. You will need to provide information from the auspice organisation including: their contact details, ABN, and most recent financial report.

## Annual Grants Assessment Criteria

All applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- capacity of the applicant to deliver on project outcomes;
- clearly defined project aims;
- clearly identified target group;
- alignment with stream funding priorities;
- evidence of community need;
- well defined intended outcomes;
- clear evaluation methods;
- community participation and consultation where appropriate; and
- a complete, balanced, and realistic budget.

### **Speak to a Council Officer**

Contact details of the Council Officers responsible for each Funding Stream are detailed in the Fact Sheets below. **It is important to talk about your project ideas with the officer responsible for the Funding Stream before applying.** The Council Officer can give you advice on how to shape your application to give it every chance of success.

### **Aboriginal Consultation**

If your project relates to the local Aboriginal community, or you are planning on working with Aboriginal community, you should demonstrate that you have undertaken consultation in your grant application.

Council recognises the Wurundjeri people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which the City of Yarra now stands. Consultation and cultural requests such as cultural awareness training, Welcome to Country ceremonies or smoking ceremonies must be directed to the Wurundjeri Council. If your project relates to specific issues you may wish to consult with other Aboriginal organisations such as the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service or the Melbourne Aboriginal Youth Sport and Recreation Co-operative (MAYSAR).

When planning a project relating to or with the Aboriginal community, consultation should happen at the beginning, when the project is being developed. Do not present your proposed plans or projects to the Aboriginal community when they are half and/or already complete.

You should also ensure you allow time for consultation processes. Many decisions require Aboriginal people to consult their Elders. Bear in mind that cultural knowledge and advice from Wurundjeri Council is in high demand and, like any specialised advice, may come at a fee.

The Wurundjeri Council can be reached at [www.wurundjeri.com.au](http://www.wurundjeri.com.au) or by phone on 03 9416 2905.

### **Accessibility**

All applicants are encouraged to consider how their organisation and project will be accessible and inclusive of people with a disability. For ideas on how to make your program, project, or event more flexible please see the [Accessibility Guide](#). For more information please contact Laurice Younge, Access and Inclusion officer on 9205 5414.

### **Environmental Impact**

All applicants are encouraged to incorporate activities that improve the sustainable outcomes of their projects. For further information please contact Lisa Coffa on 9205 5793.

### **Last year's grants**

Applicants are encouraged to view last year's successful grants to see the range of projects funded and realistic grant allocation amounts. A list of successful grants is available at:

<https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/about-us/grants/annual-grants>.

## Preparing your Grant Application

When preparing your grant application, please consider the following:

- Begin your application as early as possible. We strongly recommend you submit your application before the due date. **The grant round closes strictly at 11:59pm on Monday 31 July 2024.**
- Ensure that you state explicitly what your project is. Describe the event/activity/program, so that it is clear what you want to do, how you want to do it, and why it is worth doing.
- Bear in mind that the assessors change each year and may not be familiar with your organisation or your previous projects. Assessors are not given access to your grant history.
- Be as precise as possible. The assessors are aware that your project may still be in the planning stage and that definite plans are not always possible until funding is secured. However, you can still clearly state what your intentions are and, if needed, adjust the project plan through a project variation if your grant is successful.
- If your project involves partnering with another organisation, it is useful to show some evidence of that partnership, such as a letter of support.
- All questions marked 'response required' must be completed.

### Prepare your Project Budget

When preparing a budget for your project, please consider the following:

- It is important that all costs are realistic and justified/explained within your application.
- Ensuring that your budget is as detailed as possible helps the assessors understand the amount requested and demonstrates what the impact of reduced funding might be.
- If you have applied for other funding for your project, please note this in your budget and ensure it is clear if the funding is confirmed or unconfirmed.
- Including quotes in your support material, especially for significant items, may help assessors understand your costs.

### Choosing which Stream and Category to apply under

Only one application per project will be considered, therefore it is important to consider which stream and category is the best fit for your project. If your project covers a range of issues and you are not sure which category to apply under, we suggest speaking to the Council Contacts for each of the different streams that you are considering so that you can make an informed decision.

Things to bear in mind when choosing which stream to apply under are:

- What is the primary outcome of this project: what is the main thing you are trying to do or achieve?
- Who are the primary beneficiaries: which group of people do you want to reach most of all?

The grants team reserves the right to move your application from one stream to another. If this occurs, you will be advised by email. Stream changes are only made to ensure applications are in the most appropriate category for their project and eligibility, and thus give applications the best chance at success.

In this competitive grant round, fitting in with the category priorities is essential to success. So choose your stream based on the priorities of your project rather than on the amount of funding available in any given stream.

### Why do we ask for a minimum grant amount?

While we strive to fund the grants to the amount requested, with limited funds available that is not always possible. Sometimes, successful applicants are offered a lower amount than requested when the full funding is not available, and the assessors believe the project will still be viable and worthwhile. This is why we ask what the minimum funding is required for the project to run and give the space for you to describe the impact a lower funding amount would have on your project. We strongly encourage applicants to make use of these questions when appropriate so that the assessors can make informed decisions.

If your project is successful but you do not receive the full amount of funding, the grants team will be happy to discuss any changes you may need to make to the project.



## Attachments and Support Material

You may wish to include supporting material with your application. Some items that might be appropriate include:

- letters of support from partner organisations, confirming their intention to work with you on this project;
- letters of support from organisations consulted;
- evaluations or assessments of previous programs or projects;
- links to short videos about your project.

Please note, the maximum attachment size in SmartyGrants is 25MB. To avoid technical difficulties which may prevent you being able to submit your application, we recommend keeping files to a maximum of 5MB. Files can only be uploaded one at a time and upload speeds will vary depending on your computer's specifications, your internet connection and the amount of traffic on the SmartyGrants server. If you do have concerns or encounter any issues, consider providing links to specific website pages or online/cloud file transfer services in the space provided instead.

### Financial Statements

All applicant organisations must upload a copy of the organisation's (or auspicing organisation's) most recent annual financial statement to their Annual Grant application. For most applicants, this will be the previous year's financial statement. Alternatively, you can upload the organisation's most recent profit and loss statement.

### Applicants who do not provide a financial statement will be ineligible.

All incorporated organisations are required by Consumer Affairs to have a financial statement every year, and present this at their AGM. More information on financial statements can be found at [Financial statements and auditing requirements for incorporated associations - Consumer Affairs Victoria](#)

### Child Safe Standards

Victorian organisations that provide services or facilities for children (anyone under 18 years old) are required by law to implement Child Safe Standards to protect children from harm. Therefore, if your project/program will engage children as either participants or audience members you will be required to demonstrate that you are complying with the Child Safe Standards by uploading a copy of your organisation's Child Safe Policy or Statement of Commitment to Child Safety.

If your organisation does not yet have a Child Safe Policy or Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, a template document is available on the Small Project Grants website: <https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/about-us/grants/small-project-grants>. Tailor this document to suit your organisation and activities, then attach the document to your application as evidence. Remember to make sure a copy is distributed to your members.

For further information on the Child Safe Standards visit:  
<https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/resources/>

### Public Liability Insurance

Applicants are not required to include a copy of their public liability insurance with their application. However, if the application is successful, Council requires grant recipients to provide evidence of public liability insurance, with an adequate coverage level (see page 5), before payments can be processed. In most cases this will be a copy of your public liability insurance certificate of currency. If you do not have public liability insurance you will need to provide a copy of the public liability insurance certificate of the venue where your project will take place. Organisations that are being auspiced may be covered by the auspice body's public liability insurance, and so will need to provide a copy of their certificate of currency.

## Successful applications

### **What will happen if your application is successful?**

If you are successful, a funding agreement which outlines the conditions of your grant will be sent to you (or your auspice organisation). You will be required to sign and return a copy of the funding agreement and provide a copy of your organisation's bank statement showing the account number, BSB number and name that matches the applicant or auspice ABN details. All payments will be made by electronic transfer.

### **What to do if your grant is not fully funded?**

If your application is successful but you did not receive the full amount of funding requested, and you would like to proceed with the grant, the grants team are happy to discuss any changes you need to make to the project. The grants team can also advise you whether you need to submit a project variation form outlining the changes being made.

### **Acquittal**

Each grant recipient is required to submit an acquittal form within two months of completion of the project. The acquittal includes questions about how many people and Yarra residents participated in the event/program, what adjustments were made to the project as it unfolded, and whether the aims and objectives outlined in the application were met. The acquittal also includes a financial report, which shows how the funding was spent.

The required acquittal form is attached to each successful application. Links to the acquittal forms are listed under each application under the "My Submissions" tab in SmartyGrants. To access an acquittal form, please log onto <https://cityofyarra.smartygrants.com.au> click on the "My Submissions" tab and scroll down to the specific grant. You can then complete and submit the acquittal.

### **Please keep receipts for expenditure items over \$250 to upload into your online acquittal.**

To be eligible for a grant, organisations and/or individuals must have successfully acquitted all completed grants from Yarra City Council. Applications from applicants with outstanding acquittals will **not** be assessed.

### **Promoting your project**

If your grant application is successful, Yarra City Council reserves the right to contact you and your organisation for promotional purposes. This may include but is not limited to profiling your project on Council's corporate website, social media channels, electronic and print newsletters and magazine and external media outlets.

## Small Project Grants

If you require only a small amount of funding, you may wish to consider applying for a Small Project Grant (SPG) instead of an Annual Grant. Small Project Grants provide funding for community projects (up to \$1,000), Arts and Culture (up to \$2,000) and Youth-Led projects (up to \$3,000). SPGs allow grant recipients access to small amounts of funding quickly with the assessment process taking around four weeks. Applicants can apply for one Small Project Grant per financial year. Applications open in July each year and remain open until all funds are allocated. For more information see:

<https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/about-us/grants/small-project-grants>

<https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/about-us/grants/youth-led-grants>

## Major Project Grants Fact Sheet (1 of 2)

The Major Project Grants provide significant funding to not-for-profit organisations to run programs which serve the community and align with Council’s funding priorities. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available.

### Funding Priorities

Major Project Grants will focus on Funding Priorities that represent the key objectives of the Council’s strategic plans. Each successful application will directly address at least one of these priorities. These are listed below. Council’s strategic plans are available in full on Council’s website. Visit <https://reports.yarracity.vic.gov.au/council-plan> to view a full copy of the 2021-2025 Council Plan or see the table at the end of this document for links to individual Strategic Plans.

### Assessment Criteria

All applications will be assessed on their ability to meet the following criteria:

- capacity of the applicant to deliver on project outcomes;
- clearly defined project aims;
- clearly defined project plan;
- clearly defined measures of success;
- alignment with funding priorities;
- evidence of community need;
- expected community benefit;
- community participation and consultation where appropriate; and
- a complete and realistic budget.

In 2024 there were 11 grants and the average amount was \$26,000.

*It is important that you talk about your project with the relevant Council Contact for the Funding Priority before applying for a grant. See table below which continues overpage.*

Funding Priorities	Council Contact
1 <a href="#">0-25 Years Plan – Early Years</a> <b>Priority 1:</b> The voices of young children in Yarra are listened to along with those of their families (principles of respect and participation) <b>Priority 2:</b> Young children and their families in Yarra are resilient (principles of inclusive and accessible and valuing diversity)	Jesse Grubb 9205 5555
2 <a href="#">0-25 Years Plan – Middle Years</a> <b>Priority 1:</b> Support and enhance the health and wellbeing of middle years children and young people, and their families <b>Priority 2:</b> Design and deliver activities, programs, and events that meet the diverse needs and interests of middle years children and young people <b>Priority 3:</b> Link middle years children and young people to positive role models and enhance connections to peers, families and communities	Robert Stevens 9205 5555
3 <a href="#">0-25 Years Plan – Youth</a> <b>Priority 1:</b> Develop targeted prevention and early intervention programs in response to emerging themes for young people such as mental health; safety; bullying, racism and discrimination; youth justice; and the climate emergency <b>Priority 2:</b> Support young people to access appropriate education, training and/or employment pathways responsive to their needs <b>Priority 3:</b> Work with young people and media outlets to provide proactive and positive media representations that showcase talents, culture and identity of young people	Robert Stevens 9205 5555

## Major Project Grants Fact Sheet (2 of 2)

4	<p><a href="#"><u>Access and Inclusion Strategy 2018-2024</u></a></p> <p><b>Priority 1:</b> Provide equitable and accessible opportunities for people with disability to engage in cultural and social activities and events and in civic and community decision making.</p> <p><b>Priority 2:</b> Create and promote resources, information and communication that are responsive to the needs of people with disability.</p> <p><b>Priority 3:</b> Increase community awareness regarding practices that are inclusive of people with disability.</p>	Laurice Younge 9205 5414
5	<p><a href="#"><u>Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2021-2023</u></a></p> <p><b>Priority 1:</b> Ensuring residents 50yrs+ have access to a wide range of opportunities for all aspects of healthy living, including recreational, mental, emotional and social.</p> <p><b>Priority 2:</b> Ensuring accessibility and mobility for residents 50yrs+ throughout Yarra. Providing safe access to open space, parks, local shopping centres and neighbourhood precincts.</p> <p><b>Priority 3:</b> To provide opportunities for residents 50yrs+ to be involved in lifelong learning activities and engage in active roles through intergenerational learning opportunities and mentoring between students and residents 50yrs+.</p>	Sarah Mathers 9426 5693
6	<p><a href="#"><u>Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2023</u></a></p> <p><b>Priority 1:</b> Create opportunities for people from multicultural backgrounds to make connections and share traditions, encouraging a stronger sense of belonging to the broader Yarra community.</p> <p><b>Priority 2:</b> Support programs and services that target groups from multicultural backgrounds at risk of disadvantage (e.g. people seeking asylum, women, people with disabilities, international students, LGBTIQ+).</p> <p><b>Priority 3:</b> Support opportunities which promote intercultural relations, combat racism, celebrate diversity and acknowledge the multicultural heritage of Yarra.</p>	Cristina Del Frate 9205 5174
7	<p><a href="#"><u>Yana Ngargna Plan</u></a></p> <p><b>Priority 1 (Relationships):</b> supporting community connections, promoting culture, and protecting important places.</p> <p><b>Priority 2 (A Visible Culture):</b> increasing the visibility of Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culture, issues and achievements in Yarra.</p> <p><b>Priority 3 (Community Health and Wellbeing):</b> working towards improved health and wellbeing outcomes for Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Yarra.</p> <p><b>Priority 4 (Organisational Development):</b> increasing Council's capacity, confidence and connection through improved Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment pathways, cultural awareness and internal coordination.</p>	Worrin Williams 9205 5147
8	<p><a href="#"><u>Climate Emergency Plan 2020-2024</u></a></p> <p><b>Priority 1:</b> Mobilise the community to take climate action, including advocating for change.</p> <p><b>Priority 2:</b> Support the most vulnerable in our community to cope with climate impacts (e.g. extreme weather, energy and food insecurity).</p> <p><b>Priority 3:</b> Build stronger social connections to increase resilience to future climate-related shocks and stresses.</p> <p><b>Priority 4:</b> Present replicable models to reduce carbon emissions; support local food systems; care for local natural environments; avoid waste and enable more conscious consumption; and foster sustainable transport behaviours in the community.</p>	Taryn D'Costa 9205 5434
9	<p><a href="#"><u>Yarra Volunteering Strategy 2019-2023</u></a></p> <p><b>Priority 1:</b> Encourage volunteering, across a range of cohorts, as a way for people to connect with and participate in the Yarra community.</p> <p><b>Priority 2:</b> Support and create pathways to help people into employment opportunities within the Yarra community via volunteering.</p> <p><b>Priority 3:</b> Recognise and celebrate the valuable contributions made by volunteers.</p>	Elly Murrell 9205 5437

## Community Development Stream Fact Sheet (Page 1 of 2)

The Community Development Stream is designed to strengthen the social and cultural diversity of the City of Yarra and encourage people from all backgrounds to participate in community life. This stream supports the valuable work undertaken by a diverse range of not-for-profit organisations and community groups in Yarra who run projects building social inclusion, supporting social justice and strengthening our local communities. This stream focuses on projects that address strategies from the Council Plans listed in the table below. There are four categories to choose from:

### Community Strengthening

The Community Strengthening Category will suit local community-run groups seeking to hold activities in Yarra which will address the following priority areas:

- develop partnerships between Council and community groups to achieve shared strategic outcomes.
- direct resources to the emerging and specific needs of disadvantaged groups.
- develop a positive approach to the resolution of local social issues.
- foster the increased connectedness of people by supporting local groups and activities.
- reduce social isolation in multi-unit housing developments.
- foster the development of healthy and respectful relationships within communities.
- support and strengthen community organisations.
- develop skills and increase participation in the community.

*Maximum grant: \$4,000. Thirty-six projects were funded in 2022 and the average grant was \$3,000.*

***Successful applicants from 2022 and 2023 do not need to reapply as they have multi-year funding.***

### Community Support

The Community Support Category will suit non-profit organisations offering services and programs for the benefit of the Yarra community and will address the following priority areas:

- develop partnerships between Council and professional organisations working within the Yarra community to achieve shared strategic outcomes.
- direct specialised resources to the emerging and specific needs of disadvantaged groups.
- develop a positive approach to the resolution of local social issues.
- foster the development of healthy and respectful relationships within communities.
- develop skills and increase participation in the community.
- the purchase of a defibrillator.

*Maximum grant: \$10,000. Nineteen projects were funded in 2023 and the average grant was \$7,500.*

### Community Celebrations

The Community Celebrations Category supports a diverse range of smaller events that showcase, celebrate and support Yarra's diverse communities and build community connectedness. Applications for street closures as well as multicultural celebrations are encouraged to apply here.

*Maximum grant: \$3,000. Eleven events were funded in 2023 and the average grant was \$2,500.*

### Social Enterprise

The Social Enterprise Category supports not-for-profit organisations and businesses to build or establish innovative revenue generating projects, while also creating community benefits. Priority will be given to social businesses with a mission aimed at the creation of employment opportunities for people facing barriers to workforce participation. Funds should be directed towards building employment opportunities and not primarily to wages. In addition, priority will be given to applications which provide a service or product that addresses an identified social, environmental or cultural need that is not being met by the commercial market, and/or develop income streams that allow social businesses to become self-sustaining and independent.

*Maximum grant: \$15,000. Three projects were funded in 2023 and the average grant was \$12,000.*

## Community Development Stream Fact Sheet (Page 2 of 2)

Is your project:	Contact Council Officer:
Relating to the <a href="#">Yana Ngargna Plan</a> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From the local Aboriginal community</li> <li>• For services targeted to the Aboriginal Community</li> <li>• Recognising the local Aboriginal Community</li> <li>• Responding to the needs and addressing emerging issues from the Aboriginal community in Yarra</li> </ul>	<b>Worrin Williams</b> (Principal Advisor Aboriginal Partnerships) 9205 5147 <a href="mailto:Worrin.Williams@yarracity.vic.gov.au">Worrin.Williams@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Relating to the <a href="#">Access and Inclusion Strategy</a> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting people with disabilities</li> <li>• Increasing the representation and/or participation of people with disabilities in the community</li> <li>• Responding to the needs and addressing emerging issues of people with disabilities in Yarra</li> </ul>	<b>Laurice Younge</b> (Access and Inclusion Project Officer) 9205 5414 <a href="mailto:Laurice.Younge@yarracity.vic.gov.au">Laurice.Younge@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Relating to the <a href="#">Multicultural Partnerships Plan</a> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating opportunities for people from multicultural backgrounds to make connections and share traditions</li> <li>• Responding to the needs and addressing emerging issues from multicultural communities in Yarra</li> <li>• Addressing racism in the community</li> </ul>	<b>Kathy Vrettas</b> (Community Planner - Multicultural Affairs & Neighbourhood Houses) 9205 5566 <a href="mailto:Katherine.Vrettas@yarracity.vic.gov.au">Katherine.Vrettas@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Relating to <a href="#">Council Plan - Objective 1 "A Healthy Yarra"</a> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing health and safety issues in Yarra</li> <li>• Promoting mental health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Reducing the Harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs</li> <li>• Targeting the prevention of violence against women</li> <li>• Responding to the needs and addressing emerging issues from women in Yarra</li> </ul>	<b>Lauren Krnjacki</b> , Senior Planner (Community Health and Safety) 9205 5534 <a href="mailto:Lauren.Krnjacki@yarracity.vic.gov.au">Lauren.Krnjacki@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Relating to the <a href="#">LGBTIQ+ Strategy</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to the needs and addressing emerging issues of the LGBTIQ+ community in Yarra</li> <li>• Increasing the representation and/or participation of the LGBTIQ+ community</li> </ul>	<b>Renee Thompson</b> (LGBTIQ+ Partnerships Officer) 0415 726 262 <a href="mailto:Renee.Thompson@yarracity.vic.gov.au">Renee.Thompson@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Relating to the <a href="#">Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy</a> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing accessible and inclusive recreational and social activities</li> <li>• Increasing the representation and/or participation of older people in the community</li> <li>• Responding to the needs and addressing emerging issues of older people in Yarra</li> </ul>	<b>Lauren Brooker</b> (Coordinator Positive Ageing) 9426 5667 <a href="mailto:Lauren.Brooker@yarracity.vic.gov.au">Lauren.Brooker@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Relating to the <a href="#">Gaming Policy</a> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing education on the risks of poker machine gambling for Yarra residents, businesses, and visitors</li> </ul>	<b>Lauren Krnjacki</b> , Senior Planner (Community Health and Safety) 9205 5534 <a href="mailto:Lauren.Krnjacki@yarracity.vic.gov.au">Lauren.Krnjacki@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Relating to Social Enterprise grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a local social enterprise in Yarra (applicants to the Social Enterprise category)</li> </ul>	<b>Michael van Vliet</b> (Community Grants Team Leader) 9205 5146 <a href="mailto:Michael.vanVliet@yarracity.vic.gov.au">Michael.vanVliet@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>

## Arts and Culture Stream Fact Sheet (Page 1 of 2)

This stream supports the creation and presentation of arts and cultural projects, activities and works within the City of Yarra. Our vision is for arts and culture to be integrated into our city so that it can be an everyday experience and be enjoyed by our community, whether as makers, audience members or participants. Creativity can exist anywhere, and its pursuit is open to everyone.

### Funding Priorities

Applications to the Arts and Culture Stream must respond to at least one of the following priority areas identified in the Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026:

- **Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures are at the heart of Yarra** –to increase the prominence of Aboriginal arts and culture in Yarra
- **Artists are essential to a thriving Yarra** - help artists renew and adapt their practices to changing conditions
- **Our arts and culture shape Yarra's places and spaces** - ensure that all of Yarra benefits from our arts and culture, increase public engagement, utilise council's networks and resources
- **We celebrate and support our creative and diverse community** - to enable as well as celebrate Yarra's diversity
- **Our arts contribute to an ecologically sustainable future** - cultivate arts practices that assists Yarra to reach its sustainability goals

Further information on these priorities can be found in the 2022-2026 Arts and Culture Strategy.  
<https://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/about-us/strategies-policies-plans#accordion-arts-and-culture>

Expected program outcomes include:

- Increased visibility and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures
- Projects contribute to an ecologically sustainable future
- Public spaces activated with cultural and creative initiatives
- Opportunities for creative practitioners to gain economic benefit or professional development
- Opportunities for audiences, including the city's residents, workers and visitors, to engage with creativity, self-expression, learning and cultural participation
- Increased visibility and understanding of the history of Yarra and its stories through creative projects

Examples of outcomes may include:

- Creative outcomes across all artforms e.g., performance, music, digital media, visual arts, literature, dance, craft, multi discipline arts etc
- One off events or a series of events that celebrate and promote creativity, culture, people, places and the arts
- Projects by individuals, community groups, collectives, organisations, partnerships/collaborations

## Arts and Culture Stream Fact Sheet (Page 2 of 2)

It is strongly advised that you discuss your project with a Council Officer before applying.

Arts and Culture Contacts	
Festival and Events Officer	Penny Kyprianou 9205 5109 <a href="mailto:penny.kyprianou@yarracity.vic.gov.au">penny.kyprianou@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Arts Development Officer	Deb Kunda 9205 5089 <a href="mailto:debra.kunda@yarracity.vic.gov.au">debra.kunda@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Arts and Engagement Lead	Ariel Blum 9205 5555 <a href="mailto:BlumA@yarracity.vic.gov.au">BlumA@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>

**Maximum grant:** \$10,000 for individuals; \$20,000 for organisations/community groups

**All Arts and Culture applicants are encouraged to submit the following materials:**

1. resume or short biography of applicant/s (a maximum of three pages)
2. any materials in development for proposed project including images, scripts, project plans, sound files, and/or material from past projects which demonstrate arts practice/skills relevant to this project
3. letters of support – if your project requires the support of another organisation to develop or proceed then a letter acknowledging this support is recommended.
4. accessibility - individual artists may submit video responses to some of the questions in the application form. See application form for details.



## Climate Action and Environment Stream Fact Sheet

The Climate Action and Environment Stream seeks to support initiatives that accelerate community-led climate and environmental action in line with the strategic directions and actions in Yarra Council’s Climate Emergency Plan 2024 – 2030. This stream places a priority on funding projects that:

- Engage and mobilise our community to take climate action, including growing a network of people taking climate action and advocating for change including better climate policies.
- Support people most at risk in our community to prepare for and cope with climate impacts (e.g., extreme weather, energy, and food insecurity).
- Engage our community in caring for our local natural environment and improving biodiversity.
- Engage and enable our community to make lifestyle changes to cut personal and household carbon emissions and increase climate resilience.
- Support and promote local food systems, actively avoid and reduce waste and promote conscious consumption and circular economy systems and foster sustainable transport behaviours.
- Build stronger social connections to increase resilience to future climate-related shocks and stresses.

### Climate Action and Environment Grant

The Climate Action and Environment Grant supports smaller projects that accelerate community-led climate action focusing on the priorities listed above. Project management, promotional, on-ground works and educational or capacity building activities are all eligible. Infrastructure, equipment, or permanent fixtures may be funded if they directly contribute to a broader program involving community engagement/education around climate action and the environment. If you have an idea that will contribute to climate action in your local community, we are happy to discuss it with you – see contact details below. Maximum grant: \$5,000.

*Twelve projects were funded for 2024, and the average grant was \$8,000.*

<b>It is a requirement that you discuss your proposal with the relevant Council Officer:</b>	
General Climate Action and Environment Grants including climate and energy	Taryn D’Costa – 9205 5434 <a href="mailto:taryn.dcosta@yarracity.vic.gov.au">taryn.dcosta@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a> Mel Miller-Yule – 9426 56781 <a href="mailto:mel.miller-yule@yarracity.vic.gov.au">mel.miller-yule@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Urban agriculture	Jane Ward – 0427 173 935 <a href="mailto:jane.ward@yarracity.vic.gov.au">jane.ward@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Waste minimisation and recycling	Lisa Coffa – 9205 5793 <a href="mailto:lisa.coffa@yarracity.vic.gov.au">lisa.coffa@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Sustainable transport	Philip Mallis – 9205 5119 <a href="mailto:philip.mallis@yarracity.vic.gov.au">philip.mallis@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Biodiversity and urban greening	Craig Lupton – 9205 5727 <a href="mailto:craig.lupton@yarracity.vic.gov.au">craig.lupton@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>

## Family, Youth & Children's Stream Fact Sheet (Page 1 of 2)

The Family, Youth & Children Stream is aligned to Council's 0 – 25 Years Plan for children, young people, and their families. Our vision is that "all children and young people are loved and safe, have material basics, are healthy, are learning and participating, and have a strong sense of culture and identity".

This stream applies to projects that support families, children and young people from all backgrounds who live, work, study, or have a strong connection to Yarra, with a particular focus on:

- Vulnerable families, children and young people;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders families, children and young people;
- Culturally and linguistically diverse families, children and young people;
- Socioeconomically diverse families, children and young people; and
- Gender diverse families, children and young people.

There are two categories within the Family, Youth & Children Stream: the Family & Early Years Category, and the Youth & Middle Years Category.

The Family, Youth and Children funding stream prioritise applications that align with the strategic directions and actions in Yarra Council's 0 – 25 Years Plan for Children, Young People and their Families [hyperlink]

Proposed projects also need to:

- clearly articulate the need;
- demonstrate strong community engagement and consultation with children, young people and other key stakeholders;
- highlight how they will positively impact the local community.
- 

To submit a compliant and competitive application, make sure you discuss your proposed projects with the relevant Council Officers (see below).

### Family & Early Years

This category is for evidence-based or innovative programs that support children from birth to 12 years and their families.

#### **Funding priorities include:**

- Develop partnerships between Council and community groups to achieve shared strategic outcomes.
- Prevention and early intervention programs that respond to identified needs, particularly focused on early learning, mental health and wellbeing and attachment (e.g. playgroups, toy libraries, therapeutic interventions)
- Evidence based information and support for parents (e.g. parenting sessions and programs)
- Adventurous play, physical activity and health development (e.g. recreational programs)
- Specialist services or programs that met a high-risk need (e.g. family and domestic violence support, child safety, mental health, isolation)
- Projects or programs that create opportunities to enhance parental engagement and connection
- Research or evaluation or consultation that investigates barriers and potential innovative options for families or young children experiencing disadvantage and vulnerability regarding active participation, engagement, and leadership.

*Maximum grant: \$10,000. Six projects were funded in 2024, and the average grant was \$7,500.*

## Family, Youth & Children’s Stream Fact Sheet (Page 2 of 2)

### Youth & Middle Years

This category is for evidence-based or innovative programs that support children and young people aged 8 – 12 years (middle years) and 12 – 25 years (youth).

### **Funding priorities include:**

#### Youth & Middle Years

- Delivering and/or supporting young people and their families to access programs, activities and services that enhance their health and wellbeing;
- Develop targeted prevention and early intervention programs in response to emerging issues, such as: mental health, racial and religious discrimination, AOD misuse, and youth justice involvement;
- Activities or events that help strengthen young people’s connection and belonging to diverse communities;
- Initiatives that raise and amplify young people’s voices, ensuring young people have more of a say on matters impacting them; and
- Develop partnerships between Council and schools/organisations to achieve shared strategic outcomes.

*Maximum grant: \$10,000. Nine projects were funded in 2024, and the average grant was \$8,800.*

<b>To discuss how your project supports the relevant Council Plan or Policy, and to meet application requirements please contact the relevant Council Officer:</b>	
Family & Early Years 0 – 8 years	Jesse Grubb - 9205 5555 <a href="mailto:GrubbJ@yarracity.vic.gov.au">GrubbJ@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Youth & Middle Years (8 – 12 and 12 – 25 years)	Robert Stevens – 9205 5555 <a href="mailto:StevensR@yarracity.vic.gov.au">StevensR@yarracity.vic.gov.au</a>
Young People 12 - 25 years	

## Sports and Recreation Stream Fact Sheet (Page 1 of 2)

The City of Yarra recognises the value of participation in sport, physical activity and recreation, and the related health benefits to the individual, and the Yarra community. The Sport and Recreation Stream is aligned with Council's Yarra Moves Physical Activity Strategy 2021 - 2031 plan to proactively address health and wellbeing outcomes of all people who live, work, learn and play in the City of Yarra. This stream places a priority on funding initiatives and activations that:

- Target one or more underrepresented group/s (as listed in [Yarra's Social Justice Charter](#))
- Are community first by fostering partnerships / networks with not-for-profit organisation/s within City of Yarra.

### Funding Categories

#### 1. Participation Initiatives

*Maximum level of funding for programs: \$5,000*

*Maximum level of funding for 1-day events: \$1,000*

Council is seeking to fund programs and projects that increase inclusion, diversity and access to opportunities that increase physical activity levels. Programs should address local community needs, be environmentally sustainable, enhance local neighbourhoods, and contribute to health and wellbeing outcomes. Priority will be given to initiatives which facilitate sustainability of local clubs and community organisations. New initiatives will be given priority over those that have received funding previously. For this funding stream, applicants must advise if and how they plan to continue at the conclusion of the initial funding period.

Planned initiatives and activations should target one or more underrepresented group/s with a focus on inclusion, engagement and retention of new members. This might include:

- Come and try activation session/s, existing member event days.
- Cultural or community awareness events/programs e.g. Pride Cup/Round, Indigenous Round, etc.
- Social sport initiatives (Walking Netball, Walking Football, Cricket Social Sixes, Go Soccer Mums, Cardio Tennis, Bowling with Babies, etc.).

Examples of community group initiatives may include:

- Partnerships between local community groups and physical activity providers.
- Programs that help to incorporate active living opportunities for older adults and/or play for children and families.
- Alternative recreation activities that do not have a big representation in Yarra.

#### 2. Sport and Recreation Equipment

*Maximum level of funding: \$1,000*

Groups can apply for:

- Up to 75% of the total cost of an approved Australian portable defibrillator, specifically for clubs who use venues which do not contain defibrillators. Funding may include training in the use of equipment. Council recommends Defib for Life or St John's Ambulance as suppliers.

*New initiatives will be given priority over programs that have received funding previously.*

- Up to a maximum of \$1,000 towards specific equipment to enable or enhance the participation of underrepresented populations. The make and model of equipment must be identified in your application.

Examples of equipment can include:

- specialised first aid equipment,
- portable access ramps,
- modified equipment,
- equipment to assist getting a new priority population program up and running.

*Please contact a Recreation Officer to discuss other equipment that may be funded and storage.*

## Sports and Recreation Stream Fact Sheet (Page 2 of 2)

### 3. Coach / Volunteer Training & Education

*Maximum level of funding: \$1,000*

To increase the skills, knowledge and understanding of clubs including coaches, committee members, parents, team managers etc. around general club operations and governance. The training and education should promote and support leadership and skill development within the club. Examples may include:

- Coach development and training, for new and established coaches, targeted at underrepresented groups.
- Training required to deliver or support physical activity classes for a community group or not-for-profit organisation.
- Membership with or training from providers such as Sports Community, Leisure Networks, CLUBMAP, etc.
- Volunteer practical training such as:
  - Child safe practices
  - Drugs and alcohol in sport
  - Mental health awareness
  - First Aid
  - Diversity and inclusion
  - Business administration
  - Responsible Service of Alcohol

*To submit a compliant and competitive application, make sure quotes are provided.*

### Funding Restrictions

The following will **NOT** be funded:

- Ongoing funding for club core business (e.g. coaching fees, social events & activities, travel expenses to matches, club functions, membership subsidies, concession fees, team registrations, etc.) unless part of an initiative targeting an underrepresented population as outlined above.
- Standard team and individual equipment & uniforms (e.g. balls, bats, first aid kits, coaches boards, stretchers, jerseys, tracksuits, hoodies, specialised equipment that is for the sole use of individual athletes) unless part of an initiative targeting an underrepresented population as outlined above.
- All score boards (portable or fixed, electronic or manual), timers, stop watches, massage tables.
- Higher level coach licenses and courses including: FFA/AFC Advanced Coaching Courses, AFL Level 3, Cricket Victoria Level 3, Swimming Silver License or equivalent in other sports.
- Any program that a sport club claims as part of the seasonal allocation discount process. Programs directed at underrepresented groups are to be supported by either the annual discount, or a community grant, not both.

***All funding applications will be assessed on applicants demonstrated need basis including club financial statements and ability to self-fund activities.***

**To discuss how your project supports the relevant Council Plan or policy, and to meet application requirements please contact a Recreation Officer, via email [Recreation@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:Recreation@yarracity.vic.gov.au) or phone 03 9205 5340.**

*Eighteen projects were funded in 2024, and the average grant was \$3,200.*

## Community Housing Stream Fact Sheet

The City of Yarra is home to a high proportion of residents living with socio-economic disadvantage in what is otherwise a relatively affluent municipality. The distribution of household earnings in Yarra shows great disparity between high and low income households. This brings specific challenges for inclusion and participation. Through the Community Housing Stream, Council seeks to promote those initiatives that help sustain tenancies, build more cohesive and resilient communities, and address social and cultural impacts for tenants of community housing and those at risk of homelessness in Yarra. While the maximum grant available is \$50,000, we would welcome both large- and small-scale projects for consideration.

### Funding Priorities

The program objectives are to:

- maintain community diversity;
- increase stability of community housing tenancies; and
- build resilience and local connectedness for community housing tenants.

Eligible initiatives include, but are not limited to those that:

- address the impacts of complex multiple issues on vulnerable tenants;
- sustain tenancies of low income households that are at risk of homelessness;
- explore development of packages that support new community housing tenancies to access local supports; and
- explore local partnerships that increase the resilience and connectedness of community housing tenants

*Funds available: \$50,000. Maximum grant: \$50,000. One project was funded in 2024.*

**Please note, the Community Housing Stream has the following additional eligibility requirements:**

To be eligible applicants must:

- be a private or non-government organisation whose operations either directly or indirectly improve the availability, quality and security of affordable rental tenancies for households on income support from Centrelink or for people on low incomes. Affordable rental rates are defined as rents fixed at a rate no greater than 30 per cent of household income. Low income households are defined as at the bottom 40 per cent of the income range.

Applications will also be ineligible if funding is intended for:

- reducing ongoing operating costs; and
- paying for standard maintenance of current residential stock.
- 

Please visit our website and have a look at our homelessness strategy for further information about homelessness in Yarra at [www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/homelessness](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/homelessness).

**To discuss how your project supports the relevant Council Plan or Policy, and to meet application requirements please contact the relevant Council Officer**

Social Strategy and Community Development

**Michael Ward** (Engagement Officer, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping) 9205 5410  
[Michael.Ward@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Ward@yarracity.vic.gov.au)