

ALLIANCE GRANT PROGRAM



A grant program designed to 'Give Back' and increase the economic vitality for our amazing business community

The Alliance Grant Program

The Gig Harbor Downtown Waterfront Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2008 to unite community and Waterfront District stakeholders to encourage economic vitality and preserve historic character.

The Downtown Waterfront Alliance is a Nationally Accredited Main Street Organization active in the Washington State Main Street Program. The Alliance is committed to supporting the economic vitality and collaborative spirit of our district and as such has developed this Grant program. The initiative seeks to aid businesses in working together to improve aesthetics, safety and attractiveness to new and frequent visitors thus promoting the overall economic vitality of the area. This Grant Program offers three distinct reimbursement funding streams to empower businesses for various projects:

- The Peninsula Light Co. Lighting Grant - Thanks to our generous sponsor, Peninsula Light Co., we're offering grants for improved lighting infrastructure. Assessed bi-annually.
- Vitality Grants - Make a significant impact! These larger grants reward projects aligned with the Alliance's goals and contribute positively to the district (up to 75% project costs). Assessed bi-annually.
- Micro Grants - Need a quick boost? Apply for our micro grants (up to \$250) for near immediate project support. Assessed monthly.

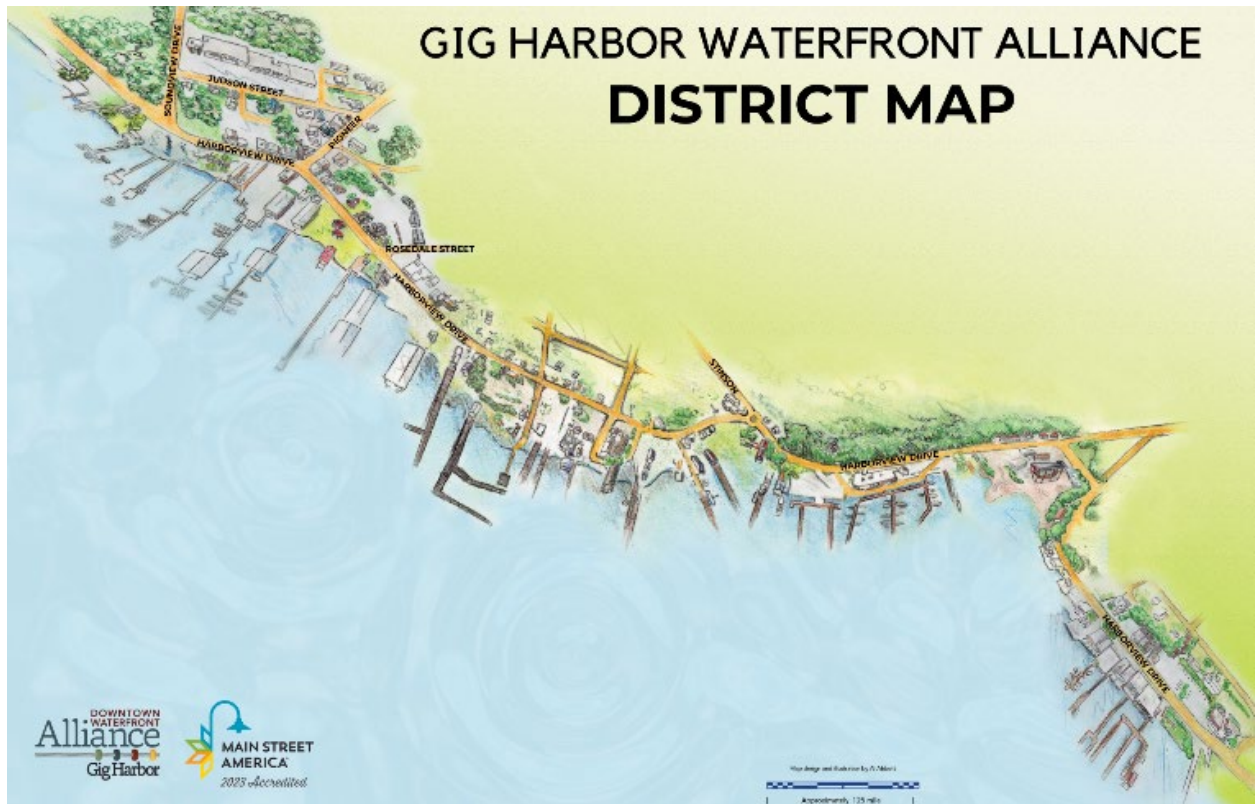
The Alliance's first round in 2024 will award up to \$8,000 in grant funds across all three streams, where at least \$3,000 has been earmarked for Lighting projects.

Small Business Micro Grant Considerations/Requirements

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

- All businesses and non-profit organizations with a physical presence within Gig Harbor's Waterfront Business District area, along Harborview Drive from Finholm's District to 7 Seas and back through Judson Street (see attached map for reference)

ALLIANCE GRANT PROGRAM



TYPE OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The Peninsula Light Co. Lighting Grant is specifically for lighting project improvements. This may include temporary or holiday lighting projects or permanent lighting improvements. **Note if applicable, all lighting grant applications must comply with city design codes and regulations to be accepted.**

Vitality Grant funds are less specific and shall be for the benefit of and improvement to the overall area. They may provide safety and security improvements, aesthetic development to improve attractiveness and cohesion, signage or other physical items that direct and attract new and returning visitors to the district, or digital such as marketing and promotion etc. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Exterior lighting
- Updated signage
- Beautification
- Collaboration events
- Facade improvements including painting or murals
- Marketing and promotion
- Other projects that help uplift the greater district

ALLIANCE GRANT PROGRAM



Micro Grants are small, need based grants that may be used to support an event or small project and are reviewed every month. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Small beautification projects
- Event expenses (excluding alcohol)
- Live music
- Arts & Crafts
- Free public activities
- Small business enhancements
- Marketing & promotion

Please be aware funds will not be awarded to fund the provision of alcohol or labor

A business may apply for multiple grants, that is a grant application per project can be submitted and multiple grants may be awarded by the decision committee.

WHEN WILL GRANTS BE ASSESSED AND AVAILABLE

- Micro Grants awarded up to \$250 in value can be submitted by the last day of each month utilizing the online application form. They will be assessed on a monthly basis by the Alliance's Economic Vitality Committee in the first week of the month. Applicants will be notified in writing by the second week of the month.
- The Peninsula Lighting Company Grant and Vitality Grants will be assessed twice per year, unless funding dictates otherwise. Applications may be submitted at any time. The assessment period is as follows:
 - Applications DUE by February 9
 - Committee assessment by February 15
 - Written notification of grant award by February 29
 - Applications DUE by July 31
 - Initial assessment by August 7
 - Meeting with or follow up needs from business (if any) by August 14
 - Final determination by committee September 7
 - Written notification of grant award by September 14

GRANT AMOUNT & REIMBURSEMENT

- For The Peninsula Light Company Lighting Grant and Vitality Grants, the Alliance may award up to 75% of the proposed project costs. For Micro Grants, the Alliance may award up to \$250 (max allowed per application). All funds awarded will be at the discretion of the Committee. In special circumstances, the Committee may award up to 100% of project costs if it is demonstrated and determined that the project contributes greater community reach and impact.

ALLIANCE GRANT PROGRAM



- All grants are considered reimbursement grants, meaning the Alliance will reimburse monies awarded within 30 days of receiving your Grant Report along with eligible receipts. All grant reports and receipts must be received within 6 months of the event or action occurring.
- **Grant amounts will be deemed ineligible if they do not adhere to Gig Harbor City code requirements.**

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Submit your grant application online by [clicking here](#).
- The Downtown Waterfront Alliance, Economic Vitality Committee will assess grants during their regularly scheduled meetings, the first week of each month. Specific sponsor grants may allow for a representative from the awarding sponsor to be part of the decision committee. Application timing and award for the various grant types is detailed in the “When will grants be assessed and available” section above.
- **If you are applying for a Lighting or Vitality Grant, you are required to submit a budget with your application.**
- All applicants will be notified in writing of the Committee’s decision to approve or deny the Grant application. Approved recipients will be provided with a Grant Report template for submission upon approval of the grant that is due within 6 months of completion of the event or project.
- Any changes to the approved project must be submitted for consideration of the committee as soon as possible.
- Any disputes shall be raised directly with the Downtown Waterfront Alliance Executive Director.

BECOME A DONOR & SUPPORT TO THE ALLIANCE GRANT PROGRAM

- Are you interested in supporting The Alliance Grant Program? Our goal is to triple the amount of grant dollars distributed to businesses in the waterfront district to \$25,000 by 2025 and we need your help!
- To learn more about becoming a donor to The Alliance Grant Program or to make a donation, [click here](#).