GRANT PROGRAM
BEST PRACTICES FOR A STRONG GRANT APPLICATION

OVERVIEW:

The Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance's Grant Program supports businesses, non-profits, and property owners within the Waterfront Business District in improving aesthetics, safety, and overall attractiveness.

With a **focus on enhancing economic vitality and encouraging community engagement,** the program provides funding for projects that benefit the district as a whole.

In 2024 (the program's first year), the Alliance awarded $20k in grants to small businesses or non-profits in the waterfront district. In 2025 the Alliance awarded $18,000 for a total of $38,000.

In 2026, $18,000 in grants will be awarded, with $6,000 reserved for lighting-specific projects, underline funded by Peninsula Light Co. The total amount will be divided in half to fund two grant periods (Jan-Jun and July-Dec).

For 2026, each grant round will have $9,000 total in available grant monies, $3,000 of which must go towards lighting.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

Who Can Apply: Property owners, businesses, and non-profits with a physical address in Gig Harbor's Waterfront Business District.

Project Types:
- Lighting projects (external or internal)
- Beautification and facade improvements (e.g., painting, murals)
- Updated signage or wayfinding projects
- Collaborative events, live music, arts & crafts, and free public activities
- Projects that activate underutilized spaces or have a broad community impact

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KEY ELEMENTS OF A STRONG GRANT APPLICATION:

1. <u>Alignment with Goals</u>: Projects that enhance the district, encourage community engagement, and contribute to the Alliance's transformation strategy, **An Active Waterfront for All,** will receive higher priority.
2. <u>Collaboration & Community Impact:</u> Applications that include events, lighting, or free public access are weighted more heavily. The goal is to create spaces and activities that attract new and repeat visitors to the district.
3. <u>Visual Aids (Highly Recommended)</u>: **Include mock-ups, photos, or renderings of your proposed projects** to provide the review committee with a clear understanding of the potential impact.
4. <u>Complete Budget (Required)</u>: A detailed budget using the provided template is required with every application. This will ensure that costs are thoroughly understood and accounted for. **Including matching donations, in-kind donations or additional funding sources is also key.**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCCESS:

Thorough Preparation: Ensure your application includes all required documents, especially a well-prepared budget. Applications missing a complete budget will not be considered.

Showcase Your Project: Including visual elements such as mock-ups, renderings, or photos can significantly strengthen your application by helping the committee visualize the project's potential.

Focus on Community Benefit: Projects that create lasting value for the entire district or align with the Alliance's transformation strategy will stand out.

MORE INFO »»