



Community Funding Program – Magnetic Places Grant

Updated June 2025

Overview

The Magnetic Places Grant funds creative arts activities that magnify resident stories, provide opportunity for creative expression and activate locations across key neighbourhoods.

Key neighbourhoods are those identified as part of the Penrith Neighbourhood Renewal Program and includes:

Cambridge Park, Colyton, Cranebrook, Kingswood, Kingswood Park, Llandilo, Londonderry, North St Marys, Oxley Park, Penrith, St Marys, and Werrington.

Grant Objectives

The aim of the Magnetic Places Grant is to fund creative arts activities that magnify resident stories, provide opportunity for creative expression and activate locations across key neighbourhoods, through activities that:

- share and celebrate local stories through art activities co-authored with the community.
- increase and broaden participation of community in arts and cultural activities.
- generate positive experiences and support new or stronger community connections.
- activate, transform and/or animate public spaces through creative activities.

Proposed activities must meet all objectives of the grant.

All proposed activities must align with principles of access, inclusion, and equity.

We encourage applications from First Nations groups, organisations, artists, and collectives, and those that support and celebrate First Nations individuals, communities and culture in Penrith.

Available Funding

The total amount of funding available for the Magnetic Places Grant is **\$50,000**.

Applicants may apply for a grant up to a total funding amount of **\$15,000 excluding GST**.

Grant Timelines

This grant is open once a year. For relevant dates and information please find details on penrith.city/grants.

Successful recipients of this grant are required to:

- conduct activity within 12 months of signing the funding agreement.
- negotiate with Council and confirm in writing any proposed changes to the original endorsed initiative scope. Changes to the scope of the funded activity or event may include amendments to the date, location, budget or any amendments to information as provided in the grant application.
- mark the end of the activity by hosting a gathering or event which involves participants, and if appropriate their community.
- submit a final acquittal report upon completion of the activity.
- Failure to acquit the grant will affect any future funding requests.

Application Requirements

Applications must be completed and lodged (with all relevant information) on or before the closing date advertised on penrith.city/grants.

Applicants are required to demonstrate that they are able to acquire all appropriate insurances, licenses and approvals for their proposed activity.

If the application is by an unincorporated organisation, then it should provide evidence of auspice from an incorporated organisation.

Successful applications must acknowledge the Magnetic Places grant on promotional material or in press releases.

Successful applicants must be willing to enter into an agreement with Penrith City Council and be solely responsible for the delivery of the activity and expenditure of funds.

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must:

- be one of the following:
 - a professional artist or creative entity with an ABN;
 - an incorporated group, collective or organisation;
 - an unincorporated group or collective that has evidence of auspice from an incorporated organisation with an ABN.

Local artists are encouraged to apply.

Ineligible Applicants

Applicants must not:

- be a school or other government agency.
- have overdue progress or acquittal reports for previous Penrith City Council grants.
- have outstanding debts with Penrith City Council.
- submit more than one grant application, per grant round, unless acting as an auspice. Please note that applicants that possess the same ABN will be regarded coming from the same organisation.

Eligible Activities

- Practice across various art forms including visual arts, performance, digital media, sculptures, installations, and more.
- Activities led by artists with experience, or an interest, in community engaged practice.
- Place-based activities in collaboration with community.
- Activities that creatively integrate art and culture into everyday public spaces.

- Creative arts workshops leading to an activation event or series of events.
- Activities that are free for the community to participate in.

Eligible activities must be held:

- Round 1 – October of the application year to October of the following year
- Round 2 – May of the application year to May of the following year

All funded activities must be delivered in key neighbourhoods as outlined by Council.

Ineligible Activities

Funding cannot be used for:

- reimbursements for activities already undertaken.
- operating costs associated with running an organisation or group e.g. salaries, general programming.
- activities, events, and programs that duplicate existing activities of Penrith City Council.
- activities previously funded through Penrith City Council Community Funding Program.
- activities that cannot be delivered within 12 months from receipt of the funding agreement.

Additional funding conditions and exclusions apply. Please see [Community Funding Program Policy](#) for more information.

Supporting Documentation

Public Liability Insurance

Applicants must supply a copy of their Public Liability Insurance (PLI) for a minimum of \$10 million upon submission of the Application Form. If you have an auspice, you will need to provide a copy of your auspice's PLI. If the applicant does not have PLI, the applicant may use grant funds to cover the cost of obtaining PLI. However, quotes from insurers for PLI for a minimum of \$10 million must be included and reflected in the Application Form budget.

Working with Children

Penrith City Council is proud to lead the way in prioritising child safety for those that live, visit, learn and play in Penrith. Protecting and enhancing the wellbeing of children and young people in our community is of paramount importance to us. We embed child-safe practices into our leadership, governance and organisational culture as part of our unwavering commitment to being a child safe organisation.

Grant submissions must meet the relevant legislative requirements when it comes to working with Children. Council reserves the right to conduct an audit in relation to compliance. For detailed guidance, organisations should consult relevant authorities including the [Office of Children's Guardian](#). For more information regarding Council being a Child Safe Organisation, please see our [website](#).

Other Supporting Documentation

All relevant licenses, insurances and approvals possessed by the applicant should be supplied upon submission of the Application Form.

Reporting and Acquittal Requirements

As custodians of public funds, Council needs to know that recipients can manage funds and prioritise financial accountability. As such, all grant recipients are required to report on and acquit their activities as detailed in the funding agreement.

Report templates are available and are required to be submitted through SmartyGrants.

Applicants are required to report on the success of the activity in terms of the agreed outputs and outcomes, and relevant data that has been collected.

Detailed financial reports will also be required, and grant recipients will be required to provide documentation and evidence of expenditure.

Assessment Criteria

Grant applications must be submitted on time and meet grant application

and eligibility requirements. If eligibility is met, the application will be assessed against the assessment criteria below.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	
Category	Criteria
Capacity	Grant application demonstrates the capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the proposed activity.
Co-authorship	Grant application outlines how the proposed activity will share and celebrate local stories through co-authored art activities with the community.
Participation	Grant application demonstrates how the proposed activity will increase and broaden community participation.
Public outcome	Grant application outlines how the proposed activity will activate, transform and/or animate public spaces.
Connections	Grant application outlines how the proposed activity will generate positive experiences and support new and stronger community connections.