



Metro

Community Placemaking grants

Supporting community to make changes they want to see in their neighborhoods.



Metro's Community Placemaking grants help people tackle community challenges or opportunities through arts-based, equity-focused projects.

What is Community Placemaking?

Community Placemaking projects have a few key ingredients. The idea comes from the community the project is intended to serve. Those community members, especially people of color or other historically marginalized communities, play a role in making the project happen. Arts or cultural activities bring people together to strengthen their connection to each other and the places they care about.

Since the program began in 2017, Metro has given 15 grants, totaling \$268,000 to support our Black, Native American, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, youth, Muslim, and immigrant and refugee communities.

Community Placemaking projects are creative at their core and can take many forms. Get started thinking by visiting the program website to see the types of projects the program supported in previous grant cycles.

Grant cycle

Metro awards grants once a year, with applications opening early January and closing early February. Applicants are encouraged to contact Metro staff to discuss your idea. Staff does not play a role in the funding recommendation and instead is available to help make your application as strong as possible. Applications are reviewed by a community-based advisory group with expertise community development, social justice, public art and urban planning.

Funds available

Grant awards range between \$5,000 and \$25,000, and no matching funds are required.

Community Placemaking grants

Learn about the next grant cycle, read about funded grant projects and sign up for email updates.
oregonmetro.gov/placemaking

Questions?

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2017 Community Placemaking grantee, World Stage Theatre's production of *Who I am Celebrating Me* was the culminating event of Black History Festival NW. Photo credit: Shawnte Sims

Who can apply?

Anyone can apply, while meeting the following conditions:

- Community-based organization must have support from the property owner where the project will take place.
- Public agencies must include community partners in the implementation of the project.
- Unincorporated organizations need a fiscal sponsor.

Building a competitive application

Leadership roles for people of color - You already know this is an equity-based placemaking program, and a winning project benefits and involves communities of color. But it can go further. "Nothing for us without us," was a mantra the grant review group kept coming back to. Communities of color should play key roles in identifying the challenge or opportunity, carrying out the project and enjoying full access to its benefits.

Arts-based solutions - Art is the heart of the program. And it's more than murals. A winning project uses art as a reason for people to come together and see their neighborhoods or each other in new ways.

Ties to each other and place - Metro supports placemaking because we have a stake in strong, resilient communities. A winning project works intentionally toward strengthening connections between people and building shared affection for and/or ownership of place.

Community Placemaking program objectives

Placemaking - People's connections to each other and to places they care about are strengthened.

Equity - People of color and members of historically marginalized communities have power and resources to influence their neighborhoods and communities.

Partnerships - People's efforts are maximized because they work in partnership with each other and with Metro.

Leadership - People participate in projects and decisions that affect them.