CITY OF TURKU Cultural Committee GRANT ALLOCATION STRUCTURE, PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

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1. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CULTURAL GRANTS

1.1 Principles governing the Cultural Committee's grant activities

The City Board has approved general guidelines for grants, which are followed when awarding grants (City Board 7.9.2026 §270). According to the guidelines, the City of Turku's service entities annually allocate appropriations in their budgets to support civic activities in Turku. As a rule, grant appropriations are allocated to registered associations, foundations and other organisations and, in exceptional cases, to individuals in the form of arts or science grants.

In this document, the Culture Service Entity supplements the general guidelines by defining the forms and allocation criteria for grants awarded to organisations and working groups within its area of responsibility and grants awarded to individuals.

The City of Turku's strategic policies, general grant guidelines and principles governing cultural grants apply to all cultural grants.

Legislation governing grant activities

The Act on Cultural Activities in Local Government (166/2019, section 3) defines the statutory duties of municipalities in organising cultural activities. Grant activities contribute to fulfilling the duties assigned to municipalities under the Act: promoting equal access to and diverse use of culture and the arts; creating conditions for professional artistic work and activities; promoting engagement in culture and the arts and related civic activities; providing opportunities for goal-oriented arts and cultural education in different forms and fields of culture and the arts; promoting the preservation and use of cultural heritage and activities that support and develop local identity; promoting culture and the arts as part of residents' wellbeing and health, participation and sense of community, as well as local and regional vitality; promoting cultural interaction and international activities; and carrying out other activities related to culture and the arts.

The City of Turku's grant activities comply with the legal principles of good administration laid down in the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003), including the principles of equality, proper purpose and objectivity. The general provisions on disqualification in administrative procedures apply when grants are prepared and decisions on them are made.

A document submitted to an authority becomes public once it has been received (Act on the Openness of Government Activities 621/1999). This principle of public access also applies to grant applications, supplementary information submitted in connection with them and reports on the use of grants. Documents may be accessed by submitting a request for information once the matter has been processed. A public document may contain confidential sections. Confidential information includes, for example, information on an individual's annual income, an association's membership details and trade secrets. Based on legal precedent, artistic ideas may be considered comparable to trade secrets when interpreting the Act on the Openness of Government Activities. Application documents should not include confidential personal data, such as personal identity codes or health information.

In addition to legislation, the awarding of grants is governed by the City's strategic priorities, policies and objectives.

Objectives and policies set by the City for grant activities

Turku's strategic objective is to promote the wellbeing of its residents and customers and the competitiveness of the city and its business community. An active lifestyle is essential to wellbeing, and the conditions for an active lifestyle will be improved. The City's role is to create a framework in which individuals, communities and organisations can participate in and provide services and activities that meet their needs. The operating conditions of third-sector service providers will be strengthened through partnerships and by reforming grant policies to support the City's strategic objectives. Participation in civic and organisational activities increases residents' participation, sense of community, activity and ability to manage their lives. The principles of sustainable development and non-discrimination are taken into account when awarding grants. (City Board 7.9.2026 §270)

The City of Turku awards only one grant for each purpose. Exceptions may be made only for a specific reason. When applying for a grant, applicants must declare all funding and grants applied for and received for the purpose in question, both from the City of Turku and from other parties.

Grants are always discretionary. Applications are compared with one another, and the available appropriations are taken into account in the overall assessment.

Cultural Committee grant activities

Under section 40(3) of the City of Turku Administrative Regulations, approved on 12 May 2025, committees are responsible for deciding on the awarding of grants within their respective areas of responsibility in accordance with the principles laid down by the City Board (record no. 445-2025).

Grants awarded by the Cultural Committee must be allocated to the production of artistic content. The Cultural Committee awards operating grants for year-round activities to organisations of arts professionals and providers of amateur cultural activities, as well as companies and foundations belonging to the Turku Group. Grants are awarded to working groups and organisations for project-based activities. Professional artists are also awarded grants for artistic work. Expenses cannot be charged against these grants. The objectives, eligibility requirements and assessment criteria for the different forms of support are described in greater detail in the section *"Forms of grants and award criteria"* of this document.

Personal working grant applicants must be private individuals resident in Turku. Grant applicants must be non-profit associations, foundations or non-profit companies or working groups based in Turku, or the aforementioned types of organisations whose activities take place in Turku. If an association is registered in another municipality and applies for a grant on the basis that its activities are focused on Turku, the actual nature and content of the association's established activities and the municipality in which its activities are primarily carried out are assessed on a case-by-case basis when deciding whether to award a grant. The assessment is based on an overall evaluation that takes into account the diversity of the City's cultural service provision.

Applicants for operating grants must also have sources of income other than the City grant. A grant awarded by the Cultural Committee may cover up to 80% of the grant recipient's expenses. A grant cannot be awarded if the applicant's financial situation does not provide sufficient conditions for carrying out the activities.

Grants are not awarded to private traders or for-profit companies. If the applicant has not submitted a report on the use of the previous year's grant, or if the report is incomplete, a new grant cannot be awarded.

Forms of grants awarded by the Cultural Committee

Strategic operating grants

Operating grants for organisations of arts professionals:

- Operating grants for arts and cultural institutions (multi-year cooperation)
- Operating grants for arts and cultural organisations

Grants for professional artists:

- Individual working grants
- Aboa Grant

Grants for project-based activities:

- Fuuga venue grants
- Project grants

Grants for organisations providing arts and cultural activities:

- Operating grant for recreational activities in the cultural sector
- Operating grants for basic education in the arts
- Hobby Card

1.2 Processing of grants

Applying

Applications for cultural grants awarded by the City of Turku Cultural Committee may be submitted annually in October. The application period for strategic operating grants will take place in the spring from 2027 onwards. A supplementary application round for Fuuga venue grants is held in the spring.

Before the application period begins, the City organises a joint information session covering all grants, as well as a separate online information session on cultural grants. The forms of cultural grants, eligibility requirements and assessment criteria are described on the Cultural Services website.

Grants are applied for through an electronic system. Applications may be submitted in Finnish or Swedish. Application instructions are also available in English.

The following documents must be attached to applications from registered associations, non-profit companies and foundations:

- Action plan and budget for the grant year
- Annual report for the previous year, signed auditor's or operations inspector's report, and signed financial statements with appendices (income statement itemised by general ledger account)

- Association rules (every five years and following amendments to the rules)
- Any other attachments required for the specific grant

The following documents must be attached to applications from working groups:

- Implementation/work plan, cost estimate and CVs of the persons responsible for implementation
- Any other attachments required for the specific grant

The following documents must be attached to applications from individuals:

- CV and work plan
- Any other attachments required for the specific grant

Applications received after the application period has ended will not be considered. Applications received by the deadline are checked to ensure that the information provided is sufficient and correct. Applicants will be asked to supplement applications found to be incomplete. A sufficient deadline must be set for providing the supplementary information, taking into account the nature of the matter.

An applicant may be advised to apply for another form of grant, or the application may be transferred for consideration under another form of grant that is more appropriate in view of the content of the application. The applicant will be consulted on the matter.

Preparation of decisions

The City of Turku's Cultural Promotion is responsible for preparing decisions on grant applications. As part of the preparation process, applications are processed by Cultural Services, where they are assessed against predefined criteria and a proposal for a decision is prepared for the competent decision-making body. Where necessary, the assessment may draw on expertise from within the City organisation in different fields of the arts and areas of cultural activity.

Grant applications are assessed using predefined assessment criteria and grounds specific to each grant category, as described in the call for applications and in the section *"Forms of grants and award criteria"* of this document. All applications within the same grant category are assessed equally against the same criteria. Applications are assessed on an overall basis, and no single assessment criterion alone determines the success of an application.

The awarding of grants is discretionary. The assessment comprises an overall evaluation of the applicant's activities, the feasibility of achieving the objectives set out in the application, and how the activities relate to the objectives of the grant and the available appropriations. Meeting the grant criteria does not in itself entitle the applicant to receive a grant. The assessment takes into account comparisons between applications and the appropriate allocation of available funds in relation to the objectives of the form of grant.

The specific characteristics of different fields of the arts and ways of working are taken into account in the assessment. The quality, impact and significance of activities are assessed from the perspective of each field of the arts, recognising differences between the forms, objectives and methods of implementation of activities in different fields.

De minimis assessment

When awarding grants, state aid rules and the effects of the grant on competition and trade are taken into account. Under European Union law, state aid cannot be granted for business

activities. The concept of an undertaking also includes, for example, associations, foundations and third-sector organisations if they engage in economic activities and offer goods or services on the market. The City of Turku may also award a grant under the General Block Exemption Regulation if the conditions for de minimis aid do not allow the grant to be awarded and the conditions laid down in the General Block Exemption Regulation are met. A grant cannot be awarded if the conditions for de minimis aid or aid under the General Block Exemption Regulation are not met.

Applicants are required to declare, in their grant application, any other de minimis aid and other state aid received during the current tax year and the two preceding tax years (e.g. aid granted under the General Block Exemption Regulation). The City of Turku will indicate in its decision whether the aid is granted as de minimis aid or under the General Block Exemption Regulation. Within 20 working days of the decision, the City will also report newly granted de minimis aid to the central EU register (eAidRegister) and aid granted under the General Block Exemption Regulation to the European Commission through the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. (For more information on the assessment, see Appendix 1: "*De minimis assessment process"*)

Decision-making

Grants are presented by the Cultural Director, and decisions are made by the City of Turku Cultural Committee. The Committee decides on multi-year operating grants for arts and cultural institutions and the recipient of the annual Aboa Grant in December of the application year. The Committee decides on other grants in February of the grant year. Decisions on Fuuga venue grants and operators applying to participate in the Hobby Card pilot are made by the Head of Cultural Promotion.

All applicants are notified of the decisions. Following the decision, recipients of grants are sent the grant decision, instructions for requesting rectification and instructions for reporting on the use of the grant. The decision and instructions are provided electronically if the applicant has consented to electronic notification in their grant application. Otherwise, the decision and instructions are provided in writing.

Request for rectification of a decision

A request for rectification must be submitted within 14 days of being notified of the decision. A request for rectification submitted electronically must be received on the final day of the time limit. A request for rectification submitted on paper must be received on the final day of the time limit before the Registry closes.

Unless otherwise proven, a party concerned is deemed to have been notified of the decision seven days after the letter was sent. Where ordinary electronic notification is used, the party concerned is deemed to have been notified of the decision on the third day after the message was sent, unless otherwise proven. A member of the municipality is deemed to have been notified of the decision seven days after the minutes have been made available on the public information network. The date of notification is not included in the time limit for requesting rectification. If the final day of the time limit falls on a public holiday, Independence Day, May Day, Christmas Eve, Midsummer Eve or a Saturday, the request for rectification may be submitted on the next working day.

A request for rectification must be made in writing. An electronic document satisfies the requirement for written form. The request for rectification must specify the decision for which rectification is requested, the rectification sought and the grounds on which rectification is

requested. The request for rectification must also include the name, municipality of residence, postal address and telephone number of the person submitting the request. The decision on the request for rectification is provided electronically if the applicant has also provided an email address in their contact details.

Payment

A grant is paid once the decision has become legally binding. The grant is paid into the grant recipient's bank account. Grants awarded to associations are not paid into an individual's personal bank account. A grant awarded to a working group is paid into the working group's account or the applicant's bank account, in which case the applicant is personally responsible for the use of the grant and for submitting the required report.

1.3 Use of grants

An awarded grant must be used for the purpose and during the calendar year for which it was awarded.

A grant may only be used for the purpose specified in the grant decision. If the grant decision does not specify the purpose in greater detail, the grant must be used for the purpose stated in the grant application in accordance with the guidelines and criteria applicable to the form of grant.

The grant recipient may not use the grant to cover fundraising expenses or expenses arising from business or investment activities, or to increase its financial assets or other long-term investments.

Competitive tendering obligation

When making purchases using the grant, the grant recipient must take into account the Act on Public Procurement and Concession Contracts (1397/2016, Public Procurement Act). The Act also applies to procurements by private organisations where the grant received for the procurement exceeds half of the value of the procurement. (Act on Public Procurement and Concession Contracts, 1397/2016)

The grant recipient undertakes to verify the background of the suppliers it uses in its activities, comply with sanctions and make purchases from responsible operators that fulfil their statutory obligations.

Change of purpose and repayment of a grant

The grant recipient must immediately notify the City of any changes that materially affect the use of the grant. At the same time, the recipient must agree with the City on the continued use of the grant, a change in its purpose or repayment of the grant.

If a grant cannot be used for the purpose for which it was awarded, the recipient must repay the unused grant or apply in advance for written permission to change its purpose. A change in the purpose of a grant must be requested in writing by means of a free-form application.

The Head of Cultural Promotion decides on changes to the purpose and period of use of grants of less than EUR 10,000 awarded by the Cultural Committee. The Cultural Committee decides

on changes to grants of more than EUR 10,000 that it has awarded. A grant that has been misused will be recovered.

Report on the use of a grant

Recipients of grants must submit a report on the use of the grant to the Cultural Committee. The report must be submitted through the electronic system.

When monitoring the use of grants, the grant-awarding authority has the right to inspect the grant recipient's accounts and administration and, where necessary, carry out other inspections relating to its activities.

If a report has not been submitted or is incomplete, all or part of the grant may be recovered. A grant cannot be awarded to an applicant who has submitted an incomplete report.

a. Working groups and individuals

Working groups that are not registered associations and private individuals must submit their report by the last day of the grant year. The report must include a free-form description of the work carried out, a statement of the actual costs of the work signed by the applicant, and documentation of the work carried out (e.g. photographs, reviews and press cuttings).

b. Registered associations and non-profit companies

Registered associations must submit their report by the end of June in the year following the grant year.

The report must include:

- The association's signed financial statements (income statement, balance sheet and notes to the financial statements)
- A cost-centre-specific income statement or other breakdown prepared from the accounts showing how the grant was used
- A signed auditor's or operations inspector's report
- The association's annual report

The grant awarded by the Cultural Committee and any other general grants received for the activities must be shown as separate items under income in the financial statements. In addition, other grants received for the year in question must be itemised in the notes to the income statement.

Audits and operations inspections must be carried out in accordance with the Associations Act (503/1989, sections 37a, 38 and 38a) and the Auditing Act (1141/2015, sections 4 and 5).

Organisations whose financial year differs from the calendar year and whose financial statements have not yet been completed must submit a preliminary annual report for the grant year and a report on their financial performance by the end of June. The final financial statements, annual report and auditor's or operations inspector's report must be submitted without delay once they have been completed, but no later than the end of the next application period for operating grants.

Recovery

Where grounds for recovery exist, the City of Turku has the right to require repayment of a grant or issue a decision on its recovery. If the grant recipient becomes aware of grounds for recovery, it must immediately contact the City of Turku to arrange repayment of the grant.

An awarded grant must be repaid to the City of Turku in full or in part if:

- The grant is used for a purpose other than that for which it was awarded or for which its use has been authorised.
- The grant recipient has failed to comply with the conditions laid down in the grant decision and the non-compliance is considered to be more than minor.
- The grant has not been used within the period specified in the grant decision and the grant recipient has not contacted the City concerning the use of the grant.
- Significant changes have occurred in the use of the grant that the City of Turku does not consider acceptable.
- The grant recipient fails to provide an acceptable report on the use of the grant by the deadline.
- The grant recipient has provided the City of Turku with incorrect or incomplete information concerning the grant.
- The grant recipient fails, within a specified or reasonable period, to provide requested information or assist with an inspection.

2. FORMS OF GRANTS AND AWARD CRITERIA

2.1 General assessment criteria

The awarding and amount of grants are assessed against the assessment criteria and grounds. In addition to assessing individual applications, applications are compared with one another, and the overall assessment takes into account factors such as the available appropriations.

The assessment considers:

- how well the assessment criteria for the specific application round are met
- the need for the grant
- whether grants received by the applicant from the City in previous years have been used for their intended purpose

Not all assessment grounds for the specific application round need to be met for a grant to be awarded, but the amount of the grant is assessed in relation to the assessment grounds.

2.2 Strategic operating grants

Objective of the grant

The objective of the grant is to support the provision of key cultural content, services and activities that are essential to the City's cultural provision by awarding discretionary operating grants to companies and foundations belonging to the City Group and operating in the cultural sector.

Eligibility

Companies and foundations are eligible to apply for this grant category if they have a strategic role in the City's overall cultural provision and the City has a specific responsibility for ensuring the continuity or development of their activities by virtue of its ownership, role as founder, the organisation's rules or its governance arrangements.

Assessment criterion

Significance of the activities within the City's overall cultural provision

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's activities strengthen the City's overall cultural provision as referred to in the Act on Cultural Activities in Local Government and support the achievement of the objectives of other key legislation in the cultural sector, such as the Museums Act and the Act on the Promotion of Performing Arts.
- The grant recipient's activities generate cultural value, as well as social value or value that strengthens the City's vitality, in line with the City's objectives.

2.3 Operating grants for organisations of arts professionals

Operating grants for arts and cultural institutions (multi-year cooperation)

Objective of the grant:
The objective of the grant is to strengthen the operating conditions and long-term development of associations of professional artists and cultural institutions that have become an established part of the City's cultural activities. The grant promotes diverse professional cultural provision, strengthens the local cultural ecosystem, and supports professional artists' working conditions and opportunities to present their work in Turku.

Eligibility:
Registered organisations of arts professionals and cultural institutions based in Turku are eligible to apply for this grant if they have entered into a multi-year cooperation agreement with the City's Cultural Services and/or if such an agreement was being prepared with them during the application period (see *"Special conditions"* below for further details). The grant is applied for and awarded annually. No new operators will be admitted to this grant category during the agreement period (2026–2028).

Assessment criteria:
Criterion:
Artistic quality and impact of the activities

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's activities are based on professional artistic practice, experience and expertise.
- Artistic productions related to the grant recipient's activities (performances, exhibitions, events, etc.) are professionally produced. The selection and implementation of content are based on defined artistic quality standards.
- Audience and participant numbers for artistic productions related to the grant recipient's activities are appropriate in relation to the scale and objectives of the activities.
- The grant recipient is a key local operator in its field of the arts and/or its activities enhance diversity and renewal in the field and create opportunities for new practitioners.

Criterion:
Development of activities and cooperation with other operators

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient regularly evaluates its activities and uses the results systematically to develop its activities in a goal-oriented and long-term manner.
- The grant recipient's development objectives, implementation plan and monitoring arrangements are realistic and appropriate.
- The grant recipient engages in goal-oriented cooperation with other operators locally and, depending on the nature of its activities, regionally or nationally.
- The grant recipient identifies and makes use of appropriate networks and partnerships that enhance the quality, impact or accessibility of its activities.

Criterion:
Sustainable funding base and administrative capacity

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's overall financial situation is stable.
- The grant recipient's activities and finances form a clear and coherent whole.
- The grant recipient's activities are well planned, its resources are allocated appropriately, and it has the capacity to assess the effectiveness of its activities.
- The grant recipient has a diverse funding base, and the proportion of own-source funding is appropriate in relation to the scale of its activities.
- The City of Turku grant accounts for a justified and reasonable proportion of the funding for the grant recipient's activities, and its allocation and impact on the activities can be clearly demonstrated.

Criterion:
City of Turku strategic objectives (accessibility of cultural services, participation and vitality)

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's activities enhance the diversity of the forms and content of the City's cultural provision and their accessibility to different audiences.
- The grant recipient's activities strengthen the local cultural ecosystem, promote cooperation between operators and create opportunities for professional artists to work in the area.
- The grant recipient takes the principles of sustainable development, equality and non-discrimination into account in its activities.

Special conditions:

- The City of Turku may enter into a three-year cooperation agreement with an association or cultural institution that meets the above criteria. Cooperation must be discussed with the City's Cultural Services before the application is submitted.
- The detailed objectives of the activities receiving the grant are defined in the cooperation agreement between Cultural Services and the applicant and in its appendices.
- The grant applicant must attach an updated plan (service product card) to the application, covering the entire forthcoming three-year period or, if the agreement period is already under way, the remaining agreement period.
- The grant is applied for annually. If the activities change, the amount of the grant awarded may be reviewed during the agreement period.
- Recipients of operating grants for arts and cultural institutions must report the number of visitors and productions to the City by the end of January in the year following the year of operation.
- The grant may cover up to 80% of the grant recipient's expenses.
- Grants are not awarded for equipment purchases, publishing activities, recordings, training, travel or performance costumes. Premises costs may also be included in the application.

Operating grants for arts and cultural organisations

Objective of the grant:
The objective of the grant is to strengthen the operating conditions of organisations of professional artists and promote diverse professional cultural provision in Turku.

Eligibility:
Associations and working groups led by professional artists and foundations promoting cultural activities that are based in Turku are eligible to apply for this grant. A new association may apply for an operating grant after having operated as a registered association for at least one completed financial year.

Assessment criteria:
Criterion:
Artistic quality and impact of the activities

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's activities are based on professional artistic practice, experience and expertise.
- Artistic productions related to the grant recipient's activities (performances, exhibitions, events, etc.) are professionally produced. The selection of content is based on the operator's expertise in its field of the arts.
- Audience and participant numbers for artistic productions related to the grant recipient's activities are appropriate in relation to the scale and objectives of the activities.

Criterion:
Sustainable funding base and administrative capacity

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's overall financial situation is stable.
- The grant recipient's activities and finances form a clear and coherent whole.
- The City of Turku grant accounts for a justified and reasonable proportion of the funding for the grant recipient's activities, and its allocation and impact on the activities can be clearly demonstrated.

Criterion:
Cooperation with other operators

- The grant recipient identifies and makes use of appropriate networks that enhance the quality, impact or accessibility of its activities.

Criterion:
City of Turku strategic objectives (accessibility and vitality of cultural services)

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's activities enhance the diversity of the forms and content of the City's cultural provision.
- The grant recipient's activities create opportunities for professional artists to work in the area.
- The grant recipient takes the principles of sustainable development, equality and non-discrimination into account in its activities.

Special conditions:
- Recipients of operating grants for arts and cultural organisations must report the number of visitors and productions to the City by the end of January in the year following the year of operation.
- The grant may cover up to 80% of the grant recipient's expenses.

- Grants are not awarded for equipment purchases, publishing activities, recordings, training, travel or performance costumes. Premises costs may also be included in the application.

2.4 Grants for professional artists

Individual working grants

Objective of the grant:
The objective of the grant is to enable professional artists to engage in long-term artistic work and to promote the creation of high-quality art in Turku.

The grant is intended for artistic work and may be awarded for a period of one to six (1–6) months.

Eligibility:
Professional artists whose municipality of residence is Turku are eligible to apply for this grant. Only individuals may apply for the grant.

A professional artist is a person who creates, performs or interprets art as their main or secondary occupation. A professional artist has completed education in a field of the arts or has otherwise acquired professional expertise in a field of the arts.

Assessment criteria:
Criterion:
Applicant's previous merits as a professional artist

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient has demonstrated professional merit through their previous artistic activities.

Criterion:
Quality, feasibility and impact of the work plan

Assessment grounds:

- The artistic content of the grant recipient's work plan is of high quality.
- The grant recipient's work plan is significant for the artist's own practice or, more broadly, for the field of the arts or the region.
- The grant recipient's work plan is clear, coherent and realistic in relation to the scope and objectives of the project.

Special conditions:
- A grant is not awarded to the same artist in two consecutive years or to a person who has a one-year or multi-year working grant awarded by another party for the year for which the grant is being applied.
- The grant is not awarded to cover expenses or for study purposes.
- The grant does not require the recipient to take leave from other employment.

The amount of the grant is determined annually based on the January level of state artist grants awarded by the Finnish Arts and Culture Agency. In 2027, the calculated amount of the grant for one month is EUR 2,300. The grant is tax-free for the recipient.

Recipients of grants lasting four months or longer must pay the MYEL insurance contribution under the Farmers' Pensions Act from the grant. For insurance purposes, grant-funded work lasting more than four months must also be carried out continuously.

Aboa Grant

Objective of the grant:

The objective of the Aboa Grant is to enable a distinguished professional artist based in Turku to engage in long-term artistic work, promote the creation of high-quality art and artistic renewal, and strengthen Turku's position as a city of art.

The Aboa Grant is a one-year (12-month) working grant awarded annually to one professional artist based in Turku.

Eligibility:

Professional artists whose municipality of residence is Turku are eligible to apply for this grant. Only individuals may apply for the grant.

A professional artist is a person who creates, performs or interprets art as their main or secondary occupation. A professional artist has completed education in a field of the arts or has otherwise acquired professional expertise in a field of the arts.

Assessment criteria:

Criterion:
Applicant's previous merits as a professional artist

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient has demonstrated significant professional merit through their previous artistic activities.

Criterion:
Quality and impact of the work plan

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's work plan is clear and coherent.
- The artistic content of the grant recipient's work plan is of high quality, original and artistically ambitious.
- The grant recipient's work plan is significant for the artist's own practice or, more broadly, for the field of the arts or the region.

Criterion:
Significance of the work for cultural life in Turku

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's work plan has the potential to strengthen cultural life in Turku and increase the visibility of high-quality art in the city in a manner that takes into account the specific characteristics of the field of the arts.

Where possible, the grant includes an opportunity to exhibit or present an artistic work at one of the City of Turku's arts institutions. Alternatively, the outcome of the work may form a visible part of the City of Turku's cultural provision in another way.

Special conditions:

- The grant may be awarded to the same artist only once.
- The grant is not awarded to a person who has a one-year or multi-year working grant awarded by another party for the year for which the grant is being applied.
- The grant is not awarded to cover expenses or for study purposes.

The grant recipient must pay the MYEL insurance contribution under the Farmers' Pensions Act from the grant.

The amount of the grant is determined annually based on the January level of state artist grants awarded by the Finnish Arts and Culture Agency. According to a decision by the Finnish Arts and Culture Agency, the amount of the grant is EUR 2,296.25 per month from 1 October 2026 and, according to preliminary information, will remain the same at the beginning of 2027. The grant is tax-free for the recipient.

2.5 Grants for project-based activities

Project grants

Objective of the grant:
The primary objective of the grant is to promote the creation of new artistic content in Turku. The grant may also be used to develop and test new operating models, services or forms of cooperation that renew the provision of cultural services or strengthen the operator's capacity to provide high-quality cultural services.

Eligibility:
The grant is primarily intended for working groups and associations of professional artists based in Turku.

a) Working groups of professional artists may apply for grants for one-off projects involving the production of new artistic content.
b) Associations of professional artists and cultural organisations may apply for grants to launch new activities or to develop and test operating models that are new to the operator.

Assessment criteria:
a) Projects involving the production of artistic content

Criterion:
Artistic quality and novelty of the project

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's activities are based on professional artistic practice and expertise.
- The artistic content of the grant recipient's project plan is of high quality, original and artistically ambitious.
- The grant recipient's project produces new artistic content that has not been presented previously.

Criterion:
Feasibility of the project and cooperation

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's work plan is clear, coherent and realistic in relation to the scope and objectives of the project.
- The grant recipient identifies and makes use of networks appropriate to the project that enhance the quality, impact or accessibility of the activities.

b) Projects involving the development of activities

Criterion:
Professional basis and novelty of the project

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's activities are based on professional artistic practice and expertise.
- The grant recipient's project develops or tests a new operating model that provides a justified solution to an identified development need and has potential for wider application.

Criterion:
Financial and administrative capacity to implement the project

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient has sufficient administrative and professional capacity to implement the project as planned.
- The grant recipient's spending plan and budget are clear, and the costs are justified in terms of implementing the project.
- The grant recipient's project is limited in time and scope so that it can be implemented in full during the grant period, or the part funded by the grant constitutes an independent whole that can be substantially completed during the grant period.

Criterion:
Quality and impact of the project development plan

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's project is a clearly defined development or pilot project that requires separate funding to be implemented.
- The grant recipient has a plan for establishing or expanding the operating model after the grant period.
- The grant recipient has defined appropriate assessment indicators for the project to assess its implementation, the achievement of its development objectives, the significance of cooperation and the project's impact.
- The grant recipient makes use of cooperation networks appropriate to the project objectives whose expertise supports the development of new operating models for cultural services.

Common assessment criteria (a and b):

Criterion:
City of Turku strategic objectives (accessibility and vitality of cultural services)

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's activities enhance the diversity of the forms and content of the City's cultural provision.

- The grant recipient's activities strengthen the local cultural ecosystem, promote cooperation between operators and create opportunities for professional artists to work in the area.
- The grant recipient takes the principles of sustainable development, equality and non-discrimination into account in its activities.

If the applicant receives another City of Turku grant:

- The activities carried out with this grant do not overlap with the purpose of another City of Turku grant awarded to the applicant.

Special conditions:

- The grant applicant must attach a project/development plan to the application.
- The grant is not awarded for premises rental costs, travel, publishing activities or equipment purchases, or to fund the general activities of an operator such as an association.
- Project grants are not awarded retrospectively for events, projects or expenses that have already taken place or been incurred.
- As a rule, the grant is not awarded to an association, working group or artist that already receives a grant from another grant category.
- The grant is awarded on a one-off basis. The grant does not support ongoing activities.
- At its discretion, the Cultural Committee may commit to funding a development project for several years, in which case a cooperation agreement will be drawn up.

Fuuga venue grants

Objective of the grant:

The objective of the grant is to enable arts and cultural operators based in Turku to use Fuuga Music Centre for their events and to promote the provision of a high-quality and diverse cultural programme in Turku.

The grant is intended for associations, co-productions and working groups based in Turku to cover venue rental and event-related staff costs at Fuuga Music Centre. No other event or staff costs may be included in the application.

- Category A support covers the full venue rental and staff costs (VAT 0%).
- Category B support covers 75%, 50% or 25% of the venue rental and staff costs (VAT 0%).

Eligibility:

Applicants must have a preliminary agreement with Fuuga concerning the event in order to be eligible to apply for the grant.

- In Category A, eligible applicants are professional, non-profit producers of musical performances that operate year-round, receive significant central government funding and have a valid agreement with the City's Cultural Services concerning an operating grant for arts and cultural institutions. The applicant must meet all of the above conditions.
- In Category B, other non-profit arts and cultural operators are eligible to apply.

Assessment criteria:

Criterion:
Quality of implementation and suitability for Fuuga's programme

Assessment grounds:

- The way in which the grant recipient's event is implemented is suitable for the activities and facilities of Fuuga Music Centre.
- The content of the grant recipient's event complements and diversifies Fuuga's programme.
- The grant recipient has set clear and well-founded qualitative objectives for the event.
- The grant recipient's production/event plan is clear and realistic.
- The grant recipient has sufficient professional and administrative capacity to organise the event.

Special conditions:

- The grant applicant must attach to the application a preliminary agreement/booking confirmation with Fuuga concerning the organisation of the event, as well as a production/event plan.
- In the main application round in October, applications are submitted for grants for events taking place in the following year. In the supplementary application round in the spring, applications are submitted for grants for events taking place during the current year.
- If some of the planned costs are not incurred, the amount of the grant will be adjusted so that the proportion of actual eligible costs covered by the grant does not exceed the percentage awarded.

2.6 Grants for organisations providing arts and cultural activities

Operating grant for recreational activities in the cultural sector

Objective of the grant:
The objective of the grant is to promote participation in cultural and artistic activities and the wellbeing derived from them. The grant is intended primarily for the provision of amateur arts and cultural activities for children and young people.

Eligibility:
Associations and working groups based in Turku that organise year-round arts and cultural hobby activities are eligible to apply for this grant. The grant is not intended for neighbourhood associations.

Assessment criteria:
Criterion:
Professionalism and systematic planning of activities and instruction

Assessment grounds:

- The instructors providing the grant recipient's amateur activities have suitable education or professional expertise in the relevant field of the arts and, taking into account the nature of the activities, sufficient pedagogical expertise and experience in instruction.
- The grant recipient's activities have a clear purpose and objectives that support long-term participation in amateur activities.
- The amateur activities provided by the grant recipient are planned with due consideration for the age, needs and starting level of the target group.

- The amateur activities provided by the grant recipient reach their target group appropriately, and the number of participants is proportionate to the objectives and scale of the activities.

Criterion:
Sustainable funding base and administrative capacity

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's financial situation provides a sound basis for carrying out the activities as planned.
- The grant recipient's activities and finances form a clear and coherent whole.
- The City of Turku grant accounts for a justified and reasonable proportion of the funding for the grant recipient's activities, and its allocation and impact on the activities can be clearly demonstrated.

Criterion:
City of Turku strategic objectives (accessibility of cultural services, wellbeing and participation)

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's activities enhance the diversity of the forms and content of the City's provision of amateur cultural activities and their accessibility to different audiences.
- The grant recipient's activities support participants' wellbeing and participation.
- The grant recipient's activities promote cooperation between operators.
- The grant recipient takes the principles of sustainable development, equality and non-discrimination into account in its activities.

Special conditions:

- A new association may apply for an operating grant after having operated as a registered association for at least one completed financial year.
- The grant recipient is responsible for ensuring that the criminal record extracts of persons working with children are checked in accordance with current legislation.
- The grant may cover up to 80% of the grant recipient's expenses.
- The grant is not awarded for individual concerts, performances or exhibitions, equipment purchases, performance costumes or travel for performances.
- Premises costs may also be included in the grant application.

Operating grants for basic education in the arts

Objective of the grant:
The objective of the grant is to promote the provision of high-quality, accessible and diverse basic education in the arts in Turku, support children's and young people's long-term engagement in artistic activities, and provide them with the skills required for further vocational studies in the relevant field of the arts.

Eligibility:
Providers of basic education in the arts whose curriculum has been approved by the Cultural Committee (or previously by the Culture and Youth Committee) are eligible to apply for this grant. The grant recipient must be authorised to provide basic education in the arts.

Assessment criteria:

Criterion:
Quality and systematic provision of teaching

Assessment grounds:

- Teachers providing the grant recipient's basic education in the arts have pedagogical qualifications appropriate to their duties and the relevant field of the arts.
- The grant recipient has defined the target groups for its teaching and described the measures used to improve the accessibility of teaching for different target groups.
- The teaching provided by the grant recipient reaches its target groups appropriately, and the number of pupils, the number of continuing pupils, and the number of teaching hours and weeks are proportionate to the objectives and scale of the activities.

Criterion:
Sustainable funding base and administrative capacity

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's overall financial situation is stable.
- The grant recipient's activities and finances form a clear and coherent whole.
- The City of Turku grant accounts for a justified and reasonable proportion of the funding for the grant recipient's activities, and its allocation and impact on the activities can be clearly demonstrated.
- The grant recipient has the capacity to provide teaching on a long-term and systematic basis.

Criterion:
Development of activities and cooperation

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient regularly evaluates its activities and uses the results of the evaluation to develop its activities.
- The grant recipient uses feedback from pupils, guardians or other stakeholders to develop its activities.
- The grant recipient's development objectives, implementation plan and monitoring arrangements are realistic and appropriate.
- The grant recipient engages in appropriate cooperation with educational institutions, early childhood education and care providers, cultural operators or other partners to develop its activities.

Criterion:
City of Turku strategic objectives (accessibility of cultural services and participation)

Assessment grounds:

- The grant recipient's activities complement and diversify the provision of basic education in the arts in Turku.
- The grant recipient's activities broaden the participant base and improve the accessibility of basic education in the arts.
- The grant recipient's activities support participants' wellbeing and participation.
- The grant recipient takes the principles of sustainable development, equality and non-discrimination into account in its activities.

Special conditions:

- The grant recipient is responsible for ensuring that the criminal record extracts of persons working with children are checked in accordance with current legislation.

Hobby Card (Boostii benefit)

Objective of the grant:

The objective of the grant is to pilot the Hobby Card physical activity benefit for arts hobbies involving physical activity (3755-2026).

The Hobby Card (Boostii benefit) is a physical activity benefit funded by the City of Turku, through which the City covers all or part of the fee for supervised recreational activities for children and young people aged 7–19 who live in Turku.

The financial support provided through the Hobby Card is allocated, based on the beneficiary's choice of activity, towards the participation fee set by the association. Activity providers may also receive other grants from the Cultural Committee or Sports Committee.

Eligibility:

The activity provider must offer regular supervised physical activity at least once (1) a week for a period of at least three (3) months. The activity provider must offer new participants at least two (2) free trial sessions before they commit to the activity. The activity provider must send the participant an invoice with a reference number. The activity provider must undertake to comply with the general provisions of the Cultural Committee's or Sports Committee's grant principles, the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning instruction, and the Recommendations for More Accessible Hobbies.

The minimum training requirement for instructors is a pedagogical qualification or completion of the Finnish Olympic Committee's Responsible Coach online course (1–1.5 hours). The activity provider must check the criminal record extract of every instructor working with children.

Preparation of grant decisions:

- The suitability of arts and cultural associations as Hobby Card activity providers is assessed by Cultural Services when the activities begin and at the beginning of each grant period. The assessment covers commitment to and compliance with the established principles, the groups receiving Hobby Card support each year, and the activity provider's contact details.
- The Head of Cultural Promotion issues an official decision on each activity provider applying to participate or continue participating in the Hobby Card scheme.

Special conditions:

- The Cultural Committee monitors compliance with the principles governing Hobby Card support. If an association breaches the principles or intentionally provides incorrect information, it may be removed from the group of activity providers participating in the Hobby Card scheme.

CONTACT DETAILS

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APPENDICES / APPENDIX 1: DE MINIMIS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

When awarding grants, state aid rules and the effects of the grant on competition and trade are taken into account. Under European Union law, state aid cannot be granted for business activities. The concept of an undertaking also includes, for example, associations, foundations and third-sector organisations if they engage in economic activities and offer goods or services on the market.

The City of Turku may also award a grant under the General Block Exemption Regulation if the conditions for de minimis aid do not allow the grant to be awarded and the conditions laid down in the General Block Exemption Regulation are met. A grant cannot be awarded if the conditions for de minimis aid or aid under the General Block Exemption Regulation are not met.

The assessment applies the relevant legislation and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment guidelines 2026:13.

Stages of the de minimis assessment:

1. It is determined whether the conditions for state aid are met:
- The aid is granted from public funds.
- The aid is selective.

2. It is determined whether the recipient constitutes an “undertaking” under EU State aid law:
- The applicant engages in economic activity (for example, charging admission or participation fees, selling services or products, or renting out premises or goods).
- Other State aid granting authorities have considered the operator to constitute an undertaking within the meaning of the EU definition.

3. It is determined whether the grant funds activities carried out on a market or in a competitive environment:
- The aid is allocated to the economic activity referred to above (for example, a grant awarded for all activities or a project grant for economic activity or its development).
- Other State aid granting authorities have considered aid granted to the operator for the same activities to constitute aid for economic activity.

4. It is determined whether the aid affects competition or trade between Member States:
- The activities are carried out professionally.
- Other operators may provide similar services.
- The activities in question are subject to market competition.
- The aid confers an economic advantage.

5. It is determined whether the aid can be granted as de minimis aid:
- The total amount of de minimis aid (grants, loans, guarantees and capital injections) received from different public authorities over a three-year period, as declared in writing by the applicant in the grant application, does not exceed EUR 300,000.
- The aid is related to export promotion, such as establishing a distribution network or export or marketing activities.
- The aid is related to activities that favour domestic products over imported products.
- The aid is granted in the form of a loan or guarantee.

If the de minimis aid ceiling is reached:

It is determined whether the aid can be granted under the General Block Exemption Regulation:
- The activities receiving the grant fall within the scope of Article 53 of the GBER.
- The eligible costs have been defined.

- The aid does not result in overcompensation.

6. The grant recipient and the supervisory authority are notified of the granting of the aid:
- The aid decision states whether the aid constitutes de minimis aid or State aid granted under the General Block Exemption Regulation.
- The de minimis aid granted is registered in the European Union's eAidRegister within 20 working days of the aid being granted.
- A notification of State aid granted under the General Block Exemption Regulation is submitted to the European Commission using a standard form via the electronic notification system administered by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment within 20 working days of the aid being granted.