



Community & Belonging Small Grant Application *Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD)*

Program Overview & Criteria Community Partners

INTRODUCTION

At THPRD, we believe everyone should feel welcome, included, and have a true sense of belonging in our parks, programs, and public spaces.

The **THPRD Community & Belonging Small Grant** is a new initiative designed to support projects that deepen connection, elevate diverse voices, and create inclusive spaces. Community partners can apply year-round, while funds are available, to lead or co-create projects with THPRD.

Rooted in THPRD's [Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Statement](#) and shaped by community and staff input, this grant reflects our commitment to equity and meaningful change. We recognize that public institutions, including ours, operate within systems of inequity, and we're taking action to support community-led efforts that build a more inclusive future.

WHAT IS IT?

The **THPRD Community & Belonging Small Grant** supports small-scale, people-centered projects that foster cross-cultural connection and help people and communities feel a stronger sense of belonging in THPRD parks and programs.

Grant funds may support:

- Cultural events or activities
- Storytelling, art, and creative expression
- Nature walks, outdoor gatherings, or community workshops
- Efforts that connect immigrant, refugee, or underrepresented groups to THPRD spaces
- Projects that reduce barriers or increase access
- Tools or resources like signage, interpretation, or guides
- And other projects that celebrate, uplift and/or support traditionally underrepresented voices.



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This grant prioritizes projects that are **collaborative, inclusive, and grounded in community voices**. By co-creating experiences with those you serve, you help ensure our parks and programs grow more welcoming every day.

WHAT IS A CO-CREATION MODEL?

The **THPRD Community & Belonging Small Grant** uses a **co-creation model**, which means projects are designed and carried out in true partnerships with community-based organizations, culturally specific groups, or additional groups who reflect and represent the people they serve.

This approach centers collaboration, trust-building, and shared decision-making. It recognizes that community partners are often best positioned to ensure that projects are culturally responsive, relevant, and grounded in lived experience.

Co-creation also acknowledges that THPRD is still learning—especially about how historical inequities and exclusion have shaped who feels welcome in our parks and programs. A co-created project helps shift that dynamic by **intentionally including and empowering those most impacted**.

In short, this model supports:

- Community-led ideas
- Representation and visibility
- Stronger collaboration with THPRD
- Lasting connections between people, place, and programs

Whether you're applying on your own or working with a partner, co-creation means **designing something with the community, not just for them**.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Community-based organizations



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- Cultural groups or nonprofits
- Informal community coalitions with strong local ties

You don't need to be a formal nonprofit to apply—but you do need to be deeply connected to the community.

Partnerships with THPRD staff are encouraged but not required. We hope this grant can be a starting point for building meaningful relationships with THPRD staff and centers, as we work together to create welcoming spaces for everyone.

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

- **Up to \$2,500 per project** (for bigger scopes that require larger amounts or resources please contact equity@thprd.org)
- **Rolling application process** begins Fall 2025
- **Projects must be completed by June 30, 2026**
 - Funds must be used, and the project must be completed by June 30, 2026. As applicants are granted funds, more details will be shared.

HOW TO APPLY

Complete the short-written application (available in **English and Spanish**)

Reach out if you need help brainstorming, finding ideal THPRD spaces, or preparing your application, we're here to support you!

REVIEW PROCESS & TIMELINE

- Applications are reviewed on the **first Wednesday of each month by a Review Committee**



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- Award notifications go out on the **20th of the month.**

SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

Need help planning your idea or completing the application?
We're here to support you!

- Email us at Equity@thprd.org
- We can also set up a phone call, Zoom or Teams meeting, or meet in person - whatever works best for you!
- Bilingual (English-Spanish) staff and interpretation in additional languages are available.

LET'S BUILD YOUR PROJECT TOGETHER

Contact: Equity & Engagement Team – Equity@thprd.org