

MPAC Worksheet

Agenda Item Title: Community Placemaking grant program update

Presenters: Dana Lucero, Principal Regional Planner

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Purpose/Objective

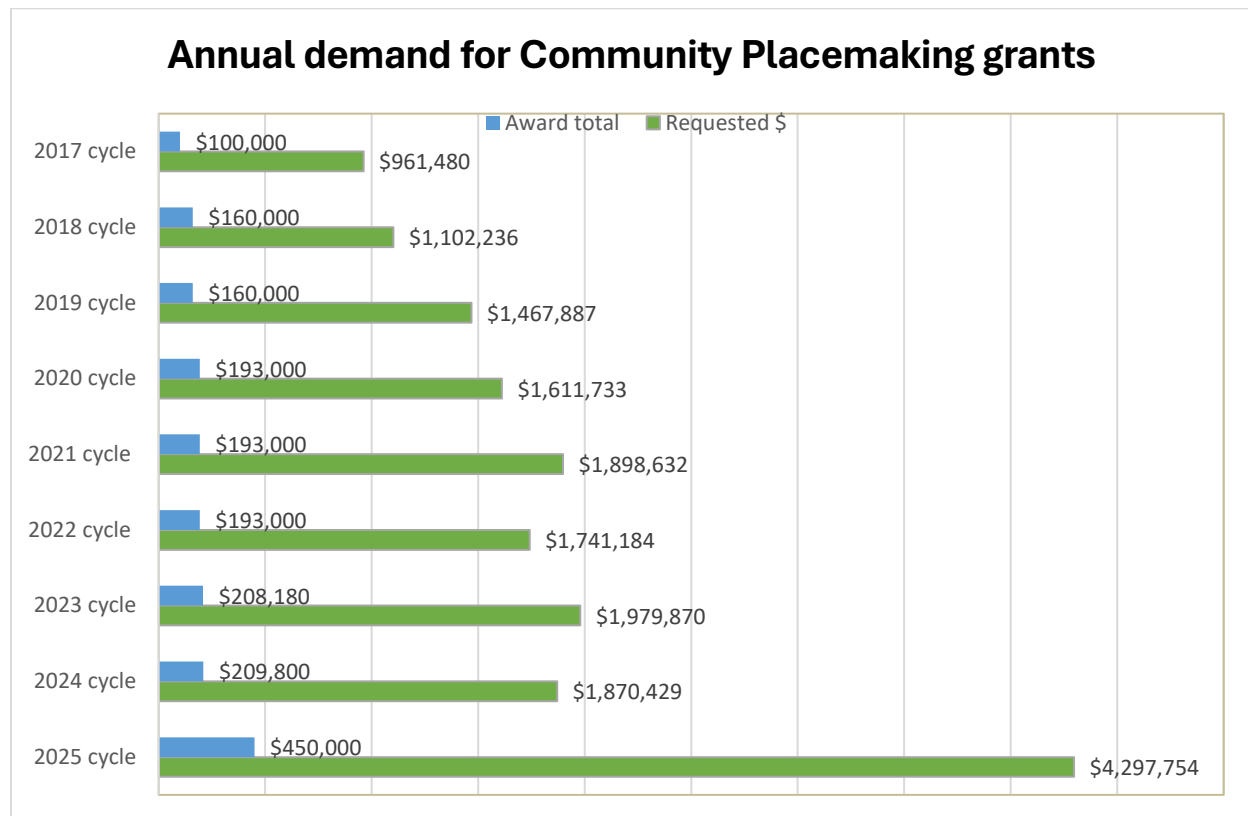
Provide MPAC members information about Metro's Community Placemaking grant program, share the 2025 grant award winners and hear from recent grantee(s).

Outcome

Staff welcomes suggestions for outreach for future grant cycles and invites MPAC members to share the grant opportunity with constituents.

What has changed since MPAC last considered this issue/item?

Community Placemaking grants support creative solutions to regionally significant and complex issues that are addressed at a hyper local, grassroots scale. Metro has awarded nearly \$2 million in 101 grants to community groups since beginning the program in 2017. Interest in these grants grew steadily over the first eight cycles. In 2024, Metro offered \$450,000 in grant awards, up from \$200,000. Demand more than doubled. Metro received 203 applications requesting \$4.3 million in funding. This shows us that communities across the region are ready to tackle critical challenges through arts and culture based activities and in partnership with each other.



Twenty-three proposals were selected for grants in the 2025 cycle. These grants will support the following groups' vision for their community.

- Teens impacted by incarceration, deportation and detention
- Asian and Southeast Asian communities
- Ukrainian community
- Black and Brown youth
- Iu-Mien youth and families (Chinese ethnic minority)
- Arab American community
- Hawaiian community
- Unhoused East Portland neighbors
- Filipino community
- Foster and at-risk youth
- Arab and Muslim community
- Latine community
- Khmer community
- Cambodian-American community
- Indigenous community
- Chamorro and Refaluwasch communities (Indigenous people of the Marianas Islands)
- Black artists, Indigenous artists and other artists of color
- Clackamas County residents of color
- BIPOC, queer and trans community
- Tigray community (Ethiopian group fleeing ethnic cleansing)
- Indigenous, Black and Latinx youth aged 13-21
- BIPOC community in St. Johns

The increased amount of funding available to award enabled a considerable increase over past cycles in the geographic distribution of grant awards around the region. With Metro's support, Community Placemaking activities will take place in Portland, Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, Lake Oswego, West Linn, Oregon City, Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Beaverton, and in other yet to be determined places in Washington County.

Applications for the 2026 cycle will open August 15 and close October 3. This summer, people interested in applying can attend virtual information sessions and receive individualized guidance from the grant program manager. Grant awards will be announced in January 2026. As always, staff encourages anyone interested in the opportunity to reach out for one-on-one assistance.

What packet material do you plan to include?

- List of 2025 Community Placemaking projects