Gig Harbor Arts Commission

2026 Creative Endeavor Grant Application

- Please submit the completed application as an attachment to an email and send to cityclerk@gigharborwa.gov.
- Applications must be received by **March 2, 2026**.
- Funding recommendations will be announced at the Arts Commission meeting on March 17, 2026.

Date of Application	January 2026		
Organization or Individual's Name	Ghostlight PA	**Non-Profit?** ■ Yes ☐ No	
Name of Contact	Rex Davison or Jessica Pixie Alfred		
If applicant is under the age of 18, please provide the name of an adult willing sign an agreement with the city on the applicant's behalf.			
Address	15307 30 Ave Ct. NW, 98332		
Phone Number	206-427-1953	**Email**	theater@ghostlightpa.com
Project Title	Shakespeare in the Parks		
Date(s) of Project *Final project report and invoice must be received by **December 7, 2026**.*	* July 2026, four (4) free-to-the-public performances of "Tempest" * August 2026, four (4) free-to-the-public performances of "The Complete Works of Shakespeare Abridged"		
Amount Requested	$3500		
Total Budget *Attach detailed budget*	$7000		
Admission Charged	$0		
Donations Accepted		■ Yes ☐ No	
Is there at least one free or "pay what you wish" performance?		■ Yes ☐ No	
Has the applicant/project received grant funding in the past?		☐ Yes ■ No	
If funding was received before, was the project successful?		☐ Yes ☐ No	
Please list other sponsoring agencies to whom you have applied.	Pierce County Arts Grant ($2750 ask) PenMet Parks ($2000 ask)		

GIG HARBOR

"THE MARITIME CITY"

Please limit responses to 500 words or less, per question.

1. Provide a summary of the project for which you are requesting financial support.

Please see attached narrative responses.

2. Describe the benefit to the community (see Funding Guidelines) and explain how this project will directly engage the audience and/or participants.

Please see attached narrative responses.

3. Explain how the city's funding will support this project. If the project can still be done without city funding, show how the requested funds will improve the project, even if only partially funded.

Please see attached narrative responses.

4. Explain how the project will target Gig Harbor residents or, if the event is designed to bring in visitors from outside the area, how you will advertise to potential visitors.

Please see attached narrative responses.

2026 Creative Endeavors Grant Application

Narrative Responses

Ghostlight Performing Arts

Please limit responses to 500 words or less, per question.

1. Provide a summary of the project for which you are requesting financial support.

Ghostlight Performing Arts respectfully requests support from the Gig Harbor Creative Endeavors Grant to expand our existing "Shakespeare in the Parks" free summer program into a two-production outdoor Shakespeare series for summer 2026. Building on our summer program's growing community attendance over the past two years, this expanded initiative will present two complete Shakespeare-based productions, offered entirely free of charge to the public, in two of Gig Harbor's most accessible public parks.

In summer 2026, Ghostlight will reprise its popular summer production "The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)," a fast-paced contemporary comedy that introduces audiences of all ages to Shakespeare's canon through humor and physical storytelling, at Sehmel Homestead Park. Complementing this modern work, we will also stage "The Tempest," one of Shakespeare's most imaginative and emotionally resonant plays, at the new Dorothy Heritage Park amphitheater.

Together, these productions create a balanced artistic offering: one playful and approachable, the other lyrical and classic. Presenting both allows us to engage longtime theatergoers in a classic summertime tradition while also welcoming first-time audiences, families, and those who may not otherwise attend live theater due to financial, transportation, or cultural barriers. All performances will be fully free and open to the public, reinforcing Ghostlight's goal of removing cost as an obstacle to arts participation.

2026 City of Gig Harbor grant funding will directly fund all aspects of production for "The Tempest," including a small director stipend, costumes, sets, printing, promotional materials, and grant administration costs. Partnering with community funders such as the City of Gig Harbor ensures that our production can be presented outdoors without charging admission. The project will engage 12-15 local actors and production staff, engaging Gig Harbor's creative community while showcasing the depth of talent within our region.

Our expanded Shakespeare in the Parks series aligns closely with the Creative Endeavors Grant's priorities by activating public spaces, increasing equitable access to the arts, showcasing local artists, and fostering shared cultural experiences. By presenting two distinct productions in two separate community parks, the project encourages residents to gather, connect, and experience high-quality performing arts in familiar, welcoming environments.

Ultimately, this initiative transforms Shakespeare in the Parks from a single event into a season-long cultural offering, deepening its impact and ensuring that Gig Harbor continues to be a place where creativity, accessibility, and community thrive.

2. Describe the benefit to the community (see Funding Guidelines) and explain how this project will directly engage the audience and/or participants.

Public Benefit

This project provides a clear public benefit by offering free, live community theater to the Gig Harbor community in welcoming, outdoor public spaces. By eliminating ticket costs and presenting live performances in city parks, the project ensures that residents of all ages and income levels can participate. Families, seniors on fixed incomes, and young people who may not otherwise have access to live theater are able to experience high-quality arts programming close to home.

Community Engagement & Participation

At its heart, *Shakespeare in the Parks* is about gathering neighbors together. Performances at Sehmel Homestead Park and Dorothy Heritage Park invite audiences to bring blankets, lawn chairs, and picnics, creating a relaxed, festival-like atmosphere that encourages connection and conversation. The productions are designed to meet people where they are—informal, approachable, and rooted in shared community space rather than traditional theater venues.

The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged) actively engages audiences through direct address, physical comedy, and playful interaction, making it especially appealing to families, teens, and first-time theatergoers. *The Tempest* offers a more reflective experience that resonates strongly with adult and senior audiences, while still capturing the imagination of younger viewers through its themes of magic and nature.

Accessibility & Inclusion

Outdoor, daytime-friendly performances improve physical and social accessibility for seniors and families with young children. Clear sightlines, casual seating, and open environments help remove barriers that can exist in formal performance spaces. The free nature of the program ensures equitable access across the community.

All planned performance venues—Sehmel Homestead Park and Dorothy Heritage Park—are ADA accessible public parks maintained by the PenMet Parks.

Support for Local Artists & Creative Economy

This project directly benefits Gig Harbor and its artists by providing creative opportunities for local actors and production staff. Keeping resources local strengthens the regional creative economy and ensures the work onstage reflects the community it serves.

Placemaking & Cultural Vitality

By activating public parks with arts programming, the project supports placemaking goals and reinforces Gig Harbor's identity as a community that values creativity, shared experiences, and cultural vitality. These performances transform familiar parks into spaces of storytelling, laughter, and connection—memories that last long after the final curtain.

3. Explain how the city's funding will support this project. If the project can still be done without city funding, show how the requested funds will improve the project, even if only partially funded.

City funding would directly double the size, reach, and community impact of Ghostlight Performing Arts' Shakespeare in the Parks program.

Use of City Funding and Project Impact

City funding is critical to expanding Ghostlight Performing Arts' Shakespeare in the Parks program into a Shakespeare in the Parks Festival of Plays for summer 2026. The requested support would allow Ghostlight to add a second full production—"The Tempest"—alongside "The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)," significantly increasing the program's reach and benefit to the Gig Harbor community.

With city funding, the project would double in scale and impact, increasing the number of summer productions from one to two, the number of free public performances from four to eight, and total attendance from approximately 300 to more than 600 local theatergoers (estimated at 75 people per each of eight performances). This expansion allows Ghostlight to serve more families, youth, seniors, and first-time theatergoers through accessible, outdoor performances in public parks.

City funds will directly support the costs associated with mounting a second production, including a small director stipend, costumes, sets, props, and marketing costs. City of Gig Harbor resources are essential to maintaining high artistic quality while keeping all performances completely free to the public.

Without city funding, Ghostlight would not be able to expand programming in 2026 and would be required to cut “The Tempest” entirely, limiting the Shakespeare program to a single production and significantly reducing community access, artistic variety, and creative opportunities for local artists.

If partially funded, city support would still strengthen the Shakespeare in the Parks project by allowing Ghostlight to either a) preserve core elements of “The Tempest” and deliver a smaller-scale production or b) cover royalty costs for additional performances of “The Complete Works of Shakespeare, Abridged”—either way ensuring that expanded access to live theater remains possible throughout our communities, even at a smaller scale.

City investment in this project directly results in more free performances, greater community participation, and stronger cultural vitality for Gig Harbor.

4. Explain how the project will target Gig Harbor residents or, if the event is designed to bring in visitors from outside the area, how you will advertise to potential visitors.

Targeting Gig Harbor Residents and Audience Outreach

This project is designed first and foremost to serve Gig Harbor residents, with performances intentionally located in highly visible, well-used public parks—Sehmel Homestead Park and Dorothy Heritage Park—that are already gathering places for local families, seniors, and community members. By presenting the work in neighborhood parks rather than ticketed venues, the project naturally reaches residents who live, work, and play in Gig Harbor.

Ghostlight Performing Arts will prioritize local outreach by advertising through Gig Harbor–based communication channels, including:

- Local community calendars and arts listings
- Partnerships with the City of Gig Harbor, Parks Department, and local nonprofits
- Flyers and posters at libraries, schools, coffee shops, community centers, and small businesses
- Direct outreach to families, youth organizations, and senior centers

Digital outreach will focus on Gig Harbor–specific audiences, including social media posts targeted by location, email newsletters to local subscribers, and event sharing through neighborhood groups and community pages. Messaging will emphasize that the performances are free, outdoor, family-friendly, and local, lowering barriers to participation and encouraging spontaneous attendance.

While the primary audience is Gig Harbor residents, the project will also attract visitors from nearby communities such as Key Peninsula, Port Orchard, and the greater South Puget Sound region. This regional visibility supports local placemaking goals and introduces new visitors to Gig Harbor's parks. Regional promotion will occur through broader arts calendars and word-of-mouth, without shifting the project's focus away from serving local residents.

Because the program is free and outdoors, it encourages repeat attendance and multi-generational participation, allowing residents to attend more than one performance or bring friends and neighbors. This grassroots approach to outreach ensures the project remains community-centered while also contributing to Gig Harbor's cultural vitality and visibility.

5. If this project involves a venue – is the venue ADA accessible*?

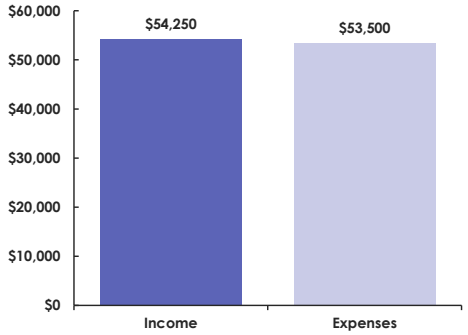
Yes. All planned performance venues—Sehmel Homestead Park and Dorothy Heritage Park—are ADA accessible public parks maintained by the City of Gig Harbor.

As an outdoor program, the performances allow for flexible seating arrangements, making it easier to accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, and other accessibility needs. Ghostlight staff and volunteers will be available on-site to assist patrons as needed and to help ensure an inclusive, welcoming environment for all attendees.

Sehmel Park offers paved or compacted paths, accessible parking, ADA-compliant portable restroom access, and paved pathways allowing patrons with mobility devices to navigate the spaces safely and comfortably. Ghostlight Performing Arts will also designate accessible seating areas with clear sightlines and provide space for mobility aids, ensuring that audience members of all abilities can fully participate in the event.

2026 GHOSTLIGHT ANNUAL BUDGET - DRAFT

SUMMARY	
Total Annual Income	$54,250
Total Annual Expenses	$53,500
BALANCE	**$750**
PERCENTAGE OF INCOME SPENT	**99%**



ESTIMATED INCOME

Item	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Ticket Sales: The Odd Couple				5000									$5,000
Ticket Sales: Misery										5000			$5,000
Ticket Sales: A Taffeta Christmas												5000	$5,000
Kids: Pioneer Winter Tuition						5000							$5,000
Kids: Pioneer Fall Tuition						5000							$5,000
Mobile: PenMet Parks (Shakespeare)								2000					$2,000
Mobile: Pen Met Parks (Summer Camps)								6000					$6,000
Grants Requested:													$0
City: Creative Endeavors Grant					*3500*								*$3,500*
County: Arts Grant (1)					2750								*$2,750*
County: Arts Grant (2)					*5000*								*$5,000*
September Fundraising Event									*10000*				*$10,000*
Total	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$5,000**	**$11,250**	**$10,000**	**$0**	**$8,000**	**$10,000**	**$5,000**	**$0**	**$5,000**	**$54,250**

EXPENSES

Item	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Kids: Pioneer Elem Winter Session													
Director's Stipend			$1,000										$1,000
Costumes/Set/Props	$500												$500
Mainstage: The Odd Couple													
Rent (3 months @ FICRA; Feb-May)						$3,000							$3,000
Director Stipend					$1,000								$1,000
Technical Director Stipend					$500								$500

Royalties	$1,750												$1,750
Costumes & Wigs			$1,000										$1,000
Sets & Props		$500											$500
Printing/Marketing			$500										$500
Mobile: The Tempest													
Director Stipend									$1,000				$1,000
Technical Director Stipend (all Mobile summer productions & camps June-August)									$1,000				$1,000
Costumes & Wigs						$500							$500
Sets & Props						$500							$500
Printing/Marketing						$200	$300						$500
Kids: Summer Camps													
Director's Stipend								$1,000					$1,000
Costumes/Set/Props (2 sessions)							$1,000						$1,000
Printing/Marketing						$150	$350						$500
Mobile: The Complete Works, Abridged													
Director Stipend									$1,000				$1,000
Royalties						$1,000							$1,000
Costumes & Wigs							$500						$500
Sets & Props							$500						$500
Printing/Marketing							$200	$300					$500
Kids: Pioneer Elem Fall Session													
Director's Stipend										$1,000			$1,000
Costumes/Set/Props										$500			$500
Fall Fundraising Event													
Event Costs								$1,000	$2,000				$3,000
Mainstage: Misery, The Play													
Rent (3 months @ FICRA; Aug-Oct)											$3,000		$3,000
Director Stipend											$1,000		$1,000
Technical Director's Stipend											$500		$500
Royalties							$1,350						$1,350
Costumes & Wigs									$150				$150
Sets & Props									$500				$500
Printing/Marketing									$200	$300			$500
Mainstage: A Taffeta Christmas													
Rent (+2 months @ FICRA, Nov-Dec)												$2,000	$2,000
Director Stipend												$1,000	$1,000
Technical Director Stipend												$500	$500
Royalties												$1,500	$1,500
Costumes & Wigs												$200	$200
Sets & Props												$500	$500
Printing/Marketing											$200	$300	$500
Promotions													
Festivals (3-4)						$400	$400	$400					$1,200
Mobile: Capital Investments													
10 foot Box Truck													$0
Portable Stage Risers						$8,000							$8,000
Office and Administration													
Executive Administration	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250	$250	$3,000
Storage Unit Rent	$300	$300	$300	$300	$300	$300	$300	$300	$300	$300	$300	$300	$3,600
Grants Management:													
Pierce County Arts - Shakespeare									$250				$250
Pierce County Arts - Capital									$250				$250
Gig Harbor Creative Endeavors									$250				$250
	$2,800	$1,050	$3,050	$550	$2,050	$14,300	$5,150	$3,250	$7,150	$2,350	$5,250	$6,550	$53,500