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	February 26, 2026		
Organization or Individual's Name	Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance	**Non-Profit?** ■ Yes ☐ No	
Name of Contact	Clare Dunis		
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	3311 Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor		
Phone Number	253-514-0071	**Email**	executivedirector@ghdwa.org
Project Title	Chalk the Harbor & Waterfront Art Walk		
Date(s) of Project *Final project report and invoice must be received by **December 7, 2026**.*	Saturday, August 15, 2026		
Amount Requested	$3500		
Total Budget *Attach detailed budget*	$9000		
Admission Charged	$0 (Free Community Event)		
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.	We have $2500 in sponsorships secured from three local businesses and currently looking for a further 2 sponsors for the event		

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

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

Chalk the Harbor is a beloved, free, family-friendly tradition where participants of all ages and skill levels transform the sidewalks of Harborview Drive into a vibrant community gallery. In 2026, we are building on this "street chalking" foundation by integrating more than 30 local artists directly into waterfront businesses. This allows families to stroll the district, watch live art happen in real-time, and discover new shops along the way.

The centerpiece remains our inclusive community mural project. Following the 2025 success of "Community Currents," where nearly 1,000 residents painted individual wooden fish, our 2026 project will deepen this connection by crowdsourcing the mural's theme directly from public input. This ensures that the final permanent installation is a true, "made-by-us" reflection of Gig Harbor's residents. For more details, see: https://ghdwa.org/chalk-the-harbor.

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

This event brings an immediate burst of energy to the historic district by inviting families back to the waterfront for a day of shared creativity. Since the relocation of the Art Festival, Chalk the Harbor has helped fill a seasonal gap, encouraging residents to reconnect with their downtown merchants in a fun, relaxed environment.

Direct audience engagement is the core of the event:

Approachable Art: By placing artists inside local businesses and live musicians in Skansie Brothers Park, we create a "surprise and delight" trail that encourages families to explore the entire district.

Hands-On Creativity: We provide free chalk and supplies so that every child (and child at heart) can leave their mark on the waterfront.

Permanent Pride: Participants don't just attend an event; they contribute to a permanent mural that serves as a lasting reminder of our community's unity and shared creativity

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 is the vital "fuel" that keeps this event free and accessible for our families. The $3,500 requested will specifically allow the Alliance to:

Keep it Free: We allocate $500 for chalk supplies so that no family is turned away because they don't have their own materials.

Support Local Talent: We have budgeted $3,500 for stipends to provide a modest thank-you to the 30+ local artists and musicians who give their time to share their talents.

Build the Mural: The grant directly supports the $3,000 budget for the community art project (potential artist costs) and supplies, ensuring this crowd-sourced project can be professionally constructed and permanently installed.

Invite the Neighbors: Funding supports our $1,000 marketing effort to ensure Gig Harbor families know exactly when and where to join the fun.

Without city funding, we would have to significantly scale back the interactive demonstrations and potentially limit the scope of the community art project

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.

Chalk the Harbor utilizes a dual-track marketing strategy to engage both locals and tourists.

Local Engagement: We utilize our weekly newsletter (reaching 5,000

Local Engagement: We utilize our weekly newsletter (reaching 5,000+ subscribers with a 60% open rate) and live promotion at the Waterfront Farmers Market, which draws 3,000 attendees weekly. We also maintain deep partnerships with local schools and community organizations.

Regional/Visitor Outreach: To drive overnight stays, we utilize target

Regional/Visitor Outreach: To drive overnight stays, we utilize targeted social media campaigns, regional arts networks, and tourism platforms. In 2025, our strategy successfully drew 21% of participants from outside the immediate area, including visitors from seven different states. We continue to partner with local hotels and businesses to offer incentives for multi-day visits

Venue Accessibility Information

If this project involves a venue – is the venue ADA accessible*? ■ Yes ☐ No
If you answered no, what considerations for accessibility have been made? NA
**Accessible means that anyone in a wheelchair, scooter, walker, or on crutches or cane(s) can gain access and entry to and enjoy/participate in the event being held as can anyone who is temporarily able-bodied. This includes access to parking, building entry, and restroom/toilet facilities.*

Please direct questions about the application or application process to cityclerk@gigharborwa.gov.

Gig Harbor Waterfront Alliance
Chalk the Harbor: Celebrating Art & Community 2026 Budget

Project/Event Income or Expense	Additional Details (Optional)	Estimated Cost/Value
Confirmed Income	$2500 sponsorships from 3 local businesses/orgs	$2,500
Projected Income	Premier event sponsorship	$3,000
Projected Income	Creative Endeavor Grant	$3,500
Total Projected Income		$9,000
Projected Expense	Artist Stipends	$3,500
Projected Expense	Community Mural Artist + Supplies	$3,000
Projected Expense	Live Musicians	$800
Projected Expense	Permits + Fees	$200
Projected Expense	Marketing (Digital & Print)	$1,000
Projected Expense	Chalk Supplies	$500
Total Projected Expenses		$9,000
Net Profit		$0