The LeBauer Park Create & Elevate Space Grant

Call for Proposals

About Greensboro Downtown Parks, Inc. (GDPI): We believe parks are more than just green spaces. They are where the community comes together. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, our mission is to manage and activate Greensboro's downtown parks, focusing on public engagement, park maintenance, financial sustainability, and keeping these spaces active and welcoming.

Purpose of Create & Elevate Space Grants: This program invites Greensboro-based artists, performers, creative teams, and community organizations to propose innovative programming for LeBauer Park. The grant will showcase the new GMA/FirstPoint Screen & Sound System and enhance LeBauer Park as an active space for creativity, culture, connection, and community participation. Create & Elevate encourages applications in the following categories: *performing arts, literary & media arts, visual arts, interactive gaming & creative art, locally sourced micro-cinema, hybrid performance & live broadcasts, and digital archive & living history.*

Grant Value: Three recipients will each receive a Create & Elevate In-Kind Grant Package valued at approximately $10,000**.** Create & Elevate is an in-kind space grant and does not provide a cash award or other direct financial assistance.

In addition to the use of park facilities (The Great Lawn in LeBauer Park, Price/Bryan Performance Pavilion, GMA/FirstPoint Screen and Sound System, and GMA/FirstPoint Square), GDPI will include selected grant recipient programs in its internal marketing, including social media, park posters, and the digital newsletter.

Eligibility: To be eligible, the following must be true and verifiable for the applicant:

- Be age 18 or older at the time of the application.
- Submit a performing arts concept that includes the GMA/FirstPoint Screen and/or Sound System.
- No recreations; applicants may need appropriate licenses.
- Offer programming at no charge to the public.
- Be available for one of the three-day session series: *June 11-13* | *July 16-18* | *August 27 - 29*
- Provide at least one public engagement opportunity each session
- Independently fund, staff, manage, and execute the proposed project.
- Demonstrate the ability to collaborate with GDPI staff.
- Present programming that is inclusive and non-discriminatory.
- Follow GDPI policies, park rules, safety requirements, and applicable regulations.
- Demonstrate that the project is realistic within the proposed guidelines, resources, and timeline.

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Restrictions to Eligibility: The following are not eligible to apply.

- GDPI employees, officers, or their immediate family members
- City of Greensboro employees or their family members
- GDPI reserves the right, at its sole discretion, not to review late or incomplete applications.
- Projects are also ineligible if they primarily involve partisan political activity, commercial sales, fundraising, discriminatory or inappropriate content, unreasonable safety risks, permanent alterations to park property, or activities inconsistent with GDPI's nonprofit mission and policies.

Individuals and organizations that do not qualify for this opportunity are urged to explore other support options offered by GDPI.

About the Application: The application is an online tool (Jotform) that includes several fill-in-the-blank responses with a request to attach required documents, such as your digital performing arts concept.

Selection Criteria: Applicants will be evaluated using the following criteria -

Selection Criteria	**Weight**
Artistic Vision, Creativity & Originality	25%
Community Engagement & Public Impact	25%
Feasibility & Readiness	20%
Innovation & Use of Public Space	15%
Inclusivity & Accessibility	10%
Strength & Clarity of Application	5%
TOTAL	**100%**

Professional experience alone will not determine selection. Emerging, amateur, and established artists will be considered based on the strength and feasibility of their proposals. Judges will be a panel of downtown stakeholders, community members, and staff.

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IMPORTANT DATES

- September 1, 2026 — Create & Elevate announced in the GDPI September newsletter
- September 8, 2026 — Applications open (use Jotform)
- September 28, 2026 — Virtual Applicant Information Session (webinar), 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
- November 1, 2026 — Application deadline; late or incomplete applications may not be accepted
- December 15, 2026 — Selected recipients notified
- Session Dates #1: June 11 - 13, 2027
- Session Dates #2: July 16 - 18, 2027
- Session Dates #3: August 27 - 29, 2027

OPTIONAL - CALL FOR PROPOSALS INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Create & Elevate: Call for Proposals Information Session
Monday, September 28, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
On Google Meet or Dial-In by Phone

Please email Robyn Abdusamad at robyn@gdpi.org to RSVP for the informational webinar instructions. A summary of Q&A will be posted to the GDPI website after the webinar.

GREENSBORO DOWNTOWN PARKS, INC. LEADERSHIP

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