

# Scooter Grants

## Powering Child-Centered Communities

Request for Proposals | April 19, 2019

At the Children’s Museum of Tacoma, we know you have some amazing ideas for improving the lives of children in Pierce County! We’ve heard exceptional, innovative, and even wild concepts at our annual *Symposium On Our Youngest Citizens* and in follow-up surveys for the past few years.

We request all interested community members to submit project proposals for the Scooter Grant program for projects that invite children’s presence, ideas, and wonder in neighborhoods across the county.

Following the Museum’s mission to “honor children and champion play” and vision that “communities embrace the power of play and value the contributions of children”, we seek to fund community action projects focused on infusing play into the lives of both children and adults. Successful projects will recognize and advocate for the needs and rights of children as citizens, increase the visibility of children as members of our communities, and/or positively influence systems that surround children and families.

Each group will develop and implement a specific project that will thread play into the fabric of our community - to celebrate the joy of childhood and inspire adults to reconnect with their own playful side. To carry out these projects, the Museum will disperse small grants up to \$2,000. More information is available on the Scooter Grant program webpage found at [PlayTacoma.org/grantprogram](http://PlayTacoma.org/grantprogram).

To apply, please submit two PDF documents to [mmixer@playtacoma.org](mailto:mmixer@playtacoma.org) by July 1, 2019:

1. Completed application form, including:
  - a. Group description - names of individuals, ages, contact information, and their associated organizations. Please note who is acting as the primary contact for the project.
  - b. A description of your project: what you aim to do, a project timeline, who will benefit, and how.
  - c. A narrative explaining how the project addresses the goals of the Scooter Grant Program (see [FAQs.](#))
2. A single page, line item budget showing estimated expenses by category as well as anticipated income. You are welcome to use the provided template or your own internal budget.

Applications and budget documents can be found online at [PlayTacoma.org/grantprogram](http://PlayTacoma.org/grantprogram)

Please submit questions to [mmixer@playtacoma.org](mailto:mmixer@playtacoma.org) by June 20, 2019. Individual responses will be issued as soon as possible. Questions submitted after June 20, 2019 will be responded to as time allows until noon June 28, 2019



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[PlayTacoma.org/grantprogram](http://PlayTacoma.org/grantprogram) | 253.627.6031

# Scooter Grants

## Powering Child-Centered Communities

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What's this all about?

Small grants will be awarded to successful projects that bring more play, in unexpected and new ways, into the lives of Pierce County children, and might engage their grown-ups in play as well.

Projects could address many of the spaces and interactions children experience throughout their days such as stores, restaurants, or other businesses; medical and social services; neighborhoods and parks; or childcare/schools.

#### Why is it called Scooter Grants?

Scooter Grants: Powering Child-Centered Communities are named and funded in memory of CMT Board member Scott Marshall, whom we lost in December 2017. Scott had a beloved alter-ego: "Scooter" the Clown. After graduating from clown school, he was known to make special appearances as Scooter at local community events.

Scott loved the Museum's annual *Symposium On Our Youngest Citizens* and was so proud of the Museum's role in building a child-centered community, so it seems natural that his own love of children would live on by making our community a better place for them.

#### Who can apply?

Any Pierce County resident with a great idea for making our communities more child-centered and play-powered is eligible. You'll also need at least two friends committed to helping with your plan. Individuals working together, non-profits, businesses, advocacy groups, neighborhood coalitions, service groups and more can apply. In fact, we hope to build a cohort of projects representing a broad range of interest groups.

#### What about kids?

Children eight and over are encouraged to apply, with an adult acting as the primary contact for the project. And, since children are the focus of this grant program, be sure to think about how children will be involved in the project planning process and engaged in implementation.

#### How many times can you apply?

The sky's the limit! But awards will be restricted to one per lead applicant. Although, if you're a go-getter, you can participate in other projects, just not as the lead application.

#### How much money is available? When?

We hope to award 4-6 grants up to \$2,000 each. Applicants will receive communication on funding decisions the week of September 9, 2019.

#### How can I apply?

Review instructions in the Request for Proposals and email your PDF documents to Maddy Mixer at [mmixer@playtacoma.org](mailto:mmixer@playtacoma.org) by July 1, 2019. Learn more online at [PlayTacoma.org/grantprogram](http://PlayTacoma.org/grantprogram).

## How can funding be used?

The project must be intended to benefit the general public, rather than an individual, small group, club, or association. For example, funds may not be used for a private school's or preschool's play ground, unless it is accessible to the general public. Funding is project-focused and cannot be used for an organization's general operating or capital campaign expenses. If used to support an event, it must be the launch of a longer-range program or effort intended to have ongoing elements. Grant funding will support expenses incurred from October 1, 2019 to March 1, 2020.

## When is this all happening?

Submit your amazing ideas to us by July 1, 2019 at 5 p.m. We'll be in touch if we have questions the week of July 6th. Funding decisions will be communicated the week of September 9, and we will announce awards publicly at our Power of Play Lunch on September 17, 2019. Projects will begin October 1, 2019 and wrap up by March 1, 2020. You'll give us a project update December 1, 2019, and let us know how it all went in final reports in early March 2020.

## What happens next?

As the third *Scooter Grants: Powering Child-Centered Communities* program group, you'll light the way for others to follow. Each project will be profiled in the Spring 2020 *Symposium On Our Youngest Citizens* and shared on the Museum's website. One or two of the projects will be highlighted at the *Symposium* to inspire others and launch the call for 2020 project proposals.

## Any fine print?

The Museum will run Washington State Patrol and National Sex Offender public website background checks on the primary contacts for each finalist.

Awardees will sign a contract agreeing to grant requirements, including a background check and an IRS form W-9. Finalists must be able to pass a Washington State Patrol and National Sex Offender background checks. The contract will commit awardees to delivering the project as described in the proposal, reporting expenses, submitting reports (including photos/videos) to document the project impact, and attending the spring 2020 *Symposium On Our Youngest Citizens*.

## But, you still have questions?

To have all your ducks in a row by the deadline, we recommend you email Maddy Mixter at [mmixter@playtacoma.org](mailto:mmixter@playtacoma.org) by June 20th and she'll answer you ASAP. And, if your ducks are being unruly and you happen to have questions after June 20th, she'll do her best to answer them up until noon on June 28, 2019.