



## Special Event & Festival Fee Discounts

The City of Asheville currently provides a 75% discount off standard property use fees and permit fees for outdoor special events produced by federally recognized 501c nonprofit organizations. Events must be conducted on public property. The discount does not apply to temporary uses of private property. Local churches and other organizations may qualify for discounts as nonprofit organizations when verified as nonprofit with the NC Department of Revenue. This discount is limited to 6 special events per organization, per year. Discounts are automatically applied to event invoices upon verification of qualifying tax status.

## Strategic Event Partnerships

The City of Asheville has long valued partnerships with local organizations to produce festivals and special events that further the city's economic and community development. The City's strategic event partnerships are managed under 3-year performance-focused agreements that leverage city resources to promote an environment for investment, entrepreneurship, and advancing Asheville's arts/creative economy.

The City's partnership agreements are reviewed every 3 years. The next opportunity to submit a proposal for partnership is scheduled for January 2019 for a scope of work to occur in calendar years 2020, 2021 and 2022. Community & Economic Development staff will use a competitive application process to select and recommend proposals to Asheville City Council. Workshops to preview the request for proposal (RFP) will be advertised publicly and held in December 2018, the month prior to formal release of the RFP.

## Policy Goals & Eligibility (2017-2019)

The following objectives were identified for the City's strategic event partnerships for years 2017-2019:

1. Stimulate local commerce and motivate entrepreneurship
2. Support Asheville as a culturally diverse city, bringing festivals and public art that promote a sense of community within Asheville
3. Advance neighborhood identities, strengthening and inspiring underserved populations

The City required the following minimum criteria for organizations submitting proposals:

1. Organizations must be North Carolina state or federally recognized nonprofits based in Asheville or Buncombe County.
2. The majority of special events conducted under City partnerships must be free and open to the public.
3. Support requests should not exceed 25% of projected annual production costs.

## Staff Contact:

Jon Fillman, Community & Economic Development – Special Events  
PO Box 7148 (Asheville City Hall, 70 Court Plaza - 5<sup>th</sup> Floor)  
Asheville, NC 28802  
828-259-5738

[jfillman@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:jfillman@ashevillenc.gov)

<http://www.ashevillenc.gov/specialevents>