

AURORA



THE AURORA GROUP A RUBY FOUNDATION

Supporting our community through events of celebration

Information for Funding Grant Submissions 2011-2012

What is the Aurora Group?

The Aurora Group is a charity that raises funds to disburse to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community organisations. It is the fundraising organisation people choose when they want their money to benefit the community as a whole and not just one specific cause.

The Aurora Group raises funds through two main categories of activities - a Giving Program and Events.

The Giving Program allows individuals to make tax deductible donations to Aurora on a regular basis.

Events organised by Aurora, like the Aurora Annual Dinner celebrating International Stonewall Day, are unique celebrations are important fund raisers that also bring fun, glamour and joy to our community.

Aurora's Aims:

- To raise and disburse funds for charitable works and causes which promote, provide or carry out activities, facilities or projects for the benefit or welfare of the lesbian, gay and transgender communities or any members of these communities who have a particular need by reason of youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social or economic circumstances;
- To organise, promote and sponsor events, exhibitions, forums and other activities which raise funds for disbursement, and which bring people together in a spirit of companionship, fun, sharing and giving for philanthropic purposes;
- To receive donations, grants and bequests from persons and institutions including governments for disbursement;
- To promote and provide education for young lesbians, gay men and transgender people through various strategies and particularly through role modelling, leadership and philanthropic acts in the community; and
- To undertake to meet these objectives in a spirit of joy, celebration and fun.

How long has Aurora been around?

The Aurora Group – A Ruby Foundation Limited was incorporated in 1999. Aurora was founded by a group of friends who shared a common history of extensive involvement in many community organisations, and who came together to raise funds for the lesbian and gay communities and have fun doing it.

Who does Aurora disburse funds to?

We disburse the funds we raise to community organisations and public benevolent institutions that have deductible gift recipient (DGR – Item 1) status and whose services are compatible with our aims. Specific community projects may be eligible if the coordinating organisation has DGR status. We will give priority to non-HIV/AIDS projects such as mental health, ageing support, social support and education services where other funding opportunities are limited. As Aurora currently raises funds from NSW based events, we will also give priority to NSW based projects or national projects that demonstrate benefits for NSW GLBT community.

In addition to our main beneficiaries, Aurora distributes small grants for worthwhile projects and organisations. Small grants began in 2004, when for the first time Aurora had enough funds to distribute grants to five different community organisations. Since then we have disbursed funds to over 40 community projects. Now thanks to our generous supporters, we are able to again call for applications for grants.

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How does my organisation apply for a funding grant from Aurora?

Aurora is now seeking applications for funding grants of up to \$5,000 from gay, lesbian and/or transgender organisations like those described above or from generalist organisations seeking funding for projects specifically targeting gay, lesbian and/or transgender people. As a guide the average grant awarded is approximately \$2,500 - \$3,500.

To apply, please complete the 2011-2012 Aurora Small Grants Application Form. You can download this from the Aurora website at www.auroragroup.com.au.

The application asks you to explain the following:

- Who your organisation is and its aims
- Proof of DGR Item 1 Tax status
- What you require the funds for (e.g.: a special project)
- How much you require. Please be specific here and provide a basic breakdown of your budget. Please note that grants up to \$5,000 are offered – please ask only for what you really need, because we only have so much to go around.
- The time period the funds will be spent in.
- How your project or activity will benefit the lesbian, gay and/or transgender community.

Does my organisation need to be a registered charity to apply for funds?

Yes, your organisation must be a not for profit charitable organisation and you **must** have Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) tax status.

To find out more about DGR tax status please visit the Australian Taxation Office website at <http://www.ato.gov.au/nonprofit/content.asp?doc=/content/62774.htm>

What do we do if our organisation does not have DGR status?

We understand that there are many GLBT community organisations that carry out important work in our community but do not have DGR status. Unfortunately, Australian tax law places restrictions on who we can make grants to, as a result of the tax deduction we offer our donors.

There may be a local not-for-profit organisation in your community that you can talk to about working together on a project. The project needs to be managed, delivered and acquitted by the organisation that receives the grant from Aurora.

How will Aurora decide who to grant the funds to and how much?

Aurora has a funding grants policy, and all submissions go to a working group of the Board of Directors for consideration. The working group's determinations and recommendations are reported to the full Board for endorsement. If endorsed, the Board then makes recommendations to the Trustees of The Aurora Group Trust Fund who disburse the funds. Decisions made by the Directors and the Trustees are based on the aims and objectives of Aurora and priority will be given to those organisations and projects that most closely fit with those aims. Unfortunately due to limited funds, not all applications will be successful and not all successful applications will necessarily receive the full amount requested.

Your application will be measured against the following selection criteria:

- How your project or activity will benefit the lesbian, gay and/or transgender community
- The specific aims and objectives of your project and the strategies used to achieve these objectives.
- The quality of your application and project
- Expected project outcomes and demonstration of ability to achieve those outcomes

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- Budget (including detailed breakdown of income and expenditure)
- How your project aligns with Aurora's aims and objectives

Are there things Aurora does not fund?

Please note Aurora does not provide funding for the following:

- Entertainment events such as dance parties and picnics
- Existing and on-going wages/positions within an organisation
- Projects that receive on-going funding from other sources (eg: Government funded projects)
- Airfares, accommodation and personal expenses
- Advertising
- Capital works or office equipment
- Projects that don't meet Aurora's aims

If successful, how does my organisation account for the funding?

You will be required to submit a brief progress report mid-way through the period specified, plus an end of period report accounting for how the funds were spent. (Note: If your organisation has received a small grant in past funding rounds, you must have provided Aurora with your final acquittal report to be eligible to receive a small grant in this funding round).

Successful applicants must acknowledge Aurora and the Aurora website as the source of the project funding in all related promotional activity, media advertising and on the successful applicants website.

When do applications close?

We need to receive your submission no later than 5pm Friday 7 October 2011.
We will notify you of our decision as soon as possible – by 16 December 2011.

Where do I send submissions to?

Send submissions to:

The Aurora Group – A Ruby Foundation
Email grants@auroragroup.com.au (preferred method)

PO Box 96 Paddington NSW 2021

Fax: (02) 8323 4041

Can I speak to someone for more information?

You can email grants@auroragroup.com.au, or phone (02) 8323 4041, and someone will get back to you.