

Grants available for tourism promotions

By the Tri-City Herald Editorial Board

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The Port of Walla Walla is taking applications for the \$30,000 it has budgeted for tourism promotions in 2019.

The economic development agency is taking applications for its Port Tourism Grants until Feb. 13.

It will give up to \$2,000 per request for qualifying organizations.

The first wave of applications will be considered for approval during the Feb. 21 Port Commission meeting.

The program is part of the Port's contribution to spur tourism-related economic development by offsetting marketing costs for local organizations hosting or coordinating events that draw visitors.

The money can only be used for advertising, publicizing or otherwise distributing information to attract visitors to Walla Walla County. It can't be used to underwrite general expenses of the event.

Qualified organizations must be based in the Walla Walla County area.

Applications for events or activities that have the highest probability of attracting out-of-county visitors and have a proven track record of attracting visitors, as well as provide the Port with detailed documents that support the use of the funds, have the best chance of receiving grants. The Port is also looking for events that benefit communities throughout the county.

The grant applications are available at portwallawalla.com. For more information, call 509-525-3100.