
Alameda County Arts Commission

2026 ARTSFUND GRANT PROGRAM

GUIDELINES

Applicants must apply online at <https://acac.grantplatform.com>

Application Deadline: Thursday, February 5, 2026, 5:00pm

The Office of the Alameda County Arts Commission administers the ARTSFUND Grant Program to support Alameda County nonprofit arts and cultural organizations serving Alameda County community members. Grants will be awarded to qualifying organizations providing arts and cultural programs in the areas of visual art, dance, theater, music, literature, poetry, cultural events and traditions, and other related forms.

The Alameda County Arts Commission is a division of the County of the Alameda. All of the Arts Commission's programs are based on the belief that arts, culture and creativity are essential to every successful and thriving community. The Alameda County Arts Commission is dedicated to improving the quality of life in Alameda County by nurturing a thriving environment for the arts, promoting economic opportunities for Alameda County's artists and arts organizations, and encouraging public participation in the arts. ARTSFUND is supported by three funding sources which include the County of Alameda, community member contributions to the ARTSFUND Program and to the Foundation for the Arts in Alameda County.

Grant Awards

ARTSFUND provides grant awards through a non-competitive process to provide general operating support to assist with the mission and ongoing programs of the grantee organization. The grant funds can be used to support programs, general administration, and operating expenses.

Since 2024, the ARTSFUND Grant Program has had two grant level categories. All eligible organizations that are 100% arts and culture focused will have the same grant award anticipated to be up to \$2,500. All eligible organizations that are not 100% arts and culture focused, will receive a lower grant award anticipated to be up to \$1,200. The final grant awards will depend on the number of eligible applicants and the availability of funds.

Grant Program Schedule and Funding Cycle

Guidelines Released and Application Open: Nov. 20, 2025. Application Deadline: Feb. 5, 2026, 5:00pm. County Reviews and Approvals: March - June 2026. Distribution of Grant Awards: June 2026. 2026 ARTSFUND Grant Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028. Organizations who received a 2025 ARTSFUND grant award in June 2025 are not eligible to apply to the 2026 cycle (See list included in this document).

Eligibility and Application Requirements

Please see the online application for the complete list of application questions and submission requirements.

1. Organization's mission and primary programs must be artistic and/or cultural in nature such as visual art, dance, theater, music, literature, poetry, cultural events and traditions, and other related forms (*Submission Requirement: A written overview about the organization including mission statement, overall goals, and programs. Maximum: 3,000 characters with spaces*).
2. Organization must be in operation for at least one year prior to application deadline with their primary location in Alameda County and with intended majority of program participants being Alameda County community members. If programs, performances, or services are exclusively within a single facility, that facility must be in Alameda County (*Submission Requirement: Respond to questions in application*).
3. Organization must be a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status or an applicant functioning like a nonprofit organization may apply with a fiscal sponsor (*Document Requirement: Submission of Federal Tax-Exempt Status Letter. If using a fiscal sponsor, submission of fiscal sponsor's Federal Tax-Exempt Status Letter and copy of Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement*).
4. Organization (or Fiscal Sponsor) must supply a completed W9 Form (*Document Requirement: W9 Form must be IRS Version: Rev. March 2024; signed and dated in year 2026*).
5. Organization to provide information about operating budget by providing an income and expense statement report and balance sheet for the most recently completed fiscal year of July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 OR fiscal year January 1 – December 31, 2025 (*Document Requirement: Submission of most recently completed fiscal year income and expense statement and balance sheet; if information is not available, documents regarding the previous fiscal year can be submitted*). If the arts and cultural program is only one aspect of the organization, provide detailed financial information specifically about the arts and cultural programs AND the whole organization. Entities that are fiscally sponsored must provide their own income and expense statement and balance sheet and not that of the fiscal sponsor.
6. Arts and cultural programs must be the primary focus of the organization. Or, if the organization has multiple program areas, the arts and cultural programs must be an ongoing, essential and indispensable aspect of the organization's programs.
7. Organization is required to have provided consistent in-person, online and/or virtual arts and cultural programs during the most recent calendar year with the intended majority of participants being Alameda County community members (*Submission Requirement: A brief narrative about arts and cultural program activities from January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Description of the program goals and characteristics, general schedule, intended audience, and other information that illustrates the ARTSFUND requirements are met. Maximum: 2,000 characters with spaces*).
8. Plan to provide consistent arts and cultural programs during the ARTSFUND grant period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028, with the intended majority of participants being Alameda County community members (*Submission Requirement: A brief narrative about future arts and cultural program activities for July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028 during the grant period. Description of the program goals and characteristics, general schedule, intended audience, and other information that illustrates the ARTSFUND requirements are met*).
9. All programs funded with ARTSFUND grant funds must be available and open to the public. Attendance, participation and engagement may be through in-person, online and/or virtual formats. (*Submission Requirement: Confirm programs supported by the ARTSFUND will be available to the public*).

Additional Information

An applicant organization that meets the eligibility requirements and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization may apply for an ARTSFUND grant on its own behalf and may also serve as fiscal sponsor for one or more other organizations in a given grant cycle.

Applicants can be entities who function as an arts and culture organization that provide programs to the public but do not have their own 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. In this case, the applicant organization must apply with a fiscal sponsor that does have nonprofit status. Applicant organization must have an official Advisory Group that acts in the capacity of a nonprofit organization's Board of Directors. Applicant must submit a copy of their Fiscal Sponsor Agreement including all contact information for both organizations (organization names, mailing addresses, phone numbers, email addresses,) Sponsor's Tax I.D. Number, information about the terms of the agreement, and names and signatures of both parties. Applicant to also submit the Sponsor's Nonprofit Tax-Exempt Status Letter, and Sponsor's completed W9 Form using the most current IRS version linked in the ARTSFUND application and dated in 2026. An organization with the sole function of being a fiscal sponsor is not required to be located in Alameda County but should be located in California.

An independent arts and culture organization that is part of a larger parent organization may apply as an applicant with the parent organization listed as the fiscal sponsor or as the payee. In this situation, the independent arts and culture organization must be both programmatically and administratively distinct from the parent organization, be equivalent to a stand-alone institution with a separate mission, have its own staff and budget, and generally have an independent Board of Directors or an official Advisory Committee that has substantial responsibility for oversight and management.

Applicants may be required to submit additional information to clearly illustrate they meet the ARTSFUND requirements to confirm their eligibility. By applying to this grant program, the applicant is not in any way guaranteed to receive award funds. The County of Alameda, through the Office of the Arts Commission, reserves the right to alter any aspect of this process or overall program in any way for its own convenience at any time.

Not Eligible to Apply to the ARTSFUND

The following are not eligible to be an ARTSFUND grantee or a fiscal sponsor: For-profit organizations. Departments, divisions, projects, commissions and boards of the County of Alameda. Departments and boards of city governments and special districts. Individual artists. Elementary or secondary schools and school districts, boards and associations. Organizations or activities that are part of the curriculum of a college, university or community college; provided, however, that this exclusion shall not apply to any class that is not for college, university or community college credit and is not a part of the curriculum of a college, university or community college. A foundation, established for the support of a college, university or community college, that has 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, is eligible as long as the foundation is the applicant. Organizations whose primary focus is providing awards to individuals or organizations, such as cash or non-cash awards to visual artists as part of a competition or award program.

Evaluation Process

Grant awards are reviewed by the Members of the Arts Commission and recommended to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for final approval.

2025 ARTSFUND Grant Recipients The following received an ARTSFUND grant in the 2025 cycle and are not eligible to apply in this 2026 cycle: Actors Ensemble, African Queens, Afro Urban Society, AfroComicCon, Alliance for the Visual Arts, Alphabet Rockers, Altarena Playhouse, Amador Valley Quilters, Anatolian Arts Institute, Artist As First Responder, ARTtogether, Ashkenaz, Asian Refugees United, AXIS Dance Company, Ballet Folklorico Mexicano de Carlos Moreno, Bay Area Book Festival, Bay Area Creative BAC, Bay Area Music Project, Bay Malayali, BCA Dance Company, Berkeley Chamber Performances, Berkeley City Ballet, Berkeley Old Time Music Convention, Black Joy Parade, Cal Performances, California Revels, Cantabella Children's Chorus, Cantare Con Vivo, Castro Valley Arts Foundation, Central

Works, Chanticleers Theater, Community Works, Creative Growth Art Center, Cut Fruit Collective, CYT Tri-Valley, Destiny Arts Center, DIY Museum, Dream Farm Commons, Dublin Arts Collective, East Bay Children's Theatre, East Bay Youth Orchestra, Emeryville Celebration of the Arts, Filhos de Bimba Bay Area, Forward Alameda, Frank Bette Center for the Arts, Free Key Choir, Fremont Cultural Arts Council, Friends of Children with Special Needs (FCSN), Friends of the Alameda Free Library, Gamelan Sekar Jaya, Habitot Children's Museum, Hayward Area Historical Society, Hayward Lit Hop, Herencia Guantanamera, HiiiWAV, Human Writes Music Group, Hungry Ghost Productions, Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, Junior Center of Art and Science, Kala Art Institute, Kantuta Ballet Folklorico de Bolivia, Kingmakers of Oakland, Korsá Musical Theater, Liberando Nuestras Voces, Livermore Filipino-American Organization, Livermore Jazz Society, Livermore Valley Arts, Livermore Valley Opera, Loud Spring, Luna Dance & Creativity, Malonga Arts Collective (MAC), Mercy Brown Bag Program, Mission Peak Choirs, MPWRD Artists Collective, Musically Minded Academy, Narratives Foundation, New Apollo Youth Symphony Orchestra, New Arts Foundation, New Village Oakland, Newark Symphonic Winds, Nippon Kobo, Oakland Art Murmur Inc, Oakland Ballet Company, Oakland Children's Fairyland, Oakland Communities United for Equity & Justice, Oakland First Fridays, Oakland Gay Men's Chorus, Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, Oakland Public Conservatory of Music, Oakland Symphony, Oakland Theater Project, Oakland Voices, Oaklash, Oaktown Jazz Workshops, Pacific Chamber Orchestra, PlayGround, Pleasanton Community Concert Band, Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council, Plethos Productions, Prescott Circus Theatre, Prometheus Symphony, Purple Silk Music Education Foundation, Put Ur Play On Productions Foundation, Radium Presents, RECESS FUN, Re-Present Media, Rock Paper Scissors Collective, S.T.E.A.M. Against Violence, Sacred & Profane Chamber Chorus, Sacred Music Fellowship, San Leandro Curtain Call Performing Arts, Sankalpa Dance Foundation, School of The Getdown, Sense Object, Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, Shotgun Players, Soli Deo Gloria, Sozo Impact, Inc, Support Oakland Artists, SWF Center, TAC Temescal Art Center, The Beat, The Foodbank Players, The Freight, Today's Future Sound, Tri-City Band Corps, United Capoeira Association Hayward, US Music and Performances Association, Valley Concert Chorale, Vet Con (Veteran Comic Con), Visceral Roots Dance Company, Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, WAVE (Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble), We Rise, WEAD (Women Eco Artists Dialog), West Edge Opera, Wildchoir, Woodminster Summer Musicals, Yeah, Art!, Young Musicians Choral Orchestra.

Application Instructions

As of March 2022, Arts Commission is using Good Grants application system <https://acac.grantplatform.com/>. A link to the online application is also on the Arts Commission's website on the ARTSFUND page.

For general questions and more information about how to submit an application, organizations may contact Arts Commission staff at artscommission@acgov.org or may attend a free webinar. Visit the Commission's website, [click on ARTSFUND](#) and then Guidelines and Application for the webinar date and Zoom link. A recorded version of the webinar is also available on the Arts Commission website arts.acgov.org.

Office of the Alameda County Arts Commission
A Division of the Alameda County Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency
Melissa Wilk, Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder

Alameda County Arts Commission
1106 Madison St., Suite 336, Oakland, CA 94607 | 510-208-9646
arts.acgov.org | arts.alamedacountyca.gov | artscommission@acgov.org