Community Arts Grants - Fall 2026

Arts Council for Monterey County

Introduction

Welcome to Arts Council of Monterey County's **Community Arts Grant** application.

Helpful Tips:

- **Before beginning your application, visit our Grants webpage to download the guidelines**, which include important information about eligibility and review criteria.
- **Late applications are not accepted**. Please plan to submit your application well before the 5pm deadline in case of technical difficulties.
- Click on section headers to collapse and expand sections.
- Character count limits are listed under narrative responses and include each letter and space. You do not need to use the entire space provided. Concise responses are welcomed.
- Your answers will be saved periodically as you type. However, before leaving/logging out, please make sure to scroll to the bottom of the webpage and click "Save Application."
- Once you've completed your application, you can download a PDF of your application by clicking on the "Application Packet" button at the top of the webpage.

Communications:

- Communication about this grant will be sent from: administrator@grantinterface.com. Please add this email to your safe sender list.
- Communications will be sent to the email address you use to login to this portal. Please use an email you check often.
- If multiple people on your team need to receive updates on the status of your application, please use a shared email address (such as grants@orgname.org).
- You can update your email address anytime. To update (1) click on your name in the upper right-hand corner (2) click "Edit My Profile".

Review Criteria

- Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel of diverse evaluators from each of the five supervisorial districts in the county;
- The following three criteria are used to evaluate grant applications; we highly recommend you review them carefully as you work on your application.

Sample

- Each bulleted item is scored on a scale of 1-4:
  - 1 - Weak, does not meet criteria;
  - 2 - Fair, meets the review criteria to a limited degree;
  - 3 - Good, meets the criteria to a significant degree;
  - 4 - Exemplary, meets the criteria to the highest degree.

Zoom Fall Cycle Grant Application Support
Oct. 7 - Oct. 28, 2026
Every Wednesday, 2:00pm - 3:00pm
Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87934821511

Questions?
Email Klara Hickmanova, Programs Manager at klara@arts4mc.org

Sample

Organization Information

Organization Name*
Character Limit: 250

Organization's Mission Statement*
Character Limit: 1000

Year Founded*
Character Limit: 40

Nonprofit Status*
Please attach your organizations tax exempt letter from the IRS.

If you have a fiscal sponsor, please attach their tax exempt letter from the IRS AND their letter approving you as a fiscally sponsored organization.

If you need a fiscal sponsor, please contact Action Council of Monterey County or emailinfo@arts4mc.org for more information.

All documents should be saved and uploaded in Adobe PDF format only.
File Size Limit: 2 MB

Document upload
File Size Limit: 2 MB

Primary Location - Address*

Please enter the full address of the location where the majority of your programming takes place (50% or more). If your programming is entirely virtual, you may enter "Online."

Example: 24600 Silver Cloud Ct, Suite 202, Monterey, CA 93940

Character Limit: 250

Supervisorial District*

Click on Supervisorial District and enter the address of your organization in the search window (districts by color - key legend on the left). Please ignore the system error and press ok. Type the number of your district in the box below.

Character Limit: 15

Your Organization's Logo

Please upload your organization's logo. If you are using fiscal sponsor, please upload your own logo, not you fiscal sponsor's. If selected, your logo will be used in Arts4MC promotional materials.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Did you receive a Fall 2025 grant?*

If so, you will be asked to complete an additional section (next) to report on your 2025-26 grant.
If you are not sure please connect with Klara at klara@arts4mc.org.

Choices

Yes
No

2025 Grant Final Report

This final report is for your 2025 fall cycle grant, between 1/1/2026 – 12/31/2026.
Please skip this section if you have already submitted your last grant final report.
You do not need to use the entire space provided. Brief responses are welcomed!

Highlights

Please share 1-2 highlights from the grant period.

Character Limit: 2000

Sample

Significant Organizational Changes

Have there been any notable changes to your programming, organizational structure, strategic priorities, or any other area in the past year? If so, what influenced those changes?

Character Limit: 2000

How has this funding been helpful? (optional)

Examples could include but are not limited to: artist/staff pay, marketing, production, supplies, leveraging additional funds. Since this was a general operating grant, this response can be very general and is optional.

Character Limit: 1000

For the following questions, please enter exact numbers if you have them available, otherwise please make your best estimate.

Are these numbers exact or estimated?

Choices

Exact
Estimated

Artists Paid

How many individual artists were paid by your organization during the grant period? Include artists involved in providing artistic services.

Character Limit: 100

Volunteer Artists

How many individual artists participated in your programming as unpaid volunteers during the grant period? Include artists involved in providing artistic services.

Character Limit: 100

Please upload 3 items only. Up to 3 photos or 3 video / audio links total.

Photo Upload 1

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Optional Description of Upload 1

Character Limit: 250

Photo Upload 2

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Optional Description of Upload 2

Character Limit: 250

Sample

Photo Upload 3
File Size Limit: 2 MB

Optional Description of Upload 3
Character Limit: 250

Video Link 1
If the video/audio is longer than 3 minutes, please provide start/finish times for a 3-minute segment.

Character Limit: 2000

Comments for Link 1
Character Limit: 250

Video Link 2
If the video/audio is longer than 3 minutes, please provide start/finish times for a 3-minute segment.

Character Limit: 2000

Comments for Link 2
Character Limit: 250

Video Link 3
If the video/audio is longer than 3 minutes, please provide start/finish times for a 3-minute segment.

Character Limit: 2000

Comments for Link 3
Character Limit: 250

Additional Comments - Final Report (optional)
Is there anything we did not ask about that you would like us to know? Please use this space to add any additional information or comments you would like to include in your final report.

Character Limit: 500

Narrative

Proposal Title*
Example: First Night Monterey

Character Limit: 250

Summary of Program/Project*
Character Limit: 1000

Sample

Primary Artistic Discipline

Please select all that apply.

Choices

Art Festival
Cultural
Festival
Curatorial
Dance
Design
Digital
Media
Film/Video
Literary
Music
Musical
Theater Opera
Performance
Art
Photography
Social Practice
Theater
Traditional
Visual Art

Estimated # of audience members / participants*

Please enter an estimate of how many audience members and/or participants you expect to engage with your organization during the grant period.

Character Limit: 250

Grant Request Amount*

Grants up to $7,500 will be awarded to arts organizations with revenue budgets of less than $3 million. Prior grantees are not guaranteed to receive funding. Grant awards (and sizes) will be based on results of the review process.

Character Limit: 20

For each of the narrative responses below, character count limits include each letter and space. You **do not** need to use the entire space provided. Concise responses and/or numbered responses are welcomed!

Artistic Excellence & Relevance*

The Arts Council is interested in supporting both the creation of artistically excellent work, from a diversity of perspectives, and programming that is relevant to our community.

1. Define your organization's view of artistic excellence and briefly describe how your

Sample

programming reflects that view.

2. Describe the audience and/or participants that your organization engages, including geography, age, race/ethnicity, etc.

3. How is your programming relevant and responsive to your community? What strategies are you using to engage the community?

Character Limit: 4000

Impact, Strategy & Sustainability*

1. Summarize (or list) your organization's long-term goals/strategy.

2. Share one or two short-term goals you are working on during the grant period (January 1, 2027 - December 31, 2027) and how they fit in with that strategy.

3. What are one or two of your biggest risks/challenges and how you are addressing them?

Character Limit: 4000

Equity & Accessibility - Strategies & Communities*

Please describe your organization's approach to equity & accessibility, including:

1. What does "equity" mean to you as an organization?

2. How does your organization provide accessible opportunities for diverse community participation by audience, participants, collaborators, and/or supporters?

3. Which marginalized / underrepresented communities will have improved access to your programming through the strategies described above?

Examples of marginalized communities include but are not limited to: people of color, LGBTQIA+, those with disabilities or neurodiversity, low socio-economic classes, residents of different geographic locations, unhoused community members, immigrants, etc.

Character Limit: 4000

Financial Statements & Budget

How to Upload Items:

1. Click on "Upload a file" to select a file saved on your computer.

2. Select a file saved on your computer.

3. A successfully uploaded file will appear as a blue link next to the upload button.

Sample

4. You can click on the red X next to the blue link to delete and replace the file.

Technical difficulties? Please contact us at klara@arts4mc.org

Date of Fiscal / Calendar Year End*

Character Limit: 10

Financial Statements
Required statements include Profit & Loss *(Statement of Activities)* and Balance Sheet *(Statement of Financial Position)*, OR a board-approved audit.

Please upload statements for your most recently completed fiscal or calendar year.

Example 1: If your fiscal year ends in June 2026, upload financial statements for July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Example 2: If your calendar year ends in December 2026, upload financial statements for January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025.

Profit & Loss or audited financials*

For your most recently completed fiscal or calendar year*, please upload one of the following:

- Profit & Loss Statement (S*tatement of Activities*) OR
- Most recent review/audit

* July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 or January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Balance Sheet

Please upload the Balance Sheet *(Statement of Financial Position)* for your most recently completed fiscal or calendar year* (not required if you uploaded a board-approved audit above).

*as of June 30, 2026 or as of December 31, 2025

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Current Fiscal Year Budget*

Please upload an organizational budget for your current fiscal or calendar year*. Include actuals to-date, if available.

Sample

* July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027 or January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Program Budget*

Please upload a program budget for the requested funding. **Download program budget sample here.**

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Comments - Financial Statements and Budget (optional)

If you would like to add any notes about your financial statements and/or budget, please enter them here.

Character Limit: 1000

Work Samples & Supporting Documents

Work Samples & Supporting Documents

If you uploaded documents for your final report above, please skip this section.

- Submit up to 3 total items *(uploads or links)* that best represent the work of the organization.

o *Work samples* serve as the key indication of artistic excellence. Examples: photo attachments, written samples, or audio/video links that are publicly accessible.

o *Supporting documents* provide additional context and/or illustrate the quality and effectiveness of your community outreach. Examples: reviews, letters of support, brochures, programs or flyers.

- Video/audio:
  - o Video/audio clips cannot be uploaded. If you'd like to include video/audio work samples, please provide publicly accessible URL links in the space provided below.
  - o If the video/audio is longer than 3 minutes, please provide start/finish times for a 3-minute segment.
  - o Video/audio links are included in the 3 total items allowed.

- Images and Documents:
  - o Uploads are accepted in the following formats: jpg, jpeg, png, pdf, doc, docx

Upload 1

- Upload a work sample or supporting document below (images and documents only, in the following formats: jpg, jpeg, png, pdf, doc, docx).

sample

- Please use the web link spaces provided further down the page to share video, audio or websites.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Optional Description of Upload 1
Character Limit: 250

Upload 2
File Size Limit: 5 MB

Optional Description of Upload 2
Character Limit: 250

Upload 3
File Size Limit: 5 MB

Optional Description of Upload 3
Character Limit: 250

Links: Video, Audio, and/or Websites

- We recommend Soundcloud, YouTube, and Vimeo for video/audio.
- Links must be accessible to the public. Do not include links to private accounts or links that require passwords.
- Make sure the link/webpage will be active through December 31, 2026.
- If any links direct to video/audio work that is longer than 3 minutes, please provide start/finish times for a 3-minute segment.

Link 1
As a reminder, please provide publicly-accessible links. To avoid any errors, please make sure there are no spaces before or after the link you enter.

Character Limit: 2000

Comments for Link 1
If video/audio is longer than three minutes, please include start/finish times for a 3-minute segment.

Character Limit: 250

Link 2
Character Limit: 2000

Comments for Link 2
If video/audio is longer than three minutes, please include start/finish times for a 3-minute segment.

Character Limit: 250

Sample

Link 3
Character Limit: 2000

Comments for Link 3
If video/audio is longer than three minutes, please include start/finish times for a 3-minute segment.

Character Limit: 250

Please double check that you have added no more than **3 total items** *(including uploads and links)* above under Work Samples & Supporting Documents - not 3 uploads plus 3 links.

Certification

Declaration*
I certify that all information contained in this form and attachments is true and accurate. I understand that all funded activities must provide equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and may not discriminate on the basis of disability, color, creed or religion.

Choices
I certify

First Name*
Character Limit: 50

Last Name*
Character Limit: 50

Date of submission*
Character Limit: 10

Thank you for your time and effort in submitting a Community Arts Grant application!

- Be sure to click the “Submit Application” button when you are done with this application form.

- **Late applications due to technical difficulties, or any other reason, are not accepted.**

- **You should receive a confirmation email after you submit your application.** If you do not receive this email or have any other questions, please contact our team at Klara Hickmanova, Programs Manager at klara@arts4mc.org.

- You can download a PDF of your completed application by clicking on the "Application

Sample

Packet" button at the top of the webpage.

- Communication about this grant will be sent from: administrator@grantinterface.com. Please add this email to your safe sender list.

Program / Project Information - old

Program/Event Name*

Character Limit: 100

Sample