



COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

Kaye Mand
County Chief Financial Officer

Shawn Atin
Assistant County Executive Officer/
Human Resources Director
Labor Relations

February 6, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Approval and Authorization for the County Executive Office to Expand the Ventura County Arts and Culture Investment Grant Program by \$375,000. (Recommendation #3 Requires 4/5ths Vote)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Authorize the County Executive Office to expand the Ventura County Arts and Culture Investment Grant Program adopted by your Board on November 7, 2023, to increase funding in the grant program by \$350,000 for potential grantees and to increase the matching grant program by \$25,000;
- 2) Approve the updated Ventura County Arts and Culture Investment Grant Program criteria and requirements, including funding Tiers 1-3, technical assistance and administrative costs, and matching grant contingency fund as set forth beginning on Page 4 of this letter;
- 3) Approve an additional \$375,000 from General Fund Contingency to provide grants to eligible creative arts entities under the Ventura County Arts and Culture Investment Grant Program and Authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the accounting transactions necessary to adjust appropriations and fund balance as follows (4/5ths vote required):

INCREASE	1050	Services and Supplies	\$375,000
DECREASE	1100	General Fund Contingency	\$375,000

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	General Fund Contingency
Funding Match Required:	No
Impact on Other Departments:	Minimal

Funding for this action would come from general fund contingency set aside by your Board as part of the adoption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 budget.

Summary of Revenues and Costs:

	<u>FY 2023-24</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>
Revenues:	\$ 0	\$ 0
Costs:		
Direct	\$ 375,000	\$ 0
Indirect-Dept	\$ 0	\$ 0
Indirect-County CAP	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Cost	\$ 375,000	\$ 0
Net County Cost	\$ 375,000	\$ 0
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0

FY 2023-24 Budget Projections:

<u>FY 2023-24 Budget Projection for County Executive Office – Division 1050</u>				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$80,582,329	\$145,646,427	\$135,380,135	\$10,266,292
Revenue	\$5,954,000	\$5,954,000	\$6,004,481	\$50,481
Net Cost	\$ 74,628,329	\$139,692,427	\$129,375,654	\$10,316,773

<u>FY 2023-24 Budget Projection for General Fund Contingency – Division 1100</u>				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$2,000,000	\$2,528,330	\$2,528,330	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost	\$2,000,000	\$2,528,330	\$2,528,330	\$0

DISCUSSION

On October 11, 2022, your Board approved the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Plan for the County, which included a range of recovery-focused projects in the areas of: Housing and Homelessness, Infrastructure, Community Parks Recreation and Facility Investments, Mental Health Infrastructure, Public Health and Community Interventions, Emergency Preparedness, Economic Recovery, Early Learning and Childcare, Sustainability, Farmworker Programs, and the Arts Community.

The project name for the arts community in the ARPA Funding Plan is noted as “Countywide Arts and Culture Support,” and the Project Description is “funding to provide services and resources in support of arts and culture organizations and projects, emphasizing communities most impacted by the pandemic and activities that align with the County Economic Vitality Strategic Plan’s focus on the creative economy.”

On December 13, 2022, your Board approved the reporting and use of ARPA funds as being expended in the form of provision of government services and used for General Fund costs to then provide funding from the General Fund for the list of previously identified ARPA projects, which included the \$1,000,000 to support arts and culture organizations.

On November 7, 2023, your Board received a report and presentation that proposed the following program allocations for arts and culture:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Arts and Culture Investment Fund Grant Program | \$800,000 |
| • Technical Assistance to Grantees and Administrative Costs: | \$100,000 |
| • Matching Grant Contingency Fund | \$100,000 |

The Arts and Culture Investment Fund Grant Program, was proposed with three grant tiers as follows:

Tier 1:

\$400,000 designated to nonprofit 501 (c) (3) arts and cultural organizations with operating budgets averaging \$1,000,000 and above for three years prior to the pandemic.

- Funding requests of up to \$200,000, with final award amounts based on number of eligible applications received, application score, and final ranking.
- 1:1 cash match

Tier 2:

\$300,000 to nonprofit 501 (c) (3) arts and cultural organizations and fiscally sponsored projects with budgets of \$999,999 or less in operation for at least three years.

- Funding requests from \$5,000 to \$30,000, with final award amounts based on number of eligible applications received and application score.
- No requirement for matching funds

Tier 3:

\$100,000 to independent artists and art projects with three years of documented history of artistic or cultural practice.

- Funding requests from \$1,000 to \$5,000
- No requirement for matching funds

After the presentation and public comments on the item, your Board approved the following designations:

- \$500,000 in one-time funding grants of \$250,000 each to Rubicon Theater Company and New West Symphony.
- \$350,000 to support nonprofit arts and culture organizations and independent artists through grants under Tier 2 and Tier 3, as those tiers were proposed staff, with the County Executive Office to determine how the \$350,000 funding is allocated between the two tiers. Additionally, any entity that would have otherwise been eligible for a grant opportunity under the proposed Tier 1 that is not receiving direct funding can apply for grants under Tier 2 and Tier 3, subject to the same funding request caps for all applicants under those tiers.

- \$75,000 to Technical Assistance to Grantees and Administrative Costs
- \$75,000 to Matching Grant Contingency Fund

Additionally, your Board asked staff to research possible additional funding to support the original proposal for Tier 2 and Tier 3 for future consideration by your Board. In accordance with your Board's ask, staff has researched options to fund the programs across all tiers proposed on November 7, 2023.

As a result, the County Executive Office recommends using \$375,000 of County General Fund contingency to provide the monies needed to fund all the Arts and Culture Investment program tiers as presented by staff on November 7, 2023. This would bring the total Arts Community Fiscal Recovery funding to \$1,375,000 and make it possible for arts organizations that would have been eligible for Tier 1 to apply for funding up to \$200,000.

Staff now recommends the following updated Ventura County Arts and Culture Investment Grant Program:

Total Arts Community Fiscal Recovery Funding

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| • Arts and Culture Investment Fund Grant Program | \$1,200,000 |
| • Technical Assistance to Grantees and Administrative Costs: | \$75,000 |
| • Matching Grant Contingency Fund | \$100,000 |

Arts and Culture Investment Fund Grant Program Tiers

Tier 1:

\$300,000 designated to nonprofit 501 (c) (3) arts and cultural organizations with operating budgets averaging \$1,000,000 and above for three years prior to the pandemic.

- Funding requests of up to \$200,000, with final award amounts based on number of eligible applications received, application score, and final ranking.
- No longer require 1:1 cash match
- Direct fund recipients Rubicon Theater Company and New West Symphony are not eligible for this grant opportunity.
- Arts and cultural organizations that meet the Tier 1 criteria cannot apply for grants under Tier 2 and Tier 3.

Tier 2:

\$300,000 to nonprofit 501 (c) (3) arts and cultural organizations and fiscally sponsored projects with budgets of \$999,999 or less in operation for at least three years.

- Funding requests from \$5,000 to \$30,000, with final award amounts based on number of eligible applications received and application score.

Tier 3:

\$100,000 to independent artists and art projects with three years of documented history of artistic or cultural practice.

- Funding requests from \$1,000 to \$5,000

To ensure equity in the distribution of the program, the County Executive Office recommends removing the 1:1 cash match to Tier 1 and ensuring that any grants awarded in Tier 1 comply with reporting requirements similar to those of organizations that received a direct funding allocation. Organizations that previously received direct funding as a result of the November 7, 2023 Board action would not be eligible to apply for additional funding in the above programs. Grant funds remaining from undersubscribed tiers may be reallocated to support oversubscribed tiers. Tiers, grant period, and maximum award amounts will be reevaluated should additional funding become available through undersubscribed tiers, unused technical assistance and administrative funds.

The increase in available funding will allow for widespread distribution of grant awards throughout Ventura County, increasing the likelihood that funding will reach arts and culture organizations that are directly serving communities most impacted by the pandemic.

2024-27 STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The recommendations proposed today support these Strategic Priorities and Goals:

Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities

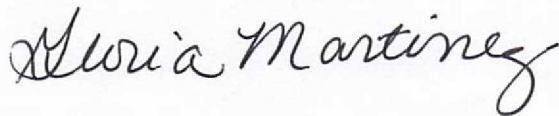
Goal 3- Promote community resilience and strengthen our ability to withstand and recover from disaster or adversity.

Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Vitality:

Goal 2- Foster a thriving business ecosystem to create jobs, increase wages, and strengthen the local economy.

This Board letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, County Counsel, and the Auditor-Controller's Office. If you have any questions, please contact Gloria Martinez, Economic Vitality Manager, at 805-654-2272.

Sincerely,



Gloria Martinez
Economic Vitality Manager



Sevet Johnson, PsyD.
County Executive Officer