



Arts Community Grant Program Proposal

November 7, 2023



On October 11, 2022, \$1,000,000 was allocated to support the arts community as part of the ARPA Funding Plan.

Arts Community Project Description:

Provide services and resources in support of arts and culture organizations and projects. A particular emphasis is to be placed on communities most impacted by the pandemic and activities that align with the County Economic Vitality Strategic Plan's focus on the creative economy.



Program Overview:

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



Program 1: Ventura County Arts and Culture Investment Fund

\$800,000 in Grant Funding to the Arts Community

- **Tier 1: \$400,000 to nonprofit organizations with \$1,000,000 budgets & up**
 - Funding requests of up to \$200,000, 1:1 match required
- **Tier 2: \$300,000 to organizations with \$999,999 or less**
 - Funding requests from \$5,000 to \$30,000, no match required
- **Tier 3: \$100,000 to individual artists and arts projects**
 - Funding requests from \$1,000 to \$5,000, no match required



Fund Administration:

- Proposing a partnership with the Ventura County Community Foundation providing necessary due diligence and fiduciary oversight.
- Ventura County Arts Council is proposed to serve as a subcontractor for individual artist grants.
- The VCCF and VCAC both have established grant making systems in place to support a more expeditious application and fund distribution process.



Minimum Eligibility:

501(c)(3) arts and culture organizations (or fiscally sponsored projects), independent artists, and arts projects based in, and serving, Ventura County.

- Verification of 501(c)(3) status, or work history as an artist
- Current with all required State and federal filings and registration
- Emphasis on organizations serving communities most impacted by the pandemic* or other communities in need within the County

*Identified by the bottom two tiers of the EDC's 2021 Report: Profile of COVID-19 Community, Business, Nonprofit, and Worker Impacts.



Program 2: Technical Assistance Workshops, Outreach, & Fund Administration

- *\$65,000 for technical assistance workshops* in capital management, governance, and capacity building, and a professional outreach campaign.
 - Technical assistance workshops will support the sustainability of the organizations and ensure viable future operations.
- *\$25,000 (est.) for VCCF and \$10,000 (est.) for VCAC* administrative costs.
 - Services proposed: developing application process and criteria, conveying advisory committees and review panel, communications, award distribution, monitoring, and reporting.



Program 3: Contingency Funds To Support Matching Grant Requests

- \$100,000 on a contingency basis to support matching grant requests.
- Potential to support National Endowment for the Arts, California Arts Council, and private foundation grants match requests.
- Requests will be fielded through the County Executive Office and approved by the CEO or her designee.
- If any funds remain after one year, they will support a second round of grants.



Overall Program Outcomes:

- Accelerate the recovery of the arts community in the County through widespread government support.
- Support widespread sustainability in the community with workshops and training.
- Deepen the County's relationship with the arts community.



Recommendations:

- Receive and file this report, and provide direction regarding, the proposed use of arts community funds designated by your board on October 11, 2022, in the amount of \$1,000,000.
- Authorize the County Executive Office to implement the three proposed arts community programs identified in the report.
- Approval of, and authorization for the County Executive Officer or designee to negotiate, execute and make minor agreements with the Ventura County Community Foundation and other service providers, in a total cumulative amount not to exceed \$100,000 to support the administration and implementation of these programs subject to County Counsel review.