



ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY GRANTS 2026



Due

Friday, January 23rd, 2026 by 5:00pm

Information

Arts Council of Kern
1020 18th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY GRANT 2026 GUIDELINES

PROJECT GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE ARTS COUNCIL OF KERN IN AMOUNTS from
\$500 - \$2,500



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1020 18th Street
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Phone: (661)
324-9000
info@kernarts.org

Welcome to the 2026 Arts Council of Kern Community Grants process. Thanks to the California Arts Council and the County of Kern, Arts Council of Kern (ACK) is able to make grants to arts organizations and in support art-centered programs ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 each. The deadline for submission is Friday, January 23 at 5 PM and funds must be expended by February 28, 2026.

Eligibility

1. Grants are open to established nonprofit organizations, arts organizations, or other organizations involved in arts related activities.
2. Applicants must reside or operate in Kern County.
3. Grants are required to be matched 1:1. Grant requests should not exceed more than 50% of the cost of a project. Applicants must contribute a matching portion of the total project cost either in cash or in-kind services, materials, or volunteer time. Clearly state the match in the request.
4. Project outcomes should show clearly how the grantee will contribute to arts access, advocacy or education for Kern County residents or visitors.
5. Organizations and/or individuals are required to become members of the Arts Council of Kern at the time of application (membership form attached).
6. Grant programming must be completed by February 28, 2027.

Criteria Used in Awarding Grants

1. Meets Eligibility and is submitted by the deadline
2. Artistic Quality
 - a. Does the project promote the development of artistic standards or enhance greater arts awareness and understanding in and for the community?
3. Artistic and Management Capabilities
 - a. Does the organization have the artistic, fiscal, marketing and management capabilities to successfully carry out the project?
 - b. Does the organization have a plan to build audience participation?
4. Preference will be given to innovative arts programming, especially in under-served and under-funded areas of the County.

PLEASE NOTE:

(1) PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THOSE ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE NOT RECEIVED ACK FUNDING IN THE PAST THREE YEARS AND NON- PROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS.
(2) WE MAY NO LONGER FUND ARTS ORGANIZATIONS THAT RECEIVE COUNTY FUNDING, UNLESS A COLLABORATION IS ESTABLISHED WITH ANOTHER ORGANIZATION THAT IS NOT COUNTY FUNDED.



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Obligations

Once awarded, you will receive a contract with your notification of a grant. The contractual agreement must be signed and returned to the Arts Council office.

The grant recipient will then receive 90% of the awarded sum. The remaining 10% of the money will be sent with the completion of a final report that includes:

1. Submission of copies of all printed materials and publicity. Any publication and/or printed materials for funded events must carry the following quote: "The "name of your event" is supported by an Arts in the Community Grant from the Arts Council of Kern."
2. Bills or receipts and/or cancelled checks for the expenditures requested in the grant request. Submit a break down of staffing or artistic costs.
3. A brief summary (1 page) of the event including attendance, if applicable. Include a list of key projects and/or event dates.
4. A brief evaluation of the effect on the community by the project.

Application via Google Form

1. Grant Application Compliance Assurance Portion – All fields required
2. Membership Payment
3. Grant Application Questions—Up to 500 words each
 - A. Please describe your organization, its mission, history and projects that have been completed.
 - B. Project Description – Project title, dates/times, number and names of artists.
 - C. Goals and Objectives of Project – Please list the goals of the project. How will the receipt of this grant assist you in meeting your organizational goals?
 - D. Community Engagement – Describe the audience and/or participants to be served by this project. Include geography and demographics. Who was the intended audience and participants? What are the anticipated numbers to be served by this project (including staffing, participants and audience)? Do you intend to use volunteers? And if so, how?



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- E. Publicity/Promotion- Describe the methods you intend to use to promote the project, social media, educational materials, etc. Please include examples of publicity and program materials from previous projects.
- 4. Itemized Project Budget – Must include the following:
 - A. Breakdown of all costs
 - B. Proposed total cost
 - C. Matching funds
 - D. Other contributions
 - E. In-kind services
 - F. Amount Requested from the Arts Council of Kern
 - G. FOOD COSTS ARE NOT COVERED.

Additional Attachments

1. Financial Statements – Attach copies of organizational budgets for A current and most recently completed fiscal year.
2. Work Samples – Please provide work samples of the artists to be involved or the organization's programming. First choice is to upload the work samples into Google Form. This can include a document with links to drives or YouTube. For help, email info@kernarts.org
3. Proof of Insurance
4. 2026 Signed W9

Submit Google Form when completed. It is best to prepare in a document and then submit in one sitting, however, as long as you return to the same document, the form should save your information

If trouble with submission, call Kharisma Ozuna at the Arts Council office, 661/324-9000 or email her at info@kernarts.org

GRANTS DEADLINE
Friday, January 23rd by 5:00 PM

Grantees will be notified no later than
February 26, 2026

For questions, please email info@kernarts.org



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SAMPLE BUDGET FORM

Category	Total Project Budget	Grant Request	Matching Funds	Notes
Income				
A. Contributions				
Individual				
Business/ Corp.			1,000	Target Corporation
Foundation				
Fundraising (gross)				
Government				
Arts Council Grant request		1,000		
B. Earned				
Admissions/Entry Fee				
Sales/Commissions				
Other				
Total Income		1,000	1,000	
Expenses				
A. Personnel				
Artistic		500		
Administrative				
Program				
Technical			500	
Other				
B. Operating Expenses				
Facility Rental			250	
Supplies				
Promotion/Publicity		500		
Printing			250	
Contractual Services				
Utilities				
Fundraising Expenses				
Legal Services				
Insurance (if needed)				
Other				
Total Expenses		1,000	1,000	
Total Surplus/Loss		0	0	

This organization is funded in part by the County of Kern, the California Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment of the Arts, a federal agency.

<https://www.kerncounty.com/> <http://www.cac.ca.gov> • <http://www.nea.gov>