



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
**ARTS COMMISSION**

## **2024 ARTS MAKING IMPACT GRANT GUIDELINES**

Arts Making Impact (AMI) grants are intended to support cultural practitioners, artists, and organizations by funding projects, programs, and activities that enrich the lives of residents in communities throughout Santa Barbara County. AMI funds support projects and collaborative efforts that provide greater and more diverse participation in the arts.

Grant proposals that help to eliminate current barriers to cultural activities— such as access to transportation, materials, artists, music and art instruction to traditionally underserved communities— are encouraged.

Applicants must be based in Santa Barbara County and provide services to Santa Barbara County residents. Individual artists or collectives interested in applying must have a 501c3 fiscal sponsor to be eligible. For this cycle, the application deadline is February 16, 2024. Applying organizations must have annual operating budgets under \$500,000. Full guidelines and eligibility criteria below.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Arts Making Impact (AMI) grant program was established in 2012 via a partnership between the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission and Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation. As part of a lease agreement with the County of Santa Barbara, the Santa Barbara Bowl has created an arts subsidy fund with fifty cents per ticket sold.

AMI Grant funding has catalyzed greater community engagement in the arts and culture of our region. Since the initial grant cycle, many diverse organizations and cultural practitioners have received support to expand resources and increase arts and culture access countywide. These funds continue to reach communities that have limited resources to support arts and culture opportunities.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible for AMI funding in the current cycle, the applicant must:

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1. Attend a technical assistance workshop. Workshops are **mandatory** for first time applicants on the Community Grant platform. ***Workshops are highly recommended for returning applicants.***
2. Be a non-profit organization with tax-exempt status [501(c)(3)] with an annual operating budget under \$500,000; [OR] individual artist with a [501(c)(3)] fiscal sponsor; [OR] district with an annual operating budget under \$500,000. **See definitions below.**
3. Show evidence of community need for services proposed to be provided by organization or artist. Partnerships and collaborations are encouraged.
4. Submit an application via the [Community Grants Portal](https://sbac.force.com/communitygrants) (<https://sbac.force.com/communitygrants>) on or before the deadline.

### **TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE\***

For this cycle, the total funds available are \$50,000. Grant requests may be between \$1,000-\$5,000. Grants selected for funding will be awarded 100% of their request. **PLEASE NOTE: Grant funding is disbursed as reimbursement for expenses after they are incurred, not up front.**

### **REVIEW PROCESS**

Grant applications will be reviewed by a panel made up of County Arts Commissioners.

### **SCORING CRITERIA**

Applications will be judged on the following criteria:

- Impact on the community served
- Number of people served
- Fiscal responsibility: overall cost-effectiveness of project and other financial and community support

Consideration may be given to those projects that demonstrate the following:

- Partnerships, collaboration, innovation, and expansion
- Inclusion of diverse communities and artists in all aspects of program planning and implementation
- Use of professional artists in programs
- Commitment to payment for any artistic service

### **DEFINITIONS**

- Nonprofit Organization – is defined as any nonprofit public benefit corporation formed pursuant to the Nonprofit Corporation Law (commencing with Corporations Code §5000), qualified to do business in California, and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. To comply with AB20 requirements, University of California

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and California State University applicants are required to secure an indirect cost waiver from the Regents of the University of California or the Board of Trustees of the California State University.

- Artist or Individual using Fiscal Sponsor – If an applicant does not have 501(c)(3) status, they may apply under the auspices of a registered 501(c)(3) organization. The fiscal sponsor acts as the fiscal agent for the group or individual applying and assumes all responsibilities required by the contract. Any payment for services rendered is issued to the fiscal sponsor. Organizations serving as a fiscal sponsor are exempt from having an annual budget of \$500,000 or less.
- District – is defined as any regional park district, regional park and open-space district, or regional open-space district formed pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with PRC §5500) of Chapter 3, any recreation and park district formed pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with PRC §5780), or an authority formed pursuant to Division 26 (commencing with PRC §35100). With respect to any community or unincorporated region that is not included within a district, and in which no city or county provides parks or recreational areas or facilities, “district” also means any other district that is authorized by statute to operate and manage parks or recreational areas or facilities, employs a full-time park and recreation director, offers year-round park and recreation services on lands and facilities owned by the district, and allocates a substantial portion of its annual operating budget to parks or recreation areas.

### **GRANT RESTRICTIONS**

Applicants need to be based in Santa Barbara County and provide services to Santa Barbara County residents.

### **Funding Requests are INELIGIBLE for the following:**

1. Programs that are not within the grant period May 1, 2024- April 30, 2025.
2. Capital improvements and construction of buildings or facilities or for purchases of equipment over \$1500.
3. Organizations primarily involved in political action, legislation, lobbying; projects with religious purposes.
4. Programs in facilities that are not ADA compliant.
5. Trusts, endowment funds, or investments.
6. Profit-making organizations, ventures, or replacement of deficit funds.
7. Fundraising or arts services for events in which fundraising is the primary purpose.
8. Programs or services intended for private use, or for use by restricted membership.
9. Hospitality or food costs.
10. Prize money.
11. Purchase of tickets and/or scholarships for an event/program produced by the applicant.
12. Expenses incurred before the start or after the ending date of the grant period.

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### **APPLICATION DEADLINE**

The AMI Grant Application must be submitted online through the Community Grants Portal no later than **4:00 p.m. PST on February 16, 2024**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Grant applicants will be notified by April 1.

### **GRANT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

The grant period is up to twelve months. A final self-evaluation is required within 45 days of the completion of the grant project, or final payment may be forfeit. Final payment of grant funding will not be disbursed until the completed final self-evaluation and invoice are received by the County Office of Arts & Culture. All forms are located in the [Community Grants Portal \(hsbac.force.com/communitygrants\)](https://hsbac.force.com/communitygrants) and must be completed online.