



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
Agenda Date: June 10, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Jesús Armas, Community Services Director
Contact: Sarah York Rubin, Executive Director, Office of Arts and Culture
SUBJECT: **County Arts Making Impact Grant Award Disbursement Recommendations**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Review and approve the 2025 Arts Making Impact Grant Awards to disburse to selected applicants (Attachment A) through June 30, 2026.
- b) Determine that the recommended actions are not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act under CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), because they consist of administrative activities that will not result in a direct or indirect physical change to the environment.

Summary Text:

Staff are requesting that the Board of Supervisors (Board) approve the County Arts Commission's recommendations for the Arts Making Impact (AMI) grant awards for Fiscal Year 2025-26. The grant program is intended to support artists and arts and culture organizations by funding projects and a variety of activities that enrich the lives of residents in communities throughout Santa Barbara County. With approval from the Board, grant contracts will be executed from July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026.

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Discussion:

The AMI grant program opened on March 14, 2025, with a deadline of April 15, 2025. Twenty-eight applications were submitted by nonprofit organizations and artists under the auspices of fiscal sponsors. The Arts Commission's ad hoc grant panel met on May 6, 2025, to determine preliminary recommendations. At the May 14, 2025, Arts Commission meeting, the Commission voted on recommendations for Board review and approval.

The funding recommended for this program is \$50,500, which is generated through the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation's Community Arts Subsidy and appropriated by the Board during the FY 2024-25 Budget Hearings. To maximize the impact of the funding available, eligibility is limited to artists with fiscal sponsors, or 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and districts with annual operating budgets under \$500,000. Additionally, the maximum request amount is limited to \$5,000. Applicants selected will be awarded the full amount of their request.

Background:

The AMI grant program was created in 2012 by the County Arts Commission. It is administered by the Office of Arts and Culture, utilizing pass-through funding from the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation's Community Arts Subsidy. As part of a lease agreement with the County, the Bowl created an Arts Subsidy fund with fifty cents per ticket sold, up to \$50,000, with a Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment every 5 years commencing with the 2020 Bowl concert season. The total Subsidy funding received by the County in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 was \$56,750. The Arts Commission recommended that \$50,500 be designated for the AMI grant program, with the remaining \$6,250 to be applied to broader countywide arts initiatives.

Grant proposals that help eliminate current barriers to cultural activities, such as access to transportation, materials, artists, music, and art instruction for youth and underserved communities, are encouraged (Attachment B). Applicants were scored according to impact on the community served, number of people served, demonstration of fiscal responsibility, overall cost-effectiveness of the project, and other community support. Additional consideration was given to projects that demonstrated partnerships, collaboration, innovation, and expansion; inclusion of diverse communities and artists in all aspects of program planning and implementation; and commitment to payment for artistic services.

The full list of proposals, grant funding requests, recommended grant awards, duration of grant disbursement, project descriptions, and proposed use of grant funds for each of the applicants are detailed in Attachment A. For the upcoming cycle, the Arts Commission recommends the following organizations for funding: Alcazar Theatre, Boxtales Theatre Company, Carpinteria Skate Foundation, Grace Fisher Foundation, Lompoc Theatre Project, Move with Purpose, Pianos on State Masq(p)arade!, Santa Barbara Black Culture House, Santa Barbara Dance Institute, Santa Maria Philharmonic Society, Youth Arts Alive (SBCAN), and the Solvang Danish Days Foundation.

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Organizations Recommended for Funding

Nonprofit Organization, District, or Fiscal Sponsor	Amount Requested	Recommended Award
Alcazar Theatre	\$5,000	\$5,000
Boxtales Theatre Company	\$5,000	\$5,000
Carpinteria Skate Foundation	\$3,000	\$3,000
Grace Fisher Foundation	\$5,000	\$5,000
Lompoc Theatre Project	\$5,000	\$5,000
Move with Purpose (Santa Barbara Foundation)	\$5,000	\$1,000
Pianos on State Masq(p)arade! (Santa Barbara Arts Collaborative)	\$1,500	\$1,500
Santa Barbara Black Culture House (Black Rock Coalition)	\$5,000	\$5,000
Santa Barbara Dance Institute	\$5,000	\$5,000
Santa Maria Philharmonic Society	\$5,000	\$5,000
Youth Arts Alive (Santa Barbara County Action Network)	\$5,000	\$5,000
Solvang Danish Days Foundation	\$5,000	\$5,000

Fiscal Analysis:

Budgeted: Yes

The AMI grant program funding was appropriated as part of the Office of Arts and Culture's Fiscal Year 2024- 25 budget and funded through the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation's Community Arts Subsidy.

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Staffing Impacts:

This will have no additional staffing impact.

Special Instructions:

Please send a copy of the minute order to Hannah Rubalcava at hannah@sbac.ca.gov and Teralyn Evans-Gutiérrez at Tegutierrez@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – 2025-26 AMI Grant Project Descriptions and Award Recommendations

Attachment B – Arts Making Impact Grant Guidelines and Application

Contact Information:

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Executive Director, Office of Arts & Culture

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