

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
2025–2026 Arts Making Impact Grant Applicants and Award Recommendations

The Arts Making Impact (AMI) Grants program is intended to support cultural practitioners and organizations by funding projects that provide greater and more diverse participation in the arts and to integrate the arts into learning environments for children and young adults. 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.

Eligibility is limited to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with an annual operating budget under \$500,000, or artists working under the auspices of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Applicants must be based in Santa Barbara County and provide services to Santa Barbara County residents. The maximum amount of an Arts Making Impact Grant Award is \$5,000.

ARTS MAKING IMPACT GRANT GENERAL INFORMATION

Total AMI Grant Funding Requested:	\$129,720
Total AMI Grant Funding Available:	\$50,500
Total Number of Applicants:	28
Number of Applicants Receiving Funding:	12

GRANT APPLICANTS, PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS, AND AWARD AMOUNT RECOMMENDATIONS

(Please note: the grant descriptions provided below are submitted by the applicants as part of their grant application.)

GRANT APPLICATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

Alcazar Theatre

Project Description: “Our program ‘Listen to Us’ By the Youth of Carpinteria is a program for the young, which at its core, deals with helping address mental health issues using storytelling and theater. More than 400 are directly involved in this program either as participants, or by sharing their stories with younger generations or as audience members for the final performance. It is based on theater workshops utilizing improvisation, performing stories of both the participants and other community members.”

The recommended amount of \$5,000 in grant funds will partially support staffing costs totaling \$5,890 for a program with a total budget of \$12,190.

Locations Served: Carpinteria

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$5,000

Boxtales Theatre Company

Project Description: “Boxtales will fully subsidize 3-5 world mythology assemblies for Title I schools in North County during the 2025-26 school year. This live, standards-based programming will support 3 professional artists as they perform to enhance the social-emotional well-being of 1,750 students from low-income backgrounds, helping them navigate ongoing mental health challenges.”

The recommended amount of \$5,000 in grant funds will fully subsidize 3–5 live assemblies at rural North County Title I schools during the 2025–26 school year, reaching an estimated 1,750 students. Funds will support staffing costs (\$3,375) for teaching artists and a booking assistant, facility costs (\$400) for office rent, and other expenses (\$1,225) for gas and van maintenance.

Locations Served: Lompoc/North County

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$5,000

Carpinteria Skate Foundation

Project Description: “This grant would cover the cost of all physical art materials needed for the Fall semester of the Push Project, a 5 day a week visual arts based afterschool program for middle school students in Carpinteria. Run at no cost to the students, the Push Project leverages a visual arts based curriculum and skateboarding to facilitate social/emotional growth, creative self expression, self esteem, creative problem solving skills and eliminates barriers of entry to experiential learning opportunities.”

The recommended amount of \$5,000 in grant funds will support the purchase of art materials for the Push Project.

Locations Served: Carpinteria

Requested Grant Amount: \$3,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$3,000

Grace Fisher Foundation

Project Description: “Free Family Drum Circle Weekly Program at the Inclusive Arts Clubhouse. This is an interactive program offered every Sunday from 11:30am -12:30pm in collaboration with three professional musicians alternating each week, both with music therapy backgrounds. The AMI grant funding would allow for 28 weeks or 6 months of consistent programming. Free to people of all abilities that would not have access to this experience otherwise.”

The recommended amount of \$5,000 in grant funds will support drum circle facilitator fees (\$3,900 for 26 weeks) and administrative costs (\$750 for program coordination).

Locations Served: Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$5,000

Lompoc Theatre Project

Project Description: “This program will offer participants the tools, mentorship, and safe space to explore, develop, and share their personal stories, culminating in a public performance that celebrates our region's rich cultural diversity and lived experiences.”

The recommended amount of \$5,000 in grant funds will support Storytelling and Poetry Workshops, including six sessions and a final event, covering artist mentor fees (\$3,600), venue rental (\$300), and workshop materials (\$1,100).

Locations Served: Lompoc

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$5,000

Move with Purpose (Fiscal Sponsor: Santa Barbara Foundation)

Project Description: “Move With Purpose is proudly sponsored by the Santa Barbara Foundation. Our mission is to heal and empower members of marginalized communities and bridge gaps through access to arts, educational opportunities, and the support of safe and brave spaces. We advance children’s chances for success by using the arts as a vehicle to instill confidence, and teach leadership, resilience, life skills, and philanthropy. We are seeking support for our scholarship program to help us fulfill our mission.”

The recommended amount of \$1,000 in grant funds will support educator and mentor stipends for the Inclusion Coalition Video Project (\$500) and Catalyst Artist stipends for choreographers and administrators (\$500). **Of the \$5,000 requested grant amount, the allocation of \$4,000 to support Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 scholarships was determined to be ineligible under grant guidelines.*

Locations Served: Carpinteria, Summerland, Goleta, Isla Vista, Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$1,000

Pianos on State Masq(p)arade! of the Santa Barbara Arts Collaborative

Project Description: “Masq(p)arade! is a whimsical, art-centric performance progressive, showcasing an eclectic series of dynamic piano-based acts at the Pianos on State painted pianos. Regional artists create bite-sized works, incorporating playful masks and decorated pianos, to be performed in succession in the heart of Santa Barbara's historic cultural arts district. This innovative roving celebration of the performing arts in all its forms is free of charge, highly accessible, and open to the entire community.”

The recommended amount of \$1,500 in grant funds will support honoraria for participating artists (\$500) and partial compensation for the Artistic Director’s event organization and production work (\$1,000) for Masq(p)arade!.

Locations Served: Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$1,500

Recommended Grant Award: \$1,500

Santa Barbara Black Culture House (Fiscal Sponsor: Black Rock Coalition)

Project Description: “The Santa Barbara Black Culture House is a pop-up event space showcasing a dynamic range of events in celebration of the art, culture, history and life of the Black/African Diasporan, here in the city of Santa Barbara, CA. It was founded in 2020 so that the full spectrum of creative disciplines and ideas, expressed through the provocative and foundational lens of the Black experience, can be illuminated and celebrated in the Santa Barbara region.”

The recommended amount of \$5,000 in grant funds will support artist salaries (\$2,500), venue rental (\$2,000), insurance (\$450), and marketing expenses (\$50) for Santa Barbara Black Culture House programming during Black History Month.

Locations Served: Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$5,000

Santa Barbara Dance Institute

Project Description: "Santa Barbara Dance Institute's creative aging program "Dance On" will meet the dance/music needs of 135 seniors at 6 independent living communities, memory care and rehabilitation facilities. Demand for "Dance On" continues to increase. This grant will ensure expanded arts access for seniors. "Dance On" benefits participants, enhancing memory, improving physical mobility, promoting emotional well-being, and fostering social connection, built on 4 pillars: connect, collaborate, listen, respond."

The recommended amount of \$5,000 in grant funds will support instructor fees (\$2,000), artistic director salary (\$1,000), insurance (\$500), finance administration and accounting costs (\$500), and general administration and rent (\$1,000).

Locations Served: Goleta, Isla Vista, Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$5,000

Santa Maria Philharmonic Society

Project Description: "The Santa Maria Philharmonic Youth Outreach Program opens the world of classical music to local young people who have limited to no exposure to music education. The program includes a Music Van that visits third-graders and allows them the opportunity to hear, handle, and play orchestral instruments, a series of Children's Concerts, Youth Showcase, Library Series, and Family Concert. All programming is provided free of charge.

The recommended amount of \$5,000 in grant funds will support artist salaries for musicians performing in the Children's Concerts, Family Concert, Music Van, and Library Series (\$4,500), and administrative support for program operations (\$500).

Locations Served: Guadalupe, Lompoc, Orcutt, Santa Maria, Los Alamos

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$5,000

Youth Arts Alive (Fiscal Sponsor: Santa Barbara County Action Network)

Project Description: "We will provide free summer classes in visual and performing arts for children 8-18 in under-served communities, focusing this summer and next on Santa Maria, Guadalupe and Solvang, and seek funding to compensate professional artists to teach Music, Theatre, Dance and Visual Arts for between 400 and 450 children. The summer training ends with a Grand Arts Fiesta, which showcases the pottery and visual arts created by our students, and their Music, Theatre and Dance performances."

The recommended amount of \$5,000 in grant funds will help cover the costs of professional teaching artists for Youth ARTS Alive's 2025 summer program, supporting approximately 600 hours of instruction at a rate of \$35 per hour.

Locations Served: Guadalupe, Santa Maria, Solvang

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$5,000

Solvang Danish Days Foundation

Project Description: "Solvang Danish Days 2025 - Celebrating 88 Years of Danish Tradition Solvang Danish Days 2025 marks the 88th anniversary of a beloved heritage festival from Friday, September 19 through Sunday, September 21, 2025 in the village of Solvang, California. Established in 1936, this annual celebration honors Solvang's Danish roots with a welcoming and vibrant weekend full of traditional food, dancing, live music, artisans, and family-friendly experiences that reflect the welcoming heart of Solvang."

The recommended amount of \$5,000 in grant funds may be applied toward eligible expenses for Danish Days 2025, including artist payments, venue rental, marketing, and heritage demonstrations. The applicant requested \$12,315 in total funding, exceeding the \$5,000 maximum grant request; of this, \$10,875 was determined eligible. Performer breakfasts (\$1,440) were determined ineligible under grant guidelines.

Locations Served: Solvang

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$5,000

GRANTS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

Estudio Jaguar (Fiscal Sponsor: Summer Solstice)

Project Description: "Art Celebration Corps is a community-led arts program that trains families and emerging artists from Santa Barbara's West and East Sides in celebration arts like painting, mask-making, dance, and puppetry. Through bi-monthly workshops and partnerships with local arts institutions, the program empowers participants to become creators and leaders in public cultural celebrations."

Funding was requested for staffing expenses (\$4,500) to support main and guest artists teaching workshops at \$50 per hour, and for materials (\$500) for masks, banners, and puppets for the Art Celebration Corps program.

Locations Served: Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$0

Lompoc California Concert Association

Project Description: "The Musical Instrument Petting Zoo and Family Concert will provide preschool-6th graders and their parents with a free hands-on introduction to a menagerie of musical instruments as local area professional musicians show them how to hold the instruments and try to make musical sounds. Food trucks along with face painting and other fun activities will be provided on site, and a short, lively concert of tunes familiar to kids of all ages will cap off the event at the historic Lompoc Theatre."

Funding was requested for payment to 14 local musicians for rehearsal, instrument demonstrations, and concert performance; face painting artist fees; sound technician services and equipment; marketing materials for distribution to schools and public spaces; and a temporary use permit fee for the Lompoc Theatre venue.

Locations Served: Lompoc

Requested Grant Amount: \$4,320

Recommended Grant Award: \$0

Muffin Music

Project Description: “The M2 Summer Music Program provides students across various musical backgrounds with the opportunity to work with world-class teaching artists to learn and perform music. The program caters primarily to the needs of local students from the Santa Ynez Valley and Central Coast, however, the M2 Program also invites students from all over the country and world to attend and engage with the local community.”

Funding was requested for teaching artist stipends (\$2,000) to support one full-time and one part-time instructor, student transportation costs (\$900) including vehicle rental and gas reimbursements, and instrument rental and maintenance expenses (\$600).

Locations Served: Buellton

Requested Grant Amount: \$3,500

Recommended Grant Award: \$0

Off Register: Santa Barbara Art Book & Print Fair (Fiscal Sponsor: Santa Barbara Arts Collaborative)

Project Description: “Off Register: Santa Barbara Art Book and Print Fair, is a one-day event bringing together over sixty exhibitors from around California and across the country. The fair offers opportunities to meet, converse with, and purchase work from a diverse group of artists and publishers working in a wide range of printmaking practices. Off Register also features hands-on demonstrations of innovative contemporary print techniques, symposium-style panel discussions, and performative readings.”

Funding was requested for equipment rental (\$777), event space insurance (\$350), event space rental (\$1,250), PA system rental (\$80), newspaper advertising (\$1,060), social media advertising (\$508), and keynote speaker and panelist stipends (\$975).

Locations Served: Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$0

Orcutt Area Seniors in Service, Inc.

Project Description: “OASIS seeks funding to purchase a slab roller and pottery wheel to expand access and enhance participation in our popular senior ceramics program. These tools will increase creative opportunities for older adults, including those with mobility or strength limitations.”

Funding was requested for the purchase of one portable slab roller and one pottery wheel, including essential accessories such as bats, canvas, splash pans, and shipping costs, to expand accessibility for seniors participating in weekly ceramics classes.

Locations Served: Orcutt

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$0

Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation: "OCAF"

Project Description: "OCAF is working with Orcutt Junior High School to install an outdoor mural on their campus. Local artist team, Creative Accents, has created an interactive design that reflects our local ecology. The mural will be painted on the side of the gym, near the lunch area, where large crowds pass as they enter youth athletic events such as basketball and volleyball games. This is a permanent installation that will last for generations of students."

Funding was requested to provide artist compensation for services provided by Marcie Gooley and Glenda Stevens of Creative Accents.

Locations Served: Orcutt

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$0

Santa Barbara Gay Men's Chorus

Project Description: "The Santa Barbara Gay Men's Chorus presents a Pride Week Cabaret at the New Vic Theatre in August 2025. This vibrant performance celebrates LGBTQIA+ stories through music and theatrical expression, fostering inclusivity and community engagement. By offering free tickets and transportation stipends to underserved audiences, the event aims to make the arts accessible to all, reinforcing SBGMC's commitment to diversity, equity, and artistic excellence."

Funding was requested to support artistic personnel, production and venue expenses, marketing and promotion, and subsidized tickets for LGBTQ+ youth and seniors.

Locations Served: Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$0

Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum

Project Description: "The Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum plans to revitalize our Nat Fast Children's Arts & Culture Free Community Day on Sunday, January 25, 2026, to encourage children and their families to celebrate and participate in Santa Maria's rich multi-cultural roots in visual arts, music, dance and performing arts. The hands-on interactive event provides engaging intergenerational and intercultural learning for our Spanish and English-speaking community through the power of the arts."

Funding was requested to cover stipends for four professional artists (\$2,000) and two cultural organizations (\$2,000), as well as materials and supplies (\$1,000) for hands-on art activities serving up to 1,000 children and their families.

Locations Served: Santa Maria

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$0

Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden Foundation

Project Description: “The Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden (SYVBG) will host six "Art in the Garden" classes to be offered at no cost to participants in northern Santa Barbara County, thus helping to remove economic barriers to attendance. The grant will allow us to provide all supplies needed, to pay facilitators a modest stipend, and to establish collaborative partnerships with local artists.”

Funding was requested to support six “Art in the Garden” classes, including participant art materials, teacher and facilitator stipends, educational programming on the connection between art and nature, production of a final Garden Booklet, and collaboration with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians’ cultural committee.

Locations Served: Buellton

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$0

Solvang Chamber of Commerce (Solvang Community Development Alliance)

Project Description: “SOLVANG MUSIC IN THE PARK is hosted by the Solvang Chamber of Commerce and is a series of 11 FREE 3-hour weekly concerts held every Wednesdays July 2 through August 27, 2025 and again June 17 through June 24, 2026, a total of 33 hours of free public concerts. A mix of diverse and eclectic performers offer different genres of music, including R&B, Oldies, Old School, Classical, Classic Rock, Country, Blues, and Latino music. Event is free and open to all and is an inclusive and accessible event.”

Funding was requested to offset direct expenses for the Solvang Music in the Park concert series, including staffing, park rental, cleanup, security, production and marketing costs, and musician and band fees.

Locations Served: Solvang

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$0

The Arts Fund

Project Description: “The Arts Fund will offer a virtual Fall Teen Arts Mentorship in poetry and creative self-expression, connecting youth from across Santa Barbara County with a professional poet for an 8-week program that explores poetic tools, activism through art, and culminates in a final exhibition of student-designed poetry broadsides.”

Funding was requested to support the Fall Teen Arts Mentorship program, including compensation for the professional poet mentor (\$1,500), student materials (\$400), a Zoom Pro subscription (\$50), and staff time for program coordination, communications, and student support (\$550).

Locations Served: Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$2,600

Recommended Grant Award: \$0

Viva Brazil

Project Description: “Our youth program provides accessible and empowering opportunities for underserved communities by addressing the lack of quality educational and cultural programs for low-income youth. Through Capoeira, a blend of dance, acrobatics, and music. we offer a holistic experience that promotes physical activity,

character development, and cultural education. Participants build confidence, develop life skills, and gain a deeper appreciation for diversity.”

Funding was requested to support teacher artist fees and costume expenses for a final performance.

Locations Served: Goleta

Requested Grant Amount: \$4,800

Recommended Grant Award: \$0

Voces Que Sanan (Fiscal Sponsor: Cultural and Creative Arts of the Santa Maria Valley)

Project Description: “Voces Que Sanan is a community-based initiative that blends art, theater, and photography to promote healing, expression, and resilience among Latinx families. Through visual and performative narratives, we create safe spaces where silenced voices find strength and identity. Our human-centered and inclusive approach fosters emotional well-being, a sense of belonging, and community transformation through art that heals, inspires, and mobilizes.”

Funding was requested to support the Voces Que Sanan community-based arts and healing program, including outreach tools (\$200), storage rental (\$300), participant gift cards (\$1,000), creative materials (\$1,000), fiscal sponsorship fees (\$500), and additional supplies and equipment for workshops and community events.

Locations Served: Lompoc

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$0

GRANTS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

A War On Childhood LLC (International Documentary Association)

Project Description: ““A War on Childhood” explores the harmful effects of screen use on early childhood development and its lasting impact into adolescence. This compelling documentary exposes a growing mental health crisis affecting our children, aiming to raise awareness and inspire parents, educators, and lawmakers to safeguard children’s fundamental right to a safe and healthy childhood.”

Funding was requested to support principal photography (crew, equipment, and travel), post-production (editing, sound design, and color correction), and community screenings, including discussion materials for audience engagement.

Locations Served: Santa Ynez

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$0*

** Applicant did not complete the mandatory grant workshop requirement.*

Goleta Education Foundation

Project Description: “With support from the Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture, Goleta Education Foundation (GEF) will foster equity, access and opportunity in Goleta Union School District communities by providing in-school performing arts education to 1,730 students through our partnership with Children’s Creative Project.”

Funding was requested to support teaching artist salaries through a contract with Children's Creative Project (CCP) for an 11-week performing arts residency program in GUSD classrooms. The request also included administrative costs to coordinate and manage the program.

Locations Served: Goleta

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$0*

** Applicant did not complete the mandatory grant workshop requirement.*

Kelsey

Project Description: "As an autistic woman and member of the LGBT community, my music serves as a platform for inclusivity and creative expression. This project seeks funding to produce a lyric video for my single "Boundless," along with trailers for my albums "Rebirth" and "Anime Cover Album." Additionally, the grant will support social media promotions to expand my reach and connect with diverse audiences. I am a graduate of UNLV and have been accepted into the MA program in Entertainment Industry at CSUN, focusing on Music Supervision. As an artist signed to B-Track Records and a working artist with Jazz Hands for Autism, I am committed to promoting neurodivergent and LGBTQ+ voices in music. This initiative will enhance my visibility as an independent artist while supporting the broader goal of representation and inclusion in the arts. The project will connect my music with the community, fostering a diverse, inclusive environment for all."

Funding was requested to support artist promotion (\$1,500), additional social media promotion (\$1,500), and the creation of a lyric video (\$500) and two album trailers (\$700 each).

Locations Served: Lake Elsinore

Requested Grant Amount: \$5,000

Recommended Grant Award: \$0*

** Applicant did not meet the eligibility requirement to be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Santa Barbara County.*