

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
2026-2027 Arts Making Impact Grant Recipients

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 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 to youth and underserved communities, are encouraged.

Only organizations with annual budgets less than \$500,000 were eligible to apply. Artists or arts organizations applying must be based in Santa Barbara County and provide services to Santa Barbara County residents.

The maximum amount of an Arts Making Impact Grant is \$5,000. Grant guidelines state that grants that are selected for funding will be awarded the full amount of their grant request.

ARTS MAKING IMPACT GRANT GENERAL INFORMATION

Total AMI Grant Funding Requested:	\$119,735
Total AMI Grant Funding Available:	\$56,235
Total Number of Applicants:	25
Number of Applicants Receiving Funding:	12

GRANT APPLICANTS, 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

ArtLabbé Santa Barbara

Project Description: “ArtLabbé Academy is a music and arts program offered weekly and free of charge to 200+ individuals with IDD in Santa Barbara. This grant would fund roughly 1/3 of our board certified music therapist's (Meghan Downing) compensation for the 2025-2026 academic year, providing over 200 hours of free music therapy to the individuals that need it most.”

Location: Goleta/Isla Vista, Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$5000

Boxtales Theatre Company

Project Description: “Boxtales will fully subsidize 3-5 world mythology assemblies for Title I schools in North County during the 2026-27 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.”

Location: Cuyama, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Los Alamos, Orucct, Santa Maria, Santa Ynez Valley

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$5000

Goleta Education Foundation

Project Description: “The Goleta Education Foundation (GEF) is respectfully requesting \$5,000 to support music-based performing arts programs for Goleta Union School District (GUSD) students, including the Goleta Orchestra and Band Program as well as the Resident Artist Division (RAD) workshops offered by Children’s Creative Project (CCP). Together, these programs provide accessible in-school and after-school music and cultural arts education for nearly 1,800 students across nine elementary schools.”

Location: Goleta/Isla Vista, Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$5000

Grace Fisher Foundation

Project Description: “GFF’s Free Family Drum Circle is a core weekly program held at the Inclusive Arts Clubhouse in SB. This interactive, intergenerational class is every Sunday morning and provides an inclusive, welcoming space for individuals of all abilities to connect through music. 2 professional musicians alternate weekly with backgrounds in music therapy, ensuring an adaptive environment for diverse participants for 9 months expanding access to high-quality arts experiences for all ages and abilities.”

Location: Carpinteria/Summerland, Goleta/Isla Vista, Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$5000

Lompoc Theatre Project

Project Description: “The Lompoc Chalks Festival is a free 3 day family Arts event open to everyone in the community. It features artists from around the state as well as local arts vendors, musicians, and a popular kids corner where they can make their own chalk creations.”

Location: Lompoc, Los Alamos, Orucct

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$5000

Masq(p)arade!

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.”

Location: Carpinteria/Summerland, Goleta/Isla Vista, Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$1800

Grant Award: \$1800

NewGrit

Project Description: “A 31-week Lompoc arts and mental wellness initiative. We engage residents in acrylic painting and storytelling to build community resilience, culminating in a beautiful, uplifting public butterfly installation celebrating local families.”

Location: Lompoc

Requested Grant Amount: \$4635

Grant Award: \$4635

Santa Barbara Arts Collaborative

Project Description: “Ready to Hang 2026 will reserve up to 40 slots in this annual show for youth artists.”

Location: Santa Barbara, Santa Maria

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$5000

Santa Barbara Dance Institute

Project Description: “For seniors in memory care and rehab, meaningful movement is rare, transformative. Sept 2026–Jun 2027, SBDI's Dance On brings 125 classes to 155 seniors at 5 Santa Barbara sites. Structured movement in rhythmic sequences stimulates the hippocampus, supporting neuroplasticity and slowing cognitive decline. The music unlocks residents' memories. A teaching artist and trained volunteers deliver bilingual instruction, fostering social connection, confidence and belonging in underserved communities.”

Location: Goleta/Isla Vista, Santa Maria

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$5000

selah dance collective, inc.

Project Description: “Selah Dance Collective will present Dance Access Santa Barbara, a series of free performances and workshops featuring professional dancers to expand access to dance across Santa Barbara County. The program includes three performances and three workshops in community venues such as schools, galleries, and arts spaces. Workshops,

artist talks, and interactive elements for youth and adults build creativity and confidence, serving 500–700 residents and reducing barriers to arts participation.”

Location: Carpinteria/Summerland, Goleta/Isla Vista, Lompoc, Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$5000

Viva Brazil

Project Description: “Our program dedicated to youth addresses the critical need for accessible and empowering opportunities in underserved communities. Focusing on the lack of quality educational and cultural programs for low-income youth, our initiative strives to bridge this gap through a comprehensive Capoeira-centered experience. By offering a holistic approach to physical activity, character development, and cultural education, our program enhances access and opportunities for youth.”

Location: Goleta/Isla Vista, Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$4800

Grant Award: \$4800

Youth Arts Alive - program of SBCAN

Project Description: “Youth ARTS Alive provides free, culturally responsive arts education for youth ages 8-18 in underserved Santa Maria communities. By bringing professional artists into local neighborhoods, we remove financial and access barriers and create opportunities for youth to explore creativity, build confidence, and develop their artistic voice. A \$5,000 grant will support over 500 hours of programming in music, theatre, dance, and visual arts for nearly 400 students this summer.”

Location: Guadalupe, Lompoc, Orucctt, Santa Maria

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$5000

GRANT APPLICATIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

Arts Mentorship Program

Project Description: “The AMI grant will support the AMP's Scholarship program cycle for 2026. This project is designed to expand equitable access to dance education for youth across Santa Barbary County.”

Location: Carpinteria/Summerland, Goleta/Isla Vista, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$0

Central Coast United Bboys Bgirls

Project Description: ““I Need A Break” is a community-driven dance event and cultural platform providing accessible, high-quality opportunities for dancers, youth, and local creatives in Santa Barbara County. Created to address the lack of local access to training, competition, and community space, the event has grown into a recognized gathering serving participants across the region. The 2026 event will take place on October 3, 2026 in Santa Barbara at Robertson Gymnasium.”

Location: Carpinteria/Summerland, Goleta/Isla Vista, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Los Alamos, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Santa Ynez Valley

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$0

Galavant, Inc

Project Description: “A defined series of flagship popup concerts produced by Galavant during the 2026–2027 AMI award period. Each show features professional performing artists paid through a sliding-scale model at donated community venues, with full professional sound reinforcement and live multitrack recording delivered free to every performer.”

Location: Carpinteria/Summerland, Goleta/Isla Vista, Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$0

Lights Up! Theatre Company

Project Description: “Lights Up! expands access to performing arts education for underserved Santa Barbara youth by removing financial and structural barriers through scholarships and partnerships with local schools and youth organizations, creating inclusive pathways into theatre training, confidence, and creative expression.”

Location: Carpinteria/Summerland, Goleta/Isla Vista, Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$0

Lompoc Teen Center

Project Description: “Presented by the Lompoc Teen Center and the Lompoc Theatre Project, Lompoc Teens' Got Talent is an annual competition that gives Lompoc teens (7th-12th grade) the opportunity to showcase their talents in front of a live audience and panel of judges for a chance to win a cash prize. Lompoc students can showcase artistic expression, build confidence, and engage the community through performance and creative storytelling.”

Location: Lompoc

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$0

Out of the Box Theatre

Project Description: “Out of the Box Theatre Company’s 2026–2027 season will deliver bold, accessible, and socially relevant theatrical productions that engage diverse audiences and amplify underrepresented voices in our community. Grant support will ensure high-quality productions while expanding opportunities for artists and audience members who may not otherwise have access to live musical theatre in our community.”

Location: Carpinteria/Summerland, Goleta/Isla Vista, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Santa Ynez Valley

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$0

Santa Barbara Art Works

Project Description: “Creative At-Home Access in the Arts brings high-quality art materials and expert instruction straight to individuals with disabilities in their homes. Many people with disabilities face barriers to traditional in-studio programs due to mobility, health, or learning needs. By bringing accessible art experiences into the home, the project empowers participants to engage fully in creative practice at their own pace while keeping them connected to Santa Barbara’s vibrant cultural community.”

Location: Goleta/Isla Vista, Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$0

Santa Barbara Gay Men's Chorus

Project Description: “SBGMC requests \$5,000 to offset New Vic Theatre rental for our second annual Pride Cabaret on August 20, 2026. This enables uniform \$30 pricing (eliminating the \$60 tier) and a donor-sponsored scholarship program providing 30 free tickets to those facing financial hardship, ensuring the underserved LGBTQIA+ community can fully participate.”

Location: Carpinteria/Summerland, Cuyama, Goleta/Isla Vista, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Los Alamos, Orcutt, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Santa Ynez Valley

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$0

Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden Foundation

Project Description: “A local craftsman will create a large artistic metal backdrop for the Garden’s deck in the center of the Garden. This practical work of art will be on permanent public display, serving both as a stage backdrop and as art to be admired by all visitors to the Garden.”

Location: Lompoc, Los Alamos, Santa Ynez Valley

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$0

GRANTS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Move with Purpose

Project Description: “We are seeking funding to help cover our operational costs so we can offer free glassblowing classes to students ages 6–25 throughout Santa Barbara County.

We are a family-owned glassblowing studio based in Santa Barbara with a long-standing commitment to sharing our craft with the local community. In the past, we have donated glassblowing classes to students from Santa Barbara High School, giving young people the opportunity to experience this unique art form firsthand.

With additional support, we hope to expand this opportunity to students across all schools in Santa Barbara County. Our goal is to make glassblowing accessible to young people who may not otherwise have the chance to explore this creative, hands-on art. By removing financial barriers, we aim to inspire creativity, build confidence, and introduce students to the possibilities within the arts and skilled trades.

Funding would allow us to cover essential overhead costs—including materials, equipment use, and studio operations—so that these classes can remain completely free for students.”

Location: Carpinteria, Cuyama, Goleta/Isla Vista, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Los Alamos, Orcutt, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Santa Ynez Valley

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$0

Ineligible

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

Santa Barbara Art Glass Studio, LLC

Project Description: “We are seeking funding to help cover our operational costs so we can offer free glassblowing classes to students ages 6–25 throughout Santa Barbara County.

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Funding would allow us to cover essential overhead costs—including materials, equipment use, and studio operations—so that these classes can remain completely free for students.”

Location: Carpinteria, Cuyama, Goleta/Isla Vista, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Los Alamos, Orcutt, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Santa Ynez Valley

Requested Grant Amount: \$5000

Grant Award: \$0

Ineligible

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

Santa Maria Philharmonic Society

Project Description: “The Santa Maria Philharmonic Youth Outreach Program opens the world of classical music to local disadvantaged young people who have limited to no exposure to music education. The program includes a series of Children's Concerts, Youth Showcase, Library Series, and Family Concert. All programming is provided free of charge.”

Location: Guadalupe, Lompoc, Orcutt, Santa Maria, Santa Ynez Valley

Requested Grant Amount: \$3500

Grant Award: \$0

Ineligible

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

The Island of Misfit Toys

Project Description: “Island of Misfit Toys, led by DJ Ananas, is a community-centered arts initiative designed to advance cultural equity by creating sustainable, inclusive spaces for BIPOC artists in California. Through interdisciplinary programming—including music, storytelling, and creative workshops—the project uplifts historically underrepresented voices while addressing systemic inequities such as displacement and cultural erasure caused by gentrification.”

Location: Santa Barbara

Requested Grant Amount: \$3500

Grant Award: \$0

Ineligible

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