



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

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: May 14, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Jesús Armas, Community Services Department Director (805) 568-2467
Director 568-2467
Contact Info: Eva Camarena, Executive Assistant (805)568-2467

SUBJECT: County Arts Making Impact Grant Award Disbursement Recommendations

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

- a) Review and approve the County Arts Commission's recommended grant awards for the 2024 County Arts Making Impact grant cycle (Attachment A); and
- 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; and CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4) because they consist of government fiscal activities that do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

Staff is requesting that the Board of Supervisors (Board) review and approve the 2024-25 County Arts Making Impact (AMI) grant awards as recommended by the County Arts Commission (Attachment A). The AMI grant program is funded through the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation Community Arts Subsidy, which was established in 2011 as part of the lease agreement between the County and Bowl Foundation.

The AMI grant program is intended to support artists and arts and culture organizations by funding projects and activities that enrich the lives of residents in communities throughout Santa Barbara County. The current grant guidelines (Attachment B: Guidelines) stipulate the following eligibility requirements: 501(c)(3) nonprofit status; a primary business address in Santa Barbara County; providing services within County residents; and an annual operating budget under \$500,000.

The total amount allotted for the 2024-25 cycle is \$50,000, and each applicant was able to request up to \$5,000. Thirty-nine organizations submitted applications and eleven were recommended for funding by the Arts Commission.

Background:

The Arts Making Impact (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 Cost of Living (CPI) Adjustment every 5 years commencing with the 2020 Bowl concert season. The total Subsidy funding received by the County in FY 2023-2024 was \$56,750. The Arts Commission recommended that \$50,000 be designated for the Arts Making Impact grant program, with the remaining \$6,750 to be used for future community arts programs.

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. Applicants were scored according to the following criteria: impact on the community served; number of people served; demonstration of fiscal responsibility; overall cost-effectiveness of the project; and other financial and 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 AMI grant program opened on January 15, 2024. Thirty-nine applications were submitted, requesting a total of \$189,764. The Arts Commission's *ad hoc* grant panel met on April 3, 2024, to review applications and determine preliminary recommendations to present to the Arts Commission. At the April 10, 2024 Arts Commission meeting, the Commission voted on award recommendations for Board review and approval. Following Board approval, the Office of Arts and Culture will enter into contracts with the grantees. The grant period will conclude on June 30, 2025.

The maximum amount of an AMI grant is \$5,000. Grants selected for funding will be awarded the full amount of the grant request.

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.

Organizations Recommended for Funding:

Eleven organizations were recommended for grant awards by the Arts Commission: Be Momentum, Boxtales Theatre Company, Goleta Education Foundation, Grace Fisher Foundation, Lompoc Theatre Project, Orcutt Area Seniors in Service, Inc., Santa Barbara Black Culture House, Santa Barbara Transgender Advocacy Network, Santa Maria Philharmonic Society, Viva Brazil, and Youth Arts Alive.

ORGANIZATION (FISCAL SPONSOR)	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT RECOMMENDED	USE OF GRANT FUNDS (Descriptions provided by grant applicants)
Be Momentum	\$5,000	\$5,000	"Be Momentum is partnering with other after-school program facilities to offer a regular weekly dance class for free to create accessible dance education for the youth of Santa Barbara County. These classes are not merit-based and are open to all students in Santa Barbara County ages 6-12. The class will be weekly and run the duration of the 2024-2025 SBUSD academic calendar August 2024-June 2025."
Boxtales Theatre Company	\$5,000	\$5,000	"Boxtales will provide 3-5 full subsidies to Title I schools in North County for our live standards-based, world mythology assemblies for the 2024-25 school year. If live performances are not permitted. Our programming will focus on social-emotional learning, helping 2,500 students from low-income backgrounds cope with the continued mental health challenges facing our youth."
Goleta Education Foundation	\$5,000	\$5,000	"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 artists in residence from Santa Barbara County's Children's Creative Project for performing arts to approximately 3,500 students in the Goleta Union School District"
Grace Fisher Foundation (Community Partners)	\$5,000	\$5,000	"The Grace Fisher Foundation offers a "Free Family Drum Circle Program at the Inclusive Arts Clubhouse". It is intended to support musicians, promote arts and cultural activities while enriching the lives of disabled residents and their families living in communities of Santa Barbara County. This interactive program is offered every Sunday in collaboration with two professional musicians alternating each week, both with music therapy backgrounds. The class takes place in an accessible space."
Lompoc Theatre Project	\$5,000	\$5,000	"We are producing our 5th annual Lompoc Chalks Festival. It has become an event the town looks forward to every year. Besides the beautiful art itself, the community enjoys the free chalk art classes for children, the musicians, and the kids from our schools and dance studios who perform throughout the weekend. We are seeking funding for stipends for the local chalk artists,

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			stipends for local musicians, chalk for the artists and kids, site rental, and City fees.”
Orcutt Area Seniors in Service, Inc.	\$3,664	\$1,600	“This grant seeks to enrich the lives of northern Santa Barbara County's senior residents by acquiring two potter's wheels two ceramics tables and glazes for the OASIS Center's ceramics program, broadening our art curriculum to include wheel-throwing skills alongside hand-building techniques. expansion will enhance creative expression, skill development, and community engagement among seniors fostering a vibrant, inclusive arts environment.”
Santa Barbara Black Culture House (Black Rock Coalition)	\$5,000	\$5,000	“The Santa Barbara Black Culture House is a pop-up arts space showcasing a dynamic range of events in celebration of the art, culture, and history of the Black Diaspora. It was co-founded in 2020 by producers Darrell M. McNeill and Sally A. Foxen-McNeill to present the full spectrum of creative disciplines and ideas, expressed through the provocative and foundational lens of the Black experience.”
Santa Barbara Transgender Advocacy Network	\$3,900	\$3,900	“The Santa Barbara Transgender Advocacy Network asks for a grant to help fund two art shows for transgender artists in Santa Barbara to foster support for the transgender community. The first art show is in the Fall of 2024 for transgender and neurodiverse artists. The other will be in March of 2025 for Transgender Day of Visibility. Transgender people are disproportionately marginalized due to their gender identities, so these art shows will provide them with the opportunity to sell their art.”
Santa Maria Philharmonic Society	\$5,000	\$5,000	“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, After School String Program, and Family Concert. All programming is provided free of charge.”
Viva Brazil	\$4,500	\$4,500	“Our organization will use the funds to hire artists to teach a 16 week long program to Elementary schools grades 4th to 6th in Santa Barbara county. The program involves a performing show at the end of the cycle where the kids will have the chance to be on stage and showcase their talent to families and friends. Kids will learn dance movements, how to play instruments, history and how to perform in a stage”

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Youth Arts Alive (SBCAN)	\$5,000	\$5,000	“The mission of Youth ARTS Alive is to provide free, culturally responsive classes in the performing and visual arts for children 8-18 in underserved communities of Santa Maria. Our goal is to bring working artists into economically challenged neighborhoods to share their skills and passion for the arts with children who cannot afford arts instruction. A grant of \$5,000 will help us provide 440 hours of classes in Music, Theatre, Dance and the Visual Arts for over 400 children this summer”
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Budgeted:

The AMI grant program funding was appropriated as part of the Office of Arts and Culture’s FY 2023-24 budget.

Special Instructions:

Please send a copy of the minute order to Hannah Rubalcava at hannah@sbac.ca.gov and Eva Camarena at ecamarena@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: The Santa Barbara County Arts Commission’s recommended Grant Awards for the Santa Barbara County Arts Making Impact Grant Disbursement

Attachment B: Arts Making Impact Grant Guidelines

Authored by:

Sarah York Rubin, Exec. Director, Office of Arts & Culture

Hannah Rubalcava, Grants and Contracts Manager, Office of Arts & Culture