



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

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

Agenda Number:

Submitted on:  
(COB Stamp)

**Department Name:** Community Services  
**Department No.:** 057  
**Agenda Date:** June 9, 2026  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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

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**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 2026 Arts Making Impact Grant Awards to disburse to selected applicants (Attachment A) through June 30, 2027; 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.

**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 2026-27. 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, 2026- June 30, 2027.

**Discussion:**

The AMI grant program opened on January 20, 2026, with a deadline of April 20, 2026. Twenty-five 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 7, 2026, to determine preliminary recommendations. At the May 13, 2026, Arts Commission meeting, the Commission voted on recommendations for Board review and approval.

The funding recommended for this regranting program is \$56,235, which is generated through the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation's Community Arts Subsidy and appropriated by the Board during the FY 2025-26 Budget Hearings. To maximize the impact of the funding available, grant 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 2025-2026 was \$69,916. The Arts Commission recommended that \$56,235 be designated for the AMI grant program, with the remaining \$13,681 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: ArtLabbé Santa Barbara, Boxtales Theatre Company, Goleta Education Foundation, Goleta Education Foundation, Grace Fisher Foundation, Lompoc Theatre Project, Masq(p)arade!, NewGrit, Santa Barbara Arts Collaborative, Santa Barbara Dance Institute, selah dance collective, inc., Viva Brazil, Youth Arts Alive - program of SBCAN.

<b>Organization (Fiscal Sponsor)</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Recommended Award</b>
ArtLabbé Santa Barbara	\$5,000	\$5,000
Boxtales Theatre Company	\$5,000	\$5,000
Goleta Education Foundation	\$5,000	\$5,000
Grace Fisher Foundation	\$5,000	\$5,000
Lompoc Theatre Project	\$5,000	\$5,000
Masq(p)arade!	\$1,800	\$1,800
NewGrit	\$4,635	\$4,635
Santa Barbara Arts Collaborative	\$5,000	\$5,000
Santa Barbara Dance Institute	\$5,000	\$5,000
selah dance collective, inc.	\$5,000	\$5,000
Viva Brazil	\$4,800	\$4,800
Youth Arts Alive - program of SBCAN	\$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 2025- 26 budget and funded through the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation’s Community Arts Subsidy.

**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](mailto:hannah@sbac.ca.gov) and Teralyn Evans-Gutiérrez at [Tegutierrez@countyofsb.org](mailto:Tegutierrez@countyofsb.org).

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – 2026-27 AMI Grant Project Descriptions and Award Recommendations

**Attachment B** – 2026-27 AMI Grant Guidelines and Application

**Contact Information:**

Sarah York Rubin

Executive Director, County Office of Arts & Culture

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