



San Mateo County's 2027 Arts and Culture Grant Application

The San Mateo County Office of Arts and Culture and the Arts Commission are pleased to announce our 2027 Grants Program. Over the past year, we have streamlined the grant process to make it more accessible for organizations of all sizes. The grant opportunity will provide general operating support for eligible nonprofit or fiscally sponsored organizations that provide arts and culture programming in San Mateo County. This funding provides grantees with the flexibility to use the funds in the most applicable way for their organization, and for greatest impact on overall organizational health and sustainability. We look to you as our partners in the important work of growing our arts and culture eco-system to create a vital, creative, and healthy community.

The Office of Arts and Culture and the Arts Commission's goals are:

1. Strengthen and sustain an accessible and equitable arts ecosystem in San Mateo County.
2. Support arts and cultural nonprofits and the artistic community through advocacy, visibility, and sustained support.
3. Use the arts as a vehicle for civic engagement and economic development through strategic partnerships and collaborations.

GENERAL SUPPORT GRANTS

All funds may be used by the organization as needed to support the organization's overhead, salaries, or other needs. Grant amounts will be based on organization's total revenue as follows:

Budgets with revenue of \$700,000 - \$999,999: eligible for grants of \$12,000

Budgets with revenue of \$200,000- \$699,000: eligible for grants of \$8,000

Budgets with revenue of \$10,000- \$199,999: eligible for grants of \$5,000

Grant period is from January 1, 2027 - December 31, 2027

Final report due by December 31, 2027

Application Open: October 1 – October 29, 2026

Complete the application form and submit with the required documents requested below. We are unable to accept or consider incomplete or late applications. The **deadline to apply is October 29, 2026, by 5pm PDT**. Thank you for your time and creativity.

We will be hosting a virtual grants overview workshop on October 6 at 12pm.

[Register here](#) for the grants workshop.

The recording will be made available on our website.

Eligibility: Must be able to answer yes to ALL statements below:

- 50% of organization's arts or culture services/programs serve San Mateo County.
- A 501(c)(3) or fiscally sponsored nonprofit organization in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service, or a local public agency/entity.
- Have been in operation for 1+ years.
- Annual budget of organization is under \$1,000,000.

Contact Information

Name of Organization

Contact person name and title

Contact person email

Contact person phone #

Organization address: Street/City/Zip Code:

Organization Phone #

Organization website

Formation date of organization:

TAX ID (EIN#)

I have a fiscal sponsor. If yes, please answer all of the questions regarding your fiscal sponsor. If not, proceed to section 3.

Yes

No

Name of Fiscal Sponsor

Fiscal Sponsor contact person name and title:

Fiscal Sponsor email

Fiscal Sponsor address: Street/City/Zip Code

Fiscal Sponsor phone #

Fiscal Sponsor website

Fiscal Sponsor Tax ID (EIN#)

Organization Information

The character count for each question is limited and you are not required to reach the limit. Please answer questions carefully and do not repeat information in multiple questions.

Describe your organization's mission, vision, and history. (1,500 characters max.)

What arts and cultural services/programs does your organization provide to residents of San Mateo County and what is the impact of those services/programs? Be specific. (1,500 characters max.)

Describe ways your organization is working in San Mateo County to create a fair and just environment and the conditions needed for all to participate in artistic, creative, and cultural opportunities regardless of background. (1,000 characters max.)

Do you collaborate/partner with other organizations and if so with whom and how? Please give specific examples. If not, please explain. (1,000 characters max.)

List your current top three sources of funding and the amounts received. (250 characters max.)

General Support Narrative

What are your organization's three most important priorities right now, and how would general operating support from the Office of Arts and Culture and the Arts Commission help advance them? (1,000 characters max.)

Briefly describe the demographics and numbers of the population you serve in San Mateo County. (750 characters max.)

How do you engage community members, including people with lived experience, in shaping your priorities, strategies, and solutions to ensure they reflect the needs and strengths of the communities you serve? (1,000 characters max.)

How does the work you do align with the goals (listed above) of the Office of Arts and Culture and the San Mateo County Arts Commission? (750 characters max.)

Required Documents to be Uploaded

IRS W-9 Form

Current Organizational Budget

DEIB or Non-Discrimination policy or statement

Revenue/expenses budget snapshot

Revenue	2024	2025
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Earned Income

Individual Donations

Grants/Foundations

Total

Expenses	2024	2025
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Personnel

Program/Services

Operating Costs

Total

Total Surplus or Deficit

Please explain any budget deficits or overages (500 characters max.).

All materials submitted are to the best of my knowledge are accurate and complete. Please add your name as your signature.

Would you like to be included on our mailing list for future opportunities and announcements?

Yes

No

Have you received a grant from the San Mateo County Office of Arts and Culture and the Arts Commission? If so, when?

Please tell us how you heard about this grant opportunity:

Email

Friend/artist

County OAC website or newsletter

Social Media

Arts Commission

Other:

Please note, there will be changes to our 2028 Arts and Culture Grant Program!

The San Mateo County Arts Commission will be updating its guidelines for future grant cycles.

1. To ensure the widest reach, there will be limits on the number of consecutive years an organization can receive a grant (ex. organizations will not be eligible to apply for one year after two consecutive years of receiving a grant from the Office of Arts and Culture and the Arts Commission, including a 2027 grant. Organizations may apply again after a one-year break). Awards are based on the current year's County budget and can fluctuate year to year.

Organizations not eligible in 2028.

1. Government and public agencies.
2. Local school districts, public and private schools, PTA/PTO's, or school foundations.
3. Event sponsorship or fundraising events.