



City of San Luis Obispo Arts and Culture Recovery Grant Program

2022 Program Guidelines and Specification

The City of San Luis Obispo recognizes the importance of art and cultural institutions in contributing to the overall quality of life in the City of San Luis Obispo. The City recognizes the unique challenges these organizations have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, so in response the City is sponsoring a one-time **Arts and Culture Recovery Grant (ACRG)** program to support the recovery and resiliency of non-profit arts and culture organizations that serve the community of San Luis Obispo. The purpose of this grant program is to aid organizations in the continued vitality of the city.

As part of a one-time ACRG program, the **City will offer fifteen organizational grants at \$5000 each, totaling \$75,000 to local non-profit arts and culture organizations** through a competitive application process.

Funding for ACRG program was the result of City Council allocation within the 2021-2023 Financial Plan as part of the work program for the Economic Recovery, Resiliency & Fiscal Sustainability Major City Goal - specifically "the retention of existing businesses, **the recovery of arts and culture**, the vitality of the downtown, and supporting underserved groups and populations." The City's Promotional Coordinating Committee (PCC) will administer the grant process separate but in addition to the Cultural Grants In Aid process. ACRG applications will be reviewed, and grants will be awarded in accordance with the criteria described herein and at the discretion of the PCC.

To be considered for grant funding, organizations must have non-profit status (Articles of Incorporation, 501(c)(3) or (c)(6) status, Federal ID number and Tax-Exempt Notification) prior to grant submittal. They must also have clearly stated goals, provide a direct Arts and Culture benefit/service to the residents of the City, able to demonstrate that their financial management practices are sound and insure accountability. Grant funding through ACRG will be awarded exclusively for purposes related to organization recovery and resiliency. The City is unlikely to fund new projects which duplicate or conflict with existing programs, services, or events.

Applications submitted to the PCC will be evaluated in terms of the applicant, the quality of grant proposal, and the perceived need communicated through the application using the following criteria:

APPLICANT SPECIFICATIONS

1. Applicant organization must have non-profit status (Articles of Incorporation, 501(c)(3) or (c)(6) status, Federal ID number and Tax-Exempt Notification) prior to grant submittal.
2. Applicant organization must be an arts and culture organization. For the purpose of this application, an art and cultural organization is defined as a nonprofit organization with the primary purpose to provide programming, advancement or preservation for public benefit across one or more of the following artistic or cultural fields: creative place-making, dance, design, storytelling, folk and traditional arts, literary arts, multi- disciplinary arts, music, media arts, theater, and visual arts, natural history, and motion pictures.
3. Applicant organization must meet one or more of the following:
 - located in the City of San Luis Obispo
 - show direct benefit to the residents and visitors of the City
 - serve a population within the City of San Luis Obispo
4. Applicant organization must have a clearly stated purpose and function and be responsible for providing art or cultural services in San Luis Obispo.
5. Applicant organization must demonstrate that it has the managerial and fiscal competence to complete the proposed project. Applicants who have worked with the PCC must have a successful history of using prior grant funds.
6. Applicant organization must be able to competitively demonstrate the fiscal need or hardship to which the grant will support.
7. The City views the recovery of arts through the lens of sustainability, diversity, equity, and inclusion. As such funding will not be awarded to support activities or operations which exclude anyone by reason of race, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, physical, mental, or economic status.

GRANT CRITERIA & GUIDELINES

1. Grant request must meet one of the purposes below:
 - Supporting the recovery and continuity of Arts and Cultural services/activities in the City of San Luis Obispo
 - Supporting the development of Arts and Culture services/activities in the City of San Luis Obispo
2. Use of Funds: Grant funding can be used by organization to assist with ongoing operations, program recovery and organization resiliency. Use of the grant funding can include, but is not limited to:
 - Supporting specific arts or cultural programs
 - New or ongoing projects
 - Operational expenses including staff salary and office space costs
 - Contracted work related to operations, program recovery or organization resiliency
 - One-time or ongoing equipment purchases

- General costs related to continuing organizational feasibility
3. Grant funds must be used on operations or programs which take place during the City's fiscal year of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.
 4. Disbursement of Funds: If the application is accepted by the PCC, the approved grant will be disbursed via check within 60 days of receiving the signed grant agreement.
 5. Committee Discretion: This application does not commit the PCC to award any grant or to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of this application or to procure or contract for services or supplies. The City through the PCC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received, or to cancel in part or in its entirety this application, if it is in the best interest of the City to do so. Grant funding decisions are made at the discretion of the City of San Luis Obispo PCC.

HOW TO APPLY

Organizations must submit a complete application to be considered for the \$5,000 ACRG grant. The application must be submitted in the following manner:

- Completed digital application submitted electronically through the digital [ACRG Application FORM](#).
- Tax exempt certification
- Signed statement of limitations and payment disbursement

It is important that your application provide all the requested information. Clear, concise, and original applications are best.

Applications are due on or before 12:00 noon June 15, 2022.

Applications will be reviewed by the PCC and staff following the submission and grant funding is expected to be awarded at the July PCC meeting. Requests for meeting attendance or questions can be sent to the City's Tourism Manager Molly Cano at mcano@slocity.org