



**CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025/2026
COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT PROGRAM**

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 5:00PM FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025

Late applications will not be accepted.

Submit application to:

publicartscommission@cathedralcity.gov

or

City of Cathedral City

68700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero

Cathedral City, CA 92234

Attention: Anne Ambrose, Assistant City Manager/
Public Arts Commission Liaison

To be considered for funding, a complete application must be submitted by:

- Hard copies - postmarked by April 18, 2025
- Electronic copies - received by 5:00pm on Friday April 18, 2025.
- Electronic submittal is preferred.

BEFORE SUBMITTING: Check each item included in your application package. Ensure all required text fields and applicable boxes are completed. While filling out the application, if additional space is needed, please attach additional pages to the application or include other attachments.

We are delighted to announce the opening of the application period for the Community Arts Grant Program offered by the City of Cathedral City. This grant aims to support artists and organizations in the creation and implementation of art and art education projects that contribute to the cultural vitality and vibrancy of our community.

The Community Arts Grant Program seeks to fund innovative projects that engage and enrich the community. We welcome proposals from artists, performers, dancers, authors, poets, musicians, designers, artist collectives, non-profit organizations, governmental, tribal and community groups and any other creative-types who are passionate about using the arts as a means of community beautification, social transformation, cultural appreciation, and civic dialogue. "Art" can be defined in the broadest extent to include art expressed in any medium, including, without limitation, painting, sculpture, photography, lithography and other physical mediums; music, singing, spoken word, and other auditory mediums; plays, films, dance, and other performance medium; literature and poetry, art history and interpretation; clothing and fashions, and cultural expressions. Art education may be provided by any reasonable means that best achieves the purpose set forth above, including, without limitation, classes, lectures, tours, programs, events, festivals, exhibits, performances, writings, films, audio recordings, and similar means. **The grant is not intended to fund permanent art pieces or installations.**

We encourage artists and organizations from all backgrounds and disciplines to apply for the Community Arts Grant Program and join us in creating inspiring art and cultural experiences that enrich our community. We look forward to receiving your applications and supporting the realization of your creative visions.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND POLICY GUIDELINES

- Applicants must submit a complete application including project proposal, budget, timeline and supporting materials.
- Applicants can be an individual (must complete a W-9), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, private entity, government, school, or tribal agency.
- Applicants must demonstrate that the activity proposed occurs within the geographical boundaries of the City of Cathedral City.
- Individual/Organizational residency in Cathedral City is not a requirement as long as the proposed project occurs in the City.
- Any activity proposed must be reasonably available to members of the general public. An activity will be considered reasonably available to members of the general public where the activity is open to the general public or is open to members of the public who timely reserve participation in the activity. Space for participants may be limited and the activity may be provided for only a limited time. Activities may be held in the facilities of public entities, non-profit or charitable organizations, and private facilities, provided that attendance of activities must not be limited to members, owners, subscribers or other interest holders in the private facility. Participation in certain activities may be limited to certain members of the general public, such as youths, students, seniors, or other reasonable grouping that does not constitute unlawful discrimination of a protected class.
- Grant activities must be completed by June 30, 2026.
- Grant recipients must comply with all grant requirements and reporting obligations.

GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Community Art Grant Program Application
- Samples of art/performances/events completed relevant to the proposed project. Include attachments or links to bio's, social media or websites. Submitted attachments can be no larger than 20mb.
- Letters of support. Optional but encouraged. Include letters of support from community partners, stakeholders, or collaborators endorsing your project and/or confirming their involvement.

APPLICANT INFORMATION:			
NAME (INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION): Brian Shields			
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]			
CITY: [REDACTED]		STATE: CA	ZIP: 91739
CONTACT PERSON: Brian Shields		TITLE: Senior Student & Organizer	
TELEPHONE: [REDACTED]		EMAIL: [REDACTED]	
ORGANIZATION PRESIDENT OR CHAIR (IF APPLICABLE): Nico Zuluaga, Inland Empire School Leader (Legal authority for organization)			
IF NON-PROFIT, INCLUDE 501(c)3 number: n/a			
PROGRAM / SERVICE / EVENT INFORMATION:			
GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED Minimum \$250 Maximum \$5,000: \$5000			
TOTAL PROGRAM / SERVICE / EVENT/ART COST: \$10,000			
Program/Service/Event Period or Date <i>Funding must be expended by 6/20/2026)</i>		From: 8/3/25	To: 8/3/25
1.	<p>Describe How The Requested Funds Will Be Used: (Include artistic concept, intended audience, community engagement strategies. Do you have community partners that will be involved in implementing this project? If so, please list along with their roles).</p> <p>We are proposing an event called "Art Without Borders", a one-day public cultural celebration designed to engage families, youth, and elders in interactive, heritage-based arts rooted in Afro and Latino diasporic traditions. The event will feature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capoeira Angola performances and workshops • Afro-Brazilian music and drumming • Communal face painting and craft activities • Oral storytelling circles led by elder artists • The collaborative creation of a community art banner, to be displayed at the venue after the event indefinitely <p>We are in talks with 2 churches and 2 public schools about partnering on indoor space and expect to have that finalized within the next month. The goal is to provide Cathedral City residents with a joyful, restorative experience that brings people together as a community to create a collaborative art banner - <i>a lasting symbol of shared creativity and local pride.</i></p> <p>As they participate, residents will have the chance to interact with master artists from various traditions, sparking interest in cultural practices that may lead to new journeys of self-discovery, skill development, and creative growth. This event is especially designed for working families, underserved youth, and multicultural residents who often lack access to traditional arts programming, ensuring they feel welcomed, seen, and inspired.</p> <p>Community engagement strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free entry and open access to all programming • Local outreach via flyers, school networks, and community partners • Interactive workshops designed to be welcoming for all skill levels 		

Confirmed and supporting community partners:

- Ngola Preto Velho Capoeira Angola School - providing teaching artists and cultural guidance
- Inland Empire-based artists and musicians, such as the band Milpa - providing in-kind support and travel coordination
- Messages from a Mestre team - supporting oral history and event documentation
- Milpa - An Inland Empire–based band blending folkloric rhythms from Jarocho to Conga, Caribe to Angola, and other diasporic beats.

Budget: (Provide a comprehensive budget for your project. Budget should include total grant funds requested, all project expenses including artist fees, materials, installation costs, rentals, advertising, travel costs. Do you have other funding that will be leveraged/used with these funds? If so, please include.)

2. **Total Grant Request: \$5,000**

Total Projected Cost: \$10,000

Expense	Amount
Artist Stipends	\$2,500
Travel & Transportation (Inland Empire artists)	\$1,000
Materials & Supplies (instruments, art kits, signage)	\$1,000
Outreach & Production (flyers, shade tents, sound rental)	\$500
Total Requested Funds	\$5,000

Additional funds and in-kind support:

- \$3,000 in-kind from partner artists and schools (labor, instruments, design)
- \$2,000 in volunteer support (event production, organizing, setup, documentation, and photography)

Briefly Describe Your/Your Organization's Background. (Describe your/your organization's background and experience. Provide examples of any relevant work, images, or links to online portfolios that have relevance to the project being proposed. Describe your/your organization's capacity to execute the proposed activities.)

3.

This project is led by Brian Shields, Senior Student and Organizer of the Inland Empire chapter of Ngola Preto Velho, a Capoeira Angola school led by Nico Zuluaga, a longtime resident of the Inland Empire, and under the oversight of Mestre Themba, the first African American mestre of the tradition.

Brian has two+ years of experience producing impactful community-based arts programming across Southern California that centers cultural preservation, healing, and intergenerational exchange.

Previous work includes:

- The Angoleiro Social – a free community event in Los Angeles combining capoeira, food, and health resources ([link to media from event](#))
- Messages from a Mestre – a performance and oral history series featuring elder Black cultural masters ([link to video recap from event](#))
- Cultural and wellness events in support of low-income, BIPOC, and housing-insecure populations in the Inland Empire, Los Angeles, and Coachella Valley ([link to media from various events](#))

Capacity to execute:

- Proven ability to manage logistics, outreach, budgeting, and artist coordination
- Access to a regional network of traditional artists and volunteers
- Demonstrated history of producing events with lasting cultural and social impact

Timeline: (Provide a timeline outlining key project milestones and activities from conception to completion.)

4.

May–June 2025	Finalize artist roster, secure venue and insurance, launch community outreach
July 2025	Coordinate transportation, confirm materials and setup logistics, begin social promotion
August 2025	Host event, document impact, install collaborative community banner
Post-event	Collect feedback, report on participation, begin planning future events

What Do You Ultimately Hope To Accomplish Through Your Proposed Art/Program/Event? How Will It Enrich Cathedral City? (Describe your goals and objectives and how many people you hope to impact as a result of your project.)

Our goals are to:

5.

- Leave behind a **publicly displayed, co-created art banner** as a lasting contribution to Cathedral City's cultural identity
- Introduce over **150 Cathedral City residents** to rich cultural traditions in a welcoming and engaging way
- Support intergenerational learning and cultural pride through hands-on workshops and storytelling
- Plant the seeds for ongoing relationships between Cathedral City residents and master artists - relationships that can grow into mentorship, creative collaboration, and long-term cultural engagement beyond the event itself.
- Lay the groundwork for future regional arts events

By enriching the city with cultural programming that is accessible, joyful, and community-driven, this event will spark lasting conversations, connections, and creative exploration.

If Your Art/Program/Event Costs More Than You Are Requesting From The Community Arts Grant Program, How Do You Plan To Pay For The Additional Costs? (What Steps Have You Already Taken To Get Additional Funds Or In-Kind Support If Necessary?)

6. We are addressing the funding gap through:

- Volunteer labor from organizers, artists, and youth mentors
- In-kind contributions (e.g., equipment, transportation, art supplies)
- Potential collaboration with community partners for shared infrastructure and outreach

These strategies ensure we maximize impact while remaining resource-efficient.

Do You Plan To Continue This Art/Program/Event Beyond The Period For Which You Have Requested The Funds? If So, How Do You Plan To Continue Paying For It? (Describe the types of efforts you will undertake to raise funds as well as your/your organization's history of maintaining services/programs.)

Yes. This is intended to be the pilot event for a series of seasonal or annual gatherings in Cathedral City and surrounding cities.

7. Future support strategies include:

- Submitting proposals to state arts councils and cultural foundations
 - *We are previous recipients of grants from CIELO fund and California Humanities*
- Launching a community-based donation campaign
 - *We have raised \$1,000+ for people affected by the Altadena Fires this year*
- Expanding regional partnerships with schools, libraries, and wellness organizations
 - *We have a close partnership with the Garcia Center in San Bernardino*

(OPTIONAL) Is There Anything That You Would Like To Add? If So, Please Tell Us Here:

8. **Art without Borders** is an invitation to joy, connection, and cultural rootedness. It is organized by and for communities who have historically been underrepresented in the public arts space, and it celebrates traditions that blend movement, rhythm, story, and resilience. As one participant from a previous event shared:

"The importance of events like these is because we get a chance to get to know each other on a deeper level, so we can have the kind of relationships that actually allow us to share our trades and knowledge to better ourselves."

This is more than a celebration—it's a starting point for deeper connection, personal growth, and shared artistic pride, inviting residents to build lasting relationships and discover new parts of themselves through a communal creative process.

*Attachments may be included with your submission. If including photos, files can be no larger than 20 mb.

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Questions: Please email publicartscommission@cathedralcity.gov or call Anne Ambrose, Public Arts Commission Liaison at (760) 770-0331.