

Next Wave Grants

Tempe Community Arts – Next Wave Grant offers up to \$2,500 to support early-stage, small-scale arts and culture projects in Tempe. It's designed for newer nonprofits, small creative businesses (LLCs) and first-time applicants looking to spark innovative ideas, elevate fresh voices and explore bold approaches that energize the city's cultural future. This grant invests in what's next—creative efforts that build connection, access and vibrancy at the grassroots level.

Amount: **Up to \$2,500 – no match required**

Deadlines: **July 15, 2026**

All applicants are required to meet with Maja Aurora, Community Arts Manager, before applying. [Click here to find a time.](#)

Expectations & Eligibility:

- **Project must take place in Tempe between September 15, 2026 - June 30, 2027.**
- Requests may include creatives & artists fees, contracted services, production costs, venue rentals, supplies, permit fees, event insurance, food and marketing expenses.
- Must be Non-Profit organization or an LLC providing arts programming in Tempe.
- Only eligible to receive one Tempe Community Arts Grant per year (September-June).

Restrictions – this grant *does not fund*:

- Activities that occur outside of the City of Tempe.
- Production or commission of public art (i.e. murals); permanent enhancements to infrastructure or facilities; capital investments (equipment that outlasts the duration of the project).
- Fundraising, re-granting, scholarship programs or awards.
- Schools or projects with/in schools (see [Arts in Schools Programs](#)); parent-teacher organizations (i.e. booster clubs, PTA or PTO).
- TCA home/resident companies; projects funded by a TCC Grant or a Neighborhood Grant; reduction of debt, feasibility studies.
- Projects that are only virtual or streamed via the web.
- Universities, colleges and auxiliary/affiliate organizations.
- Organizations that are incorporated for religious purposes or projects that focus on religious themes.
- **Class series programmed in a city facility or duplicate programs offered by city of Tempe**
- Grant administration, overhead or processing fees taken by an umbrella/parent organization as a percentage of the total award, fiscal agents/sponsors.
- Staff salaries that are for work outside the scope of the proposed project.
- Closed subscription or membership programming.
- An applicant who failed to submit a Final Report, complete a project, or return unused funds from a previously funded grant.

Review Process: Applications will be reviewed by an independent community review panel comprised of Tempe residents, cultural leaders and organizers, artists and representatives from the Tempe Arts and Culture Commission. The review process is competitive and based on available funds, therefore, some applications may receive partial or no funding. The panel will recommend awards to the Community Services Director for final approval. Grant Award Notification will take place by **August 24, 2026**.

Final Report: Must be submitted by **June 30, 2027** to be eligible for future grant funding by the City of Tempe. The report will include a summary of the project, attendance and demographic

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data of participants, a final budget report and professional quality photos of the project. The grant recipient agrees to give the City of Tempe the rights to use any materials submitted in the Final Report for data collection and promotional purposes.

How to Apply: Compile all materials listed below and complete the [online application](#).

Brief Summary (100-word max)

- What is your project and who is involved? When and where will it take place? This summary will be used in presentations and public materials.

What will you do? (450-word max)

- What is your organization's creative purpose or goal?
- Describe your project in detail, including a project timeline.

Who will this project serve? (450-word max)

- Tell us about the artists/creatives involved and how they are part of the project.
- Who is your audience or participants and how will you invite/reach them?

How will you make it happen? (450-word max)

- Who is leading the project and what experience or skills do they bring?
- What other resources (partners, donations or volunteers) are you using to complete the project?

Why does this project matter? (450-word max)

- How does this project connect to Tempe or reflect your relationship with the city?
- How will you know your project made an impact?

Budget Form & Explanation (300 words max.):

- Complete and upload Budget Form. Explain budget items in more detail, such as how many artists and their specific fees. Do not include activities that occur outside of Tempe.

Images & Video

- 2-4 images of past projects or promotional materials.
- 1-2 videos/reels of past projects (link or upload).