

NEXT WAVE GRANTS FY26

Asociacion de Peruanos en Arizona

Location: North Tempe Multigenerational Center

Date: May 2, 2026

Description: Asociación de Peruanos en Arizona (ASPEAZ) will present *Raíces del Sur Peruano* on May 2, 2026, a one-day cultural festival celebrating the heritage of southern Peru through music, dance, visual arts and traditional food. Featuring performances by Peruvian folk artists, artisan demonstrations and interactive workshops, the event will engage Tempe residents in a vibrant, family-friendly environment that honors cultural identity and strengthens intercultural understanding. Free and open to the public, the festival will highlight the stories and traditions of Arizona's Peruvian community while inviting all residents to participate in a shared cultural experience. Made possible with support from Tempe Community Arts grant funds, this event fosters inclusion, pride and connection through meaningful cultural exchange.

Website: facebook.com/aspeaz.org

Burn City String Quartet

Location: Tempe Event Center

Date: October 26 & December 20, 2025

Description: The Burn City String Quartet will present two concerts at the Tempe Event Center in late 2025 that reflect their mission to create inclusive, emotionally resonant performances rooted in classical tradition and cultural storytelling. On October 26, *Roots and Rhythms of North America* will blend folk, pop and classical works by composers such as Daniel Bernard Roumain, Rhiannon Giddens and Manuel Ponce, honoring civil rights history and musical traditions across the continent. *Sonoran Solstice: A Moment of Calm*, presented on December 20, will offer an evening of poetry and music designed as a restorative experience during the winter season. Funding from Tempe Community Arts will support the Quartet's ability to offer high-quality performances in an accessible venue, compensate collaborators and expand outreach efforts that connect more Tempe residents with meaningful live music experiences. Both programs will highlight diverse voices and contemporary themes while creating community through music.

Website: burncitysq.com

Community Choir of Arizona

Location: Mission Del Sol Church

Date: December 7, 2025

Description: Supported by grant funding, the Community Choir of Arizona will present a winter concert celebrating connection, resilience, and the joy of communal singing at Mission Del Sol Church on December 7, 2025. Performed by a diverse, no-audition ensemble of approximately 85 voices, the program features a wide range of musical styles and traditions, creating an inclusive and uplifting experience for audiences of all backgrounds. In addition, the performance is designed to be fully accessible, with free admission and accommodations for community members with disabilities. This music programming plays a vital part in making choral music fun and accessible to local residents, while continuing to strengthen Tempe's cultural and arts landscape.

Website: communitychoirofarizona.com

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Driftwood Quintet

Location: The Chill Room

Date: April 18, 2026

Description: Driftwood Quintet will present *Level Up! Music from Video Games and TV* at The Chill Room, a unique non-alcoholic bar and lounge, on April 18, 2026. Supported by Tempe Community Arts grant funding, the event is part of Driftwood's "Classical Underground Series," which brings engaging, genre-blending chamber music to unconventional venues. Featuring original arrangements of iconic video game and TV soundtracks, the interactive concert includes live video game play with paralleled music by the performers, music trivia and a special set by jazz video game cover band Dratini on the Rocks. Audiences are invited to bring their own gaming devices and experience beloved soundtracks in a casual, participatory setting. This free public performance expands access to classical music, supports emerging local artists and transforms a local Tempe venue into a dynamic hub for community connection.

Website: driftwoodquintet.com

MAC & Company

Location: Tempe Center for the Arts

Date: January 17, 2026

Description: With support from this grant, MAC & Co. will present *MAC "11.5,"* a full-length live dance and music performance on January 17, 2026, at the Tempe Center for the Arts Studio Theater. Founded in 2014 by Micaela Church and Li Pei Khoo, MAC & Co. supports the growth of dance and music in Tempe by offering collaborative performance opportunities for local artists. The show will feature over 25 dancers, 4 musicians and an original score by local composer Declan Cooney. Spanning genres from ballet, modern, jazz, and hip hop to tap by guest ensemble Friends in Dance, this eclectic production offers a vibrant and accessible experience that reflects the diversity of Tempe's artistic community. The first half will include choreographic work by MAC company members in a range of styles and tones, while the second half will present themed works accompanied by live performance of Cooney's original "noir" composition.

Website: macdance.org

Oh My Ears

Location: Tempe Events Center

Date: January 16, 2026

Description: Oh My Ears (OME) will utilize Tempe Community Arts grant funding to present *New Music 48*, a one-night concert of adventurous, contemporary chamber music performed by local ensembles and featuring works by living Arizona composers. Held at the Tempe Events Center on January 16, 2026, the concert will include performances by Opuntia Winds and past OME Festival artists, with composers present to introduce their works and engage the audience. By highlighting exclusively local performers and composers, this event strengthens community ties, celebrates homegrown creativity and offers Tempe audiences a rare opportunity to experience the vibrant landscape of new music being created in Arizona today.

Website: ohmyears.org

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Process in Place

Location: Starlight Gardens at Casa Chavez

Date: February 6–8, 2026

Description: Process in Place (PiP) will present *Estuarine Creatures*, a site-specific dance-theater performance staged at Starlight Gardens, a new community gathering space on the historic Casa Chavez property in Tempe. Inspired by estuaries where salt and freshwater meet, the piece explores layered identities through an ecological lens, centering gender-expansive and multiracial connection. Featuring dance genres like contemporary, cumbia and rumba, the performance invites audiences into an immersive outdoor setting. Backed by Tempe Community Arts grant funding, PiP will provide artist stipends and community access to this final iteration of a nationally developed work in their home city. Through intimate performances and creative sessions with local partners, the project deepens Tempe’s creative networks and invites audiences to see in-betweenness as a source of beauty and transformation.

Website: [instagram.com/processnplace](https://www.instagram.com/processnplace)

Revisionary Arts

Location: Tempe Public Library and Tempe History Museum

Date: November 8, 2025; January 31, April 25 & May 30, 2026

Description: Revisionary Arts and Little Somethings Press will present *Motherhood: A Community Anthology of Writing & Art*, a culminating event celebrating the voices of mothers through poetry, prose and visual art at the Tempe History Museum on May 30, 2026. The anthology launch features readings and an art exhibition drawn from three community workshops tailored for mothers: poetry and writing on November 8, 2025, visual art on January 31, 2026 and bookmaking on April 25, 2026. Designed to center reflection, healing and storytelling, the project amplifies the creative expressions of mothers in Tempe while offering inclusive, family-friendly programming. Supported by Tempe Community Arts grant funding, the series provides accessible artmaking experiences and public platforms for underrepresented voices, fostering community connection, mental wellness, and intergenerational engagement.

Website: [revisionaryarts.org](https://www.revisionaryarts.org)

Rising Youth Theatre

Location: Tempe Transportation Center

Date: February 27–28 & March 1, 2026

Description: Rising Youth Theatre, in partnership with Valley Metro and the Tempe Transportation Center, will present *The Light Rail Plays*, a free site-specific performance that brings theater directly to the platforms and public spaces of Tempe’s transit system on February 27–28 and March 1, 2026. Developed through a multi-generational collaborative process, the production will feature original scenes, music and movement created by youth and adult artists working in shared leadership roles. The project will engage youth from Tempe’s high school theater departments and community centers. Supported by Tempe Community Arts grant funding, the performances will reimagine how and where theater happens, building access, visibility and connection by transforming everyday spaces into places of creativity and community dialogue.

Website: [risingyouththeatre.org](https://www.risingyouththeatre.org)

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Rogue Dance Productions

Location: Tempe Center for the Arts

Date: January 23–25, 2026

Description: Rogue Dance Productions will present *Hotel Macbeth*, a new dance-theater adaptation of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* set in a 1970s hotel, during a five-show run at the Tempe Center for the Arts from January 23–25, 2026. This production will provide a paid performance opportunity to 12–15 local adult dancers and feature original choreography, compelling characters and a continuous musical score that drives the storytelling. With support from Tempe Community Arts grant funding, Rogue Dance Productions aims to promote literacy by encouraging audiences to read or revisit classic literature, demonstrating the power of dance to connect communities through shared cultural experiences and storytelling.

Website:

Teatro Bravo

Location: Childsplay's Sybil B. Harrington Campus for Imagination and Wonder

Date: May 9–17, 2026

Description: Teatro Bravo, a Latinx theatre company based in Tempe, will present *La Comedia of Errors*, a bilingual adaptation of Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors*, at Childsplay's Campus from May 9–17, 2026. Originally developed for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, this lively production recasts Shakespeare's tale of mistaken identities through the lens of American border politics, blending humor, movement and language to highlight issues of belonging, identity and resilience. Supported by Tempe Community Arts grant funding, the project brings together a diverse team of Arizona-based artists and expands access to meaningful cultural programming. Each performance will include post-show talkbacks that invite audiences into dialogue and encourage reflection, creating a shared space for conversation, community and connection.

Website: teatrobravoaz.org

Wasted Ink Zine Distro

Location: Rocket Space Gallery

Date: October 24–26, 2025

Description: Presented by Wasted Ink Zine Distro with support from grant funding, Phx Zine Fest 2025 will take place October 24–26 at Rocket Space Gallery in Danelle Plaza, Tempe's historic arts and music hub. This free, all-ages event will feature 80 zine makers from across Arizona and beyond, showcasing independent publications, comics and handmade goods. The weekend will begin with an art show on Friday, October 24, and continue with two full days of vendors, live readings, workshops and community-building activities. Rooted in DIY culture, self-publishing and creative resistance, Phx Zine Fest amplifies the voices of BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, neurodivergent and disabled artists. With dedicated accessibility features and a vibrant atmosphere, the festival welcomes hundreds of attendees each year and fosters deep connection between creators and audiences.

Website: wizd-az.com/phxzinefest.html

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Wight Noise Dance Company

Location: Tempe Center for the Arts

Date: May 23–24, 2026

Description: With the support of grant funds, Wight Noise Dance Company will present *Off the Pages*, a new contemporary dance performance transforming an enchanted library into a living stage of literary adventure. Presented at Tempe Center for the Arts on May 23 and 24, 2026, this immersive two-hour show will feature original choreography inspired by genres like fantasy, science fiction, psychology and poetry, brought to life by a cast of 18 Arizona-based dancers through narration, projections and soundscapes. The project includes school outreach, free student and senior admission, and a lobby installation that invites audience interaction. By weaving together movement and storytelling, *Off the Pages* promotes literacy, imagination, and community connection across generations.

Website: wightnoisedancecompany.com

Wild Steps

Location: The Centers for Habilitation

Dates: October 10, November 14, December 12, 2025 & January 9, 2026

Description: Presented by Wild Steps, The Inclusively Wild Dance Project will offer a series of free, inclusive music and dance workshops and concerts for disabled adults at The Centers for Habilitation (TCH) in Tempe, supported by funding from Tempe Community Arts grants. Led by fiddler and choreographer Dr. Kate Rose of Wild Steps, the project brings together Tempe-based musicians and dancers with disabled adults, their families and the wider community. On the second Friday of each month from October 2025 through January 2026, participants will engage in accessible dance workshops followed by interactive Irish and world-fusion concerts, where disabled dancers lead communal dances, including seated and wheelchair-accessible movement options. Featuring musicians Kate Rose, Armand Ramirez and a student percussionist, the events aim to build bridges across abilities through cultural exchange and community connection.

Website: tch-az.com