



Grant Program Supporting the Arts in the City of Chico

Program Overview

The City of Chico Arts Funding Grant supports non-profit organizations and individual artists working under fiscal sponsorship to deliver high-quality cultural programs that enrich community life, promote inclusivity, and strengthen the local economy. Funds are provided through a portion of the City's Transient Occupancy Tax and are overseen by the Chico Arts Commission. Art grants are limited to specific projects or events, capital infrastructure projects and are not to be used for general operations, personnel, or seed money.

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations with the primary purpose and experience in presenting arts programs in Chico. Programs must be operating within the City of Chico, with a two-year history of producing or presenting. Individual artists may apply under the sponsorship of a 501 (c) 3 not for profit that meets the other eligibility requirements of this program.

Goal: The funds are to enhance the quality of life and measurably contribute to the economy of the community.

The City of Chico is committed to working with cultural arts organizations to ensure the development and success of a vibrant arts community. Applicants are encouraged to provide expanded programming that deepens and expands active experiences in the arts. Applicants may request a minimum of \$2,000 and a maximum of \$5,000 of grant funding for this project. All grant applications must offer a dollar-for-dollar (1:1) match. A cash match may be from corporate or private contributions, state or federal government funds, or earned income. City of Chico funds cannot be used as a match. Applicants must indicate whether matching funds are projected, pending, or committed.

In evaluating applications, consideration will be given to the following:

1. Non-profit organizations with functioning arts programs.
2. Cultural arts programs which provide the greatest benefits in meeting the needs of Chico, its residents, and visitors.
3. New/and or expanded art services not currently being provided.

Application forms are available by emailing cityclerk@chicoca.gov. Any questions should be directed to the City Clerk's Office at 530-896-7250.

ELIGIBILITY & EVALUATION CRITERIA

Who Can Apply:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Artists under a non-profit • Non-profits (must demonstrate 501c3 status) • Public and Private School Teachers and Programs • Applicants with a 2-year history of producing/presenting
Who Cannot Apply:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current City staff • Current members of City Council and Boards and Commissions, and their immediate family members • Businesses outside Chico • Businesses that are not non-profits or individuals that are not sponsored by a non-profit
Project Specifications & Evaluation Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located within the City of Chico city limits • Accessible to the public and all ages; ADA accessible • Demonstrates alignment with City goal listed on page 1 • Benefits the residents and/or visitors of Chico • Project is feasible as determined by clear budget, timeline, and organized plan
What the City grant will NOT fund:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General operations • Personnel • Seed money • Debt • Fundraising activities • Programs for private use/restricted to public • Religious programs • Trusts/Endowments/Investments
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum \$2,000 • Maximum \$5,000 • Matching Funding Required- All applications must offer a dollar-for-dollar match. A cash match may be from private or corporate contributions, state or federal funds or earned income. City of Chico funds cannot be used for the match.
Reporting Requirements for Funded Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the City Clerk's Office, no later than <u>July 15, 2027</u> • Must include narrative, realized outcomes, budget to actual report, project timeline, digital support (photos of project) • Reporting documents will be given to awardees with notification of award

Application Checklist and Grant Award Timeline

Please provide the following materials:

- Application Cover Sheet
- Application Form
- Project Budget
- Certification Page

In addition, include:

- A list of the current Board of Trustees or Directors.
- A list and brief biography of key staff and arts professionals involved in the project.
- IRS letter stating tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) status.
- Financial statement for the most current fiscal year.
- All previously applied for grants through this program with amounts received and confirmation if the project was completed.

Project Timeline (all dates listed are subject to change and it's the responsibility of the applicant to confirm dates via the City of Chico website which will be updated with changes as available. <https://chico.ca.us/Your-Government/Commissions/Arts-Commission/index.html>)

- May 8th-June 19th Application Open to the public
- May 20th, 4:00 pm Grant Application Q & A Session (not mandatory)
- July 8th Applications Reviewed by Arts Commission
- End of July Grants Awarded
- June 30, 2027 Projects Due
- July 15, 2027 Final Report due to City Clerk's Office

Application Submission: All applications should be submitted to the City Clerk's Office via email with subject line "City Art Grant Application" to cityclerk@chicoca.gov or in person to the City Clerk's Office located at 411 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Chico, California. **DEADLINE: Applications must be received no later than June 19, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.**

Please note: any applications that are not submitted by the closing date or are deemed incomplete by City staff will not be considered. Please review your application carefully prior to submission, as City staff are not responsible for ensuring all application materials are submitted.