

2026 Arts Express Grants

Applications Open: Monday, September 14, 2026

Online Submission Deadline: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, October 18, 2026

Grant Program Overview

The goal of the San Benito County Arts Council's **Arts Express Grant Program** is to promote artistic and cultural engagement, accessibility, equity and diversity San Benito County. **Arts Express** provides funding support to local artists, art groups and art and cultural organizations through general operations and project-based grants.

This year's funding will be divided into two categories:

- **Up to \$5,000 for General Operations Grants for:**
 - Arts-based Nonprofit Organizations (501©3 nonprofits) based in San Benito County
- **Up to \$2,500 for Project-Based Grants for:**
 - Individual Artists with a primary residence in San Benito County
 - Cultural groups, artist collectives or collaboratives
 - Non-arts Community-based Organizations (501©3 nonprofits) who partner with an individual artist or arts provider
 - Arts-based For-Profit Businesses

**Funding will be prioritized for arts organizations (501©3 nonprofits with arts programs and services as their main mission and activities), individual artists and cultural groups (arts-based groups without 501©3 status) followed by arts-based for-profit businesses and non-arts community organizations.*

General Grant Program Guidelines

- All applicants must be headquartered or have a primary residence mailing address in San Benito County. Proposed projects must be for the benefit of San Benito County residents with priority given to applicants and projects that are led by and serve underrepresented communities.
- Project activities shall reflect artistic practices and traditions in the visual, performing and traditional arts, as well as demonstrate quality, originality and creativity through artistic production.
- Applicants must demonstrate how their designated art activities promote cultural equity and accessibility in San Benito County.
- Applicants must be in good standing with the Arts Council to be eligible for funding (i.e. previous grantees must be up to date on final grant reports)
- Grant awards are contingent upon completion of a grant agreement. Grant funds must be used within the grant period specified in the grant agreement. Award and grant-period dates will be provided following application review.
- Grant recipients must attend a grantee orientation which will cover all reporting requirements.

Online Grant Application Requirements

Applicants must submit the following:

- APPLICANT GENERAL INFORMATION
- APPLICANT DESCRIPTION- Organization's mission, history & key leadership or Individual Artist Statement
- GRANT NARRATIVE
- **Organization OR Project description-** Please provide an overview of your organization/project, current programs, your proposed project activities, project timeline and where these activities will take place.
- **Artists & Communities-** Who are the lead artists and how were they identified? Which community or communities will be served by this project? How do the artists, partners and participants foster greater cultural and racial equity? Please identify all lead artists, participants and project partners.
- **Accessibility & Outreach-** Describe your efforts to further access and inclusion to your organization and/or programs? How are you working to actively engage a broad diversity of community into your programs/spaces? Please describe how the public accesses your space and programs.
- **Impact-** How will grant funds ultimately impact your organization/project? Please include 3 proposed outcomes and how you will track these outcomes to measure success.
- **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT MATERIALS-** Grant applicants must submit the following support materials based on their submission category.

NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS	INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS, CULTURAL GROUPS, ARTS-BASED BUSINESSES, NON-ARTS NONPROFITS
• Organizational budget • Profit & Loss Statement (most recent FY) • Balance Sheet (YTD) • Board & Staff Roster • Work Samples	Project Budget List of Project Partners Work Samples

***Work Samples-** Please include 3 links to relevant, online work samples (i.e. online portfolios, videos of performances or workshops, website, social media pages)

***Project Budget** that shows 1) full cost of the project 2) how Arts Council funds will be used and 3) source and amount of any matching funds or "in-kind" donations. [Click here to download Budget Template](#)

Submission Deadline

Applications must be submitted online at

<https://www.sanbenitoarts.org/grants-funding-opportunities/> by 11:59 p.m. Sunday, October 18, 2026. A confirmation email will be sent within 72 hours of receipt of the grant application. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For additional questions about the Arts Express Grant Program and how to apply, please contact Jennifer Laine at info@sanbenitoarts.org or call 831.636.2787.