



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY ARTS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

November 13,
2025 Agenda Item
No. 4

TO: CITY ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: Library Services Department
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PREPARED BY: Rebecca Lightfoot, Library Services Manager

TITLE: Cultural Arts Grants for Fiscal Year 2025-26

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the City Arts Commission review and approve the Cultural Arts Grants timeline recommended by the Cultural Arts Grants ad hoc subcommittee.

BACKGROUND:

City Council Policy I-10, *Financial Support for Culture and Arts* (Attachment A), recognizes the importance of promoting culture and arts within the City. For FY 2025-26, the sum of \$30,000 has been budgeted for specific cultural or artistic planning or projects as approved by the City Council. The City Arts Commission has the responsibility to review all programs and requests for support from arts groups and make recommendations for funding to the City Council for final approval.

City Council Policy I-10 defines art groups as those involved in visual, musical, theater, dance, crafts, performing and literary activities. The City Arts Commission considers the following in order of preference for granting support:

1. Local arts groups located within the City and offering programs to City residents;
2. Regional arts groups located in Orange County and offering programs to City residents; and
3. Arts groups located in California and performing or offering programs to City residents.

Groups not offering programs or services to residents are not eligible for support from the City.

TIMELINE:

The proposed timeline is as follows:

DATE	DESCRIPTION
11/17/25	FY 2025-26 Cultural Arts Grants call for applications opens
1/12/26	FY 2025-26 Cultural Arts Grants call for application closes
1/19/26	FY 2024-25 Cultural Arts Grants Completion Reports due
2/02/26	Subcommittee sends recommendations for FY 2025-26 grants to staff for agenda posting

2/12/26	FY 2025-26 Grant recommendations review and approval by City Arts Commission
2/24/26	FY 2025-26 Grant recommendations review/approve by City Council
TBD	FY 2025-26 Grant awards/checks disseminated
1/11/27	FY 2025-26 Grant Completion Reports due, and funds spent or encumbered

This timeline will give the ad hoc subcommittee ample time to evaluate and rate the grant applications in preparation for City Arts Commission final approval.

NOTICING:

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Arts Commission considers the item).

ATTACHMENT A: City Council Policy I-10