



# CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY ARTS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

February 12, 2026  
Agenda Item No. 5

**TO:** CITY ARTS COMMISSION

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

**TITLE:** Cultural Arts Grants Fiscal Year 2025-26

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## **ABSTRACT:**

The sum of \$30,000 is provided for specific cultural or artistic programs 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.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommend that the City Arts Commission review the grant applications and approve the Cultural Arts Grants Ad Hoc Subcommittee's recipients for recommendation to the City Council for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Cultural Arts Grants in accordance with City Council Policy I-10, *Culture and Arts Grants*.

## **FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:**

The current adopted budget includes sufficient funding for this expenditure. Funds will be expensed from the Cultural Arts Grants budget.

## **DISCUSSION:**

City Council Policy I-10, *Culture and Arts Grants*, recognizes the importance of promoting culture and the arts within the City. The sum of \$30,000 has been provided in the FY 2025-26 budget for specific cultural or artistic programs 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.

The Commission received written grant proposals from eight organizations requesting funding of \$34,700 in free cultural arts programming for the Newport Beach Community in 2026. Grant applications include:

ORGANIZATION	REQUEST	RECOMMENDED AMOUNT	ATTACHMENT
Backhausdance	\$4,000	\$4,000	A
Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar	\$4,500	\$4,500	B
Choral Arts Initiative	\$3,500	\$3,000	C
Emerald Magic Events Inc.	\$5,000	\$4,000	D
Pacific Chorale	\$5,000	\$5,000	E
Pacific Symphony	\$5,000	\$5,000	F
South Coast Repertory	\$5,000	\$3,000	G
Wildlife Jewels	\$2,700	\$1,500	H
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>\$34,700</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	

**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--H: FY 2025-26 Cultural Arts Grants Applications

ATTACHMENT I: Summary of Cultural Arts Grant Applications

ATTACHMENT J: City Council Policy I-10—*Cultural Arts Grants*