

ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ORLEANS
2025 COMMUNITY ARTS GRANTS
Grant Activity Period: January 1 – December 31, 2025

The Community Arts Grants program supports Orleans Parish nonprofit arts and cultural organizations whose programs impact its residents. Our citizens and visitors will rejoice as they attend these programs and activities made possible with funding from the City of New Orleans. The Arts Council of New Orleans developed the Community Arts Grants Program in the 1980s and continues its administration.

CATEGORY: MORE JOY

Better Family Life, Inc. \$3,500

To support youth workshops in Black Masking Indian and Stilt Dancing Masquerade culture and history.

Black Men of Labor, Inc. \$3,500

To support a second-line parade at the 30th annual Black Men of Labor, Inc., Noir Experience Festival.

Creole Wild West \$3,500

To support Creole Wild West's youth education programs, including at least 40 free sessions of onsite education in Central City for at least 30 children on Saturday afternoons in Mardi Gras Indian Culture.

Escola de Samba, Casa Samba, Inc \$3,500

To support the Afro-Brazilian Cultural Arts Festival, a series of workshops and performances highlighting connections between Brazilian and Afro-Carnival cultures in New Orleans.

Mardi Gras Indian Hall of Fame/UNOLA \$3,500

To support a screening and panel discussion of "Hail to the Queens," a documentary focused on Black Masking Indian Queens, as well as to shoot additional interviews and footage to be added to the documentary.

Mohawk Hunters, Inc. \$3,500

To support the Cultural Journey youth education program, teaching Mardi Gras Indian culture through hands-on activities including sewing, dancing, drumming, and beading. Students will also participate in West Fest Super Sunday.

New Orleans Institute of Art/ Monogram Hunters \$3,500

To support the Monogram Hunters' 2025 suits, which are also used as a tool for educational workshops in schools.

2025 Community Arts Grants Narratives

New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Council **\$3,500**

To support the Super Sunday 2025 celebration typically held on the third Sunday of March.

NOLArts Learning Center **\$3,500**

To support the STOMP Troopers Project, a series of workshops culminating in participation in the Chewbacchus parade for youth with special needs.

NOUS Foundation **\$3,500**

To support workshops teaching women who mask as New Orleans Baby Dolls the cultural significance of and select songs in Louisiana Creole.

Original Big Seven/Red Flame Hunters Mardi Gras Indian Tribe **\$3,500**

To support the Red Flame Hunters' 2025 suits as well as the children's division of the Original Big Seven Social Aid and Pleasure Club. The two groups are intertwined.

Original CTC Steppers **\$3,500**

To support the Original "Cross the Canal" Steppers Social Aid & Pleasure Club annual second line parade held in the Lower 9th Ward neighborhood.

Queens of The Nation Indian Council **\$3,500**

To support the Queens of The Nation annual retreat as well as the Rites of Passage for Young Queens of The Nation, a project dedicated to the education of girls who participate in the Black Masking Tradition.

The Black School **\$3,500**

To support a series of collage workshops focused on sharing the history of Super Sunday, Black Masking Indians, and civil rights leader Jerome "Big Duck" Smith. Students will be encouraged to imagine what freedom looks like for themselves and their communities.

CATEGORY: NEW ORLEANS AS CULTURAL CAPITAL

Ashé Cultural Arts Center (Efforts of Grace, Inc.) **\$14,000**

To support Ashé creative works that emphasize the contributions of artists, writers, performers, actors, dancers, and speakers of African descent from New Orleans and around the world.

Art Camp 504 **\$3,500**

To support summer and holiday break camps for youth focusing on the arts.

2025 Community Arts Grants Narratives

Artivism Dance Theatre **\$3,500**
To support affordable dance classes, professional development for dancers, and free dance classes for incarcerated youth.

ArtSpot Productions, Inc. **\$3,500**
To support general operating support, including performances in Louisiana churches that reimagine the criminal justice system, and to support an arts-for-justice-and-healing program for the Orleans Justice Center.

Donald Harrison, Sr. Museum and Cultural Center **\$3,500**
To support the preservation, presentation, promotion, and celebration of New Orleans' indigenous cultural arts and West African/New World oral traditions through educational activities and exhibitions.

Community Works of Louisiana **\$14,000**
To support in-school, after-school, and summer art programs for youth.

Cuba NOLA Arts Collective **\$3,500**
To support arts programs that bring together the shared arts traditions of New Orleans, Louisiana, Cuba, the Caribbean, and Latin America through community exchanges.

Dancing Grounds **\$7,000**
To support high-quality, accessible dance education and performance programs for youth and adults in all dance genres.

Ellis Marsalis Center for Music **\$14,000**
To support arts education programs for children and youth and the center's other programs like adult piano classes, community performances and concerts, and audio recording services.

Friends of A Studio in the Woods **\$7,000**
To support artist residencies for ten local BIPOC artists and culture bearers and eight local, national, and international artists creating work that examines the severity of the climate crisis.

Friends of WWOZ, Inc. **\$14,000**
To support local radio that highlights and celebrates New Orleans culture and heritage.

Goat in the Road Productions **\$3,500**
To support Goat in the Road's Play/Write program through classes at the International School of Louisiana, St. Mary's Academy, Young Audiences Charter School, Success Prep, and Homer Plessy Community School.

2025 Community Arts Grants Narratives

Junebug Productions **\$14,378.75**

To support high-quality performing arts that address issues of inequity that have historically impacted African Americans and to provide training for artists interested in using art to create social change.

KID smART **\$14,000**

To support educational activities, including a teaching artist residency in 11 public schools and monthly professional development for a cohort of classroom teachers.

Krewe of Red Beans **\$14,000**

To support Beanlandia, a cultural center and hub of children's programming in the Bywater neighborhood.

Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra **\$14,000**

To support the LPO's season that focuses on composers of diverse backgrounds, past and present, delivered with their trademark artistic versatility.

Lyrice Baroque **\$3,500**

To support high-quality chamber music performances and student programs.

Make Music NOLA **\$7,000**

To support Make Music NOLA after-school program of tuition-free music instruction on string instruments to underserved youth at charter schools and community centers in nine locations in New Orleans.

Mamacita Social Aid & Pleasure Club, Inc. **\$3,500**

To support classes and workshops in traditional flamenco that combine art, history, and dance to showcase the influence of New Orleans heritage on the continuum of Spanish arts and music.

Marigny Opera House Foundation **\$7,000**

To support the Marigny Opera House Ballet programs and presentations of New Orleans-based performing artists in concerts and recitals.

Mélange Dance Company **\$3,500**

To support the production of two original dance productions and free community dance classes.

Musical Arts Society of New Orleans **\$7,000**

To support the 29th New Orleans International Piano Competition, the New Orleans Piano Institute and Keyboard Festival, and local musical performances and masterclasses.

Musicians for Music **\$3,500**

To support Musicians for Music's programs that promote career development for individual artists and bring their work to a broader audience.

2025 Community Arts Grants Narratives

New Orleans African American Museum **\$14,378.75**

To support immersive exhibitions and public programs that address how the peoples of the African Diaspora contributed to and continue to shape the culture of New Orleans and America.

New Orleans Arts & Cultural Host Committee **\$3,500**

To support the Armstrong Summer Jazz Camp that provides music education programs for New Orleans youth involving emerging, national, and internationally known artists as teachers and guest artists, as well as school-day and after-school jazz education classes.

New Orleans Ballet Association **\$14,000**

To support NOBA's tuition-free classes and activities for 1,500+ participants ages 4–80+ and the presentation of world-class dance companies.

New Orleans Ballet, Inc DBA New Orleans Ballet Theatre **\$7,000**

To support live performances for NOBT's 2024 season, featuring dancers in its company in a mixed repertory of contemporary concerts.

New Orleans Center for Creative Arts Foundation **\$14,000**

To support the nonprofit partner of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts High School that provides programs that offer meaningful and substantial arts experiences to NOCCA students, faculty, and the community.

New Orleans Chamber Orchestra **\$3,500**

To support high-quality orchestra concerts featuring works by New Orleans composers and vocalists, along with standard repertoire at the Marigny Opera House.

New Orleans Film and Video Society, Inc. **\$14,378.75**

To support the New Orleans Film Society's programmatic activities, including its annual film festival, film series, and artist lab programs.

New Orleans Friends of Music **\$3,500**

To support the presentation of high-quality chamber music at an affordable price and produce educational activities encouraging more adults and young people to appreciate the art form.

New Orleans Opera Association **\$14,000**

To support a production of Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor at the Mahalia Jackson Theatre of the Performing Arts and the New Orleans Opera's educational programs.

N'Kafu Traditional African Dance Company **\$3,500**

To support the historical documentation, study, presentation, preservation, and promotion of traditional African culture and Folklore through dance, singing, music, costuming, and cuisine.

2025 Community Arts Grants Narratives

One Book One New Orleans **\$3,500**
To support free literacy public programming and the annual Words & Music Festival that celebrates the arts of New Orleans.

People for Public Art **\$3,500**
To support a large collaborative mural that will be painted on the former Beauty Plus building on Elysian Fields and St. Claude Avenue.

Prescription Joy **\$3,500**
To support a clowning organization that helps address stress, anxiety, and isolation in our community's healthcare systems.

Press Street (dba Antenna) **\$14,000**
To support artist residencies, rotating gallery exhibitions, public events, community workshops, and large-scale collaborative projects at Antenna Gallery.

Rivers Institute for Contemporary Art & Thought **\$7,000**
To support research and publishing, exhibitions, and convenings on art of the global diaspora.

Second Line Arts Collective **\$3,500**
To support the Second Line Arts Collective's programming that addresses three basic needs within the New Orleans music and arts community: financial literacy and creative marketing.

Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival, Inc. **\$7,000**
To support the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival and the Saints and Sinners LGBTQ Literary Festival in the French Quarters and other venues.

The Ella Project **\$7,000**
To support pro bono legal and business assistance to low to moderate-income New Orleans artists, musicians, and grassroots nonprofit arts organizations.

The NOLA Project **\$7,000**
To support a professional ensemble theatre company that produces bold new and classic theatre works in locations around New Orleans.

Treme Artists Collective **\$3,500**
To support concert series highlighting Louisiana-based music and Louisiana-based musicians, workshops, master classes, and lessons designed to introduce or develop a student interested in New Orleans-style jazz.

Troy Andrews Foundation (dba Trombone Shorty Foundation) **\$14,000**
To support youth with the skills and perspectives necessary to earn a thriving wage in the music industry through masterclasses, performances, apprenticeships, and music business classes.

2025 Community Arts Grants Narratives

Upturn Arts

\$7,000

To support Upturn Arts' arts enrichment programming for New Orleans children, regardless of socio-economic background.

US Biennial (dba Prospect New Orleans)

\$14,000

To support the Prospect 6 Triennial exhibition, it invites artists worldwide to create major projects in various venues throughout New Orleans, as well as Prospect New Orleans' educational programs.

Versipel New Music

\$3,500

To support innovative performances of contemporary classical music in the New Orleans area and to support composers in creating new works.

Whole Village Art Therapy

\$7,000

To support high-quality, community-based art therapy services that improve access and reduce systemic barriers to mental health services through artmaking in New Orleans.

Young Aspirations Young Artists, Inc.

\$14,000

To support empowering creative young people through visual arts education combined with entrepreneurial, leadership, and life skills training.

Young Audiences of Louisiana

\$14,378.75

To support high-quality arts-education programs in all disciplines for children in school and after-school, reaching 10,000+ students, as well as arts-integration professional development for educators.