

ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ORLEANS
2026 COMMUNITY ARTS GRANTS
Made possible by the City of New Orleans
Grant Activity Period: January 1 – December 31, 2026

The **Community Arts Grants Program**, administered by the Arts Council of New Orleans since the 1980s, supports nonprofit arts and cultural organizations based in Orleans Parish whose work brings joy, meaning, and connection to our city. With support from the **City of New Orleans**, these grants fund programs that uplift residents, engage youth, preserve cultural traditions, and welcome visitors, contributing to the vibrant cultural fabric that makes New Orleans unlike any other place in the world.

CATEGORY: MORE JOY

Black Men of Labor, Inc. **\$3,000**

To support a second-line parade at Black Men of Labor's annual festival.

Creole Wild West **\$3,000**

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.

Mohawk Hunters, Inc. **\$3,000**

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 Mardi Gras Indian Council **\$3,000**

To support the Super Sunday 2026 celebration, typically held on the third Sunday of March.

NOLArts Learning Center **\$3,000**

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

Original Big Seven/Red Flame Hunters Mardi Gras Indian Tribe **\$3,000**

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 Creole Wild West **\$3,000**

To support preserving the Black Masking Indian tradition and passing down the traditions to youth in the community.

2026 Community Arts Grants Narratives

Original CTC Steppers **\$3,000**

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

Queens of The Nation Indian Council **\$3,000**

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 Original Black Seminole Baby Dolls **\$3,000**

To support The Original Black Seminole Baby Dolls' annual banner raising, celebrating the beginning of the Carnival season, and "We Are Still Here" documentary film project.

VIP Ladies Social Aid & Pleasure Club **\$3,000**

To support the Annual VIP Ladies & Kids Social Aid & Pleasure Club Second Line Parade held in Uptown New Orleans.

CATEGORY: NEW ORLEANS AS CULTURAL CAPITAL

826 New Orleans **\$6,000**

To support youth literary arts programming serving 1000 young people annually.

Antenna **\$9,000**

To support exhibitions, public programs, publishing, and support programs for artists and cultural contributors addressing social issues.

Anthony Bean Community Theater and Acting School **\$3,000**

To support a theatrical season and youth educational programs that celebrate Black culture and identity.

Art Camp 504 **\$6,000**

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

Artivism Dance Theatre **\$3,000**

To support affordable dance classes, professional development for dancers, and free dance programs for justice-system-impacted and currently incarcerated youth.

ArtSpot Productions, Inc. **\$3,000**

To support original, multidisciplinary performances addressing environmental and social issues, 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.

2026 Community Arts Grants Narratives

Ashé Cultural Arts Center (Efforts of Grace, Inc.) **\$9,000**

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

Ballerinas of the Bayou **\$3,000**

To support arts education programs that address the holistic needs of youth and families through the intersection of performance arts, wellness, and workforce development on the West Bank.

Be Loud Studios **\$6,000**

To support a youth podcasting program that amplifies kid confidence through radio and digital media production, turning screens into tools for self-expression and courageous collaboration.

Byrdie's Pottery **\$3,000**

To support a nonprofit ceramic arts organization providing equitable access to ceramic arts, offering educational programming, and creating a platform for makers to share their work.

Community Works of Louisiana **\$9,000**

To support in-school, after-school, and summer art programs for youth.

Court 13 Arts **\$3,000**

To support the production of cultural events, artist residencies, education, mentorship programs, and affordable studio spaces that empower Louisiana artists to thrive, build, and create.

Cuba NOLA Arts Collective **\$3,000**

To support arts programs that bring together the shared arts traditions of New Orleans, Louisiana, Cuba, the Caribbean, and Latin America through community exchanges.

Cultural Curriculum Project **\$3,000**

To support meaningful public school field trips that connect students with the art, culture, and history of South Louisiana.

Culu Children's Traditional African Dance Company **\$3,000**

To support educational programming that instills an appreciation for the rich and diverse cultures of traditional African dance, drumming, and folklore in African-American youth.

Dancing Grounds **\$9,000**

To support high-quality, accessible dance education and performance programs for youth and adults in all dance genres.

Ellis Marsalis Center for Music **\$9,000**

To support arts education programs for youth and the center's other programs, including adult piano classes, community performances and concerts, and audio recording services.

2026 Community Arts Grants Narratives

Friends of A Studio in the Woods **\$6,000**

To support artist residencies for ten local 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. **\$9,000**

To support local radio that highlights and celebrates New Orleans culture and heritage.

Goat in the Road Productions **\$6,000**

To support an ensemble theater company that brings to life the untold stories of our New Orleans communities by creating dynamic original plays and fostering the work of young artists.

Guardians Institute **\$3,000**

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.

KID smART **\$9,000**

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

Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra **\$9,000**

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

Lyrice Baroque **\$3,000**

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

Mondo Bizarro Productions **\$6,000**

To support a theater company that works for a more beautiful and equitable world through the creation and presentation of live performances, digital media, training programs, and cultural organizing events.

N'Kafu Traditional African Dance Company **\$3,000**

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

New Orleans African American Museum **\$9,000**

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.

2026 Community Arts Grants Narratives

New Orleans Arts & Cultural Host Committee **\$6,000**

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 **\$9,000**

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 Center for Creative Arts Foundation **\$9,000**

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 Film and Video Society, Inc. **\$9,000**

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

New Orleans Video Access Center **\$9,000**

To support film workforce training programs that ensure storytellers in Southeast Louisiana, especially natives and underrepresented voices, have the skills, the platform, and the agency to share their truth, preserve their culture, and build a sustainable income.

NOLA Artist Incubator **\$3,000**

To support education, community outreach, and an Artist-in-Residence Program committed to building a creative network of makers for a more equitable and sustainable New Orleans.

Ogden Museum of Southern Art **\$9,000**

To support broadening the knowledge, understanding, interpretation, and appreciation of the visual arts and culture of the American South through events, permanent collections, changing exhibitions, educational programs, music, publications, and research.

One Book One New Orleans **\$3,000**

To support free literacy public programming and the annual Words & Music Festival that celebrates the arts of New Orleans.

Prescription Joy **\$3,000**

To support a clowning organization that helps address stress, anxiety, and isolation in our community's healthcare systems.

2026 Community Arts Grants Narratives

Preservation Hall Foundation	\$9,000
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To support intergenerational programming that provides support for musicians, educational programs for young people, community engagement concerts, and access to Preservation Hall's archives.

Roots of Music	\$9,000
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To support music history and theory as well as instrumental instruction and ensemble performance preparation for youth ages 3-18 from low-income households.

Second Line Arts Collective	\$6,000
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To support programming that bridges two critical gaps in New Orleans' music education landscape: early childhood exposure to music and professional preparation for young adults entering the music industry.

Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival, Inc.	\$6,000
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To support the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival and the Saints and Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival in the French Quarter and other venues.

The Ella Project	\$6,000
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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	\$3,000
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To support a professional ensemble theatre company that produces bold new and classic theatre works in locations around New Orleans.

Treme Artists Collective	\$3,000
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To support a concert series highlighting Louisiana-based music and Louisiana-based musicians, workshops for musicians in financial literacy, in-school music history lessons, and an event production workforce development program.

Troy Andrews Foundation (dba Trombone Shorty Foundation)	\$9,000
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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.

Voices in the Dark Repertory Theatre Company	\$3,000
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To support a grassroots theatre company committed to producing thought-provoking works that celebrate and illuminate the rich, diverse experiences of historically marginalized communities.

Whole Village Art Therapy	\$6,000
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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.

2026 Community Arts Grants Narratives

WYES-TV/PBS Greater New Orleans Educational Television Foundation **\$9,000**

To support WYES' weekly STEPPIN' OUT program, showcasing New Orleans cultural arts on public access television

Young Aspirations Young Artists, Inc. **\$6,000**

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

Young Audiences of Louisiana **\$9,000**

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.