77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

City of Costa Mesa

Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 26-488 **Meeting Date**: 11/5/2026

TITLE:	**ARTS GRANT PROGRAM REVIEW OF GUIDELINES**
DEPARTMENT:	**PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**
PRESENTED BY:	**MONIQUE VILLASENOR, RECREATION MANAGER**
CONTACT INFORMATION:	**MONIQUE VILLASENOR, RECREATION MANAGER, (714) 754-5679**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the Arts Commission review the City of Costa Mesa Arts Grant Program Guidelines and consider and approve any recommended revisions, as appropriate.

BACKGROUND:

One of the Arts & Culture Master Plan's recommendations was to create a new mission and guidelines for the Arts Grant Program.

On February 2, 2023, staff provided the draft for the Arts Grant Program Guidelines handbook for the Arts Commission to review, collect input, and make any adjustments.

After suggestions were made by the Arts Commission, the edited version was brought back on March 4, 2023, for final review and approval.

At the March 6, 2025, Arts Commission meeting, a suggestion was made by Chair Alisa Ochoa to bring the Arts Grant Program Guidelines back for further review and possible edits.

At the April 3, 2025, Arts Commission meeting, minor edits were suggested; to increase the amount of allowable funding for each Arts Grant applicant, and a recommendation was made to bring back more information about the financial background of each arts grant awardee for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

At the May 1, 2025, Arts Commission meeting, a suggestion was made to bring back examples of other cities' mission, values and objectives, to compare with the current City of Costa Mesa Arts Grant program guidelines.

At the June 5, 2025, Arts Commission meeting, no edits were made to the mission of the program. Chair Ochoa requested that a discount or fee waiver be considered for Costa Mesa parks and facility rentals for arts grant awardees.

At the August 7, 2025, Arts Commission meeting, commissioners voted to approve an updated Arts Grant Program Guidelines with new language to address the suggested discount to parks and facility rentals for arts grant awardees.

ANALYSIS:

The Arts Grant Program Guidelines (Attachment 1) may be brought back to the Arts Commission at any time for review and edits. Staff has provided a draft of the Arts Grant Program Guidelines. This updated version reflects a new eligibility requirement that applicants may only apply on a biennial basis.

FISCAL REVIEW

The funding for the Arts Grant program is $12,500 for the 2026-27 Fiscal Year.

LEGAL REVIEW

There is no legal review required for this report.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommend that the Arts Commission review the City of Costa Mesa Arts Grant Program Guidelines and consider and approve any recommended revisions, as appropriate.