

ARTS GRANT AWARDS

FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

- For the current fiscal year, there were 14 eligible applications
- Each application was reviewed by a review panel of three people (2 Arts Commissioners and 1 arts administrator)
- A perfect score for an application is 30 points
- Requested funds could be for up to \$5,000 for a project and or event in Costa Mesa
- Total funds available: \$12,500

Arts Organization or Individual	Project or Event	Final Score	Requested Amount	Award Amount
Ramon Guzman Fiscal Sponsor: Trellis International	Faces and Reflections of Costa Mesa / Rostros y Reflejos de Costa Mesa is a public art installation and living tribute to the Hispanic/Latin-X residents who form the city's cultural backbone. Hosted at historic Lions Park during Hispanic Heritage Month, this temporary installation transforms traditional portraiture into an interactive civic experience, displaying from September 15 to October 15, 2026, with a community unveiling on September 15th. Event Summary: The project launches with an unveiling at Lions Park, providing a dedicated civic space for residents to engage with the artwork, read bilingual histories, and celebrate their shared identity. The launch features targeted bilingual outreach and temporary directional signage ensuring accessibility. Art Installation Details: The installation features three large, weather-resistant A-frame structures elevating local voices: Structure 1: Displays intimate portraits of Costa Mesa families paired with bilingual stories. Structure 2: Provides project background and community testimonies about the installation's meaning. Structure 3: Introduces a shatterproof polycarbonate mirror for park visitors to see their reflections alongside these narratives. This structure includes ground-level accessibility features in Spanish and English and incorporates a QR code. Individuals can upload their self-portraits to City of Costa Mesa social media pages, promoting civic innovation.	29	\$5,000	\$5,000

Arts Organization or Individual	Project or Event	Final Score	Requested Amount	Award Amount
Dance 4 Joy	The West Side Alive Summer Camp is a community arts education program that brings dance, creativity, and cultural enrichment to children ages Pre-K through 6th grade in West Side Costa Mesa. Led by Dance 4 Joy Ministries (D4J), the program creates an inclusive and welcoming environment where children of all backgrounds and abilities can experience the joy of artistic expression and movement. Since 2007, D4J has served the West Side Costa Mesa community by providing accessible arts programming that supports creativity, confidence, and community connection. The Camp is expected to serve approximately 45-50 children from local schools, churches, and community organizations. Many participating students come from West Side Title I schools, where higher rates of free and reduced-price lunch indicate a greater need for accessible community arts opportunities.	28	\$2,500	\$2,500
Backhausdance	Following the success of the 8-week pilot project funded by the City of Costa Mesa Arts Commission in fall 2025, Backhausdance proposes a new season of "Dance for Joy and Well-Being," from September 28 to November 16, 2026 at the Costa Mesa Senior Center. Led by professional Backhausdance dancers and teaching artists, each 90-minute workshop over the 8-week period, includes warm-up, learning contemporary movement vocabulary and technique, improvisation, and storytelling, with seated or standing exercises, partner work, and simple choreographed sequences set to uplifting music chosen by participants. The last session features a company class with additional Backhausdance members and a special performance by the Backhausdance Education Performing Company of new repertory set to the music of Aaron Copland, including "Simple Gifts" from Appalachian Spring and "Hoe Down" from Rodeo. New in 2026, the program will connect to the national celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, exploring music by American composers and themes inspired by historic places across the United States and will also explore a partnership with Local 7 of the American Federation of Musicians (in Santa Ana) to incorporate live musicians as accompanists for workshops and the final celebration.	28	\$2,500	\$2,500

Arts Organization or Individual	Project or Event	Final Score	Requested Amount	Award Amount
Pacific Symphony	Grant funds are requested for the Class Act Music Education Program in three Costa Mesa elementary schools during the 2026-27 academic year. Specifically, students at Victoria, College Park Elementaries and Frontier Academy will participate in year-long music engagement that includes classroom lessons, on-site concerts and a bus trip to the Concert Hall for a full Pacific Symphony concert. For 31 years, Class Act has met the need for music education in schools to help Orange County improve student scholastic test scores and academic achievement. Class Act trains and places Pacific Symphony musicians in schools where students receive impactful music learning. Through year-long residencies, musicians focus on the fundamentals of music through age-appropriate classroom lessons and musician performances culminating with a trip to see the orchestra perform.	26	\$5,000	\$2,500
			<u>TOTAL:</u>	\$12,500