



DRAFT

Expanded Access to Arts and Culture (EAAC) Grant Program - Cycle Three

Commented [A1]: This draft is intended as a framework for discussion purposes. The draft has been annotated to assist with facilitation of discussion.

Table of Contents

I.	Overview and Background	3
1.	Measure P and Expanded Access to Arts and Culture	3
2.	The Cultural Arts Plan	3
3.	Cultural Arts Plan Goals, Recommendations and Strategies	4
4.	Measure P Grant Requirements	5
5.	Funding Priorities	5
II.	Available Funding and Funding Allocations	5
III.	Timeline	6
IV.	Eligibility	7
1.	Eligible Applicants	7
2.	Eligible Expenses	8
3.	Ineligible Applicants	8
4.	Ineligible Expenses	8
V.	Fiscal Sponsorship	9
VI.	Application Questions	9
VII.	Application Review and Scoring Process	10
1.	The Application Review Committee (ARC)	11
2.	Application Review and Scoring Handbook	11
3.	Training and Compensation	11
4.	Conflict of Interest Disclosure Requirements	11
VIII.	Scoring Rubrics	12
1.	Project Support Rubric (25 points possible)	12
2.	Core Operating Support Rubric (30 points possible)	14
IX.	How to Apply	16
X.	Questions and Technical Assistance	16
XI.	Appeals	16
XII.	Regulated Communications	17
XIII.	Post-Award Requirements	17
XIV.	Confidentiality And Non-Disclosure	18
XV.	Debarment	18

DRAFT



DRAFT

XVI.	Public Records.....	18
XVII.	Indemnification	19
XVIII.	Applicant Disclosure of Conflict of Interest	19
XIX.	Accessibility and Non-Discrimination	19

This draft is intended for discussion purposes. This draft is preliminary and subject to change following PRAC feedback, community feedback and final legal review.

DRAFT

I. Overview and Background

1. Measure P and Expanded Access to Arts and Culture

The Fresno Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Transactions and Use Tax, commonly known as Measure P, went into effect in 2021. Measure P helps ensure Fresno's neighborhoods receive funding to improve and maintain parks and facilities, create new parks and trails, and fund recreation, community, and arts and culture programs. Measure P also required the establishment of the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (Commission).

2. The Cultural Arts Plan

Measure P (Sec. 7-1506(b)(4)(C)) requires that prior to the implementation of the Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Grant Program, the Commission shall work in partnership with the Fresno Arts Council, and local arts and cultural stakeholders, to develop a Cultural Arts Plan for the City of Fresno that identifies needs in the arts and cultural community; prioritizes outcomes and investments; and develops a vision and goals for the future of Fresno arts and cultural programs that are reflective of the cultural, demographic, and geographic diversity of Fresno. The Cultural Arts Plan must be updated every five years.



Figure 1 - A photo of the Cultural Arts Plan

The development of the Cultural Arts Plan included a robust community engagement process, including multiple public meetings and over 4,000 public comments. The [Cultural Arts Plan](#) was adopted by the Fresno City Council in August 2023. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the [Cultural Arts Plan](#) before applying for grant funding.

The [Cultural Arts Plan](#) includes a vision that:

“Cultural Arts in Fresno will be recognized, prioritized, inclusive, accessible and continue to reflect, celebrate and connect the community.”

3. Cultural Arts Plan Goals, Recommendations and Strategies

To realize the vision of the [Cultural Arts Plan](#), six (6) goals were outlined. Each goal includes a set of **recommendations** and **strategies** for implementation. Grant applicants must indicate which of the **Cultural Arts Plan recommendations** and/or **strategies** will be implemented to support achievement of the [Cultural Arts Plan](#) goals and desired outcomes. Based on the nature of the recommendations and strategies included in the [Cultural Arts Plan](#), grant proposals are generally expected to implement recommendations and strategies that achieve Goals Two (2) through Five (5).



Figure 2 - A graphic which highlights the six (6) overarching goals outlined in the Cultural Arts Plan.

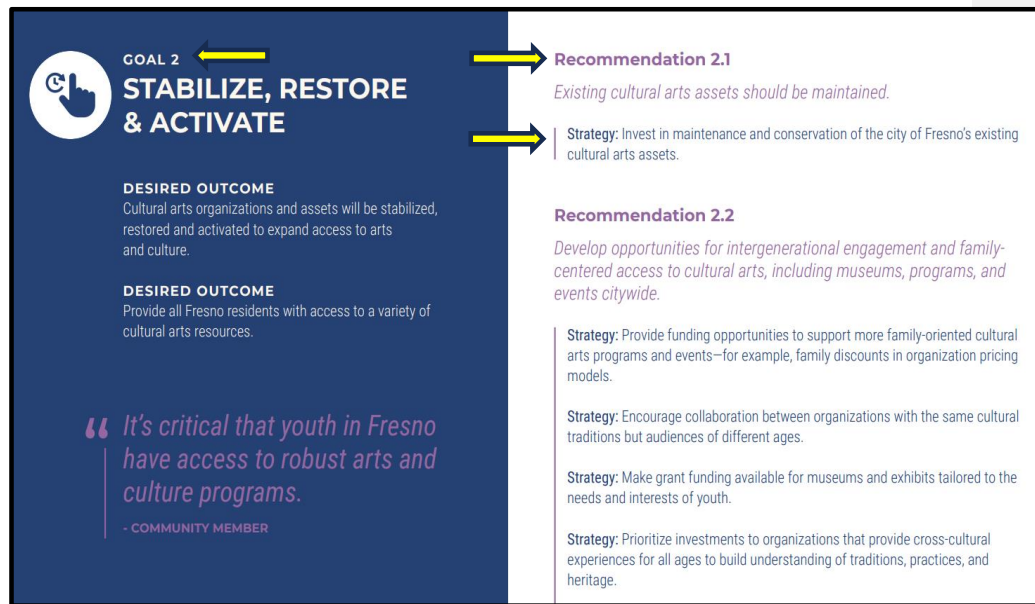


Figure 3 - An excerpt from the Cultural Arts Plan that highlights examples of where to find goals, recommendations and strategies within the plan document.

4. Measure P Grant Requirements

In addition to outlining requirements for the Cultural Arts Plan, the Measure P Ordinance (Sec. 7-1506(b)(4)) outlines the following grant program requirements:

(A) Twelve percent (12%) percent of the funds made available from Section 7-1504 shall be made available on an annual basis to invest in competitive grants for nonprofit organizations that support and expand access to arts and cultural programming.

(B) Grants funded pursuant to this paragraph shall:

- Be implemented by the Commission in partnership with the Fresno Arts Council, or its successor local arts agency.
- Use multiple solicitations that allow for a diverse set of programs, with different program sizes and reach.
- Include core operating and project-support grants.
- The Commission shall ensure that grant applications are reviewed in a transparent, competitive process.

(D) Funding for operating support distributed pursuant to this paragraph shall:

- Support organizational stability for arts and cultural organizations that reflect the cultural, geographic and demographic diversity of the City of Fresno; and
- Reflect the proportion of each grantee's overall operations that serves residents within, or visitors to, the City of Fresno sphere of influence.

(E) Grants funded pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall prioritize organizations and programs that support and expand diverse public or youth engagement and equity.

5. Funding Priorities

Measure P (Sec. 7-1506(b)(4)(E)) identifies the following funding priorities:

1. Programs that support and expand **diverse public engagement and equity**.
2. Programs that support and expand **youth engagement and equity**.

The [Cultural Arts Plan](#) identifies many additional grant funding priorities (see pages 48-52).

II. Available Funding and Funding Allocations

There is a total of \$6,498,200 available for Cycle Three grants.

Multiple Solicitations

To allow for a diverse set of programs with different program sizes and reach, there will be multiple grant solicitations in Cycle Three; one solicitation for **Project Support Grants** and one solicitation for **General Operating Support** grants.

Commented [A2]: For discussion purposes:

- 1)To make it easier to apply, staff propose using one set of guidelines (instead of four). The guidelines would then be used for multiple solicitations.
- 2) In cycle three, can applicants apply to both operating and project support?
- 3)Are there any limits on the number of proposals that can be submitted by an applicant?
- 4)Past rounds have included requirements specific to established and emerging organizations. Should that distinction be included or not included in cycle three?

Award Amounts

Awards will be made based on application scores. Partial awards may be made when funding is exhausted. Matching funds are not required.

Project Support

% of funding will be set aside for project support grants.

The minimum funding request is \$

The maximum funding request is \$

General Operating Support

% of funding will be set aside for general operating support grants.

The minimum funding request is \$

The maximum funding request is \$

Commented [A3]: For discussion purposes:

1. Staff propose for consideration that grant awards be made for 100% of eligible expenses requested, instead of reducing awards to ~30-60-90% of the total requested.
2. In this scenario, awards would be made at 100%, and the grantee at the bottom of the scored list would be offered partial funding.

Commented [A4]: For discussion purposes: staff propose a minimum threshold. Prior cycles included an award of less than \$100.

Commented [A5]: For discussion purposes: staff propose a minimum threshold. Prior cycles included an award of less than \$100.

III. Timeline

Although every effort will be made to adhere to the timeline below and complete all milestones expeditiously, adjustments may be necessary. Any changes made to the timeline will be communicated in writing to all applicants and posted to the City of Fresno website to ensure transparency.

Date	Milestones
June 25, 2026	Final Grant Guidelines Adopted by the Fresno City Council.
June 30, 2026	Release Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) via two Grant Solicitations: • Project Support • Operating Support
July 2026	Applicant technical assistance workshop(s) begin.
August 1, 2026	Eligibility Screening Form due by 3:00 p.m.
TBD	Eligibility Appeals Due

Commented [A6]: For discussion purposes:

Rather than a letter of intent, an eligibility screening form will be used to review eligibility criteria. All eligibility criteria is outlined in the guidelines. Application links will be issued to all eligible applicants.

September 1, 2026	Applications are due by 3:00 p.m.
September 2026 – October 2026	Scoring
October 2026	Notice of Intent to Award and Appeal Notices Published (10-day)
Estimated October 2026	Award recommendations and Appeals presented to PRAC
Winter 2026	Award recommendations and appeals presented to Council
Winter 2026	Begin executing grant phase
13 months	Grant Term: twelve months (12) project delivery, one (1) month for final reporting

Commented [A7]: For discussion purposes: Does this provide enough time to applicants?

Commented [A8]: For discussion purposes: Should the term be adjusted?

IV. Eligibility

1. Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for grant funding, all applicants must meet all criteria below:

1. Be an active nonprofit charitable organization as described in section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as amended) that supports and expands access to arts and cultural programming (Sec. 7-1506(b)(4)(A)). An Employer Identification Number (EIN) will be required.
2. Be in “good standing” with:
 - [Internal Revenue Service \(IRS\)](#)
 - [California Franchise Tax Board](#)
 - [California Secretary of State](#)
 - City of Fresno
3. Primary place of business is physically located within the City of Fresno limits (A P.O. box does not meet this requirement).
4. Serve City of Fresno residents or visitors.

Additionally, in accordance with Measure P, applicants seeking funding for **General Operating Support** must be an arts or cultural organization as demonstrated by [National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities \(NTEE\) code](#) assigned by the IRS, or another state or federal designation. NTEE code(s) can be verified using the IRS search tool located at: <https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/>.

2. Eligible Expenses

Examples of eligible expenses include:

1. Direct costs for personnel, supplies, services, permits, artists' fees, license fees for copyrighted material, contractors, rentals and/or equipment necessary to complete the proposed scope of work.
2. Core-operating expenses, including but not limited to; utilities, maintenance, repairs, rent, marketing, insurance, etc. Core operating expenses for project specific grants are capped at 10% of the total project cost.
3. Expenses for food and non-alcoholic beverages may be allowable if shown to be reasonable and necessary to expanding access to arts and culture.
4. Construction expenses to update existing facilities for the purposes of expanding access to arts and culture.
5. Costs associated with providing technical assistance for emerging organizations to establish an arts and/or culture non-profit.
6. Equipment exceeding \$5,000 in purchase price requires three quotes prior to purchase and must be listed as an individual line-item in the budget.
7. Travel expenses are subject to [IRS standard mileage reimbursement rates](#) and [Federal General Service Administration per diem rates](#).

Commented [A9]: For discussion purposes: this was previously unallowable. Staff propose inclusion if costs are reasonable and necessary to expand access. For example: purchasing food for cultural cooking workshops.

Commented [A10]: For discussion purposes: Should construction be eligible?

The cultural arts plan discusses recommendations such as increasing accessibility, lighting, safety, etc. to reduce barriers to access. Those recommendations include construction.

Commented [A11]: For discussion purposes: included based on goals in the Cultural Arts Plan.

Commented [A12]: For discussion purposes: what recommendations are there for applicants who did not complete a final report in prior rounds?

3. Ineligible Applicants

- a. Nonprofit organizations that are religious, political or private foundations.
- b. For-profit businesses or sole proprietorships.
- c. Organizations that do not serve the public or provide public programming.
- d. K-12 Schools; County Offices of Education; Public and Private Colleges and Universities.
- e. Organizations whose primary mission is to raise funds.
- f. Organizations whose primary mission is regranteeing.
- g. Government agencies.
- h. Any organization considered ineligible by Measure P (Fresno Municipal Code sections 7-1500 to 7-1519).
- i. Organizations that have not completed reporting for prior funding cycles must complete outstanding reporting.

4. Ineligible Expenses

Examples of ineligible expenses include:

1. Activities, programming, operations or events occurring outside of the City of Fresno's sphere of influence.
2. Expenses that do not reasonably expand access to arts or culture.
3. Alcohol or other controlled substances.

4. Funds shall not be used to develop facilities on existing or former landfills or waste refuse facilities.
5. Any expenses considered ineligible by Measure P (Fresno Municipal Code sections 7-1500 to 7-1519).
6. Cash prizes and scholarships.
7. Political advocacy or lobbying.
8. Fundraising
9. Projects in schools during school hours.
10. Projects on university campuses that are primarily for enrolled students.
11. Projects with religious or evangelical purposes.
12. Costs of goods for resale.

Commented [A13]: For discussion purposes: Scholarships were previously excluded from eligibility. Staff propose further discussion on scholarship eligibility.

Commented [A14]: For discussion purposes: Staff propose further discussion based on the Cultural Arts Plan recommendations.

V. Fiscal Sponsorship

Measure P requires investment in competitive grants for **nonprofit organizations** that support and expand access to arts and cultural programming. Fiscal sponsorship is a short-term solution intended to reduce barriers to accessing funding while emerging arts or cultural practitioners build capacity. Fiscal sponsors must demonstrate at least two years of consecutive experience, must be a nonprofit organization in good standing with the IRS and State of California, and must agree to assume financial responsibility for the grant award.

The role of the fiscal sponsor can include performing many different administrative functions, including but not limited to; financial oversight, compliance, human resources, legal support, marketing, data collection, staffing, space, advisory services and insurance coverage.

To expand access to arts and culture with greater sustainability, fiscally sponsored groups are strongly encouraged to take steps to establish a nonprofit organization. The Cultural Arts Plan recommends: "Make funding available through an established grant program for emerging organizations and local artists to learn more about marketing, self-promotion, establishing a nonprofit, alternate funding sources and organizational best practices." To support the aim of capacity building, fiscal sponsors may sponsor a maximum of # grantees.

Commented [A15]: For discussion purposes: staff recommend discussion.

VI. Application Questions

The application questions will vary by solicitation (Project Support vs. General Operating Support) but will generally ask questions related to:

1. Applicant contact information
2. Organization information and experience
3. A description of the scope of work, location of work, and proposed schedule
4. Proposed budget
5. Alignment with Cultural Arts Plan goals and priorities.



DRAFT

6. Alignment with Measure P funding priorities.
7. Desired outcomes and evaluation plans.

Translation Services

Grant guidelines are available in English, Hmong, Spanish, and Punjabi. Requests can be emailed to expandedarts@fresno.gov. If the application is submitted in a language other than English, a third-party translation service will be used to translate application answers into English.

Owner Permissions/Preliminary Approval

Projects which propose installations on property not owned by the applicant must submit a letter of preliminary approval at the time of application. The letter shall state that the owner generally approves of the proposed project in concept and shall be signed by the owner or other authorized party. Official permissions will be required if awarded funding (see post award requirements).

Maintenance Plans

For any projects that will be permanently installed in a public or private space, a maintenance plan will be required. Grant applicants are advised to consider and adhere to site control requirements for both public and private facilities not under their ownership and obtain preliminary approval or permits from the City of Fresno for projects or programs conducted within the City of Fresno's Right of Way.

Artists' Commitment

All artists named in project applications must provide a letter stating that they are available and willing to participate, and that a fee has been agreed upon.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Application Process

As AI tools become widely available, grant application responses have become more similar and non-specific. While AI can be a helpful tool, please keep in mind that applications will be scored based on relevant details that are unique to each proposal and align with the priorities in the scoring rubrics provided. Applicants are encouraged to use plain language and include relevant examples and details in their proposals.

VII. Application Review and Scoring Process

The Commission shall ensure that grant applications are reviewed in a transparent, competitive process by the **Application Review Committee (ARC)**. This section outlines the tools and methods that will be used to facilitate a transparent and competitive application review and scoring process.

DRAFT

1. The Application Review Committee (ARC)

The composition of the ARC shall be representative of Fresno's demographics, people groups, and reflective of a wide range of artistic and cultural experience. Approximately 20-25 ARC members will be needed to review and score applications.

The PARCS Department shall not be a scoring member of the ARC.

Representation will be sought from each of the experience areas outlined below:

- # Members with experience in Arts.
- # Members with experience as Cultural Practitioners.
- # Members with experience in Arts or Cultural Education/Higher Education.
- # Members reflecting youth or senior perspectives.
- # Members with experience in accessibility.
- # Members residing in neighborhoods identified as Highest-Needs.
- 2 Members residing outside of the City of Fresno (to support conflict/recusal process)

Commented [A16]: Note: It is anticipated that the grant program will receive between 150 to 200 applications for funding. Each proposal will be reviewed and scored by three (3) ARC members reviewing approximately 25 proposals each. $200/25=8*3$ each $=\sim 24$ reviewers.

Commented [A17]: For discussion purposes: are there other experience areas that should be included, or edits to what is proposed?

2. Application Review and Scoring Handbook

The Review and Scoring Handbook outlines the processes, procedures and training materials to be utilized by the ARC to ensure a transparent and competitive process. The handbook is available here: [website link].

Commented [A18]: Note: This is still being drafted and will be presented to PRAC for review and recommendations.

3. Training and Compensation

ARC members will receive compensation for the time spent training, reviewing, and scoring grant applications. Prior to initiating scoring, all ARC members will be required to complete:

1. Conflict of interest disclosures.
2. Training on unconscious bias and ethics in public service.
3. An orientation on fair and impartial grant application review.
4. Training on the ARC Handbook.

Commented [A19]: Note: this was requested during PRAC meetings by the community.

Commented [A20]: Note: this was requested during PRAC meetings by the community.

For discussion purposes: are there other trainings recommended?

4. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Requirements

ARC members shall be required to complete conflict of interest disclosures and remain engaged to identify any potential conflicts of interest throughout the process. If at any point during the review process a conflict of interest or potential perception of a conflict arises, scoring committee members must notify PARCS staff immediately so a determination may be made regarding recusal and reassignment of the review to an alternate ARC member in accordance with the Application Review and Scoring Handbook.

VIII. Scoring Rubrics

1. Project Support Scoring Rubric (40 points possible)

This rubric will be used to review and score project support applications.

Commented [A21]: For discussion purposes: staff propose detailed rubrics to enable applicants to gauge how their responses to application questions will be rated. This format also supports objectivity in rating by the Applicant Review Committee members.

Are there any edits, additions or recommendations for the rubric language or the point scale proposed?

Project Support Grants Scoring Rubric					
Scoring Criteria Points	Incomplete 0-1 point	Fair 2 points	Good 3 points	Great 4 points	Excellent 5 points
Cultural Arts Plan Goals (Up to 5 points)	The proposal does not demonstrate achievement of any goals, strategies and/or recommendations in the Cultural Arts Plan.	The proposal partially demonstrates achievement of goals, strategies and/or recommendations in the Cultural Arts Plan.	The proposal demonstrates that one goal, strategy and/or recommendation in the Cultural Arts Plan will be clearly achieved by this project. The specific goal, strategy, and/or recommendation the project is proposing to achieve must be named in the proposal and the proposal must clearly demonstrate how the project activities, deliverables, and/or outcomes will fulfill the chosen goal, strategy, and/or recommendation.	The proposal demonstrates that two goals, strategies and/or recommendations in the Cultural Arts Plan will be clearly achieved by this project. The specific goals, strategies, and/or recommendations the project is proposing to achieve must be named in the proposal and the project activities, deliverables, and/or outcomes should be clearly linked to the achievement of the specific goals, strategies, and/or recommendations.	The proposal demonstrates that three or more goals, strategies and/or recommendations in the Cultural Arts Plan will be clearly achieved by this project. The specific goals, strategies, and/or recommendations the project is proposing to achieve must be named in the proposal and the project activities, deliverables, and/or outcomes should be clearly linked to the achievement of the specific goals, strategies, and/or recommendations.
Cultural Arts Plan Grant Funding Priorities (up to 5 points)	Does not include any grant funding priorities identified in the Cultural Arts Plan.	This project partially includes at least one grant funding priority identified in the Cultural Arts Plan.	One funding priority identified in the Cultural Arts Plan is achieved by this project.	Two funding priorities identified in the Cultural Arts plan are achieved by this project.	Three or more funding priorities identified in the Cultural Arts Plan are achieved by this project.
Measure P Funding Priorities (up to 5 points)	The proposal does not include any of the funding priorities outlined in Measure P.	The proposal partially includes one of the funding priorities outlined in Measure P.	One Measure P funding priority is included in the proposal, with an example of how it will be achieved.	Both Measure P funding priorities are included , with an example of how they'll be achieved.	Both Measure P funding priorities are included with multiple examples of how they'll be achieved.
Scope of Work (up to 4 points)	The scope of work lacks detail, is unclear or incomplete and/or includes errors .	The scope of work is partially complete and/or lacks detail about how the project's tasks, deliverables, and steps required to complete the project.	The scope of work clearly identifies the steps, tasks, and deliverables to be achieved. The scope appears reasonable and achievable .	The scope of work is well defined and clearly identifies the steps, tasks, and deliverables to be achieved. The scope identifies necessary approvals, potential risks, and/or other considerations that instill confidence that the project is feasible.	

Budget (up to 4 points)	The proposed budget appears incomplete , includes limited detail , and/or includes ineligible expenses and/or errors .	The proposed budget is unclear , and does not clearly tie to the proposed scope of work. The detail provided is limited.	The proposed budget is clearly explained with relevant details and clearly ties to the project's proposed scope of work.	The proposed budget is clearly explained with relevant details and clearly ties to the project's proposed scope of work. The applicant has identified in-kind or matching funds that will contribute to the project's success.	
Evaluation Plan (up to 4 points)	The evaluation plan is incomplete and/or does not include requested information	The evaluation plan is partially complete , lacks detail and/or contains errors.	The evaluation plan identifies the methods that will be used to measure how the project has expanded access to arts and culture.	The evaluation plan identifies the methods that will be used to measure how the project has expanded access to arts and culture. Examples about how the evaluation data will inform future efforts are included.	
Schedule (up to 3 points)	The schedule is incomplete and/or does not include requested information.	The schedule is partially complete , lacks detail and/or contains errors.	The schedule appears reasonable for industry standards, fits within the grant term , and clearly ties to the proposed scope of work.		
Scoring Criteria Points	Incomplete 0-1 point	Fair 2 points	Good 4 points	Great 6 points	Excellent 10 points
Expanded Access to Arts and Culture (up to 10 points)	There is no clear example of how the project expands access to arts and culture.	The proposal partially demonstrates how the project expands access to arts and culture.	The proposal clearly identifies how the project expands access to arts and culture using at least one example.	The proposal clearly identifies how the project expands access to arts and culture using at least two examples .	The proposal clearly identifies how the project expands access to arts and culture using more than two examples .

2. Core Operating Support Scoring Rubric (40) points possible

This rubric will be used to review and score core operating support applications.

Core Operating Support Grants Scoring Rubric					
Scoring Criteria Points	Incomplete 0-1 point	Fair 2 points	Good 3 points	Great 4 points	Excellent 5 points
Cultural Arts Plan Goals (Up to 5 points)	The project does not demonstrate achievement of any goals, strategies and/or recommendations in the Cultural Arts Plan.	The project partially demonstrates achievement of goals, strategies and/or recommendations in the Cultural Arts Plan.	The proposal demonstrates that one goal, strategy and/or recommendation in the Cultural Arts Plan will be clearly achieved by this project. The specific goal, strategy, and/or recommendation the project is proposing to achieve must be named in the proposal and the proposal must clearly demonstrate how the project activities, deliverables, and/or outcomes will fulfill the chosen goal, strategy, and/or recommendation.	The proposal demonstrates that two goals, strategies and/or recommendations in the Cultural Arts Plan will be clearly achieved by this project. The specific goals, strategies, and/or recommendations the project is proposing to achieve must be named in the proposal and the project activities, deliverables, and/or outcomes should be clearly linked to the achievement of the specific goals, strategies, and/or recommendations.	The proposal demonstrates that three or more goals, strategies and/or recommendations in the Cultural Arts Plan will be clearly achieved by this project. The specific goals, strategies, and/or recommendations the project is proposing to achieve must be named in the proposal and the project activities, deliverables, and/or outcomes should be clearly linked to the achievement of the specific goals, strategies, and/or recommendations.
Cultural Arts Plan Grant Funding Priorities (up to 5 points)	Does not include any grant funding priorities identified in the Cultural Arts Plan.	This project partially includes a grant funding priority identified in the Cultural Arts Plan.	One funding priority identified in the Cultural Arts Plan is achieved by this project.	Two funding priorities identified in the Cultural Arts plan are achieved by this project.	Three or more funding priorities identified in the Cultural Arts Plan are achieved by this project.
Measure P Funding Priorities (up to 5 points)	The proposal does not include any of the funding priorities outlined in Measure P.	The proposal partially includes one of the funding priorities outlined in Measure P.	One Measure P funding priority is included in the proposal, with an example of how it will be achieved.	Both Measure P funding priorities are included , with an example of how they'll be achieved.	Both Measure P funding priorities are included with multiple examples of how they'll be achieved.
Organizational Stability (up to 5 points)	The proposal does not identify how the grant will support organizational stability for arts and cultural organizations that reflect the cultural, geographic and demographic diversity of the City of Fresno.	The proposal partially identifies how the grant will support organizational stability for arts and cultural organizations that reflect the cultural, geographic and demographic diversity of the City of Fresno.	The proposal clearly describes how the applicant organization reflects the cultural, geographic or demographic diversity of Fresno and includes at least one example. The proposal clearly identifies how the grant will support organizational stability and includes at least one example.	The proposal clearly describes how the applicant organization reflects the cultural, geographic or demographic diversity of Fresno, including at least two examples . The proposal clearly identifies how the grant will support organizational	The proposal clearly describes how the applicant organization reflects the cultural, geographic or demographic diversity of Fresno using more than two examples . The proposal clearly identifies how the grant will support organizational stability using more

				stability and includes at least two examples .	than two examples. The proposal clearly identifies the anticipated community benefits resulting from increased organizational stability.
Expanded Access to Arts and Culture (up to 5 points)	There is no clear example of how the project expands access to arts and culture.	The proposal partially demonstrates how the project expands access to arts and culture.	The proposal clearly identifies how the project expands access to arts and culture using at least one example.	The proposal clearly identifies how the project expands access to arts and culture using two examples . Plans to evaluate whether the project was successful in expanding access are included.	The proposal clearly identifies how the project expands access to arts and culture using more than two examples . Detailed plans to evaluate whether the project was successful in expanding access are included.
Scope of Work (up to 4 points)	The scope of work lacks detail, is unclear or incomplete and/or includes errors .	The scope of work is partially complete and/or lacks detail about how the projects tasks, deliverables, and steps required to complete the project.	The scope of work clearly identifies the steps, tasks, and deliverables to be achieved. The scope appears reasonable and achievable .	The scope of work is well defined and clearly identifies the steps, tasks, and deliverables to be achieved. The scope identifies necessary approvals, potential risks, and/or other considerations that instill confidence that the project will be successfully completed.	
Budget (up to 4 points)	The proposed budget is incomplete or includes ineligible expenses .	The proposed budget is unclear , and does not clearly tie to the proposed scope of work.	The proposed budget is clearly explained and clearly ties to the project's scope of work . The budget reflects the proportion of each grantee's overall operations that serves residents within, or visitors to, the City of Fresno sphere of influence.	The proposed budget is clearly explained with relevant details and clearly ties to the project's proposed scope of work. The applicant has identified in-kind or matching funds that will contribute to the project's success.	
Evaluation Plan (up to 4 points)	The evaluation plan is incomplete and/or does not include requested information	The evaluation plan is partially complete , lacks detail and/or contains errors.	The evaluation plan identifies the methods that will be used to measure how the project has expanded access to arts and culture.	The evaluation plan identifies the methods that will be used to measure how the project has expanded access to arts and culture. Examples about how the evaluation data will inform future efforts are included.	
Schedule (up to 3 points)	The schedule is incomplete and/or does not	The schedule is partially complete , lacks	The schedule appears reasonable for industry standards, fits within the		

	include requested information.	detail and/or contains errors.	grant term and clearly ties to the proposed scope of work.		
--	--------------------------------	--------------------------------	--	--	--

IX. How to Apply

1. Eligible applicants are required to submit an **eligibility screening form** for each proposal by **Date & Time** using a template available **here**.
2. A link to the EAAC Grant Portal will be provided to all eligible applicants on **Date & Time**.
3. Applicants may submit no more than # proposal(s) for Project Support and # proposal(s) for General Operating Support Applications.
4. Applicants must submit all grant applications in the EAAC Grant Portal by **Month, DD, 2026 by 3:00 p.m.**
5. A recent (2024 or newer) IRS Form 990 or IRS Letter of Determination certifying your organization's nonprofit status will be due at the time of application.
6. Applicants must include the most recent board-approved financial statements—Balance Sheet and Statement of Activities with their application.
7. Applications must be submitted electronically. Hard copies and late applications **will not** be accepted.

Commented [A22]: For discussion purposes:

- 1)Will cycle three include limits on the number of proposals that can be submitted?
- 2)Can applicants apply to both solicitations?
- 3)Do fiscal sponsors have higher limits so that they are able to apply for their organization and for their sub-recipients?

X. Questions and Technical Assistance

Technical assistance workshops will be held in person with a virtual option available. The workshops will be recorded and posted to the City of Fresno website for viewing. Any questions arising outside of the workshops must be submitted, in writing, via email at: Expandedarts@fresno.gov.

Commented [A23]: Note: Included as requested by the community during a PRAC meeting.

To ensure a competitive and transparent process, written responses will be published to the City of Fresno website. Written questions will be accepted, in writing, only up to ten (10) business days prior to the proposal deadline to allow the City, if necessary, to issue an addendum to all proposers stating revisions, deletions, or additions to be made to the Grant Solicitation.

XI. Appeals

Any applicant that does not pass the eligibility screening process or is not recommended for an award may appeal either determination. The appeal must be submitted in writing and include applicant contact information, along with any grounds for appeal. Organizations will have ten (10) calendar days from the date they are notified that they do not meet eligibility to apply or from the date they are notified that they are not recommended for a grant award to appeal either decision. All written appeals will be

presented to the Commission for review and consideration. Appeal decisions made by the Commission will be final.

XII. Regulated Communications

The Regulated Communications in City Procurement Process Ordinance (Article 6, Chapter 4 of the Fresno Municipal Code) became effective April 29, 2004. With certain specified exceptions, the Ordinance provides that no Respondent, Bidder, or Proposer shall initiate, engage in, or continue any communication to or with any City elected official concerning or touching upon any matter which is the subject of this competitive procurement process. Any Respondent, Bidder, Proposer, or elected official (as the case may be) who initiates, engages in, continues in, or receives any regulated communication shall file the written disclosure required by the Regulated Communications in City Procurement Process Ordinance. Any Respondent, Bidder, or Proposer violating the Regulated Communications in City Procurement Process Ordinance may be disqualified from participating in this procurement process and/or determined to be non-responsible. Additionally, the City may set aside the award of a contract, prior to its execution, to a party found to have violated the Ordinance.

The full text of Fresno Municipal Code, Chapter 4, Article 6 may be viewed at: https://library.municode.com/ca/fresno/codes/code_of_ordinances

XIII. Post-Award Requirements

This section outlines requirements following grant award. Additional details for each of the items below will be outlined in the grant agreement.

1. Entry into a Grant agreement with the City of Fresno.
2. Signature authority documents will be required, including a Statement of Information and other documents as required by City Administrative Order.
3. Vendor Update Authorization Form
4. **Payment terms**
5. Insurance will be required.
6. Projects involving construction may have additional requirements including but not limited to permits, prevailing wage, etc.
7. TB testing, mandated reporter training and fingerprint background checks may be required for projects involving youth.
8. Proof of right of way, owner permission or other related agreements may be required, if applicable.
9. Itemized invoices will be required for payment requests. Payments are intended for actual costs incurred.
10. Paid receipts or paid invoices, timesheets, receipts and other backup documentation associated with all expenses must be submitted with reports and retained and available for inspection by the City for a minimum of three (3) fiscal years.
11. Quarterly progress reporting and a final report will be required.
12. Measure P acknowledgment requirements.

Commented [A24]: For discussion purposes:
Payment terms have been 90% up front, and 10% upon completion. Comments during PRAC meetings have indicated quarterly payments were recommended. Feedback will help inform payment terms for cycle three.

13. Completion of a risk assessment.
14. The Grantee must operate and offer its programs in a nondiscriminatory manner and in compliance with all applicable laws, including, without limitation, laws protecting persons with disabilities.
15. The Grantee must provide discounted admission to residents of the City of Fresno for any ticketed events or general admission to venues.
16. Projects proposing a scope of work which requires licensure (for example, Art Therapy) must include license numbers in application materials.

XIV. Confidentiality And Non-Disclosure

The City of Fresno recognizes that the proposals may include proprietary or confidential information. The City will take every reasonable precaution in protecting such information if it is clearly identified as proprietary or confidential on the page on which it appears. However, the City is subject to the California Public Records Act and must disclose records as required by the Act.

XV. Debarment

A organization may be debarred from bidding or proposing upon or being awarded any contract with the City, or from being a subcontractor or supplier at any tier upon such contract, in accordance with the procedures in Fresno Municipal Code Section 4-104 adopted by Council on May 17, 2018. The initial period of any such debarment shall not be less than one year and may be permanent depending on the violation. A Bidder may request a hearing, in accordance with Fresno Municipal Code Section 4-104, upon receipt of a notice of proposed debarment from the City Manager or designee. A copy of the ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, Fresno, California 93721.

XVI. Public Records

The proposals received shall become the property of the City of Fresno and are subject to public disclosure. Those parts of a proposal which are defined by the Proposer as business or trade secrets as that term is defined in California Civil Code, Section 3426.1, and are reasonably marked "Trade Secrets", "Confidential", or "Proprietary", and labeled as such within the application shall only be disclosed to the public if such disclosure is required or permitted under the California Public Records Act or otherwise by law. Proposers who indiscriminately and without justification identify most, or all, of their proposal as exempt from disclosure may not be considered for award. Proposals, excluding confidential information, will be available for review in accordance with Public Records act law after posting of staff recommendations.

XVII. Indemnification

To the furthest extent allowed by law, Proposer shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend the City and each of its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers from any and all loss, liability, fines, penalties, forfeitures, costs and damages (whether in contract, tort or strict liability, including but not limited to personal injury, death at any time and property damage) incurred by the City, Proposer or any other person, and from any and all claims, demands and actions in law or equity (including reasonable attorney's fees, litigation expenses and cost to enforce this Agreement), arising or alleged to have arisen directly or indirectly out of performance of this Agreement. Proposer's obligations under the preceding sentence shall apply regardless of whether the City or any of its officers, officials, employees, agents, or volunteers are negligent, but shall not apply to any loss, liability, fines, penalties, forfeitures, costs or damages caused solely by the gross negligence, or caused by the willful misconduct, of the City or any of its officers, officials, employees, agents, or volunteers.

If Proposer should subcontract all or any portion of the work to be performed under this Agreement, Proposer shall require each subcontractor to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the City and each of its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers in accordance with the terms of the preceding paragraph. This section shall survive termination or expiration of the NOFO solicitation and Agreement.

XVIII. Applicant Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

The Proposer may become involved in situations where conflict of interest could occur due to individual or organizational activities that occur within the City. The Proposer must provide a statement addressing the potential, if any, for conflict of interest and indicate plans, if applicable, to address potential conflict of interest. This section will be reviewed by City Counsel for compliance with conflict of interest as part of the review process. The Proposer shall comply with all federal, state and local conflict of interest laws, statutes and regulations.

XIX. Accessibility and Non-Discrimination

The City of Fresno is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its programs, services or benefits on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability as afforded by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended. Services of an interpreter and additional accommodations such as assistive listening devices can be made available. Requests for accommodations should be made more than five working days but no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting or deadline. Please contact (559) 621-7529 for accommodation requests.