

Emerging Organization General Operating Support

Organization: Root Access Hackerspace

Address: 1476 N. Van Ness Ave, 93728

Funding Request: \$42,276.29

Funding Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Root Access will expand free and low-cost creative programming at our volunteer-run makerspace in Fresno's Tower District. Grant funding will cover core operational costs—rent, utilities, insurance, and technology services—allowing us to reinvest member income into tools, equipment, and materials. We offer hands-on classes, workshops, and community events in printmaking, digital art, sewing, crocheting, electronics, and more. While membership is limited to adults 18+, many of our classes are open to youth as young as 12. Participants come from across Fresno and the Central Valley. Over half of our members are on discounted plans for students, veterans, low-income residents, and others—demonstrating a clear need for accessible arts infrastructure. Our goal is to lower barriers, foster creative confidence, and provide a welcoming space for learning, experimentation, and self-expression.

Anticipated Impact:

- Reinvest our member-supported income directly into our facilities, tools, supplies, and public programming
- Increase the number and frequency of free and low-cost arts events, including recurring workshops, creative meetups like Artist Trading Cards and Fast Art, and new opportunities for community members to lead their own classes
- Support emerging artists—particularly those underrepresented in traditional spaces—through free ArtHop exhibitions and collaborative events
- Continue growth in public participation
- Expand access without raising costs
- Create a stronger, more sustainable creative space in the Tower District—one that reflects the Cultural Plan's values of equity, inclusion, and grassroots participation in the arts

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: Root Access is located in the Tower District and serves residents from across the City of Fresno. The primary ZIP codes we serve include (but are not limited to): - 93728 (Tower District) - 93701, 93704, 93705 (Central & Downtown Fresno) - 93703, 93722, 93702 (East & West Fresno) - 93710, 93711, 93726 (North & Northeast Fresno)

Organization: Paper Crane Arts Center

Address: 3364 E Sierra Madre. Apt F, 93726

Funding Request: \$2,300.00

Funding Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, PCAC will secure a brick-and-mortar location and sustain core operations over an eight-month period (October 2025 – June 2026) in Fresno, CA. Funds will support rent, utilities, staff salaries, and administrative costs, enabling PCAC to establish a permanent home for its programs. The new space will host our Drawing and Painting programming, serving youth, adults, and seniors through culturally inclusive, intergenerational classes. Located in central Fresno, the site will provide consistent access to arts education, cultural engagement, and creative expression. The desired impact is to strengthen community connections, preserve traditional arts, and increase accessibility to the arts for residents across generations and backgrounds

Anticipated Impact:

- Increase community participation in the arts
- Create stronger networks among local artists
- Expand programming that is inclusive of all ages and underrepresented communities

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: Primarily downtown Fresno and Tower District areas, including zip codes: 93701, 93720, 93721, 93728, 93726.

Organization: Fresno Flamenco and Spanish Arts Society

Address: 1918 N Echo St., 93704

Funding Request: \$21,029.00

Funding Statement: The Fresno Flamenco and Spanish Arts Society is seeking funding to support our nonprofit Flamenco dance and guitar studio, which offers free cultural arts education to youth from underserved and underrepresented communities in the City of Fresno. Our mission is to preserve the rich traditions of Flamenco while providing accessible, high-quality instruction that fosters creativity, discipline, and cultural pride. Funding will help cover instruction, materials, and program operations, insuring that students ages 10-18 have the opportunity to learn, grow, and perform regardless of financial means. By investing in this program, you are helping to build bridges through art, empower young voices, and celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of our diverse city.

Anticipated Impact:

- Provide opportunities for Flamenco dance and guitar scholarships targeting Fresno's underserved and underrepresented youth
- Offer regular classes to Fresno residents at a free or affordable cost
- Upgrade the aging sound system to accommodate students, including those with hearing concerns
- Enhance community outreach through various media channels like social media, television, and radio broadcasting
- Develop a website to disseminate information regarding contact details, class offerings, schedules for dance and guitar sessions, upcoming community events, and community outreach, FFSAS membership, and donation options
- Conduct seasonal maintenance of the studio's HVAC and heating systems to ensure the health and comfort of students during in-studio public events.

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: The Fresno Flamenco and Spanish Arts Society (FFSAS) primarily serves the central zip codes of the City of Fresno, including 93701, 93702, 93726, 93728, and parts of 93704.

Organization: Peace Rocks Foundation

Address: 1040 E Vassar, 93704

Funding Request: \$18,194.00

Funding Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, (Fresno Arts Council EAAC), the Peace Rocks Foundation will provide administrative and financial support to local individual artists and groups within the City of Fresno, in furtherance of our mission statement.

We will use the Operating Grant funds to increase our Foundation's ability to enrich peoples' lives through the arts and foster an arts community that assists one another as proposed in the City's Cultural Arts Plan. As a cultural arts Foundation managed by a volunteer Board of Directors, our efforts would include providing support to individual artists and groups who support like-minded activities. Some examples would be: providing assistance to Hearts on Fire Choir in organizing their efforts to expand their audience reach within the underserved communities of Fresno; or providing a venue for youth musicians to showcase their talents; and helping other Arts programs.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increase our foundation's ability to enrich peoples' lives through the arts and foster an arts community that assists one another as proposed in the City's Cultural Arts Plan
- Expanding the foundation's ability to provide support to individual artists and groups who support like-minded activities
 - For example: helping individual artists in organizing their efforts to expand their audience reach and knowledge of local venues
- Increase the public's participation and expertise in the performing and visual Arts

Organization Council District: District Seven (7): Councilmember Nelson Esparza

City Service Area: We serve all areas of the City of Fresno, but especially those ZIP codes around the Tower District, including but not limited to: 93701, 93702, 93703, 93704, 93705, 93741, 93711, 92710, 93720, 93728, 93726, 93722

Organization: Tower District Preservation Fund

Address: 1424 N. Farris Ave, 93728

Funding Request: \$11,248.00

Funding Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Grant, the Tower District Preservation Fund (TDPF) will:

1. Rent a meeting space.
2. Purchase liability/special event insurance.
3. Contract for website development, maintenance and hosting.
4. Purchase TDPF laptops for our Executive Board. They now use personal computers.
5. Fund accounting software.
6. Fund printing/promotional materials.
7. Fund miscellaneous supplies.

The TDPF is an all-volunteer organization in the Tower District Specific plan area, in 93704 and 93728. However, as a Cultural Arts organization, we impact the greater Fresno area. Our projects attract various ages. We have had children through senior citizens participating in our projects. We believe the power of art and culture can inspire, educate, and unite individuals from all walks of life by fostering an environment where these experiences are easily accessible. We aim to foster a more vibrant, interconnected, and empathetic community.

Anticipated Impact:

- Have a new meeting space (our current one is not optimal for guests or privacy)
- Purchase liability and special event insurance
- Have website development, maintenance, and hosting, which can expand our community reach and foster more community involvement
- Purchase new laptops for Board members to easily access TDPF information (currently, Board members use personal computers for TDPF business.)
- Have accounting software for consistency and efficiency
- Have printing, marketing, promotional work, and supplies funded without impact to our current finances.
- Give our Board members more opportunities to devote themselves to new projects and more community outreach.

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: We focus on the Tower District Specific Plan Area in zip codes 93704 and 93728. However, our work and our projects don't serve just the Tower District, but the greater Fresno area as well.

Organization: The William Saroyan House Museum (Renaissance Cultural Foundation)

Address: 2729 W Griffith Way, 93705

Funding Request: \$28,593.00

Funding Statement: If awarded, the William Saroyan House Museum will use General Operating Support funds to sustain and expand its cultural programming and core operations at its historic location in Fresno's 93705 ZIP code. Funds will support staffing, utilities, and public engagement activities, including creative writing workshops, literary evenings, guided tours, and Saroyan Week events. These programs will also serve youth from local schools, especially Title I-designated campuses, as well as multigenerational audiences from across Fresno's diverse neighborhoods. The desired impact is to increase access to inclusive, culturally relevant arts experiences while strengthening organizational stability. Through this support, the museum will continue to preserve Saroyan's legacy and grow as a welcoming, technology-enhanced hub for storytelling, education, and creative expression—further illustrating Fresno's role as a vibrant center of cultural diversity and artistic innovation in the Central Valley.

Anticipated Impact:

- Cover essential operating expenses such as staffing, utilities, and basic program delivery, ensuring continuity of services and preserving public access to the museum
- Deepen our outreach, especially to underserved neighborhoods, by offering more frequent and inclusive public programs, writing workshops, and multilingual tours
- Invest in targeted outreach, multilingual marketing, and new partnerships
- Strengthen internal systems, training staff, and diversifying support

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: The William Saroyan House Museum is located at 2729 W. Griffith Way, Fresno, CA 93705. Our primary service area includes several Fresno zip codes such as 93701–93706, 93710–93711, and 93722. Our secondary service area includes nearby Central Valley cities such as Clovis, Visalia, Madera, and Merced (e.g., zip codes 93611, 93612, 93619, 93277, 93637, 95340), where we offer mobile exhibits, teacher professional development days, and school collaborations. In addition, the museum serves diaspora hubs—particularly Armenian-American populations in Los Angeles County (91201–91210, 91501–91506), the Bay Area (94133, 95126), and the East Coast (02472, 10028)—through virtual events, hybrid exhibitions, and partnerships with Armenian cultural institutions and schools.

Organization: The Fools Collaborative

Address: 710 Van Ness PMB 170, 93705

Funding Request: \$6,000.00

Funding Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, The Fools Collaborative will strengthen its year-round operations in Fresno, CA, expanding access to inclusive, community-driven arts programming for audiences of all ages, ethnicities, and social classes. Funds will support core operating expenses—particularly, bookkeeping services and a much-needed website overall—allowing us to sustain and grow initiatives that uplift underrepresented voices, especially within LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities. This support ensures ongoing impact through equitable, engaging artistic cultural experiences across the city of Fresno and, ideally in the future, into Fresno County and beyond.

Anticipated Impact:

- Acquire bookkeeping services
- Update our website
- Better way of documenting our programming
- Highlight our members and partners
- Provide audiences with regularly updated information on our services.

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: Most of our work takes place in District One, specifically within the Tower District. The Fools Collaborative is primarily based in Fresno's 93728, 93704, 93705, and 93721 ZIP codes—primarily serving the Tower District, West Central, and Downtown areas—but our programming over time has reached communities across the city, including 93701, 93702, 93703, 93704, 93706, 93710, 93711, 93720, 93722, 93723, 93725, 93726, 93727, and 93730. We've performed in downtown Clovis (93612) and Selma (93662).

Organization: Armenian Cultural Conservancy

Address: 5629 E Westover #A, 93727

Funding Request: \$30,247.00

Funding Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, the Armenian Cultural Conservancy will increase its capacity of accomplishing its mission to preserve and share Armenian arts and culture in Central California in a permanent institution of multigenerational learning. Donations and membership fees only cover a portion of our operational expenses. A grant will enable us to improve our website, publish quarterly newsletters, hire a part-time intern to manage our website and social media, hire a part-time administrator to organize and coordinate activities (cultural workshops, lectures, film screenings) and subsidize our rent, which will help us reach a larger audience and enable us to continue our initiative to save and relocate the historic Hovageem Vartanian house currently located on F Street (Fresno Rescue Mission property) to downtown and establish the infrastructure for a heritage center that will share the Armenian experience in a lasting, tangible way.

Anticipated Impact:

- Stabilize our organization
- Increase our ability to engage with the community with more cultural information and cultural sensitivity through a quarterly newsletter, comprehensive online information, internship program to assist with multimedia, and a paid part-time administrator to coordinate events and implement regular limited office hours
- Relocate the Vartanian House to become our permanent cultural center that will house more resources for community access

Organization Council District: District Seven (7): Councilmember Nelson Esparza

City Service Area: Currently our office and gallery are in the 93727 zip code; however, our events are held throughout the City of Fresno from North Fresno (93720) to Downtown Fresno (93721).

Organization: Womxn 2 Womxn

Address: 736 Fulton Suite 123, 93721

Funding Request: \$30,938.00

Funding Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Womxn 2 Womxn will provide accessible art workshops and public events in downtown Fresno, welcoming participants of all ages, with a focus on underrepresented artists - BIPOC women, gender expansive individuals and youth and especially those facing socioeconomic disadvantages. Our workshop space will be offered based on a sliding scale for both artists and participants, ensuring everyone has access to affordable venues and studio space. This support will ensure our space remains open, welcoming, and vibrant, so that everyone, regardless of income, can experience the arts and creative opportunities.

Anticipated Impact:

- Greater participation from marginalized groups
- Increase opportunities for local artists
- Remove financial barriers by sustaining our free workshops and public events
- Increase outreach and program development
- Expand our artist workspace (approximately 600 square feet) and provide dedicated time for workshop artists to prepare, enhancing both the quality and the variety of programs we can offer
- Provide flexible use of our space, such as hosting workshops
- Support a full artist gallery for events like ArtHop
- Strengthen our role in the local cultural arts district and fostering connections within the community
- Cultivate a space where creativity and learning thrive, unlocking access to the arts for those who have historically been excluded.

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: We serve Downtown Fresno (93721), West Fresno (93706), and the Tower District (93728)—neighborhoods at the heart of our programming and outreach. Our studio is inside the Sun Stereo Warehouse in Downtown Fresno, where we host most workshops and events.

Organization: Fresno Filmworks Inc

Address: PO BOX 4555, 93744

Funding Request: \$5,771.13

Funding Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Fresno Filmworks will present quarterly film events at community venues including Fresno City College, the Fresno Art Museum, and other locations in downtown, central Fresno, and the Tower District. Planned activities include a fall screening themed Resistance Through Horror, a spring event exploring Botany and Conservation, and outdoor screenings in the summer and fall to engage the public in accessible spaces. We will also expand our annual Oscar Shorts program by introducing a dedicated Student Day to increase youth participation. Programming will serve youth (15–24), adults, and seniors, with a focus on reaching culturally diverse and low-income audiences. These events advance the City’s Cultural Arts Plan by reducing barriers to access, celebrating cultural diversity, and activating public venues for intergenerational arts engagement.

Anticipated Impact:

- Launch a Student Day as part of our long-running Oscar Shorts program
- Curate quarterly themed screenings, including “Resistance Through Horror” and “Botany and Conservation”
- Host outdoor film screenings in summer and fall
- Increase participation from low- to moderate-income residents and ethnically diverse audiences through discounted and free tickets for events and highlighting diversity
- Have stronger intergenerational engagement, cultural dialogue, and civic participation
- Deepen our partnerships with community venues like Fresno City College and the Fresno Art Museum
- Expand our outreach and evaluation practices
- Strengthen our ability to center equity in all programming

Organization Council District: District One (1): Councilmember Annalisa Perea

City Service Area: Fresno Filmworks primarily serves neighborhoods in central Fresno, downtown, and the Tower District. Our key service ZIP codes include 93704, 93741, 93728, 93701, 93721, and 93703. These areas include venues such as Fresno City College, the Fresno Art Museum, and community spaces that are geographically central and accessible to a wide range of residents

Organization: Spectrum Art Gallery

Address: 608 E. Olive Ave., 93728

Funding Request: \$47,300.00

Funding Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Spectrum Art Gallery will continue to advance fine photography as an art form through member exhibits, workshops, presentations by guest artists, Friday Night Photography Live, participation in ArtHop, a new teen photo class, and exhibits at the Fresno Airport, Fresno Town Hall, and other locations throughout the city. We serve a diverse population, from youth shows (“This is Who I am”), shows for seniors (“The Tapestry of Aging”), and everyone in between. At a time when everyone has a camera on their phone, our desired impact is to support the creative use of photography as a witness, as personal therapy, as group sharing, and as social commentary. We encourage the use of lived experience in creating beauty, exploring challenges, and sharing profound stories of life and connection.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increase the Gallery Manager’s contract from part time to full time, increasing Gallery stability and growth
- Secure an exciting Guest Artist to provide an exhibit, a workshop, and participate in a community dinner
- Increase foot traffic by 25% due to the new, inviting mural, exhibit announcements, and the new Spectrum Zine. Traffic will be measured by Gallery visitors log and staff observation
- Introduce two new photography classes for 10-15 youth in each class; hold gallery exhibit with the artwork for both classes
- Contact The Munro Review and request arts journalist Donald Munro to review exhibits

Organization Council District: District Three (3): Council Vice President Miguel Arias

City Service Area: 93728, 93721, 93727, 93730

Organization: Pasifika Arts Project

Address: 4999 E. Townsend, 93727

Funding Request: \$3,681.75

Funding Statement: With support from an Expanded Access to Arts and Culture grant, Pasifika Arts Project will strengthen its operational foundation to deliver culturally rich arts programming for Fresno. We will use funds to cover essential operating costs, including liability insurance, laptops, internet, fingerprint fees for volunteers, and subscriptions to Adobe and QuickBooks. These tools will enhance our ability to coordinate events, manage finances, and create engaging content. Activities will take place at rented community spaces such as Mosqueda Community Center, Dulce Upfront, and Fresno City College. Programs will serve a broad age range—from children as young as 5 to seniors—through workshops, performances, and cultural education rooted the arts of the Pacific. By investing in infrastructure and accessibility, we can increase community engagement, preserve cultural identity, and ensure long-term sustainability. This support will allow us to build capacity and provide inclusive, intergenerational arts experiences that empower, educate, and connect our community.

Anticipated Impact:

- Increase participation in our programs and community partnerships
- Deliver high-quality, community-centered events and workshops
- Successfully execute our event in September 2025—a (hopefully) free, family-friendly workshop day at Fresno City College featuring traditional Polynesian arts
- Improve organizational capacity by covering critical startup expenses such as liability insurance, office equipment, and essential software
- Increase our ability to manage programs, maintain compliance, and track engagement efficiently to build a strong operational foundation
- Provide consistent, affordable access to Pacific Islander arts while amplifying cultural pride and visibility for the Pasifika community

Organization Council District: District Five (5):

City Service Area: 93727, 93702, 93741, and 93704