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FY2026 Cultural Development Program Awards

Cultural Development Program grant awards provide the recognition and support to significant cultural projects and programs, preserving and enhancing Oregon's diverse arts, heritage and humanities community. Awards support cultural activities occurring between Sept. 1, 2025 and Aug. 31, 2026.

FY2026 Cultural Development Grant recipients, organized alphabetically by geographic region are listed below. Organizations marked with an asterisk (*) denote first-time Cultural Development grant recipients. Organizations marked with two asterisks (**) denote applications of excellence, awarded 100% of their requested amount.

Central Region (*Jefferson, Deschutes & Crook Counties*)

***Dry Canyon Arts Association, Redmond: \$34,000**

To support the remodel of a 3,500 square foot space in a downtown Redmond building that will house the area's only community art center—the Dry Canyon Community Art Center (DCCAC). The Dry Canyon Community Art Center will provide classroom space for art instruction and workshops, children's hands-on art education and guest artist presentations. Area artists will now have the opportunity to display and sell their works.

The High Desert Museum, Bend: \$20,000**

To support the development of the Volcanoes (working title) exhibition and associated programming, which will explore the cultural connections between humans and the volcanic landscapes that define Central Oregon and preserve the lesser-known stories rooted in this dynamic terrain. Multidisciplinary experiences will blend culture, art and science to illuminate the interplay between people and this evolving volcanic environment with a focus on the stories and knowledge of Indigenous communities.

Tower Theatre Foundation, Inc., Bend: \$17,000

To support the Tower Theatre Foundation's LessonPLAN (Performing Live Arts Now) program, which engages and inspires Central Oregon students through transformative performing arts experiences. Since 2011, LessonPLAN has reached over 60,000 public, private and homeschool students through curated performances and assemblies that align with school district curriculum standards.

Greater Eastern North Region (*Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla & Wheeler Counties*)

Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts, Pendleton: \$40,000**

To support the artist-in-residence printmaking program and the traditional arts program helping to expand arts programming, increase educational opportunities and foster economic empowerment for Native artists. As well as for all Oregonians seeking to appreciate, learn and support both contemporary and traditional Native artists and art.

Oregon East Symphony, Pendleton: \$5,100

To support free access to a family-friendly classical music experience for rural residents of Umatilla and Morrow Counties through a special collaboration with the Umatilla County Special Library District (UCSLD). The Oregon East Symphony (OES) will present a fully narrated afternoon performance of Maurice Ravel's Mother Goose Suite, integrating live readings of the fairy tales that inspired each of the five movements. This initiative is part of the Symphony's long-standing mission to eliminate barriers to access and to cultivate cultural engagement across Eastern Oregon.

Northeast Region *(Baker, Wallowa & Union Counties)*

Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center, DBA Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland, Wallowa: \$28,000**

To support the continued growth and sustainability of the Tamkaliks Celebration and Friendship Feast, a vital cultural homecoming that honors Nez Perce heritage in their ancestral homeland of Wallowa, Oregon. For over 30 years, Tamkaliks has been a volunteer-led, intertribal gathering that brings together Nez Perce families from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. This investment will help sustain Indigenous cultural practices for future generations.

Joseph Center for Arts and Culture, Joseph: \$40,000**

To support increased access to Nez Perce culture and history for both tribal members and rural Oregonians through a cultural engagement project led by the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture. Public exhibits, community programs and educational events rooted in Indigenous history and guided by tribal voices bring powerful, place-based cultural learning to local audiences. These initiatives aim to restore cultural access, support healing and strengthen connections to the land for all participants while promoting a more inclusive understanding of Indigenous history and culture.

Eastern Oregon Regional Arts Council Inc. (DBA Art Center East), La Grande: \$34,000

To support contracted teaching artists to stabilize the Center's core arts programs, gaining public confidence in regular offerings while serving more residents of, and visitors to, rural Union County.

Grande Ronde Symphony Association, La Grande: \$8,500

To support the Grande Ronde Symphony's continued growth in musicianship and performance quality by supporting a Music Director and Conductor consultant. The Music Director of the Grande Ronde Symphony Association oversees the musical aspects of the Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra which includes recruiting musicians, selecting and preparing the music repertoire, and conducting rehearsals and concerts.

Portland Metro Area *(Multnomah, Washington & Clackamas Counties)*

***Flip Museum, Inc., Beaverton: \$18,404**

To support an expansion of Flip Museum's programmatic capacity by increasing working hours for the Museum Floor Play Coordinator to research, design and facilitate activities. They will design culturally relevant arts and crafts activities in consultation with our culturally specific community partners. This increase in programmatic capacity will grow Flip Museum's sustainability as a relatively new organization.

Friends of Santiam Pass Ski Lodge, Beaverton: \$40,000**

To support the restoration of the historic Santiam Pass Ski Lodge Community Center by funding the installation of an environmentally friendly and long-lasting septic system that will provide sanitary public lavatory and food services to visitors.

***Albina Music Trust, Portland: \$34,000**

To support the development of the Albina Community Archive (ACA), the largest digital repository documenting the legacy of Black Oregonians with a focus on preserving the Albina community's arts and culture. The ACA currently features over 180 collections and 13,000 items including: photos, film, audio recordings, print materials, articles and oral histories. Funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust will directly support this preservation work serving Oregon's largest historically Black community.

Cada Casa International, Portland: \$34,000

To support AIMS (Apprenticeship, Internship, Mentorship, Support), a youth-centered program that advances access to cultural enrichment and creative career pathways for high-school students from underserved communities. AIMS offers paid, real-world creative work opportunities where students—many of whom face systemic barriers to education and employment—are re-positioned as emerging creatives and project leaders. Support will expand mentorship capacity and broaden outreach to schools and neighborhoods historically excluded from arts programming.

Chamber Music Northwest, Portland: \$21,250

To support 5-6, multi-day music education and outreach residencies in 2026, serving 3,500 Oregonians of all ages and backgrounds. Chamber Music Northwest will engage small ensembles of nationally acclaimed musicians alongside Oregon artists for each residency to provide free, integrated and tailored music programming to key educational and community partners throughout the Portland region. Organizations served by these residencies will primarily be Title I schools and music education programs reaching underserved students, middle- and lower-income neighborhoods, senior centers and several social service organizations serving the houseless and marginalized.

Columbia Basin Basketry Guild, Portland: \$5,000

To support the design and production of an Oregon Native American Basketry Map (referred to as the Map) to teach basketry traditions. Created in collaboration with Indigenous experts, the Map will include Indigenous plants used in basketry, regional ecosystems and basketry styles while showing Native American Tribal lands in what is now Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. This work supports youth education for Oregon SB13 Tribal History/Shared History, providing a visual resource for educators.

Corrib Theatre, Portland: \$16,448

To support Corrib Theatre's World Premiere production of "Stilt: an Irish Rumpelstiltskin," a new play by Joy Nesbitt. "Stilt" is a thriller set in Dublin that reimagines the Rumpelstiltskin myth into a modern Irish dark fairytale. At its core, "Stilt" explores the power of names and how the loss or reclamation of one's true identity affects selfhood. The play's themes are deeply intertwined with contemporary Irish life, reflecting the tension between the country's historical and cultural legacies and the modern issues it faces.

***Hindi Sangam Inc., Portland: \$5,000**

To support the revival and preservation of Nautanki, one of India's most vibrant, expressive and historically rich forms of folk theatre. Once a cornerstone of North Indian storytelling and community dialogue, Nautanki is now fading from public platforms. To rekindle interest and breathe new life into this unique art form, this project will pair captivating public performances with immersive, hands-on workshops. Partnering with schools, local performers and cultural institutions, these workshops will focus on traditional performance techniques, live music, scriptwriting, stagecraft and vocal training.

In Mulieribus, Portland: \$7,650

To support the project "Sappho: Whispers of Desire," which includes two public concerts, pre-concert lectures, post-concert talk-back sessions and lecture-recitals at area colleges centered on the enduring legacy of Sappho, the influential Greek lyric poet whose voice has been historically marginalized.

Renowned classics scholar Dr. Ellen Greene will ensure accurate translations and provide program notes, with Dr. Greene traveling to Portland to engage in-person with audiences.

***India Cultural Association, Portland: \$10,625**

To support the 32nd annual India Festival, highlighting the diverse, rich and evolving face of Indian arts and culture in the heart of downtown Portland. Over the past 30 years, the Festival has evolved into one of the largest public gatherings dedicated to Indian arts and culture in Oregon with song, dance, food and over 90 cultural demonstrations. The Festival offers emerging artists of all ages and skill levels an affordable opportunity to showcase their talents and strengthen their love of the arts in front of a large, diverse and enthusiastic audience.

Lan Su Chinese Garden, Portland: \$34,000

To support the expanded, inclusive educational and cultural programming at Lan Su Chinese Garden through strategic investments in staffing, training and multilingual interpretation tools. The Education and Cultural Programming Enhancement Project will build institutional capacity and educational infrastructure. It reflects a critical shift from individual-led delivery to sustainable, organization-wide capacity that deepens impact across the communities we serve.

Literary Arts, Inc., Portland: \$34,000

To support Literary Arts' annual Author Tour that brings two or more Oregon Book Award winners and finalists to 8-10 rural communities across the state; free author events at Literary Arts' new independent bookstore in Portland; and The Archive Project, which takes the lectures, conversations and discussions from our programming and makes them freely available to listeners through our weekly online podcast and broadcast on Oregon Public Broadcasting.

Many Hats Collaboration, Portland: \$10,200

To support the third year of The Hatchery, an incubator program for the development of innovative works of theatre by historically underserved artists (Disabled, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+) who use music and movement in the foundational stages of creating performance. Each project will receive mentorship and pre-production support, a week-long workshop and a produced public showing.

Medicine Bear Native American Spiritual Encampment, Portland: \$20,000*

To support the expansion of Medicine Bear's Artist Apprenticeship Program and arts programming at the Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Center, empowering system-impacted and underserved youth through culturally grounded creative expression, mentorship and public engagement. This project will provide yearlong opportunities for youth to work alongside professional Indigenous and BIPOC artists in studio sessions, workshops and community-based mural projects.

Montavilla Jazz Festival, Portland: \$31,090

To support an organization-wide strategic rebranding process that includes new brand principles, visual identity, website development and onboarding new digital tools that build Montavilla Jazz's capacity to serve artists, audiences, donors and other stakeholders. Working with two top-tier vendors, this project would increase impact by scaling up operational capacity and improving communications management for artists, audiences, donors, partners and other stakeholders.

Music Workshop, Portland: \$34,000

To support increased access to free, high-quality culturally responsive music and humanities education for Oregon students and teachers by expanding Music Workshop's reach and offerings. This project will remove financial, geographic and cultural barriers to relevant, engaging music-empowered learning for K-8 students across Oregon, with a special focus on underserved and Title I communities. Our program

is offered 100% free to educators and is built for scalability through an online portal that can reach all Oregon schools, regardless of location or teacher expertise.

MusicOregon, Portland: \$25,500

To support the strategic growth and long-term sustainability of MusicOregon by stabilizing and expanding the organization's leadership and infrastructure. Founded in 2021, MusicOregon has become a vital advocate and resource hub for Oregon's for-profit and cultural music community, particularly underserved artists and regions historically excluded from traditional arts support. This one-time investment will allow for compensation for the Executive Director to do critical, non-project-based work, to formalize operational systems and to scale communications and outreach efforts to support statewide impact.

My Voice Music, Portland: \$16,325

To support access to music and mentorship opportunities for youth with autism and neurodivergent learning styles by lowering barriers to participation. Strategies include staff and teaching artist training in neurodivergent-affirming and trauma-informed practices, physical and sensory modifications to MVM's studio space, updated inclusive communications, targeted outreach to community partners, and curriculum adaptations that center the needs of neurodiverse learners. The project also supports MVM staff by building their confidence and capacity to create safe, inclusive and engaging spaces for all youth.

North Pole Studio, Portland: \$17,000

To support a four-city tour and public programming for "tell ___ 'hi' from me"—the work of self-taught, neurodivergent artists who live and create in Oregon, featuring 40 works by 26 North Pole Studio artists, all of whom have autism and intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD). The show, comprised of new and existing 2D and 3D works, will explore the themes of identity, history and place as experienced by neurodivergent Oregon artists.

Northwest Alliance for Alternative Media and Education, Portland: \$40,000**

To support the Northwest Alliance for Alternative Media and Education's (NAAME) arts programming that makes arts and culture accessible to 360+ justice-involved youth ages 14-25 living in youth correctional facilities (YCFs) throughout Oregon. NAAME's programming offers culturally responsive, arts-integrated and trauma-informed arts workshops and mentorship for youth to explore creative outlets for self-expression and amplify their voices in a supportive community to foster community and cultural healing and disrupt cycles of recidivism, poverty and intergenerational trauma.

Oaks Park Association, Portland: \$34,000

To support the restoration work connected to Oaks Park's 1912 Herschell-Spillman Noah's Ark menagerie carousel, which celebrates its 100th anniversary at Oaks Park in 2026.

Old Church Society Inc., Portland: \$20,000**

To support roof repairs for this historic building. The Old Church's roof is 31 years into its 50-year lifespan, with documented cracked slate tiles, moss-lifting shingles, leaks under decorative iron bolts and wood rot on pinnacles. This work is part of TOC's broader strategy to resist disruption by preserving a historic venue and using it to uplift others.

Orchestra Nova Northwest, Portland: \$10,200

To support the preparation and performance of "Ellis Island: Dream of America" concerts in East Multnomah County and at The Patricia Reser Center for the Arts, in Beaverton by Orchestra Nova Northwest (ONN) in March 2026.

Oregon Ballet Theatre, Portland: \$34,000

To support a production of “The Sleeping Beauty,” reimagined for dramatic momentum and 21st century audiences, by former OBT Artistic Director Christopher Stowell. The ballet will run for seven performances (including five with live orchestra) February 13-21, at Portland’s Keller Auditorium, as well as one special weekday matinee for K-12 students. Informative talks by OBT’s historians will precede these performances.

Oregon Children’s Theatre Company, Portland: \$34,000

To support a strategic planning process that will allow OCT to reflect, reimagine and revitalize the organization’s business strategy, programs and community approach to the mission.

Oregon Public Broadcasting, Portland: \$34,000

To support production of the 2025-26 season of OPB’s award-winning historical documentary series, “Oregon Experience,” helping Oregonians better understand the present by bringing history to life.

Outside the Frame, Portland: \$27,668

To support free training and job placement in film and media for unhoused youth in Oregon through Outside the Frame’s year-round Film Workforce Development Program. Each year, Outside the Frame (OTF) serves 100+ unhoused and marginalized youth, ages 16 to 30, within its well-equipped downtown film studio at Portland Union Station (2,800 sq ft). The Film Workforce Development Program represents the top tier of OTF’s sequential educational and vocational model, offering advanced training, mentorship from professionals in the field, access to professional gear and paid work opportunities on film sets. Free access to professional equipment relieves the burden of high overheads that can inhibit career growth.

PassinArt: A Theatre Company, Portland: \$34,000

To support PassinArt’s annual production of Langston Hughes’ classic “Black Nativity.” “Black Nativity” is PassinArt’s signature winter holiday production which has become a mainstay of the holiday season for much of the regional Black community and for Portlanders in general. “Black Nativity” is Hughes’ adaptation of the Nativity story told through gospel and dance, traditionally performed by an all-Black cast.

Performance Works NorthWest, Portland: \$5,000

To support the installation of two new ADA-compliant wheelchair ramps leading to either side of Performance Works NorthWest’s porch entrance and the repair of the two walkways leading to these ramps. This project will significantly enhance physical accessibility at the dance studio and venue by repairing walkways, replacing an existing deteriorating and too-short wheelchair ramp, and installing a second ADA-compliant wheelchair ramp. These upgrades will eliminate long-standing barriers for individuals with disabilities, older adults and families with mobility needs, creating a safer and more inclusive environment for the organization’s renters and audience members.

Portland Art Museum, Portland: \$28,900

To support a new exhibition of works from one of the Museum’s most prominent Oregonian artists, Rick Bartow (Wiyot, 1946-2016) at the Portland Art Museum (PAM), opening November 20, 2025. The project was developed as an integral component of the inaugural exhibitions for the Museum’s reopening after a major campus transformation and reimagining of 30+ galleries. The exhibition will feature Bartow’s extensive body of work, including works on paper, paintings, mixed media sculpture, his less well-known work as a musician and short films produced by the Bartow Trust, demonstrating his continuing legacy and influence within his home state.

Portland Baroque Orchestra, Portland: \$10,200

To support the modern-day premieres and digital preservation of three sacred vocal works written for Roman convents during the Anno Santo of 1675, music not heard in over 300 years. This project revives a little-known chapter of Baroque history: operatic sacred repertoire composed for cloistered nuns who, despite their seclusion, were among the most celebrated singers of their time. Based on original archival research by Oregon musicologist Dr. John K. Cox (Lewis & Clark College), this project uncovers both the music and the personal histories of these extraordinary women. PBO will produce a live concert recording and make it publicly available for streaming and scholarly use.

Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble, Portland: \$7,650

To support “Rise in Love,” a free concert in celebration of Black History Month. This concert honors the rich cultural heritage, artistic contributions and historical narratives of Black communities, in America and beyond. The event will be part of the 2026 Portland Jazz Festival in partnership with PDX Jazz, PSU and the Portland Musician’s Union. New jazz music will be the highlight of the concert performed by a 12-piece ensemble with guest vocalists, all of whom will be Portland jazz musicians.

Portland Opera Association, Inc., Portland: \$34,000

To support the West Coast premiere of “STONE SOUP + FRIDA KAHLO AND THE BRAVEST GIRL IN THE WORLD,” a family-friendly double bill of short operas about cooperation and courage composed by Joe Illick with a libretto by Mark Campbell. They will be performed in April 2026 at the World Trade Center Theatre with a live orchestra, accompanied by children’s outreach and engagement activities.

Portland Revels, Portland: \$8,500

To support our 2025 Midwinter Revels production, an annually-produced world premiere event which fuses theatre, music, dance, folk/traditional art and cultural history to create a vibrant and interactive performance for 4,000 audience members of all ages, performed by a multigenerational volunteer chorus of nearly 50 artists, alongside paid professional guest artists (actors, dancers and musicians). Each Midwinter Revels centers on a different nation or culture; our 2025 production will explore the celebration of identity—both individual and communal—through the lens of Scottish myth and legend.

Portland Street Art Alliance, Portland: \$40,000**

To support the launch of the Clatskanie Mural Festival, a new regional initiative led by PSAA in partnership with the Clatskanie Chamber of Commerce. This project will result in the creation of several vibrant public exhibits (murals) that celebrate and reflect the identity of the rural town of Clatskanie, Oregon. PSAA will engage regional artists to design and create murals that are stylistically and thematically aligned with the values and aesthetics of the local community. Educational opportunities in mural-making, along with artist residencies and public programming, will foster local engagement and support emerging creative leaders in rural Oregon.

Portland SummerFest (Opera in the Park), Portland: \$30,000**

To support the first-ever, free public performance of a mariachi opera by presenting José “Pepé” Martínez and Leonard Foglia’s “Cruzar la Cara de la Luna” (2011), the world’s first mariachi opera at Peninsula Park (Portland) and Shute Park (Hillsboro) over one weekend in August 2026. This will mark the work’s Oregon premier and the first time it is offered free and open-to-the-public anywhere in the world. A bilingual concert opera blending mariachi and classical traditions, “Cruzar” tells a deeply moving story of migration, identity and family’ resonating powerfully with Oregon’s Latin American, immigrant and bilingual communities. Portland SummerFest (AKA OPERA IN THE PARK Portland) has secured the performance rights at a significantly reduced cost available only because of our long-standing, non-ticketed model of presenting high-caliber opera to the public.

***Portland-Kaohsiung Sister City Association, Portland: \$22,950**

To support the sustainability of the PKSCA's 36-year-old Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Race by beginning to replace two boats among its fleet of 13-year-old Traditional-style dragon boats with the 3rd generation of these handmade crafts by 2036. Globally, PKSCA is one of a few dragon boat races that use these ornate traditional-style dragon boats. Dragon boat races are a 2,000-year-old tradition and a cornerstone of the relationship between Portland and Kaohsiung, Taiwan. These boats are crafted by master builders, who pass on their knowledge via apprenticeship. Older boats will become available for public outreach and donation to local venues for display.

Profile Theatre Project, Portland: \$8,881

To support Profile Theatre's production of "TIGER STYLE!" by Mike Lew and community programs to engage Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community members in the Portland metro area. The production will engage 20 artists and reach 1,000 audience members, including 25 participants in our Community Profile AANHPI writing cohort. This project will engage audiences, artists and AANHPI community members in exploring personal and cultural identity through a socially relevant and very funny play.

Rejoice Diaspora Dance Theater, Portland: \$22,695

To support the development and world premiere of Rejoice! Diaspora Dance Theater's "GRIOT," an evening-length dance performance that explores the role of the griot through history and for diasporic communities today. This project will elevate the living history of the griot, drawing connections between artistic communities in Senegal, Brazil and the United States, and shining a light on the diversity of Black communities in Oregon and around the world.

Restore Oregon, Portland: \$27,200**

To support Restore Oregon's capacity to expand and redefine the Preservation Together Program to reach communities statewide, provide technical and advocacy support to historic resources while also becoming a more effective service provider to the field of historic preservation.

Risk-Reward, Portland: \$8,500

To support Risk/Reward's 18th Annual Festival of New Performance, supporting the creation and presentation of genre-defying original performances by 10-20 Pacific Northwest artists for 400+ viewers in Portland, Oregon, in June 2026.

Shaking the Tree Theatre, Portland: \$17,000

To support Shaking the Tree in creating and producing the first show of their 2025/2026 season, "Dancing on the Sabbath" (October 11-November 8, 2025), an original devised work that reimagines the Grimm Brothers' fairy tale "The Twelve Dancing Princesses" through a feminist and ritualistic lens.

***Siletz Regalia Sharing Closet, Portland: \$34,000**

To support native communities with access to cultural regalia and traditional knowledge of powwow dancing and ceremony. The Siletz Regalia Sharing Closet is building an inventory of diverse styles and inclusive sizes for youth and adults, and developing workshops with traditional knowledge holders to continue our teachings through the next generations. Oregon natives live far and wide and the Siletz Regalia Sharing Closet has been requested to travel to these places; this project allows increased access by a new and unique organization.

SMART Reading, Portland: \$10,000**

To support access to culturally inclusive children's literature and reading experiences for underserved Oregon communities by funding the purchase and distribution of new, culturally diverse books in rural parts of Oregon. SMART Reading is a children's literacy nonprofit that provides free, one-on-one reading sessions and books to over 20,000 children annually in Oregon. This project will increase

public access to culture by removing financial, geographic and systemic barriers that limit exposure to literature representing diverse cultures, identities and experiences.

Street Books, Portland: \$21,250

To support “street librarians” who are providing books, supplies, information and community for people living outside and at the margins in Portland, Oregon. At Street Books we offer books, reading glasses, harm reduction and other supplies along with friendly librarians who know our patrons’ names, reading preferences and needs. Street Books is the only bike-based library in Oregon whose mission is to serve library patrons who are houseless. We are a model and inspiration for libraries elsewhere and have hosted two International Street Library virtual gatherings.

Third Rail Repertory Theatre, Portland: \$34,000

To support a series of performances, community-focused special events, and arts and culture convenings during the theatre’s 20th anniversary season that celebrate its legacy, and ongoing evolution, while also allowing the space to co-create the path forward as a company in collaboration with the community and Third Rail artists and colleagues. Through this project, Third Rail Repertory Theatre will have the opportunity to envision the role it will play in the city’s civic and cultural life over the next 20 years, alongside the community.

Write Around Portland, Portland: \$12,750

To support Write Around Portland’s free creative writing and publishing program for Portland-area residents facing hardships and systemic injustices to experience the benefits of engaging with the literary arts.

***Bedrock Theatre, Gresham: \$5,000**

To support the creation of a new, site-responsive public performance in partnership with a dynamic greenspace in SW Portland, inspired by the lore and ecology of spring.

Oregon Repertory Singers, Gladstone: \$5,000**

To support the upgrade of the organization’s outdated Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) system. A more modernized and updated CRM will enhance the organizational capacity, sustainability and community impact. The current donor and program tracking systems are fragmented, limiting the ability to effectively steward donors, communicate with the audience and manage youth choir participation. ORS will build stronger, more connected relationships with the diverse communities served, ensuring that the choral arts remain accessible, inclusive and sustainable for years to come.

Fool House Art Collective, Lake Oswego: \$8,000*

To support the final phase of transforming “The House,” Fool House’s ADA-accessible rehearsal and performance studio, into an affordable, fully equipped black box venue for up to 40 guests in Southwest Portland. This project will fund the installation of professional lighting, sound and projection systems, blackout curtains and modular stage risers, eliminating reliance on costly equipment rentals and enabling high-quality productions for local artists. By investing in the technical core of this space, the Collective is creating a space where diverse stories, cultures and artistic visions can take center stage.

Mid-Valley Region (*Yamhill, Polk & Marion Counties*)

Linfield University, McMinnville: \$20,656

To support collection stewardship, education and collaborative partnership between faculty and undergraduate students working in the Linfield Anthropology Museum (LAM) by replacing worn and inappropriate boxing materials and aging, non-secure shelving in the on-campus curation space. The project will rehouse the most fragile and threatened pieces (approximately 12%) of the museum’s

cultural collection of anthropology artifacts while the faculty curator trains museum studies students in curation standards, object handling, condition assessment, object photography and cataloging, and collection management software use. As students interact with the public, they can discuss the pieces in the collection with a deeper understanding and passion for their cultural heritage work.

Yamhill Enrichment Society (YES), McMinnville: \$34,000

To support the expansion of JOY for Yamhill County youth, providing greater access to high-quality string instrument instruction across schools, neighborhoods and community spaces. This project strengthens the cultural capacity of the rural region by extending JOY's reach to three new after-school programs and launching a new all-ages youth orchestra serving students in grades K-12. These new opportunities will allow students to learn from professional teaching artists, collaborate with peers from across the county, and experience the personal, academic and social benefits of ensemble music education.

da Vinci Days Inc, Corvallis: \$6,205

To support the production, expansion and community engagement efforts of da Vinci Days "Graand Kinetic Challenge (GKC)," a dynamic force in Oregon's cultural landscape, fostering inclusive, intergenerational and joy-filled creative expression rooted in community. GKC is a free, family-friendly, two-day event held each July in Corvallis that showcases human-powered kinetic art sculpture vehicles racing across land, sand, mud and water. As a legacy event and cornerstone of Corvallis' cultural identity, GKC plays a vital role in promoting inclusive, creative expression and economic vitality.

Western Oregon University Development Foundation, Monmouth: \$34,000

To support increased access to live performing arts in rural Polk County, the Smith Fine Arts Series (SFAS) seeks funding to expand inclusive programming, enhance educational outreach and ensure financial sustainability. SFAS provides free performances for Western Oregon University (WOU) students and subsidized tickets for the broader community, addressing economic and geographic barriers to arts participation. This funding will support artist fees, outreach events, marketing and operational costs, allowing SFAS to serve diverse audiences, including low-income, Latine, Native American and first-generation college students.

***Casa de la Cultura Tlanese, Salem: \$34,000**

To support increased access to culturally authentic and inclusive arts programming for Latine and Indigenous communities in Salem, Oregon, and surrounding rural areas by increasing Casa de la Cultura Tlanese's organizational capacity, enhancing program offerings and deepening community engagement. This request will enable the organization to launch new initiatives, including a Mariachi music program for youth and a dance class for youth with disabilities, while expanding Ballet Folklórico instruction and Spanish-language theater productions. Funding will also support the continuation of culturally affirming arts programming for incarcerated youth through partnership with the Oregon Youth Authority.

Salem Art Association, Salem: \$14,182

To support accessibility at the Bush House Museum (BHM) by upgrading the existing elevator (installed in 1948) to meet current ADA standards, ensuring all visitors can fully experience this significant historic property. This essential upgrade will provide equal access to all exhibition floors of the museum, allowing every visitor to explore the complete story of this Victorian-era mansion and its important role in Oregon's history. The modernization will significantly improve the museum's ability to serve seniors, visitors with mobility challenges and families with strollers, while also enhancing the overall safety and reliability of the building's vertical transportation system.

Willamette University (Theatre 33), Salem: \$17,000

To support access to theatre performances, professional development opportunities and education for playwrights, students and audiences through Theatre 33's 2026 New Play Summer Festival. The Festival will allow emerging playwrights to further develop their scripts; provide high school students access to a free playwriting course; and access to all people (regardless of income level) by offering donation-based tickets to all performances. Theatre 33's New Play Summer Festival will develop and produce six new plays by Oregon/NW playwrights.

North Central Region (*Hood River, Wasco & Sherman Counties*)

Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles: \$5,202

To support honorariums and travel expenses for Native American partners who contribute to Indian Autumn and the Archaeological Roadshow, two annual public events hosted by the museum that center Indigenous voices and cultural knowledge. Both events are well-established, well-attended and beloved by the regional community. To preserve the integrity and Indigenous representation of the program, funding will ensure Native participation remains central.

Dalles Art Association, The Dalles: \$30,723

To support the commissioning and installation of a permanent public artwork at a roundabout at the east entrance to downtown The Dalles, Oregon. This collaborative project between The Dalles Art Center, Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC), the City of The Dalles and the TDAC Community Arts Committee will feature five large panels tiled in blue to evoke the Columbia River, each adorned with 3D metal fish sculptures reflecting the region's aquatic biodiversity. Created in partnership with CGCC's Welding and Manufacturing program, the project will begin with 10 sculptural metal fish per panel. As a living artwork, it will grow over time through annual additions of fish and wildlife forms, engaging students and community members in an evolving celebration of local ecology and cultural identity.

North Coast Region (*Columbia, Clatsop & Tillamook Counties*)

Astoria Arts and Movement Center, Astoria: \$40,000*

This project seeks to historically restore the Odd Fellows ballroom, home to the nonprofit Astoria Arts and Movement Center (AAMC) studio since 2011. Support will go directly to essential repairs and paint. This project will preserve the 1923 ballroom and allow the AAMC to continue its mission to provide dance, performing arts, cultural and movement classes that enhance and inspire the community.

***Dorymen's Heritage Center, Pacific City: \$24,542**

To support the official public launch of the Dorymen's Heritage Center (Dory Center), which honors the unique, century-old tradition of launching dory fishing boats directly from the beach, an iconic, working fishing fleet found nowhere else in the country. Funds will support a new website, a short promotional video that shares the "Dory Story" and inspires support, and a fundraising gala to rally community engagement and attract donors. This project will position the Dory Center to move confidently into building design, permitting and restoration of its permanent collection.

Neskowin Coast Foundation aka Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, Pacific City: \$40,000**

To support access to high quality arts education for over 5,000 low-income children and youth by partnering with Title 1 schools in rural areas of Oregon's north coastal region.

South Coast Region (*Douglas, Coos & Curry Counties*)

***Wild Rivers Coast Foundation for Dance, Brookings: \$29,750**

To support expanded access to dance, fitness and performance arts for underserved residents of Curry County by removing financial, geographic and structural barriers to participation. The Wild Rivers Coast Foundation for Dance will increase the number of scholarships for low-income students, offer free classes and workshops in public schools and libraries, and bring high-quality performances to rural audiences with limited access to the arts.

South Central (*Klamath & Lake Counties*)

Favell Museum, Klamath Falls: \$34,000

To support the research/design phase of a permanent exhibit “Voices of the Klamath River Watershed.” “Voices” will highlight the watershed’s social and ecological complexities through an interactive exhibit, structured around stories gathered from people whose lives intertwine with the river and aimed at understanding their community’s historical connection to the river. With water as its central theme, the exhibit will evolve over time. “Voices” will examine various perspectives on the river, its uses, conflicts created and the process of finding common ground.

Ross Ragland Theater, Klamath Falls: \$34,000

To support and upgrade accessibility for patrons with mobility and hearing needs by expanding wheelchair-accessible seating and upgrading the theater’s outdated sound system with assisted listening technology. The primary goal is to enhance accessibility and inclusion at the Ross Ragland theater by addressing physical, auditory and systemic barriers that may hinder full participation. The project will support the purchase and installation of the new speaker system, assistive listening devices and expanded accessible seating, ensuring a more inclusive and enjoyable experience for everyone.

South Valley/Mid-Coast Region (*Lincoln, Benton, Linn and Lane Counties*)

Lincoln City Cultural Center, Lincoln City: \$7,672

To support the Cultural Center’s delivery of monthly, in-classroom, hands-on visual arts lessons to 700 students in Lincoln City’s public elementary schools, during the 2025-26 school year. Grant funds will be spent on curriculum planning and instruction time for Krista Eddy, program founder and lead teacher, and Heather Goble, teaching artist—bringing high-quality, standards-based learning into the lives of local kids, regardless of their income or housing status, through the Art Explorations Outreach Program.

Oregon Coast Youth Symphony Festival Association, Newport: \$24,000**

To support the expansion of activities and events, the number of high school orchestra students participating, and the number of professional conductors & composers participating in the 10-year anniversary of the Oregon Coast Youth Symphony Festival in Newport.

Ballet Fantastique, Eugene: \$7,500**

To support Ballet Fantastique (BFan) with a one-time purchase of a high-resolution laser projector for in-house theatrical use, increasing production quality, reducing recurring costs and streamlining workflow. Savings will be re-invested to protect affordable ticket options for our mainstage and outreach performances, ensuring access for underserved audiences at a critical time in the arts landscape. This strategic infrastructure purchase increases BFan’s sustainability and capacity.

DisOrient Asian American Film Festival of Oregon, Eugene: \$34,000

To support organizational capacity with a Programming Director, Administrative Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator to produce the 2026 DisOrient Asian American Film Festival of Oregon. The annual DisOrient Festival features independent films on the Asian American/Native Hawaiian Pacific/Islander (AANHPI) experience. Post-screening discussions with filmmakers and actors create

opportunities for the audience to see their neighbor beyond the surface and to delve into difficult, meaningful conversations. Funding to pay staff will greatly facilitate the organization's sustainability while continuing to rely on a dedicated group of volunteers.

Eugene Symphony Association Inc., Eugene: \$14,153

To support the launch of "Barstool Symphony," a new digital initiative anchored by a weekly video podcast. This new investment redefines how a regional orchestra connects with its community, building relevance, excitement and civic pride. Each episode will feature guest artists, musicians, community leaders and cultural influencers sharing stories and behind-the-scenes insights inspired by the Symphony's work. The podcast will serve as the centerpiece of a broader digital strategy, positioned to engage new audiences, strengthen community ties and cultivate the next generation of supporters by making orchestral music more accessible, relevant and exciting.

Instaballet, Eugene: \$25,500

To support #instaballet's growing education programs that provide free, on-site accessible dance workshops where youth audiences co-create choreography with professional artists at 20 locations. Programs prioritize supporting youth with Autism, youth with disabilities and other youth who face significant barriers to accessing dance. #instaballet's education program launched in 2016 with a partnership with Bridgeway House, which supports children with Autism, and has grown to 20 on-site workshops per year, with additional requests that capacity currently limits.

Lane Arts Council, Eugene: \$27,000**

To support Lane Arts Council in a process of embedding belonging, inclusion and accessibility into all aspects of the work. LAC will partner with The Avarna Group, who will conduct an audit, provide actionable recommendations and assist in implementing strategies for LAC to: identify and address barriers to participation for marginalized communities; strengthen representation and inclusion across staff, board and programming; build trust and foster meaningful relationships with community members and partners; and increase accountability and alignment between our accessibility values and organizational practices.

Orchestra Next, Eugene: \$20,740

To support and expand the administrative framework as Orchestra Next scales up artistic programming and deepens community impact. The project will strengthen four key roles: Development Coordinator, Operations & Personnel Director, Librarian and Communications Coordinator. These four positions form the essential backbone of Orchestra Next's production, logistics, fundraising and communications that keeps the orchestra running.

Oregon Mozart Players, Eugene: \$17,000

To support the Lane County-based Oregon Mozart Players (OMP) in presenting a dynamic 2025/2026 season that features music from the 18th through 21st centuries by a richly diverse group of composers, guided by the fresh curatorial vision of new Artistic Director David Amado. To deepen community engagement and accessibility, OMP is also revamping its long-standing pre-concert talks into participatory discussions. Led by Amado, these conversations will encourage audience-driven dialogue around the music and its cultural context, transforming passive listening into active exploration. This initiative strengthens OMP's commitment to musical excellence, inclusivity and community connection.

Southern Region (Josephine & Jackson Counties)

Oregon Shakespeare Festival Association, Ashland: \$40,000**

To support the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's FAIR Program, a transformative career development initiative that bridges equity gaps in the theatre industry by providing hands-on training, stipends and mentorship to emerging artists and administrators. FAIR cultivates the next generation of diverse theatre leaders through immersive fellowships and assistantships within OSF's renowned repertory model, while infusing the organization with fresh perspectives. In 2026, FAIR will empower up to 20 participants (60% from underrepresented backgrounds) with skills, networks and public engagement opportunities, ensuring a vibrant future for both Oregon's arts ecosystem and the national theatre field.

Southern Oregon Film Society, Ashland: \$34,000

To support building capacity to bring the April 2026 Ashland Independent Film Festival (AIFF) closer to its pre-pandemic level that reviews filmmaker submissions, increases opportunities for programmers to research and invite curated films, provides juried awards including an awards dinner, and brings dozens of filmmakers to the festival, all of which elevates the artistic excellence of the festival, increases the diversity of films programmed, and creates a better experience for audiences, filmmakers and the local community.

Southern Oregon Repertory Singers, Ashland: \$13,600

To support the final concert of SO Repertory Singers' 40th anniversary season titled "To the End in Songs," featuring two commissioned major works, one by resident composer Jodi French, and one by World Renowned British composer Peter Relph. Both compositions speak of a general movement from discord to harmony. The text for Relph's composition uses Psalm 4, "To the End in Songs," which describes an inward journey toward harmony. French's "The Stranger Among You" will grapple with social injustice through the texts of Oregon poet-laureate Lawson Inada, which describe his experience as a child in Japanese internment camps.

Jackson County Community Services Consortium, Inc dba BASE, Medford: \$34,000

To support BASE's signature cultural events, public history collaborations and its community art initiative to amplify Black stories and cultural heritage in Southern Oregon. These initiatives will engage Black artists, cultural leaders, youth and the broader public, deepening cross-cultural understanding and community belonging through creative expression. The project includes BASE's Juneteenth and Kwanzaa celebrations; a partnership with Oregon Black Pioneers to produce mini-documentaries on Black history including a feature on Ben Johnson Mountain; and the launch of the "Don't Touch My Hair" art exhibition centering Black identity, expression and healing.

Rogue Valley Art Association, Medford: \$7,650

To support an exhibition of artwork by Portland-based African artist Baba Wagué Diakité at the Rogue Gallery & Art Center, in Medford, Oregon. This visual arts exhibition will feature his ceramic and mudcloth artworks. The Rogue Gallery & Art Center will collaborate with the Jackson County Library to share Wagué's children's stories. Collaboration with the Oregon Center for Creative Learning will allow children to experience Wagué's ceramics with a project using their ceramics facilities. Other educational activities will happen at the Rogue Gallery, including a mudcloth workshop.

* First-time CDV grant recipient

** Applications of excellence, awarded 100% of requested amount