



Stockton Arts Grant (SAG) Guidelines

FOR PROJECTS TAKING PLACE January 2026 – December 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, November 14, 2025, at 5:00 PM

For any questions about SAG, contact Program Manager Thomas Freeman at thomas.freeman@stocktonca.gov or 209-937-7779.

IMPORTANT DATES*

Application Release Date	October 22, 2025
Application Deadline	November 14, 2025
Arts Commissions Ad hoc Review	November 17 through November 26, 2025
Funding Recommendations	December 1, 2025
Notification of Funding	December 2025
Grant Period	January 2026 – December 2026

**Dates are subject to change.*

INTRODUCTION/ABOUT

The City of Stockton Community Services Department and Stockton Arts Commission are pleased to announce an arts funding opportunity. The purpose of the Stockton Arts Grant (SAG) program is to support local artists and art organizations and engage Stockton residents with diverse and outstanding arts projects.

The Stockton Arts Commission encourages project submissions that support public engagement with and access to various forms of art within the City, the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, learning in the arts at all stages of life, and the integration of the arts into the day-to-day life of our communities.

PROGRAM SCOPE

These grants support artistically excellent projects in arts education, dance, design, folk and traditional arts, literature, media arts, museums, music, musical theater, opera, presenting and multidisciplinary works, theater, and visual arts.

This grant funds projects only. Projects may be large or small, existing or new, and must be located within the City of Stockton. Projects may consist of one or more specific events or activities and must be open to the public.

Grantees will need to offer a public presentation at a Stockton Art Night event. Project programming, events, activities must take place between January 2026 and December 2026 of the award year.

The Stockton Arts Commission supports and encourages a wide range of artistic and cultural expression reflecting Stockton's diversity. Project types eligible for support are described in detail below but are not limited to this list.

AWARDS AND USE OF FUNDS

With \$100,000 in total funds available in 2026, the Commission will approve project grants up to \$10,000 for artists and art organizations and up to \$20,000 for art organizations with 501c3 status, resulting in approximately 10-20 possible awards. Additionally, the Commission will approve up to six projects with a budget of under \$4,000. Projects will be awarded on a competitive basis, with the SAC deciding which proposals best meet its guidelines and are most deserving of the limited grant money available. Applicants may request any amount of funds, taking into consideration that the SAC reserves the right to recommend funding towards only a portion of the total project request and to determine which portion of the project request it will recommend for funding.

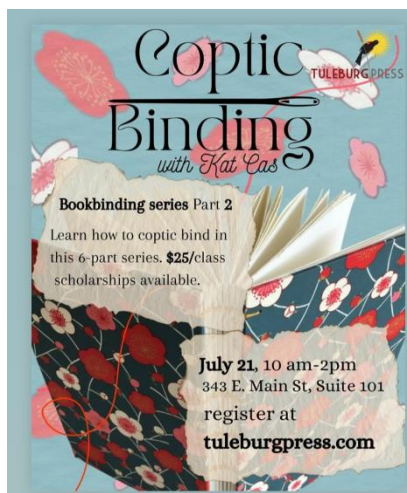
City grant funds may be used for artist compensation, production, exhibit costs, marketing, rental costs, and supplies. All grant expenditures must take place during the project period, January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026. Funds will be distributed 50/50 – half the award upon signing the grant agreement and the balance through reimbursement with successful completion of the project, reporting, and grantee requirements. If full funding is not granted, applicants are asked to demonstrate a viable project plan and identify alternative sources for iterations of their project.

How to Apply

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Friday, November 14, 2025, at 5 p.m.

Applications must be submitted online and are available online at: <https://form.jotform.com/241926413824053>. Emailed or faxed applications are not accepted. In fairness to others, we cannot accept late or incomplete applications. If the applicant does not provide the complete set of information in the appropriate format by the deadline, the application may be deemed incomplete and ineligible. No deadline extensions will be granted.

If you need special accommodations, you must contact Program Manager Thomas Freeman at thomas.freeman@stocktonca.gov or 209-937-7779 at least two weeks before the application deadline for us to appropriately accommodate.



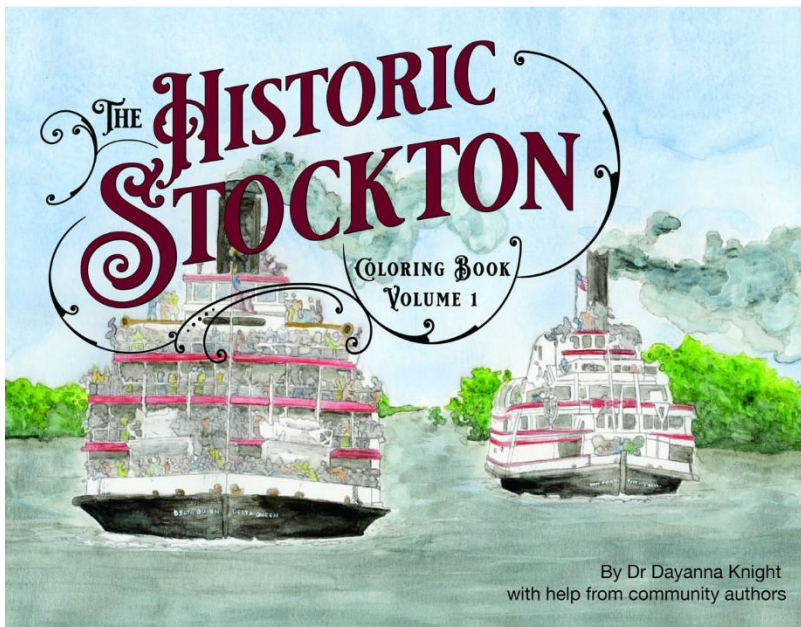
←
Grant Recipient:
Tuleburg Press
Amplify Stockton:
Write to Publish, 2024
→

Grant Recipient:
Mexican Heritage
Center & Gallery.
Dia De Los Muertos,
2023



ELIGIBILITY/REQUIREMENTS

- The applicant or applicant organization must be one of the following to be eligible:
 - Individual artists, arts organizations and non-profit arts organizations based in the City of Stockton are invited to apply.
 - Applicants must be Stockton-based and must maintain a primary residence or have a permanent studio/work/office space in their name within Stockton city limits where they receive mail.
 - Arts educators are not required to be Stockton residents but must teach at an elementary or secondary school (charter, private, or public), college or university within Stockton city limits.
 - A nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organizations; or federally recognized tribal communities or tribes may apply.
 - Applicant must meet legal requirements including nonprofit, tax-exempt status at the time of application.
 - Nonprofits must maintain a business office or primary venue in Stockton.



Grant Recipient:
Dr. Dayanna Knight
Historic Stockton
Coloring Book, 2024

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES AND RESTRICTIONS

- Only one application may be submitted to this grant per applicant and project.
- Grant funding does not imply that the Stockton Arts Commission or City of Stockton will produce, exhibit, promote or present the art created. It is the artist's responsibility to secure a venue, insurance, and any necessary permits for public presentations.
- Applicants who do not meet residency requirement, unincorporated or for-profit business licenses, projects that are not open to the public, art educators whose proposed project do not reach an audience beyond an individual classroom or educational setting.
- Applicant is a previous grant awardee who has not completed their project as proposed and/or has not submitted acceptable Final Report packages by the due date(s) for all SAG previously received.
- Applicant's proposed project involves City of Stockton property, but applicant has not yet obtained authorization and/or approval from the City of Stockton for its use.
- Grant funds may not pay for:
 - Deficit reduction.
 - Start-up money for new organizations.
 - Planning and development of space.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The organization must be willing and able to meet the requirements associated with receiving funds from the City of Stockton. To receive a grant payment from the Stockton Arts Commission, the organization must meet the City of Stockton's insurance and business tax requirements. For more information about supplier requirements, visit: <https://www.stocktonca.gov/government/departments/adminServices/blic.htm>

To the fullest extent permitted by law, Artist shall hold harmless, defend and indemnify City of Stockton and its officers, officials, employees and volunteers from and against any and all liability, loss, damage, expense, costs (including without limitation costs and fees of litigation) of every nature arising out of or in connection with Artist's performance hereunder or its failure to comply with any of its obligations contained in this agreement, except such loss or damage which was caused by the sole negligence or willful misconduct of the City of Stockton. This obligation is independent of, and shall not in any way be limited by, the minimum insurance obligations contained in this agreement. These obligations shall survive the completion or termination of this agreement.

Depending on the proposed project, additional insurance may be required which the artist shall procure and maintain for the duration of the contract insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance or project of the work hereunder and the results of that work by the Artist, his agents, representatives, employees, or subcontractors.

CITY PERMITS AND PERMISSIONS

If the proposal includes components that require City permits or approval such as publicly installed art, murals, street closures or sound amplification in public space, the organization will be solely responsible for securing the necessary permits, permissions, and approvals. This planning should be reflected in the project timeline. Please see the Public Art Mural Program for murals on City owned properties or right of ways. (www.stocktonca.gov/publicart)

Please note that any art installed with these grant funds on property owned by the City will be reviewed by the Stockton Arts Commission. Art installed on private property must have approval in writing for the property owner. This applies to murals, public sculpture, and similar projects. It will be the responsibility of the grantee to build this process into their grant plan, budget narrative and timeline. Please contact the Community Development Department at (209) 937-8444 for questions about murals, sculpture, or any other type of public art.



Grant Recipient: Visit Stockton. Project: Flavorfest 2024.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Panelists are instructed to use the following scoring criteria which correspond to the application questions below. *Close review of this grid may help you prepare your application responses.* Please thoroughly review the application instructions for the complete overview of grant application questions, required uploads and guidance.

Applicant Overview (20 Points)

For Individual Artist Applicants ONLY

Applicants are asked to upload an Artist Resume/CV showing at least two years working as a practicing artist. Include education or training in the arts disciplines of the proposed programs and any recognition in the artistic disciplines (i.e., awards, commendations). An Artistic Statement is also required. Describe your work philosophy and how receiving this grant would further your development as an artist. Upload Proof of Residency (driver's license or utility bill) if a Stockton resident.

For Non-Profit Organizations ONLY

Organizations are asked to include a mission statement, brief program history, a description of your core community/audience, operating budget, cultural equity statement (if available), proof of nonprofit status, active non-profit status with the CA Secretary of State.

Project/Program Description (25 Points)

This section consists of questions that highlight the details of your proposed project (who, what, when, where, & why). You will be asked whether this is a new or existing project, grant request amount, project discipline, project title, proposed date(s) and venue (must be in the City of Stockton), project description, and list of key project personnel/artists.

Project/Program Budget (15 Points)

This is an opportunity to share the financial scope of the project. Include project costs expected to be incurred during the project period January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025, and how you plan to cover these costs. Applicants are encouraged to present projects where the City of Stockton is not the sole funder and with matching funds that are equal to, or greater than, their requested grant, but matching funding is not required.

Cultural Equity & Inclusion (15 Points)

Describe who will benefit from this project including which social demographic do you feel will directly benefit from this project? List and describe the location/venue(s) where the project will take place and details on how the project will make a positive impact for City residents and/or visitors.

Project Strategy/Outline of Project Activities/Goals and Objectives (20 Points)

Describe the project's activities and overall strategy including method and process of accomplishing goals and objectives, outline of activities, and brief description of personnel functions, if applicable. Should describe the overall project goals and identify the specific project objectives that will need to be met to accomplish those goals.

Project Timeline (5 Points)

Provide a project timeline with key milestones and dates, including start and end dates, schedule of activities, major tasks to be completed, a schedule of major milestones, and phases of the project (if necessary).

GRANT REVIEW PANELISTS

SAG applications are evaluated in an open review process by the Stockton Arts Commission.

APPLICATION REVIEW

The Stockton Arts Commission will evaluate and rank applications according to the stated scoring criteria. These findings will be presented at a Stockton Arts Commission meeting and a funding recommendation will be made at that meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Stockton Arts Commission members are active stewards of the arts in the community and may be involved in the arts professionally and/or personally. The Commission desires to avoid situations which may compromise, or appear to compromise, members' objectivity while not preventing their continuing involvement in the arts or in projects supported by the Commission and City. If the Commission member has a professional, fiduciary, and/or personal relationship before the panel meeting or review of applicant. The Commission members must also excuse themselves from the room during the discussion of the applicant and may not discuss the application with other members of the Commission prior to, during, or after the discussion of the application.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVAL

Based on an evaluation of the applications, an Art Commissioners' ad hoc committee will review and score the applications, and then make a recommendation to the Arts Commission for approval. The Arts Commission ad hoc committee recommendations are subject to the approval by the full Arts Commission, which may approve or adjust recommendations as it feels necessary. Grant amounts are either the full amount of the grant request or a portion of the request.

GRANT NOTIFICATIONS

Grant notifications are emailed to the email address listed on the application, and if awarded, it will include instructions about the contracting process.



Flavorfest 2024: Art Installation
Asia Lamela



Flavorfest 2024: Live Art
Tuleberg Press

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AWARDED GRANTEES

It is required that all Stockton Arts Grant grantees agree to:

- Sign a contract prepared by the City of Stockton and submit an IRS W-9 Form before any grant funds are made available.
- Acknowledge the SAC's support on all promotional materials related to the funded project. It is preferred that the SAC logo is used and accompanied by the following language: "This [Project Title] is funded [in part or in full] by the Stockton Arts Grant from the Stockton Arts Commission and administered by the City of Stockton Community Services Department."
- The SAC also appreciates a link or tag to the Stockton Arts Commission in your online/social media promotions. If you'd like to tag us:
 - Website: www.stocktongov.com/arts
 - Facebook: @StocktonArts
 - Instagram: @cityofstocktonarts
 - Twitter: @StocktonArtsComs
- Advise the commission in writing as soon as possible if any substantial changes need to be made to the proposed project; if a grantee proceeds with changes to an awarded project without prior notification to the commission, it could adversely affect the grantee's ranking on future applications to grants sponsored by the Stockton Arts Commission.
- Complete final report within thirty (30) days of the project's completion.
- Complete the approved project before December 31 of the award year; if an awarded project is not completed by the deadline given, the grantee will be required to repay the full amount of grant funds awarded.
- Participate at one of the Stockton Art Nights events and present/exhibit a representative sample of their work. Event dates to be determined.
- The understanding that failure to complete an awarded project, including failure to submit a final report, may result in a request for the full amount of grant funds awarded to be repaid to the SAC and result in the grantee's ineligibility for future Stockton Art Grants.
- In addition, grant awardees may be asked to provide updates during their grant year.