



COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS STAFF REPORT

ITEM NO. 5.3

DATE: October 28, 2025

TO: Chairperson and Members of the Commission for the Arts

FROM: Allen McFarland, Management Analyst II

SUBJECT: Discussion and direction regarding the Project and Program Grant Review Ad Hoc Committee's funding recommendation to the Commission for the Arts and to City Council.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Commission for the Arts receive an oral report from the Project and Program Grants ad hoc committee, review and discuss the ad hoc committee's funding recommendation, determine the appropriate level of funding, and vote to approve recommendation of the following Project & Program grant application to the City Council:

1. Shruti Abhishek Dance - Free Cultural and Education Program for Youth - \$10,000 requested/\$4,000 initially recommended by the ad hoc committee

DECISION TYPE

Administrative

SUMMARY

The Project and Program Grants program, administered by the Commission for the Arts, supports local cultural arts initiatives through bi-annual funding cycles. For the September 2025 cycle, seven applications were received and reviewed by the Project and Program Grants ad hoc committee; however, one of the applications was subsequently rescinded. Total funding recommended for approval by the ad hoc committee for the six remaining applications was \$51,579 out of the \$57,579 that was requested.

During discussion on the application for Shruti Abhishek Dance at the September 30, 20205, special meeting, it was determined that additional information was needed and it would be brought to the next meeting for the Commission's review.

DISCUSSION

In 2008, the City Council established the Project and Program Grants program as an authorized use of the Public Art Fund to help promote cultural enrichment within the City. The program is administered by the Commission for the Arts, which conducts two application cycles per year in March and September. After a thorough review and evaluation process, the Commission submits funding recommendations to the City Council for consideration and final approval. The program provides financial assistance to eligible artists and organizations that deliver cultural arts programming in Livermore. Current guidelines adopted in 2016 allow for applicants to request funding of up to \$10,000 per application.

To support the review process, the Commission for the Arts appoints an ad hoc committee to evaluate applications that have been screened for eligibility and completeness. Using the program's established standardized evaluation criteria, the Committee reviews each application and prepares preliminary funding recommendations for the full Commission to consider. Final recommendations are then submitted to the City Council for final approval.

For the September 1, 2025, application cycle, seven Project and Program Grant applications were received, totaling \$67,579 in funding requests; one of the applications was subsequently rescinded, bringing the total to six applications and \$57,579 in funding requests for consideration. The Project and Program Grants ad hoc committee received the comprehensive packet of applicant materials to use for the evaluation process. The ad hoc committee recommended a total of \$51,579 in total grant funding; this included full funding for five applications and partial funding for one application.

During the September 30, 2025, Commission for the Arts Special meeting, the committee recommended full funding for the applications submitted by East Bay Holocaust Education Center, Las Positas College, Livermore-Amador Symphony, Livermore Art Association, and Livermore Valley Opera. During discussion on the application for Shruti Abhishek Dance, it was determined that additional information related to personnel costs received from the applicant should be considered as part of the full Commission's decision to recommend. Staff advised that the Commission at this meeting that they would bring this information to the next meeting for the Commission's review.

The total amount available for grant awards will be drawn from two funding sources based on the timing of the proposed events or programs. For events or programs scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2026, funds will be allocated from the fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 budget. For events or programs occurring on or after, July 1, 2026, funding will be drawn from the FY 2026-27 budget. The current budget for Project and Program Grants is \$80,000 in each fiscal year (2025-26 & 2026-27); \$35,000 of the budgeted fiscal year 2025-26 funds were previously awarded.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Shruti Abhishek Dance - Redacted Application](#)
2. [Project and Program Grant Applications Presentation \(previously provided during the September 30, 2025, special meeting\)](#)

Prepared by: Allen McFarland
Management Analyst II