



COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS STAFF REPORT

ITEM NO. 5.4

DATE: March 24, 2026

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 recommendations 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 ad hoc committee and review and discuss the ad hoc committee's funding recommendations, and vote to approve recommendation of the following Project & Program grant applications to the City Council:

1. Anne Giancola - "The Stories We Draw" Projection Display - \$2,200
2. Cheza Nami - Taste of Africa Festival - \$10,000
3. D'Adonis Moquette - Film and Media Summit - \$2,500
4. Livermore Filipino American Organization - Filipino Barrio Festival - \$10,000
5. Livermore Valley Arts - ArtWalk - \$10,000
6. Livermore Valley Opera - Opera in Schools - \$10,000
7. SPARC Theater - Shakespeare in the Vineyard - \$10,000

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 March 2026 cycle, ten applications were received and reviewed by the ad hoc committee. The committee recommends full funding for six projects, partial funding for one project and no funding for three projects with a total funding amount of \$54,700. Grant awards will be allocated from either the FY 2025-26 or FY 2026-27 Public Art Fund budgets, depending on project completion dates.

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 March 2026 grant cycle, ten Project and Program Grant applications were received requesting a total of \$80,200 in funding. After reviewing all applications and supporting materials as part of the evaluation process, the ad hoc committee recommends awarding \$54,700 in total grant funding. This includes six projects recommended for the full funding, one project recommended for partial funding, and three projects not recommended for funding.

The committee's funding recommendations are summarized in the table below.

Applicant	Project Title	Amount Requested	Recommended Award
Anne Giancola	<i>The Stories We Draw</i> Projection Display	\$2,200	\$2,200
Cheza Nami	Taste of Africa Festival	\$10,000	\$10,000
CYT Tri-Valley	Fall Youth Arts Program	\$10,000	\$0
D'Adonis Moquette	Film and Media Summit	\$7,500	\$2,500
JMC Cellars	Summer Solstice Art and Wine Festival	\$2,000	\$0
Livermore Filipino American Organization	Filipino Barrio Festival	\$10,000	\$10,000
Livermore Valley Arts	ArtWalk	\$10,000	\$10,000
Livermore Valley Opera	Opera in Schools	\$10,000	\$10,000
SPARC Theater	Shakespeare in the Vineyard	\$10,000	\$10,000
Livermore Valley Veterans of Foreign Wars	Fallen Soldier Battle Cross Statue	\$10,000	\$0

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 the Project and Program Grants is \$80,000 in each fiscal year (2025-26 & 2026-27); \$83,579 of the FY 2025-26 funds and \$7,000 of the FY 2026-27 have been previously awarded.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Anne Giancola - Redacted Application
2. Cheza Nami - Redacted Application
3. CYT Tri-Valley - Redacted Application
4. D'Adonis Moquette - Redacted Application
6. Livermore Filipino American Organization - Redacted Application
5. JMC Cellars - Redacted Application
7. Livermore Valley Arts - Redacted Application
8. Livermore Valley Opera - Redacted Application
9. Livermore Veterans of Foreign Wars - Redacted Application
10. SPARC Theater - Redacted Application
11. Project and Program Grant Application Presentation

Prepared by: Leng Kutil
Management Analyst I