

2025 Arts in California Parks - Planning & Development Grant

Parks California

About Arts in California Parks

We're excited to introduce you to Arts in California Parks, a program from California State Parks in partnership with Parks California and the California Arts Council. This program brings together talented artists, wise culture bearers, California Native American tribes, and our diverse communities.

Together, we're creating art that celebrates our past, reflects our present, and dreams up our future. Imagine beautiful installations and engaging programs in our State and local parks, all designed to spark meaningful connections, boost community well-being, and inspire a healthier, happier California.

We're working hand-in-hand with some amazing initiatives that are all about making nature accessible and enjoyable for all Californians:

- The Outdoor Access for All initiative, championed by Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom
- The Natural Resources Agency's Outdoors for All initiative
- California State Parks' Outdoors for All Initiative
- California State Parks' thoughtful Reexamining Our Past initiative

The goals of this program are to:

- **Welcome:** Our parks are open to everyone! We're creating projects that reflect and embrace California's amazing diversity.
- **Empower:** We're paving the way for exciting creative careers through mentorship and job opportunities.
- **Heal:** Experience the healing potential of arts and nature! We're tapping into their power to boost your well-being and bring communities together.
- **Connect:** Dive into unforgettable experiences that link you to our beautiful parks, blend culture with nature, and weave our communities closer.
- **Inspire:** Get ready to unleash your creativity! We're celebrating California's rich heritage and honoring the cultural significance of our parklands.

In 2024, we launched the Arts in California Parks Grants Program with a \$2.8 million investment to support 31 grant recipients across California. These innovative projects are bringing art and culture programming to local parks, and transforming them into vibrant hubs that blend art, culture, and nature together.

Within this program, Parks California is managing and administering the competitive Arts in California Parks Grants Program, which includes two tracks: Planning + Development and Implementation Grants.

Planning & Development Grants are designed to support the early stages of a relationship to bring an artistic and/or cultural project to a local park. These grants are intended to focus on laying the groundwork for future implementation through partnership development and bringing creatives and communities to collaborate with local parks.

These grants aim to:

- Reflect and better connect the public with the cultural heritage of the region.
- Increase investments for arts and cultural experiences in often overlooked communities.
- Drive authentic community engagement and thoughtful art program design.
- Support a diverse set of art mediums to enhance parks experiences for all visitors.
- Connect communities through shared art and cultural experiences in the Arts in California Parks programs.

For the **2025 Planning + Development Grants**, proposals must focus on arts projects and/or cultural programs that are fully developed and ready for implementation. Proposals must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- Applications must be submitted by a 501c3 non-profit organization, fiscally sponsored community organization, California Native American tribe, Native 7871 organization, foundation, land trust and/or local government agency (city, county, regional*). **Regional agencies refer to government entities operating across multiple jurisdictions, such as regional park districts, regional planning agencies, or multi-county collaborations.*
- Projects must facilitate a partnership between nonprofit(s) and local public park manager(s). Partnerships may include 501c3 non-profit organizations, fiscally sponsored community organizations, California Native American tribes, Native 7871 organizations, foundations, land trusts and/or local governments.
- Projects must contribute to community health, well-being, social cohesion, and/or place-making, fostering sustainable connections between people and local parks.
- Eligible projects must be free and open to the public.

Proposals must meet most of the following criteria to be considered:

- Demonstrates alignment with the Arts in California Parks program goals.
- Integrate inclusive community engagement strategies in the development of art and culture programming to enhance cultural and social relevance.
- Support artists career development, equitable compensation, mentorship, and/or strengthens the regional creative economy.
- Clearly outlines steps to develop a comprehensive project plan, setting the groundwork for a future Implementation grant application.
- Contribute to community health, well-being, social cohesion, and place-making, fostering sustainable connections between people and parks.

- Ensure projects are inclusive and accessible, with focus on economic and physical access for diverse populations.

Preference will be given to proposals that meet multiple criteria listed below:

- Offer participants meaningful and relevant experiences that can be enjoyed more than once.
- Supports artist development of sustainability within their practices, encourages actions to control and offset the harmful impacts of material use or fabrication methods.
- Project takes place in a desired region.

The 2025 grant term is from **October 2025 – May 2026**, with a total anticipated award amount of \$2.6 million. Applicants should anticipate awards ranging from **\$15,000 to \$50,000 for Planning & Development Grants** and \$15,000 to \$150,000 for Implementation Grants. However, applicants are encouraged to request an amount that aligns with the scope and scale of their proposed project.

Funds for this grant track are intended to cover the fulfillment of the proposal’s goals and expenses. These expenses may include, but are not limited to staff time, community engagement activities, artist fees, materials, labor, installation costs, event costs, and permits.

Letter of Intent (LOI) Application

The 2025 grant application process has been streamlined for efficiency. All LOIs will be reviewed, scored, and ranked by a Proposal Review Committee to determine which projects move forward. To ensure statewide representation, proposals will be ranked within their respective regions, with a minimum of two projects funded per region.

To support underrepresented regions, including the North Coast, Sacramento Valley, Sierra Nevada, Central Coast, Central Valley, Inland Desert, and Native lands, these areas will receive focused outreach and support. Final funding decisions will be based solely on Full Application scores to ensure an equitable selection process.

Letter of Intent applications are due by **Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 5 p.m.** For helpful tools and frequently asked questions about Arts in California Parks, please visit our **Grants Program Resource Hub**.

Organization Type*

Please select your organization type from the options below.

If invited to submit a full application, nonprofit organizations will be asked to upload 501c3 status letter from IRS.

Choices

- 501(c)3 organization
- California Native American tribe
- Native 7871 Organization
- Fiscally Sponsored Community Organization
- Local Government Agency

Primary Local Park*

The Arts in California Parks, Grants Program intends to foster community connections to California's diverse cultural history and natural areas beyond state park boundaries. Eligible projects will help enhance connections to local cultural history, local parks, open space or natural areas through community events, programming or installations that help to build sustainable community connections, health and well-being. Eligible projects must be open to the general public. **Projects may be located on land that is owned or managed by a local city, county, park or community service district, land trusts, regional park or open space district, non-profit organization or foundation, or any other entity other than federal and state agencies.** Both indoor and outdoor spaces can be considered.

Please list the name and address of the primary local park where the project will take place.

Example: Rainbow Park, 100 Capital Drive. Arcadia, CA, 91000

Character Limit: 250

If your program has more than one primary park location:

Please list the names and addresses of the additional local parks here.

Character Limit: 1000

Partnership*

List your project partner organization(s) and include the names and titles of the key individuals who will work closely on the project. For Planning & Development grants, partnerships should include at least a nonprofit and park manager, with the option to identify an artist during the planning process.

If invited to submit a full application, letters from your project partners explaining their roles will be required.

Character Limit: 1000

Project Name*

Character Limit: 100

Grant Request Amount*

Character Limit: 6

Project Summary*

Outline the preliminary vision for your project, including intended audience, potential locations, and key activities. If specific details are still being developed, explain how this project will help refine them.

Character Limit: 3000

Community Engagement*

How will community engagement activities (e.g., workshops, surveys, public meetings) shape the project/program while promoting inclusivity and accessibility?

Character Limit: 3000

Artist or Organization Selection Process*

What is your selection process and priorities when partnering with an artist(s) or the organization responsible for leading the artistic aspects of the project? If a selection process has not been developed, explain how this project will help establish one that aligns with the goals of the Outdoors for All priority?

Character Limit: 3000

Cultural Relevance*

How does your project engage with the historical, contemporary, and/or future narratives of the local community, and how will it ensure cultural relevance within the region?

Character Limit: 3000

Project Budget

Provide a high-level budget by entering estimated costs that will be dedicated to the following program categories.

If no cost is associated with a specific category, please input "0".

Please keep in mind:

- These numbers are directional and not binding. However, if invited to the next round, your budget should remain within 10% of the overall amount provided.
- We anticipate awards ranging between \$15,000 to \$50,000 for Planning & Development Grants. We recommend requesting an amount that aligns with the scope and scale of your proposed project.

Category	Estimated Budget (\$)	Justification/Details
Salary & benefits		
Fees associated with artist(s) selection processes		
Artist fees		
Art materials and/or installation costs		
Communications and community engagement		

Indirect costs		
Matching contributions		
Total Budget + Matching contributions		



ARTS

IN CALIFORNIA PARKS®

Planning & Development LOI Scoresheet

Scoring Category	Value %
Alignment with Program Goals Demonstrates alignment with the <u>Arts in California Parks</u> program goals.	32%
Community Engagement Approach Clear and inclusive strategy for community participation, outreach, and accessible programming that reflects the project's cultural and social landscape.	17%
Artist Selection Process Process and priorities for selecting artist(s) emphasizing equity, inclusion, and alignment with the project's goals.	17%
Cultural Relevancy Integrates inclusive community engagement strategies in the development of art and culture programming to enhance cultural and social relevance.	17%
Project Budget Alignment between the budget and the project's scope and objectives.	17%
Bonus Scoring Opportunities	Points
Recurring Experiences Offer multiple opportunities for participants to return to the park for art programming on more than one occasion	5
Project in a Focused Support Region As identified on the 2025/26 Arts in California Parks Regional Map, focused support regions receive additional support.	5