

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 17, 2026
Honorable Members of the Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee: Zarin D.
TO Gracey (Chair), Laura Cadena (Vice Chair), Adam Bazaldua, Paul Ridley, Bill Roth,
Chad West, Gay Donnell Willis
SUBJECT ***The World is Ours - Acceptance of a grant from the National Endowment for
the Arts (NEA) for the Arts Projects Spotlighting the Spirit of Sports***

On August 25, 2026, the City Council will consider the application and acceptance of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for the Arts Projects Spotlighting the Spirit of Sports program.

In March 2026, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) created and implemented an invitational grant opportunity in amounts not to exceed \$30,000 per recipient for Local Arts Agencies at each of the 11 United States host cities of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The grant opportunity titled, "Arts Projects Spotlighting the Spirit of Sport," supports projects that spotlight each respective community's artistic and cultural traditions as they intersect with activities celebrating world soccer.

As the invited local arts agency for Dallas, the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture (OAC) submitted an application for this grant opportunity for a project titled "The World is Ours." The project scope included the temporary installation of the prominent sculpture, *The World is Ours*, by artist Risk Rock in collaboration with artist Mesplé. *The World is Ours* is a large-scale sculpture measuring eight feet wide and twelve feet high. The work features a bold bronze hand lifting an immense, gently rotating globe. The globe itself is engineered from repurposed spray cans and embellished with vibrant license plates collected from around the world. This fusion of art and engineering invites viewers to engage with the work through curiosity, cultural recognition, and a sense of shared global identity.

In April 2026, the NEA awarded the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture with a \$30,000 grant. After official award notification, OAC began working to organize logistics of the loan of the sculpture by Dallas-based art gallery, Gallery DeFi. Following, plans were made for temporary installation of the work in time for the beginning of the FIFA Fan Festival at Fair Park.

The World is Ours temporary exhibition was on display at Fair Park Dallas for the period of June 11, 2026, through July 19, 2026. The work sat atop the same platform as the historic "Big Tex" which welcomes all to the State Fair of Texas every year. Encircling the sculpture was a series of informational signs about the work. To reflect the diversity of languages spoken by Dallas residents and 2026 World Cup visitors, the informational signs were provided in English, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, Croatian, French, Portuguese, German, and Arabic. Translated signage provided language access

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to guests and enhanced the experience of those engaging with the work to learn about the sculpture, the artists, Dallas Fair Park, and the Office of Arts and Culture.

The opportunity to install *The World is Ours* at Fair Park for Fan Fest illustrated that, despite the vastness of the world, arts and sports are the common threads that bring people together. *The World Is Ours* celebrated not only the spirit of sport but the spirit of unity, offering a public landmark that reinforces the idea that, collectively, the world truly belongs to all of us.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact myself or Martine Philippe, Director of the Office of Arts and Culture.

Service First, Now!



M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, J.D.
Assistant City Manager

Attachments:

1. Photo: *The World is Ours* installation at Fair Park
2. Photo: District 7 Council Member Adam Bazaldua speaking at *The World is Ours* installation ceremony
3. NEA Press Release: National Endowment for the Arts Awards Grants for Arts Projects Spotighting the Spirit of Sports

c: Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, City Manager
Bertram Vandenberg, City Attorney (I)
Mamatha Sparks, City Auditor (I)
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Baron Eliason, Inspector General (I)
Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety

Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager
Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Ahmad Goree, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
John Johnson, Chief of Real Estate
Directors and Assistant Directors

ATTACHMENT 1

Photo: *The World is Ours* installation at Fair Park



ATTACHMENT 2

Photo: District 7 Council Member Adam Bazaldua speaking at *The World is Ours* installation ceremony



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National Endowment for the Arts Awards Grants for Arts Projects Spotlighting the Spirit of Sports

Projects Take Place in Communities Hosting FIFA World Cup
2026™

Apr 28, 2026



The World Is Ours by artist Risk Rock. This sculpture will be installed at Fair Park on the same platform as the iconic Big Tex and will coincide with the site's role in hosting FIFA World Cup 2026™ team activities and Fan Fest events. Photo by Gallery DeFi

Washington, DC—In anticipation of FIFA World Cup 2026™, the National Endowment for the Arts has awarded 11 grants to support arts projects in the U.S. cities hosting these games. These projects will celebrate American creativity and highlight local artistic and cultural traditions in connection with soccer-related celebrations.

Each of the grant recipients will receive \$30,000 for their projects, which will take place between May 1–December 31, 2026.

Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts Mary Anne Carter said, "As audiences around the world focus on this global moment, the National Endowment for the Arts is excited to support these community-centered projects that link American cultural expression and highlight local creativity with the excitement of international soccer."

The 11 Arts Projects Spotlighting the Spirit of Sports grants cover a wide range of projects, including performances, exhibitions, concerts, festivals, and educational programming.

Projects include:

- In Dallas, Texas, a grant to the **City of Dallas** will fund a major public art installation called *The World is Ours* by artist Risk Rock. The sculpture will be installed at Fair Park on the same platform as the iconic Big Tex and will coincide with the site's role in hosting FIFA World Cup 2026™ team activities and Fan Fest events.
- In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a grant to the **City of Philadelphia** will fund the Sports Founders Mosaic Project, featuring portrait panels of notable local sports figures by artist Jonathan Mandell, which will be temporarily exhibited at City Hall during the FIFA World Cup 2026™.
- In Miami, Florida, a grant to the **Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs** will fund Arts at Play, a program of multicultural performances and arts activities inspired by FIFA World Cup 2026™ countries, aimed at engaging families and encouraging community interaction.

See the full list of grants.

[<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/artsprojectsfinalist.pdf>](https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/artsprojectsfinalist.pdf)

Learn more about how the National Endowment for the Arts is celebrating America250 on our website [</initiatives/celebrating-americas-250th-anniversary>](/initiatives/celebrating-americas-250th-anniversary).

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress, the National Endowment for the Arts is an independent federal agency that is the largest funder of the arts and arts education in communities nationwide and a catalyst of public and private support for the arts. By advancing opportunities for arts participation and practice, the NEA fosters and sustains an environment in which the arts benefit everyone in the United States.

Contact

NEA Public Affairs, publicaffairs@arts.gov

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