

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 18, 2026

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee: Zarin D. Gracey (Chair), Laura Cadena (Vice Chair), Adam Bazaldua, Paul Ridley, Bill Roth, Chad West, Gay Donnell Willis

SUBJECT **May 27, 2026, City Council Agenda Item: FY 2026-27 Community Artists Program Guidelines**

On May 27, 2026, the City Council will consider the updated guidelines for the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Community Artists Program (CAP). The Community Arts Program provides funding to culturally specific individual artists and cultural organizations who teach, perform, and exhibit at public events across the City of Dallas. This program promotes cultural awareness, heightens citizen understanding of art forms, and celebrates the various traditions that contribute to the artistic composition of Dallas. CAP's artistic services are requested by the community through the Office of Arts and Culture (OAC) on an as-needed, when-needed basis. Any community member or non-profit organization presenting a free, public event in the city of Dallas may request a CAP service from OAC. Services are provided at no cost to requesting hosts; artists are compensated by the Office of Arts and Culture. This program was originally known as the Neighborhood Touring Program and has been a service of the OAC since the creation of the department in 1989.

The administration of the Community Artist Program must be authorized by resolution of the City Council, including approval of the program guidelines. In FY 2025-26, City Council authorized funding totaling \$557,500 that was awarded to 66 artists and organizations under this program.

The FY 2026-27 CAP goals are:

1. To provide opportunities for Dallas neighborhood residents and organizations to have greater access to the arts and cultural expression exposing them to and educating them on a variety of cultural art forms and/or traditions heightening resident understanding of the unique contributions of the city's various cultures to Dallas communities.
2. To create opportunities for artists to participate in events throughout Dallas which showcase and celebrate the community's unique history, and varied cultural, heritage.
3. To provide support and opportunities for arts programming through which artists and organizations can teach, perform, and exhibit at requesting facilities in neighborhoods in the city of Dallas.
4. To promote collaborations between the arts and community entities, such as business, government, and the non-profit sector, for the purpose of community development.

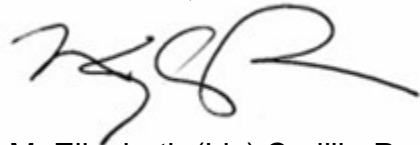
While the FY 2026-27 CAP Guidelines have few substantive changes from the previous year, the following items have been amended:

- Application timeline
- Reference letter requirement for new applicants
- Additional stipend of \$500 per fiscal year for a reimbursable supply fund for visual artists, for supplies that are used and taken home by workshop participants
- Workshop series length and service fee clarification
- Eligibility clarification

Following guideline adoption, artists and organizations will apply through an online application portal. Applications will be reviewed for eligibility and scored by OAC staff and a community review panel. In alignment with Dallas Cultural Policy, FY 2026-27 funding amounts will be recommended by the Allocations Committee of the Arts and Culture Commission in August of 2026. Once the Committee makes their recommendations for funding and approved by the Director of Arts and Culture, contracting for artistic services will commence for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

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

Service First, Now!



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

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