



## City of Ojai

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### **Ojai City Council Triples Arts Grant Budget to \$100,000, Demonstrating Strong Commitment to Valley's Creative Community**

OJAI, Calif., June 26, 2025 — The City of Ojai is proud to announce a significant investment in the Valley's vibrant arts community. At its [June 24 meeting](#), the City Council voted to increase [Ojai's Arts Grant](#) budget from \$30,000 to \$100,000 for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year. The substantial increase reflects the City's ongoing commitment to supporting local artists and organizations, and strengthening Ojai's reputation as a premier cultural destination. The increase in arts grant funding also supports the City Council's Goal of Arts, Culture and Recreation Funding.

"In my view, the arts are not only essential to what we understand as being human, but also a central focus of what society should support in any version of humanity's flourishing," said Ojai Mayor Andy Gilman. "There is so much about Ojai that is creative, collaborative and courageous, and the least we can do as a city is participate and contribute to these activities to the best of our ability. It is an honor to do so, and I look forward to working with the Ojai Arts Commission this year as they carry this elevated priority into our community."

Mayor Pro Tem Rachel Lang shared Gilman's support for the grant expansion. "This funding increase sends a clear message: Ojai values its artists," she said. "By investing in the people and organizations that bring creativity, connection and meaning to our community, we're not only preserving what makes Ojai special — we're actively nurturing it for the future."

The expanded grant program will provide increased opportunities for local artists, cultural organizations and community groups to access funding for projects that enhance Ojai's cultural landscape. The funding is open to non-profit arts organizations and individual artists who produce and present arts and cultural programs in the City of Ojai and Ojai Valley, with projects completed within the 2025 calendar year. Recommended grant awards will be presented by the Arts Commission to the City Council for their review, consideration and approval.

"Investing in our Valley's creative economy isn't just beautiful — it's strategic," said Arts Commission Chair Smitty West. "These arts grants tap into the deep well of artistic talent already here, align with our natural surroundings and honor our cultural roots. Especially in times like these, the arts remain one of the few things that can unite us across divisions."

The Arts Commission will begin accepting applications for the expanded grant program in the coming weeks. Artists and organizations interested in applying for grants are encouraged to monitor the [City's website](#) and City social media channels for forthcoming information in the coming weeks regarding application submittal guidelines and deadlines.

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