



Gila River Indian Community Grant Application Grant Cycle 2025

Cover Sheet

Click field or use up/down arrow keys to move among fields

Municipality Information	
1. Date of Application: 2/21/2025	
2. Name of City, Town or County: Chandler	
3. Mayor (City or Town) or Board of Supervisor's Chairman (County): Mayor Kevin Hartke	
4. Mailing Address: 175 S Arizona Ave	
5. City: Chandler	State: Arizona Zip Code: 85225
6. Acknowledgement of Submission by Authorized Municipality Representative: Typed Name/Title: Dawn Lang, Deputy City Manager CFO Email Address: Dawn.Lang@chandleraz.gov Signature: <i>Dawn Lang</i>	
Applicant Information	
7. Department/Organization Name: Chandler Cultural Foundation	
8. Select Organization Type: 501c3 Non-Profit ☒ If Non-profit please attach IRS Determination Letter	
9. Application Contact Person: Sandra Bassett Title: Development & Communications Manager	
10. Phone Number: 480.782.2659	
11. Mailing Address: 250 N Arizona Avenue	
12. City: Chandler	State: Arizona Zip Code: 85225
13. Email Address: sandra.bassett@chandleraz.gov Website Address: chandlercenter.org	
Project Information	
14. Project Title: Connect Kids	
15. Purpose of Grant: To maintain and support our Connect Kids Youth Arts Education Program at the Chandler Center for the Arts.	
16. Priority Funding Area	Education
17. Annual amount requested	\$20,000
18. Number of years that funding is requested	1
19. Total amount requested (annual amount x number of years)	\$20,000
20. Has your organization received past funding from GRIC? If yes, list each year and amount	2019: \$10,000
21. Geographic area served	Valley Wide

For Office Use Only:		
Data Entry	Receipt	Evaluation
☐ Approval – Amount/Term		☐ Denial



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Narrative

Please structure your proposal to provide the following information in the order indicated. Provide the narrative in paragraph form in the text field provided. Please be thorough but strive for brevity.

1. Briefly describe your organization's history, mission and goals.

The Chandler Center for the Arts (CCA) was established in 1989 as a dynamic collaboration between the City of Chandler, Chandler Unified School District, and the community. Designed as a state-of-the-art performance venue, CCA has served as a hub for arts, culture, and entertainment, bringing world-class performances, local productions, and educational programs to the Greater Phoenix area.

The mission of Chandler Center for the Arts is to inspire and connect the community through diverse and accessible artistic experiences. By providing high-quality performances, arts education, and community engagement initiatives, CCA fosters creativity, cultural appreciation, and lifelong learning.

The goals of CCA include:

- Presenting a broad range of performances that reflect the diversity of the community.
- Supporting arts education programs that enrich the lives of students and families.
- Cultivating partnerships with local artists, organizations, and businesses to strengthen the arts ecosystem.
- Enhancing community engagement through outreach initiatives and inclusive programming.
- Maintaining a welcoming, accessible, and innovative venue that serves as a cultural cornerstone for Chandler and beyond.

2. To determine eligibility for this grant please select one item in the drop-down below.

Non-Profit

If Municipal, please go to number 3 below.

If Non-Municipal or Non-profit, please describe how the services provided by your organization align with a government service of the supporting municipality. Explain how this project will support that service and describe the municipality's role in the project if applicable (beyond serving as a pass-through).

The **Connect Kids Program** will play a crucial role in advancing the **mission and sustainability** of the Chandler Center for the Arts while **leveraging the unique collaborative structure** of the Center's operational model.

Supporting the Nonprofit and the Chandler Center for the Arts



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The Chandler Cultural Foundation, which oversees the Center's public programming, will directly benefit from Connect Kids and support the City of Chandler, by expanding its arts education initiatives, community outreach, and long-term sustainability. The program will:

Enhance Arts Education & Community Engagement

- The Chandler Center for the Arts already serves Chandler Unified School District (CUSD) students during the school week, providing access to 31 elementary, 10 middle, 6 high schools, and 3 alternative programs. Connect Kids will complement this model by offering additional arts programming during school intersessions, weekends, and summer months—periods when the Foundation controls programming.

The program will ensure that youth beyond the CUSD system, including underserved students, homeschool groups, and community-based organizations, have equitable access to arts education at the Center.

3. Describe the proposed project, objectives, and your plan to implement.

The Chandler Cultural Foundation respectfully requests \$20,000 to support and expand our Connecting Kids Youth Arts Education Program at the Chandler Center for the Arts. Connecting Kids provides immersive, hands-on arts education opportunities to youth ages 6-17, ensuring that all students—regardless of socioeconomic background—have access to high-quality arts experiences that inspire creativity, develop essential life skills, and cultivate a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

Each year, our youth programs reach more than 8,600 students, delivering low- or no-cost arts programming in visual and performing arts. With three of our four programs reaching 100% capacity annually, and our Theatre Kids program averaging 60% capacity, the demand for arts programming in Chandler is undeniable. Furthermore, 61% of participants in our Theatre Kids program come from Title 1 schools, emphasizing our role in providing equitable access to arts education.

The Connecting Kids initiative provides a diverse range of arts experiences through four key programs:

1. Camp Kids – provides immersive multi-disciplinary camps for youth ages 7-14, featuring sessions in theatre, dance, improvisation, and music. Camp Kids kicks off in June with five weeks of summer musical theater camp with two additional weeks of camps during school breaks. Classes are taught by skilled artists, musicians, actors, and arts instructors. Students wishing to expand on their camp experiences can seek paid internships under the camp's arts instructors. Although the camps are fee-based, we offer scholarships to mitigate financial barriers to participation.
2. Theatre Kids – Runs from September - May. The program introduces participants to the creativity and diversity of the arts and is facilitated by professional national touring musicians, dancers, and actors. Participation is free for Title 1 students, and we provide bus transportation with our partner Act One, A program that provides free



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educational field trips to see professional arts performances, supplemented by in-school workshops and study guides.

3. Vision Kids – is a series of free, weekly visual arts classes that cover many aspects of visual arts, including painting, drawing, sculpture, and digital arts. Classes are taught by professional art instructors and are offered year-round every Saturday. All materials are provided free of charge. In addition to Vision Kids, we provide several visual arts engagement activities including cultural and family festivals, in-classroom workshops, and art gallery field trips.
4. Youth Arts Council – is a free, hands-on arts administration and leadership training program. Each year, from September to March, 15 rising artists and leaders ages 13-17 learn about Nonprofit Fundraising, Arts Management, Event Coordination, Marketing and Public Relations from local community members and organizations. Sessions are not only informative but also connect students with community experts. Participants gain practical skills they can apply directly to extracurriculars and future careers. The Youth Arts Council boasts over 190 alums.

Why This Grant Matters

With increasing demand and the rapid growth of our programs, additional funding is essential to:

- Expand classroom-based arts experiences by integrating our artist residency programs into Title 1 schools and community centers.
- Enhance access for an additional 300 students, ensuring that no child is turned away.
- Invest in necessary resources such as arts supplies, workshop materials, and professional artist stipends to continue offering free and low-cost arts experiences.

Connecting Kids is more than just an arts program—it is an investment in the future of Chandler’s youth. Parents, teachers, and students repeatedly express that our programs have boosted self-esteem, confidence, leadership and social skills, equipping participants with the tools needed for both artistic and personal success.

Our holistic approach not only fosters artistic talent but also **builds critical skills in leadership, collaboration, and self-expression**.

4. Describe how the proposed project satisfies one or more of the priority funding areas identified by the Gila River Indian Community.

The Connect Kids Program aligns with the priority funding areas identified by the Gila River Indian Community by addressing critical areas such as education, youth services, and cultural preservation. Specifically, the program supports the following priorities:

1. Education and Youth Services – The Connect Kids Program provides youth with access to arts education, mentorship, and skill development opportunities that enhance their learning experiences. By engaging children



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in artistic and creative activities, the program fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and self-expression, contributing to their academic and personal growth.

2. Community Development and Engagement – Through structured programming and interactive activities, the Connect Kids Program encourages community involvement and provides a safe and supportive environment for youth. By integrating arts and cultural education, it helps strengthen family and community bonds while fostering leadership skills among young participants.

By meeting these funding priorities, the Connect Kids Program aligns with the Gila River Indian Community's commitment to supporting educational opportunities, enhancing youth engagement, and preserving cultural identity. This makes it an excellent candidate for funding consideration within their grant framework.

5. Identify the needs/problems to be addressed, the target population and number of people to be served by the project.

Arizona's education system faces significant challenges in providing equitable access to arts education. Many schools, particularly those in underserved and rural communities, lack sufficient funding for arts programs, leading to limited opportunities for students to engage in creative learning. According to Arizona Commission on the Arts, disparities in access to arts education disproportionately affect students in Title I schools and communities with higher percentages of economically disadvantaged families. Additionally, the Arizona Department of Education has recognized that arts integration enhances academic performance, critical thinking, and social-emotional development, yet many schools struggle to maintain consistent programming due to budget constraints.

The Connect Kids Program seeks to bridge this gap by providing high-quality arts education and creative engagement opportunities to students who might otherwise lack access. By offering hands-on experiences in visual arts, music, theater, and digital media, the program fosters creativity, problem-solving, and cultural appreciation, ensuring that children receive a well-rounded education that aligns with Arizona's academic standards.

Target Population

The Connect Kids Program is designed to serve youth in Arizona, with a focus on students from underfunded schools and community centers that lack robust arts education resources. Priority will be given to Title I schools, tribal communities, and low-income neighborhoods, where arts education is often minimal or absent. The program will be inclusive, serving children of diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, ensuring that all students, regardless of financial limitations, have access to quality arts programming.

Number of People to Be Served

The program aims to serve approximately 8,600 students annually through in-school workshops, after-school programs, community-based art events, and summer arts intensives. This includes direct instruction from professional teaching artists, access to free art supplies, and engagement with local arts institutions. Additionally, the program will provide opportunities for family participation and community showcases, further expanding its reach and impact beyond direct student engagement.



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By addressing Arizona's arts education gap and providing meaningful creative experiences to hundreds of students each year, the Connect Kids Program will help enhance educational outcomes, foster self-expression, and contribute to a stronger arts ecosystem within the state.

6. Define the project as a new or continuing program. Has GRIC previously funded this project?

Continuing, previously funded by GRIC in 2019

7. Provide a brief timeline including start and finish dates. Indicate if the timeline is flexible.

Our Connect Kids program is a year long, continuous program that includes:

THEATRE KIDS provides workshops and theater matinees to students and teachers from September to May.

YOUTH ARTS COUNCIL is a hands-on arts administration and leadership training program. Each year, from September to March.

CAMP KIDS provides immersive multi-disciplinary camps for youth ages 7-14, featuring sessions in theater, dance, improvisation, and music. Camp Kids kicks off in June with five weeks of summer musical theater camp with two additional weeks of camps during school breaks.

VISION KIDS is a series of free, weekly visual arts classes that cover many aspects of visual arts, including painting, drawing, sculpture, and digital arts. Classes are taught by professional art instructors and are offered year-round every Saturday.

8. Identify other organizations, partners or funders participating in the project and their roles.

Sponsors: Steena Murray, Kinder Morgan, Ruth McCormick Tankersley Trust

Partners: Chandler museum, Chandler Unified School District, Act One, Arizona Commission on the Arts, Applied Material

9. Would you be able to implement the proposed plan if your organization received partial funding for this project?

If we receive partial funding for this project, we will strategically adjust the scope and scale of the program to ensure its successful implementation. This may involve refining specific program components or reassessing



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the cost structure for participation to maintain financial sustainability. Additionally, we remain committed to actively pursuing alternative grant opportunities to supplement any funding shortfall. By employing this dual approach—program adjustments and ongoing funding efforts—we will work to uphold the quality and objectives of the initiative while aligning with the available resources.

10. Describe your plan for project financial sustainability beyond the grant period. If this is a program/project previously funded by the Gila River Indian Community, describe efforts made towards the previously described sustainability plan.

The Connect Kids Program is committed to ensuring long-term financial sustainability beyond the grant period by implementing a diversified funding strategy, building strong community partnerships, and developing earned revenue opportunities. We seek private and corporate funding from the community to provide free and reduced cost programs to youth. Supporters include Kinder Morgan, Steena Murray, and the Ruth McCormick Tankersley Charitable Trust.

11. Describe your plan to document progress and results.

We evaluate our program through the following strategies:

- Participant Tracking: We document Connecting Kids attendance through a comprehensive registration process. We also track Title 1 school involvement for Theatre Kids student matinees.
- Feedback Collection: To continuously improve the program, we gather postprogram feedback through online surveys disseminated to educators and participants.
- Curriculum Alignment with State Arts Competencies: We align our program outcomes with Arizona's academic standards in the arts and social/emotional learning competencies.

12. Indicate any application to and/or awards made by a tribe other than the Gila River Indian Community for state shared revenues for this and any other project for the past five (5) years.

None



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Project Budget

Budget Period: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

For each budget item listed, please provide a narrative description on the following Project Budget Detail page.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5
Proposed Budget Expense (list each budget item)	Amount requested from GRIC	Amount requested or secured from other sources	In Kind or matching contributions	Total Budget
1. Artist Fees	\$20,000	\$70,000	\$0	\$86,932
2. Instructor Fees	Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$61,238
3. Administrative	Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$25,806
4. Graphic Design/Marketing	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
5. Classroom Supplies/Materials	\$	\$2,500	\$0	\$7,500
6. Printing/Postage	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
7. Other Expenses Non-Classified	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
8. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
9. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
10. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
12. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
13. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
14. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
15. Click here to enter text.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Budget	\$20,000	\$72,500	\$0	\$189,976



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Project Budget Detail

Please provide a narrative description for each of the project budget items listed on the previous page. Include the dollar figure and how it was attained.

1. Artist Fees: Includes touring artists fees and local teaching artists and instructors
2. Instructor Fees: Theater Kids, Camp Kids, Youth Arts Council, Vision Kids Program Instructors
3. Administrative: 920 Hours billed at \$28.05 per hour
4. Graphic Desing Marketing: flyers, program marketing materials
5. Classroom Supplies/Materials
6. Printing/Postage
7. Other Expenses Not Classified; ie Food, etc
8. Column 3: Grant/Sponsor Awards from Ruth McCormick Tankersly Foundation, Kinder Morgan, Applied Materials Foundation and City of Chandler Human Services Funding
9. [Click here to enter text.](#)
10. [Click here to enter text.](#)
11. [Click here to enter text.](#)
12. [Click here to enter text.](#)
13. [Click here to enter text.](#)
14. [Click here to enter text.](#)
15. [Click here to enter text.](#)

Other explanation: [Click here to enter text.](#)

To ensure a complete application and proper submission please refer to the Grant Application Instructions.

**Internal Revenue Service
District Director**

Department of the Treasury

1100 COMMERCE STREET
DALLAS, TX 75242-0000

Date: JUN 08 1989

CHANDLER CULTURAL FOUNDATION
25 SOUTH ARIZONA PLACE SUITE 301
CHANDLER, AZ 85225-5508

Employer Identification Number:
74-2538528

Contact Person:
EO TECHNICAL ASSISTOR
Contact Telephone Number:
(214) 767-3526

Accounting Period Ending:
June 30

Form 990 Required:
Yes

Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

Based on information supplied, and assuming your operations will be as stated in your application for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3).

We have further determined that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code, because you are an organization described in section 509(a)(3).

If your sources of support, or your purposes, character, or method of operation change, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on your exempt status and foundation status. In the case of an amendment to your organizational document or bylaws, please send us a copy of the amended document or bylaws. Also, you should inform us of all changes in your name or address.

As of January 1, 1984, you are liable for taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) on remuneration of \$100 or more you pay to each of your employees during a calendar year. You are not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Since you are not a private foundation, you are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, you are not automatically exempt from other Federal excise taxes. If you have any questions about excise, employment, or other Federal taxes, please let us know.

Grantors and contributors may rely on this determination unless the Internal Revenue Service publishes notice to the contrary. However, if you lose your section 509(a)(3) status, a grantor or contributor may not rely on this determination if he or she was in part responsible for, or was aware of, the act or failure to act, or the substantial or material change on the part of the organization that resulted in your loss of such status, or if he or she acquired knowledge that the Internal Revenue Service had given notice that you would no longer be classified as a section 509(a)(3) organization.

Letter 947(DO/CG)

CHANDLER CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of Code sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

In the heading of this letter we have indicated whether you must file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax. If Yes is indicated, you are required to file Form 990 only if your gross receipts each year are normally more than \$25,000. If a return is required, it must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. A penalty of \$10 a day is charged when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay. However, the maximum penalty charged cannot exceed \$5,000 or 5 percent of your gross receipts for the year, whichever is less. This penalty may also be charged if a return is not complete, so please be sure your return is complete before you file it.

You are not required to file Federal income tax returns unless you are subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If you are subject to this tax, you must file an income tax return on Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return. In this letter, we are not determining whether any of your present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

You need an employer identification number even if you have no employees. If an employer identification number was not entered on your application, a number will be assigned to you and you will be advised of it. Please use that number on all returns you file and in all correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service.

Contribution deductions are allowable to donors only to the extent that their contributions are gifts, with no consideration received. Ticket purchases and similar payments in conjunction with fundraising events may not necessarily qualify as deductible contributions, depending on the circumstances. See Revenue Ruling 67-246, published in Cumulative Bulletin 1967-2, on page 104, which sets forth guidelines regarding the deductibility, as charitable contributions, of payments made by taxpayers for admission to or other participation in fundraising activities for charity.

If we have indicated in the heading of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

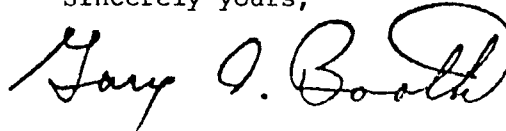
Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your exempt status and foundation status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

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CHANDLER CULTURAL FOUNDATION

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary O. Booth". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Sincerely yours," text.

Gary O. Booth
District Director