

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2025-2026 ART AND CULTURE GRANT PROGRAM

OCTOBER 21, 2025



PROJECT BACKGROUND

ART AND CULTURE GRANTS

Funded through the Public Art Fund, the Town of Castle Rock's annual Art and Culture Grant Program supports vibrant art and culture initiatives that enrich the community and foster creativity. The program provides funding to nonprofit organizations, businesses, government agencies, artists and educators to enhance Castle Rock's cultural landscape through innovative programming, projects and educational opportunities.

Three grant categories are available:

- **Program Grants** - up to five grants of up to \$10,000 each to support workshops, classes, performances, events and educational programming
- **Project Grants** - up to five grants of up to \$5,000 each to support visual or experiential public art installations
- **Educator Grants** - up to ten grants of up to \$1,000 each to support art and cultural education initiatives in schools or other educational formats

2025-2026 CYCLE

For the 2025-2026 grant cycle, 17 applications were received.

A panel consisting of members of the Public Art Commission, Town staff and a Councilmember reviewed all submitted applications in August and September 2025 using an adopted grant rubric.

Following a detailed review and scoring process, the panel recommends six for approval.

Common concerns among the remaining applications included incomplete proposals, unclear or missing site approvals, insufficient project readiness and impacts that were not commensurate with the funding requested.

Grant funds will be distributed this fall.

Grants must be completed and reported on by the close of 2026.

PROJECT GRANTS

AerialWorks - Project Grant (\$5,000)

AerialWorks is a Castle Rock–based aerial arts studio and performance company that offers classes, workshops, and productions featuring aerial dance and acrobatics for youth and adults. They will present *My Journey to the Land of the Dead*, a theatrical aerial performance inspired by Día de los Muertos. Funding will support guest choreographers, professional performers, set design, lighting, costuming, and expanded advertising to reach wider audiences. The production will include five shows engaging local teen performers and semi-professional aerialists. This project enriches Castle Rock’s cultural landscape by blending theater, dance, and aerial arts in an accessible, family-friendly event for approximately 200 attendees for each performance over the course of the program.

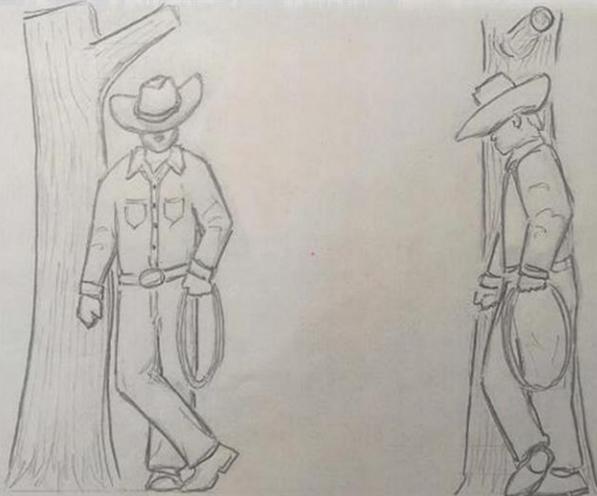
Castle Rock Music - Project Grant (\$5,000)

Castle Rock Music will use its grant to complete a new Community Stage at its downtown location, providing a year-round venue for recitals, workshops and small performances. Funds will be directed toward sound and lighting system upgrades, additional seating, and production equipment, which will also benefit the Jazz in the Park summer series. The project will create a welcoming, alcohol-free performance space for students, educators and community members to gather, perform and celebrate local creativity now and in the future.

PROJECT GRANTS

Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation - Project Grant (\$4,715.15)

The Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation will commission a public artwork along Hangman's Gulch Trail—a chainsaw-carved sculpture. The piece will depict a cowboy with a lasso, carved from an existing Ponderosa pine stump, honoring Castle Rock's Western heritage. Grant funds will cover the artist's commission fee and an identification plaque, with the Foundation contributing some additional funds. The project will promote art in public spaces, community pride and engagement through a public naming campaign and unveiling event.



PROGRAM GRANTS

Castle Rock Band - Program Grant (\$4,968)

The Castle Rock Community Band, a long-standing local ensemble with members ranging from students to retirees, will use grant funding to sustain its free public performance series. The funds will support music purchases, instrument maintenance and storage expenses. The band performs five to seven concerts annually, including patriotic and seasonal events, reaching audiences of up to 250 residents per show. This project preserves Castle Rock's historic musical tradition and provides inclusive, no-cost cultural experiences.

Tri Arts Project - Program Grant (\$10,000)

Tri Arts Project (TAP) will host four quarterly art exhibitions and TAP Talk opening night events at the historic Cantril School Building throughout 2026. Grant funding will support exhibit setup, marketing, food and beverage service, judges' stipends, awards and program printing. Each themed exhibition will feature local and regional artists and include short artist talks to foster community dialogue. The events will be free and open to the public, engaging 80-100 attendees per opening while expanding access to the visual arts in Castle Rock.

EDUCATOR GRANT

William Faber - Educator Grant (\$1,000)

Music educator William Faber will present a four-session Songwriting Workshop Series at Castle Rock Music, guiding participants through melody, harmony, lyric writing and orchestration. Grant funds will support instructor and operational fees, supplies, promotional materials and participant refreshments. The series will accommodate approximately 30 participants per four sessions, providing creative and educational opportunities for residents of all ages to explore music composition in an inclusive, community-based setting.

BUDGET IMPACT

2025-2026 Art and Culture Grant Program Recommended Awards

Applicant	Grant Type	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
AerialWorks	Project Grant	\$5,000	\$5,000
Castle Rock Band	Program Grant	\$4,968	\$4,968
Castle Rock Music	Project Grant	\$5,000	\$5,000
Castle Rock Parks and Trails Foundation	Project Grant	\$4,715.15	\$4,715.15
Tri Arts Project (TAP)	Program Grant	\$10,000	\$10,000
Will Faber	Educator Grant	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total Recommended		\$30,683.15	\$30,683.15

Grants will be distributed this fall with funding from the Public Art Fund as approved within the 2025 budget.

2026-2027 CYCLE

The application period for the next cycle will open in winter 2025.

Applications to be reviewed in spring 2026 with recommendations presented to Town Council in April.

The panel will hold an information session to better prepare applicants for the application process and ensure all projects are “shovel ready.”

The panel will also post its evaluation rubric so applicants have a clear and transparent understanding of the application requirements and review process.

Grants must be completed and reported on by the close of 2027.

The panel will also execute additional outreach and communication to better inform the public and educators regarding the opportunities.

PROPOSED MOTION

“I move to approve the proposed grant awards as presented.”

Alternate motions:

“I move to approve the applications, with the following conditions:” (list conditions)

“I move to continue this item to the Town Council meeting on [date], at [time].”



THANK YOU
SEE YOU SOON