

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION: PROPOSED TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK ART AND CULTURE ANNUAL GRANT PROGRAM



MAY 6, 2025



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, Town Council directed staff and the Public Art Commission to develop a process by which interested individuals and organizations may apply for and be awarded grants for public art and cultural initiatives. The Public Art Commission has since worked to develop a proposed Art and Culture Grant Program to support vibrant cultural initiatives to enrich the community and foster local creativity.



PROPOSED PROGRAM

The proposed Art and Culture Grant Program will be funded annually through the Public Art Fund and offer three grant opportunities.

PROGRAM GRANTS

Awards could support community workshops and classes, community events, and performances and productions, including historical, theatrical, literary and musical opportunities.

Up to five \$10,000 grants will be awarded to eligible nonprofit 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6) organizations providing art and culture programs in Castle Rock.

PROJECT GRANTS

Awards could support mural installations, sculpture displays, light art, artistic enhancements to infrastructure, historical monuments, placemaking signage and cultural and historical exhibitions.

Up to five \$5,000 grants will be awarded to eligible nonprofit 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6) organizations, local businesses, units of government, public libraries and artists.

EDUCATOR GRANTS

Awards could support the purchase of art supplies and specialized tools for advanced or media-specific projects, classroom-based or schoolwide exhibitions/projects, interdisciplinary programs, student-created public art projects and hands-on workshops or interactive learning.

Up to 10 grants of up to \$1,000 each will be awarded to eligible schools in Castle Rock, including public and private institutions, and homeschool educators serving pre-k through high school.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A panel with representation from Town staff and the Public Art Commission will review applications using a rubric to ensure fair and consistent evaluation to make grant award recommendations to Town Council.

All final grant awards will be approved by Town Council.

ALL FUNDED INITIATIVES MUST:

- Take place within Castle Rock's jurisdiction
- Align with Town Council's vision for community enhancement
- Demonstrate a capacity to successfully plan and execute the proposed initiative
- Provide a clear, realistic budget that outlines how grant funds will be used to achieve project or program goals
- When necessary, applicants must submit partnership letters or letters of intent from landowners and project collaborators to demonstrate site access and community support for proposed projects/programs



GRANT CYCLE SCHEDULE

Staff is proposing launching the grant program this year, according to the following approximate schedule annually thereafter:

2025-2026 PROPOSED GRANT CYCLE

- May 2025: applications open (pending grant program approval)
- July 18, 2025: application deadline
- August 2025: review period
- September 2025: final award recommendations presented to Council
- September through October 2025: funding distributed
- July 1, 2026: project completion deadline
- July 15, 2026: reports due from grant awardees on program/project execution and impact summary



BUDGET IMPACT

The proposed Art and Culture Grant Program will be funded annually through the Public Art Fund.

Grant type	Grant awards	Total
Art and Culture Program Grants	5 grants of up to \$10,000	\$50,000
Art and Culture Project Grants	5 grants of up to \$5,000	\$25,000
Art and Culture Educator Grants	10 grants of up to \$1,000	\$10,000
		\$85,000

PROPOSED MOTION

“I move to direct staff to implement the Art and Culture Grant Program as proposed.”

ALTERNATE MOTIONS

“I move to approve the program with the following conditions or changes: (list conditions).”

“I move to continue this item to the Town Council meeting on (date) to allow additional time to (list information needed).”



THANK YOU
QUESTIONS?