

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 20, 2025

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee

SUBJECT **Office of Arts and Culture Agenda Item on November 12, 2025: FY 2025-26
Cultural Organizations Program Funding Allocation and Contracts**

On November 12, 2025, City Council will consider the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Cultural Organizations Program (COP) contracts with 65 Dallas-based non-profit arts and cultural organizations. The Cultural Organizations Program contracts with cultural organizations with budgets ranging from \$100,000 to over \$10 million to provide an annual season of programming for residents and visitors of Dallas. The following pages list organizations with their recommended contract amounts totaling \$7,164,655 for FY 2025-26.

The COP Guidelines, eligibility, scoring, and review process are approved annually by City Council; following guideline adoption, information sessions are conducted, and organizations apply through an online grant system. Proposals are analyzed by a volunteer panel approved by the Allocations Committee of the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission. Proposals and all scores are analyzed by the Allocations Committee of the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission.

This summer, the scoring guidelines for the Cultural Organizations Program were revised to meet federal requirements, following City Council resolution 25-1081, approved on June 25, 2025. This resulted in two modifications: 1) the original 20 points scored by panel for the Access and Impact section of the application were replaced with a ten-question survey which addressed topics that help us understand how applicants provide access and impact while complying with federal directives. Applicants could receive up to 20 points based on survey answers; and 2) ten points typically awarded for diversity of board and staff were removed from consideration.

Following rigorous review of these scores, organizational revenue size, and past funding amounts, the FY 2025-26 awards were unanimously recommended by the Allocations Committee of the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission on October 3, 2025, and the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission on October 16, 2025.

For FY 2025-26, 65 non-profit organizations are recommended for over \$7.1M funding. This funding represents an increase from FY 2024-25 due to higher use of the Hotel Occupancy Tax percentage for the arts. Eleven organizations are recommended for COP contracts that were not part of the 2024-25 COP program. Eight of these are first-time organizations in COP: Urban Arts Collective, Pegasus Contemporary Ballet, Swan Strings, The Texas Supremacy of Music and Arts, Dallas Contemporary, Young Leaders Strong City, SPARK! and Agape Broadcasting, KNON.

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The other three organizations rejoin the program after a hiatus or in a new capacity. The Women's Chorus of Dallas participated in the program in FY 2022-23, did not apply in FY 2023-24 or 2024-25, and has rejoined for the FY 2025-26 year. Dallas Black Dance Theatre participated in the program in FY 2023-24, was removed from the program in FY 2024-25 by City Council action and has now rejoined for the FY 2025-26 year. Finally, the Dallas Symphony Association has joined the program for FY 2025-26 representing the full Dallas Symphony Orchestra and all major programming; in past years, the Cultural Organizations Program supported the Dallas Symphony Children's Chorus programming only, due to an agreement with the Dallas Symphony Association regarding the Meyerson Symphony Center that has now concluded.

Below is a list of all recommended organizations with the recommended FY 2025-26 funding award and a range of the annual revenue of the recommended organizations. Organizations with an asterisk next to the name denotes new organizations, or organizations returning after a year or more away from program participation.

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

Service First, Now!



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

c: Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, City Manager
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety
Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager

Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager
Donzell Gipson, Assistant City Manager
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Ahmad Goree, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Directors and Assistant Directors

	Organization <i>(*denotes new organizations, or organizations returning after 1+ years away from COP participation)</i>	2025-26 Recommended Award	Annual Revenue of Organization
1	Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklorico	\$40,007	<\$0.5M
2	Art House Dallas	\$54,000	<\$0.5M
3	Arts Mission Oak Cliff	\$40,900	<\$0.5M
4	Artstillery	\$37,243	<\$0.5M
5	Ballet North Texas	\$56,000	<\$0.5M
6	Color Me Empowered	\$35,776	<\$0.5M
7	Dallas Chamber Symphony	\$71,924	<\$0.5M
8	Fine Arts Chamber Players, dba Basically Beethoven	\$47,517	<\$0.5M
9	Flamenco Fever	\$26,000	<\$0.5M
10	Orpheus Chamber Singers	\$35,000	<\$0.5M
11	Pegasus Contemporary Ballet*	\$29,849	<\$0.5M
12	Pegasus Media Project	\$28,300	<\$0.5M
13	Pegasus Musical Society dba Orchestra of New Spain	\$35,000	<\$0.5M
14	Premier Lone Star Wind Orchestra	\$39,800	<\$0.5M
15	Second Thought Theatre	\$30,000	<\$0.5M
16	Soul Rep Theatre Company	\$35,004	<\$0.5M
17	Swan Strings*	\$26,000	<\$0.5M
18	Teatro Dallas	\$80,588	<\$0.5M
19	The Bandan Koro Experience	\$39,061	<\$0.5M
20	The Flame Foundation	\$40,000	<\$0.5M
21	The Texas Supremacy of Music & Arts Conservatory*	\$53,000	<\$0.5M
22	The Women's Chorus of Dallas*	\$26,233	<\$0.5M
23	The Writer's Garret	\$53,185	<\$0.5M
24	Urban Arts Collective*	\$41,703	<\$0.5M
25	USA Film Festival	\$78,518	<\$0.5M
26	Verdigris Ensemble	\$45,250	<\$0.5M
27	Agape Broadcasting Foundation, Inc dba KNON*	\$45,000	\$0.5M - \$1M
28	Artist Outreach, Inc (aka The Artist Outreach)	\$45,000	\$0.5M - \$1M
29	Avant Chamber Ballet	\$45,600	\$0.5M - \$1M
30	Creative Arts Center of Dallas	\$70,380	\$0.5M - \$1M
31	Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra (GDYO)	\$79,344	\$0.5M - \$1M
32	Kitchen Dog Theater	\$65,564	\$0.5M - \$1M
33	OutLoud Dallas	\$45,000	\$0.5M - \$1M
34	Shakespeare Festival of Dallas	\$123,856	\$0.5M - \$1M
35	SPARK! Dallas*	\$45,000	\$0.5M - \$1M
36	Texas Winds Musical Outreach, Inc.	\$90,439	\$0.5M - \$1M
37	Theatre Three, Inc.	\$97,045	\$0.5M - \$1M

38	Undermain Theatre	\$62,219	\$0.5M - \$1M
39	Uptown Players, Inc.	\$64,770	\$0.5M - \$1M
40	Young Leaders Strong City*	\$45,000	\$0.5M - \$1M
41	Bruce Wood Dance Dallas	\$75,000	\$1M - \$3M
42	Cara Mia Theatre Co.	\$91,482	\$1M - \$3M
43	Dallas Contemporary*	\$85,865	\$1M - \$3M
44	Dallas Historical Society	\$37,810	\$1M - \$3M
45	Dallas Winds	\$68,140	\$1M - \$3M
46	Deep Vellum Publishing	\$55,000	\$1M - \$3M
47	Foundation for African Art	\$108,785	\$1M - \$3M
48	Junior Players	\$89,157	\$1M - \$3M
49	Sammons Center for the Arts	\$121,170	\$1M - \$3M
50	TeCo Theatrical Productions, dba Bishop Arts Theatre Center	\$138,157	\$1M - \$3M
51	Texas International Theatrical Arts Society DBA TITAS/DANCE UNBOUND	\$138,157	\$1M - \$3M
52	Turtle Creek Chorale	\$62,625	\$1M - \$3M
53	Big Thought	\$632,664	>\$3M
54	Dallas Black Dance Theatre*	\$225,000	>\$3M
55	Dallas Children's Theater	\$180,322	>\$3M
56	Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum	\$136,000	>\$3M
57	Dallas Museum of Art	\$1,073,896	>\$3M
58	Dallas Symphony Association, Inc.*	\$300,000	>\$3M
59	Dallas Theater Center	\$125,000	>\$3M
60	Forest Forward	\$71,600	>\$3M
61	Nasher Sculpture Center	\$125,000	>\$3M
62	Perot Museum of Nature and Science	\$744,489	>\$3M
63	The Black Academy of Arts and Letters, Inc.	\$216,680	>\$3M
64	The Dallas Opera	\$157,500	>\$3M
65	The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza	\$55,091	>\$3M
	TOTAL	\$7,164,655	