

Department of Arts and Culture

MISSION

To advance arts, culture, and creativity throughout LA County

MANDATORY & MAJOR DUTIES

- Grants and technical assistance for arts nonprofits
- Countywide arts education initiatives
- Civic art collection, commissions, and care
- Creative career pathways
- Cross sector arts strategies to address civic issues
- Research and evaluation
- Communications

LA County
**ARTS &
CULTURE**



Department of Arts and Culture



CURRENT BUDGET OVERVIEW

FY 2025-2026
Final Adopted Budget
(\$ Millions)

Total Appropriation

(What We Budgeted to Spend in FY 2025-26)

\$53.8M



Salaries & Employee Benefits (60 positions)

13.4 (25%)



Services & Supplies

33.5 (62%)



Other (Cap Assets/Equip, Other Charges)

6.9 (13%)

Sources of Funding

(How We Pay For All of This)

\$53.8M



Federal Assistance

0.4 (1%)



State Assistance

5.1 (9%)



Fees/Charges for Services*

0.5 (1%)



Other Resources**

28.7 (53%)



Net County Cost

remaining balance, covered by locally generated revenues

19.1 (36%)

* Some State and Federally funded services are reflected as "Fees/Charges for Services" through reimbursement mechanisms (e.g., Medi-Cal billing)

** "Other Resources" includes miscellaneous revenues not otherwise classified, including fines, settlements, interest earnings, and interdepartmental billing

BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM AREA

What These Investments Deliver For Residents

General Program Category	% of Dept Budget
Arts Education & Youth Development	59%
Grants & Professional Development	16%
Civic Art & County Collection	5%
Creative Strategist & Cross Sector Arts Initiatives	2%
Administration, Research & Evaluation, Communications, LANAIC	18%

Program categories shown here are presentation-level groupings created to consolidate information from the new LA County Enterprise System (LACES) for this briefing. Note that as part of the County’s initial rollout of data-driven budgeting through LACES, categories and outcome measures will continue to evolve based on practical use and data insights as departments operationalize the system in FY 2026–27.

DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES, METRICS & OUTCOMES

- **Priority 1: Support artists, arts organizations, educators with core programs**
 - Department arts investments reach more than 99% of zip codes in LA County*
 - Grants programs support over 550 grantee arts organizations annually
- **Priority 2: Strengthen staffing and infrastructure to administer programs**
 - Civic Art Division currently managing 98 active capital projects and stewardship of over 600 objects in the County Civic Art Collection
- **Priority 3: Continue to leverage external funding sources to address gaps**
 - More than half of Department budget comes from non-NCC sources

* Source: <https://lacountyartsdata.org>, 2023

BUDGET REQUEST (FY2026-2027)

Total New Appropriation Request*	\$9.4M
Additional positions requested	5.0
Additional NCC requested	\$8.4M

Key Budget Requests	Amount (\$Millions)	One-Time/ Ongoing?	Positions
Organizational Grant Program	\$5.1	One-time	N/A
Administrative Costs Alignment	\$0.3	Ongoing	0.0
Civic Art Project Manager	\$0.2	Ongoing	1.0

* Priority budget and unmet needs requests

CHALLENGES & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- **CHALLENGE: Arts organizations and artists need more support for sector to thrive**
 - Continue to deliver Department grants to arts organizations to sustain ecosystem
 - Leverage external funding, partnerships, employ orgs and artists via service contracts
 - Compile and share resources of non-County funding opportunities with field
- **CHALLENGE: Lack of adequate staffing to manage volume of County capital projects**
 - Prioritize civic art projects with Board offices and find creative ways to utilize funds
- **CHALLENGE: Barriers to cultural participation and access to creative economy**
 - Sustain and grow core Department programs to ensure Countywide access to arts
 - Targeted program opportunities for artists, youth, and creative career pathways