

Contact Information

Flagstaff Arts Council
Jonathan Stone, Executive Director
928.779.7019
jstone@flagartscouncil.org



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\$19,000 Awarded by Flagstaff Arts Council to Local Nonprofits impacted by COVID-19 Closures; Applications Sought for Larger 2nd Round of COVID-19 Nonprofit Relief Funding *City of Flagstaff Allocates \$100,000 from the BBB Art & Science Fund to Support Relief Efforts*

Flagstaff, AZ: Flagstaff Arts Council, the City's nonprofit art, science, and culture agency, announced the first round of grant recipients from its COVID-19 Nonprofit Relief Fund. The relief fund was established on March 18 to support art, science, and culture nonprofits impacted by COVID-related shutdowns. With the support of a \$5,000 matching grant from Flagstaff Rotary Club and donations from nearly 70 community members, \$19,000 has been awarded to the following 15 initial organizations. Initial grants range from \$250 to \$2,500.

Nonprofit organizations that received immediate relief to-date include:

- Alpine Community Theater
- Artists' Coalition of Flagstaff
- Ballet Folklórico de Colores
- Canyon Movement Company
- Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition
- Flagstaff Festival of Science
- Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival
- Flagstaff Symphony Association
- Human Nature Dance Theatre and Studio
- Master Chorale of Flagstaff
- Northern Arizona Pride Association
- The Arboretum at Flagstaff
- Theatrikos
- Tynkertopia
- Willow Bend Environmental Education Center

During its budget retreat on April 23, Flagstaff City Council expressed support to allocate an additional \$100,000 from the BBB Art & Science Fund for Flagstaff Arts Council's COVID-19 response efforts. \$87,000 is allocated to the relief fund grant program. With the additional support, larger grants will be able to be awarded to more organizations.

"We are fortunate to be able to reprioritize projects in the current BBB Art & Science fund budget to support this important program," states the City's Beautification, Arts & Sciences Manager Eliza Kretzmann. "These funds are dedicated for the arts, culture and science nonprofit sector, and we couldn't think of a more responsive use of these funds than to provide additional support to our partner Flagstaff Arts Council's grant programs to the community."

"We are incredibly thankful for the generosity of the Flagstaff City Council, Flagstaff Rotary Club, and the many donors that made this relief effort possible," says arts council executive director Jonathan Stone. "It is heartwarming to see the generosity of our community not only for this program but in support of the many needs caused by this pandemic."

Eligible art, science, or culture nonprofits are encouraged to apply at <https://flagstaffartscouncil.submittable.com/>

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, but priority will be given to nonprofits that apply by Monday, May 11. Existing applicants that did not receive awards in the first round will automatically be considered. Initial grant recipients will also be considered for additional funding. Questions about the program should be directed to Flagstaff Arts Council executive director Jonathan Stone at jstone@flagartscouncil.org.

About Flagstaff Arts Council: Flagstaff Arts Council was founded in 1999 as the city's nonprofit art, science, and culture agency. It also operates Coconino Center for the Arts. Through a contract with the City of Flagstaff, it administers the Art & Science Fund Grant program, awarding \$360,000 to 41 nonprofit groups in the past year. In addition to providing technical support to nonprofits and artists, exhibitions, and concerts, the Arts Council is also known for First Friday ArtWalk and the Viola Awards.