



GRANT DISBURSEMENT AND REPORTING POLICY UPDATE

August 3, 2026



2022 San Francisco Artist Grantee Sean Dorsey Dance,
The Lost Art of Dreaming. Photo by Lydia Daniller

Working as One Team



Executive Director of Arts and Culture
Matthew Goudeau, matthew.goudeau@sfgov.org



Deputy Director of Programs
Ebon Glenn, ebon.glenn@sfgov.org



Deputy Director of Finance & Administration
Sarah Hollenbeck, sarah.hollenbeck@sfgov.org



Director of Community Investments
Denise Pate, denise.pate@sfgov.org



Director, Grants for the Arts
Kristen Jacobson, kristen.jacobson@sfgov.org



Director of Communications
Coma Te, coma.te@sfgov.org

Senior Compliance Officer
Molly Barrons, molly.barrons@sfgov.org

Senior Program Officers
Jonell Molina, jonell.molina@sfgov.org
Anne Trickey, anne.trickey@sfgov.org
Amy Chou, amy.chou@sfgov.org

Program Officers
Jennifer Chu, jennifer.chu@sfgov.org
Coco Duhon-Kelley, coco.duhon-kelley@sfgov.org
Sarah Simon, sarah.simon@sfgov.org
Lorraine Cawili-Thy, lorraine.cawili-thy@sfgov.org
Maysoun Wazwaz, maysoun.Wazwaz@sfgov.org

Program Associates
Jax Blaska, jax.blaska@sfgov.org
Kingsley Sun, kingsley.sun@sfgov.org
Natalia Perez, Natalia.perez@sfgov.org

SF Willie Brown Fellow
Breanna Barton-Shaw, breanna.barton-shaw@sfgov.org

GRANT POLICY DIRECTION: SFAC & GFTA

As an expanded department that brought together the Arts Commission, Grants for the Arts, and Film SF, we are introducing updated grant payment policies that are united in departmental direction, responsive to community needs, and aligned with City requirements.

These policies prioritize:

- **More equitable grantmaking**
- **Trust and community building**
- **Fiscal accountability**

Photo courtesy of Idris Ackamoor and Cultural Odyssey



WHAT'S CHANGED?

- ✓ **Creating one new policy for the expanded agency** expands reach & impact by ~300 orgs and ~\$15M additional in grants
 - Estimated FY27 Grantees: Total: ~400+ grantees; \$25M allocation
 - SFAC: 116; \$10M
 - GFTA: ~300 grants; \$15M (TBA in September)
- ✓ Increases **flexibility for cultural centers, individual artists and small to mid-size organizational** grantee partners
- ✓ **Responds directly to community calls** through public comment **addressing** equity for cultural centers, individual artists and small orgs

HOW DOES THIS COMPARE?

City-Wide Recommended Policy

- Capped at no more than 10% advance
- Only on pre-approved expenses
- Advance Payment through an extensive request and approval
- One-sized fits all policy

New! SFAC Approved Policy

- Eligible advance payments 50%-90% depending upon grant category
- Differentiated by varied needs of grant programs
- Responsive to Community
- Supports accountability
- More reasonable documentation requirements

ADVANCE PAYMENT – POLICY ANSWERS NEED FOR DIFFERENT GRANTEE PARTNERS

Organizational Grantees with budgets ≤ \$2M: 50%

- May request up to **50%** in advance payment
- Prioritizes mini, small, and some mid-sized organizations
- Smaller organizations often have limited capacity, staffing, systems
- Subject to reporting and performance measure tracking
- Quarterly reporting required for all advance payments
 - FY27 Impact
 - SFAC: (49), \$4.2M
 - GFTA (~200); ~\$7.5M

Cultural Centers: 75%

- Cultural Centers (in good standing) are eligible for **advance payment**
 - 50% initial disbursement
 - 25% upon progress report
- Quarterly reporting required for all advance payment
- Remainder 25% is cost-reimbursement
- Subject to reporting and performance measure tracking

Individual Artists: 90%

- May request up to **90%** advance payment
 - Up to 50% in Year 1
 - Up to 40% in Year 2
- Quarterly reporting required for all advance payments
- Subject to reporting requirements as outlined in contract
 - FY27 Impact
 - SFAC: (61), \$3.1M

GRANT REPORTING & PAYMENT DOCUMENTATION – ONE DEPARTMENT, ONE POLICY

All Grants to Organizations & Individuals ≤ \$50K Grants

- **Grants \$50K and under** can request grant funds without documentation such as proof of expense and payment
- All organization and individual grantees will still have required reporting according to grant program and agreement
- Organizations and individual grantees fitting risk profile outline will be required to provide documentation
- Additional 10% of grants will be sampled randomly
- Organizations and individuals are required to maintain documentation records and be prepared for sampling
- All other grants above \$50K require documentation and review for every line item
- Minimum threshold expense for documentation \$25

WHAT ARE THE WINS?

- ✓ **Cultural Centers went back to 75% advance payment** after being capped at 50% in last policy proposal.
- ✓ **Individual Artists went back to 90% advance payment** (in two installments) after being capped at 50% in last policy proposal.
- ✓ **About 200 additional small-budget organizations may now have eligibility for advance payment AND reduced payment documentation** who typically did not have either.
- ✓ **Creates space for accountable reporting and review** (so that Program Officers are aware of organizational realities, challenges, and successes across all grants.)
- ✓ **Effective July 1, 2026** – included in upcoming grant agreements.

THIS POLICY MEETS THE MOMENT

Our commitment to better serve San Francisco's arts community begins with an effort to...

- ✓ **Create** one clear, consistent policy framework for all grants.
- ✓ Align with City policy to but is also **responsive** to arts community need.
- ✓ Build systems that **support** – not stall – creative work.
- ✓ **Protect and uplift** San Francisco's diverse arts ecosystem – organizations, artists, and culture bearers.

THANK YOU



Answering the Call, Monica Magtoto, 2019

sf.gov/artscommission | sfac.grants@sfgov.org