



The City of Chandler

Event Funding Program – Grant Opportunity

Year 2025-26

Program Overview

The City of Chandler's event funding program is designed to assist local non-profit organizations in presenting events that serve the public and promote Chandler. The mission of the program is to provide support and funding to deserving special events, which enhance the community in the following ways:

- Providing cultural and educational enrichment
- Celebrating our unique diversity, history, and heritage
- Enhancing pride and a sense of community
- Promoting a positive image of the City of Chandler
- Endorsing economic vitality

The program is designed to be a short-term assistance as events become established.

Eligibility Requirements

- All applicants must be a **non-profit 501(c)(3) organization**
- Organization may only submit one application for an event
 - Multiple submissions from an organization will not be considered
- Events with multiple co-organizations will only be allowed to submit one application
- Ineligible organizations/events
 - City of Chandler Departments or Divisions
 - For-profit events
 - For-profit/Non-profit partnerships where the benefits to the non-profit organization cannot be demonstrated
 - School events
 - Any event where multiple organizations apply

Application Process

All organizations must complete the following application process:

- Event Funding – Grant Application
- Provide a Certificate of 501(c)(3) Status
- Special Event Application (*only if event takes place on public property*)
- Event Funding Budget Forms
- Past or Current Promotional Materials

Important application dates and deadlines:

- Applications available – July 8, 2025
- Grant Application Workshop at Chandler City Hall or Video Conference
 - July 24, 2025, from 9am to 11am
- **Applications must be received by August 21, 2025, at 5pm (NO Exceptions)**
- Applications reviewed by a committee on September 10, 2025
- Results ratified by the Chandler Cultural Foundation on September 25, 2025
- Notification of Award letters emailed to all applicants the week of September 29, 2025

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1. Applications received that are incomplete and/or are not completed by the deadline will be considered ineligible.**
- 2. Applications are reviewed to ensure they meet the application requirements. Applicants will be informed of missing items if time permits.**
- 3. There is NO guarantee that your application will be reviewed for acceptance by the deadline, please do not wait until the last minute to submit the application.**
- 4. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. You must complete the budget form and return it with your application.**

Grant Application Workshop

Applicants will have the opportunity to meet with staff during the two-hour, appointment only, workshop to get more information on the program and process, have their questions answered, work on the application and receive immediate feedback on completing it. Applicants may attend the workshop in-person or by video conference. A reservation is required. Appointments are in 20-minute blocks. Applicants must bring their own computer with files needed for in-person assistance.

The workshop information is:

Date: Thursday, July 24, 2025

Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

In-Person Location: Chandler City Hall

175 S. Arizona Ave, Chandler 85225

At the corner of Chicago St. and Washington St.

Free Parking is available south of City Hall

Please email special.events@chandleraz.gov to schedule an appointment.

Criteria and Review Process

Applications for funding are reviewed by the Event Funding Committee, which ranks applications based upon the following criteria:

- Cultural and educational impact on the community and ability of the event to demonstrate Chandler's unique diversity, history, and heritage
- Ability of the event to promote community pride and a positive image of the City of Chandler
- History of the applicant organization in producing the event, managerial and administrative ability of the applicant's organization to carry out the event and properly administer sponsorship funds
- City where applicant's organization is based (Chandler organizations receive greater consideration)
- Economic impact on the community
- Number of years the organization has received funding and how established the event has become
- The support of the event by additional City of Chandler funds, staff, or department
- Free vs. Admission based event

Ranked applications are then allocated funds based off ranking order, demonstrated need, funds eligible for, and available funds.

Applications are then submitted to the Chandler Cultural Foundation Board for approval. The Chandler Cultural Foundation is under contract with the City of Chandler to manage programs and events at the Chandler Center for the Arts. This nonprofit corporation has over 26 years of experience in the selection and contracting of cultural programs.

Panel Members

The Event Funding Committee will consist of a panel of 6 citizens who sit on City appointed boards or commissions. The panel will be chaired by a member of the Chandler Cultural Foundation, with the chair being a non-voting member. The panel will rank the submitted applications and give their funding recommendations to the Chandler Cultural Foundation.

The Committee will consist of the following representatives:

- 2 - Cultural Foundation Members
 - 1 will be a non-voting Chair and the other will be a voting member
- 1 - Mayor's Youth Commission
- 1 - Human Relations Commission
- 1 - Arts Commission
- 1 - Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities

Allocation of Funds

No one applicant organization will receive more than \$5,000 in sponsorship in any year (October 1 – September 30). Applicants are eligible for 50% of the eligible event costs with the total allocation not to exceed \$5,000. Depending on the number and quality of applications received, it is possible that funding allocations may be lower than the amount requested by the applicant.

All applications receiving funds will be required to submit a final report on the event within 90 days following their event. That report shall include documented use of awarded funds, event attendance and highlights, etc. Failure to submit the report, in its entirety, within the specified timeline will eliminate the organization's ability to apply for funds during the next call for applications.

Final reports not submitted by the deadline will face penalties during the following year's application process. The following penalties will be assessed:

1 month late: 5%	...of funds deducted from awarded amount for new submitted sponsorship funding application.
2 months late: 10%	
3 months late: 20%	
4 months late: 35%	
5 months or more late: 50%	
Non-submittal of final report	...ineligible to apply for funds the next year.

Incomplete final reports will be given one opportunity to make the corrections within 72 hours of notification. If corrections are completed within the 72-hour period, the final report will be considered accepted at turned in date. If submitted corrections exceed the 72-hour period, the final report will be considered received when the corrections have been completed.

Ineligible Fees/Costs

Fees that are not eligible for funding are items not directly related to holding the event, or fees that would reimburse the administrative costs of the organization putting on the event. Only cash expenses will be considered. Ineligible fees include, but are not limited to the following:

- Administrative/Payroll/Benefit Costs (salaries and/or wages for any full time/part time employee or contracted employee that works for the organization when event is not taking place)
- Consumable Goods (food, drinks, snacks)
- Any/All Costs Associated with the Sale of Alcohol (supplies, fencing, bartender, etc.)
- Membership/Professional Development/Conference Fees
- Non-Cash, In-Kind Services or Fees That Are Waived and/or Sponsored by the City of Chandler
- Postage (for advertisement, mailings, etc.)
- Liquor Licenses/Fees
- Event Insurance Costs
- Gifts/Take Home Promotions
- Scholarships
- Capital Expenses/Improvements
- Application/Permit Fees
- Hospitality Items
- Storage Rental
- Credit Card Charges
- Music Licensing Fees
- Taxes

Appeals Procedure

All decisions made by the Chandler Cultural Foundation are final and are not subject to appeals or further review.

Quick Tips

- It is important that you complete the entire application. The more detail that you provide the better as it will help the Committee understand what your event's purpose is and how it will benefit the community. **Incomplete applications will not be considered for the program.**
- Applications received after the deadline will not be eligible.
- Chandler organizations receive greater consideration for funding.
- Each question on the application is thoroughly reviewed but please pay particular attention to the following questions:
 - History of your organization and event
 - How your event will have a cultural and educational impact on the community as well as how it will demonstrate Chandler's unique diversity, history, and heritage
 - Ability to promote community pride and a positive image of the City of Chandler
 - Economic impact
 - A detailed budget
- Although not required, it is very helpful if you provide financial reports from past two years to show the Committee your organization's ability to manage a budget, carry out the event and properly administer sponsorship funds.
- Please understand that you are not guaranteed to receive funding and if you do receive funding, it may be less than what you requested on your application.
- Applicants are encouraged to attend the review meeting to clarify information on the application or budget. This may assist the Review Panel in making a decision.
- Keep a copy of the submitted application and budget for your records.

Contact Information

For any questions regarding the Special Event Funding Program, please contact:

Austyn Ruppel

Special Events Sr. Specialist

Phone: (480) 782-2649

Fax: (480) 782-2713

E-mail: Austyn.Ruppel@chandleraz.gov

Please mail all applications to:

Austyn Ruppel

City of Chandler

MS 498

P.O. Box 4008

Chandler, AZ 85244-4008

Hand deliver applications to:

Austyn Ruppel

City Hall

175 S. Arizona Ave

Lobby Reception Desk

Chandler, AZ 85225