

**CITY OF COACHELLA, CA
COMMUNITY BASED GRANT PROGRAM
APPLICATION FOR FUNDS REQUEST**

Please Type Information and Print
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(Attach additional pages as needed, however applicants are encouraged to be brief.)

1. Application Funding Cycle: Date:

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

2. Total Amount Requested: \$ 1000.00

If requesting waiver of City fees or charges, please indicate the City service for which the waiver is being requested.

3. Proposed Program/Service of Funding Request: Ballet Folklorico Program for Children and Youth

4. Agency/Organization: Green Room Theatre Company Coachella Valley

5. Mailing Address: PO Box 40

City: Zip: Coachella, CA 92236

6. Telephone: 760. 696-2546

Fax:

7. Official Contact Person:

Name: David Catanzarite

Title: Executive Artistic Director

Telephone: 310. 850-2296

Fax:

E-mail: david.catanzarite@grtccv.org

8. Does this organization have a non-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)?
Yes XXX (Attach documentation)

9. How long has this organization been in existence? 15 Years

10. Has the organization previously received funding from the City of Coachella? No XXX

If yes, please identify the program/service, total prior grant allocation, and the fiscal year in which the funds were received.

11. Is this request for a New or Existing program/service within the City? New program

12. What is the anticipated time frame to provide the proposed program/service and the expenditure of the requested funds? September 2024 to July 31, 2025.

13. Describe briefly how the requested funds will be used. Purchase costumes and footwear for boys and girls ages 5 to 14 in Ballet Folklorico classes, and provide lighting and sound support for their recital performances. Traditional Ballet Folklorico varies by state and region, with very specific needs for music, dance steps, costumes, sombreros and hair pieces.

14. Will the program/service require additional funding sources? If so, identify all funding sources and provide the steps taken to acquire funding. Partial funding for the program has already been secured for a two year grant from the RAP Foundation and additional funds are being sought from foundations and private donors.

15. If the program/service is planned to continue beyond the period provided by this grant, what funding plans are there to sustain the program/service? Costumes purchased with this grant will be available for use in 2024 and also for subsequent years.

16. How will the proposed program/service serve City of Coachella residents? Will the proposed program/service also serve non-Coachella residents? Please describe. A majority of students will come from the nearest school districts, including Coachella Valley USD and Indio (Desert Sands USD). Many have little or no access to Ballet Folklorico classes with expert teachers outside of what their schools might be able to provide. Only a few schools have professionally trained, highly qualified teachers. They also do not offer classes during summer and winter breaks or on weekends. Green Room Theatre Company's Ballet Folklorico program will supplement existing instruction and provide additional enrichment.

17. Describe the characteristics of the clients the proposed program/service anticipates to serve (i.e. age group, gender, income level, ethnicity, etc.) 97% of CVUSD students qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch due to financial need. Ballet Folklorico speaks to the heritage of many of these children. 98% of CVUSD identify as Latinx.

18. Attach a proposed budget for requested funds.

Ballet Folklorico Budget: See Attached. We have also enclosed the Overall Program Budget partially funded by RAP Foundation to offer a broader overview of the program's scope and sequence.

Authorized Official: David Catanzarite Title: Executive Artistic Director

Signature:  **Date: August 28, 2024**

Green Room Theatre Company Coachella Valley 2024-2025
Ballet Folklorico Costume Budget

For The City of Coachella

Line Item Description	Line Item Explanation	Amount requested from City of Coachella	Line Item Total of Project
40 Skirts	\$145 each		\$5,800
40 Girls' Blouses/Shirts	\$50 each		\$2,000
40 Practice Skirts	\$80 each		\$3,200
40 Bloomers	\$34 each		\$1,360
40 Pants	\$75 each		\$3,000
40 shirts	\$50 each		\$2,000
80 pairs Ballet Folklorico shoes and boots	\$75 each	\$1000	\$6,000
40 Hats & Sombreros	\$55 each		\$2,200
80 Hairpieces/Buns	\$25 each		\$2,000
Maintenance, Tailoring, Replacement Costs	Varies		\$3,770
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,000	\$31,330

GRTCCV Program Budget - Ballet Folklorico for Local Youth

Up to 40 students per class	
Grades 1-8	
YEAR 1	YEAR 2
21000.00	
	21000.00

Instruction and Planning and shows for 1 year
 (\$350 per session x 2 instructors) x 30 sessions;
 Instruction and Planning and shows for 1 year
 (\$350 per session x 2 instructors) x 30 sessions;

(Approximately 15 class sessions in first school semester and 15 class sessions in second school semester totaling 30 classes/year.)

Costumer & alterations (paid internship)
 Makeup Artist (paid internship) approx 4 shows

	3000.00	3000.00
	2000.00	2000.00
	5000.00	
		1500
	10000.00	
		1500
	4000.00	
		1500
	4000.00	
		1000
	3200.00	
		800
	1000.00	400
	680.00	680
	80.00	80
	210.00	0

COSTUMES:

40 Sinaloa or Nayarit Folklorico Costumes

Replacement dresses

40 Jalisco Costumes

Replacement dresses

40 Vera Cruz

Replacement dresses

Folklorico Shoes/ boots for students

Replacement shoes

Practice Skirts

Replacement skirts

Hairpieces and buns

Bloomers

Hairbrushes and buns

Storage Boxes

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date:

DEC 23 2015

GREEN ROOM THEATRE COMPANY
C/O KAREN T LIN
PO BOX 612
PALM DESERT, CA 92260

Employer Identification Number:
46-4126845
DLN:
17053261308045
Contact Person:
KIMBERLY O'BANNON ID# 31554
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
July 31
Public Charity Status:
509(a)(2)
Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
November 4, 2013
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

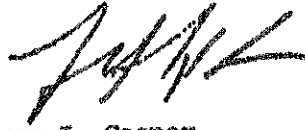
If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Letter 947

GREEN ROOM THEATRE COMPANY

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey I. Cooper', written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey I. Cooper
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Green Room Theatre Company Coachella Valley - Ballet Folklorico Program Narrative

NEED: In the Eastern Coachella Valley, the need remains high for children to feel seen and supported. The impacts of the pandemic have generally worsened student measures of academic achievement, self-esteem, attendance at school, and behavior. In 2022, the New York Times was one of many media outlets to report on the growing epidemic of mental health struggles among American juveniles.

Ballet Folklorico addresses all of these juvenile needs to improve mental and physical health and provide outlets for in person socialization. The physicality of the dances provides opportunities for students to enhance their physical aspects of health: muscle strength, flexibility, coordination, cardiovascular fitness and more. The cultural background and collaborative social aspects of choreographed dances provide the students with social development and a sense of belonging. Combined, these create opportunities for better mental health.

We have witnessed many juveniles take Ballet Folklorico and transform from “shy mice” to confident performers who develop a voice in their schools and communities and a general sense of belonging. Students getting on stage and publicly speaking about their heritage has been a game changer for self-esteem. Their proud participation garners parental involvement and support for schools and their children's education. Luis is one nine-year-old who benefitted – he cried at the end of his show because he wished his lessons with his maestras could continue. He said he would never miss school on the days we teach because he didn't want to miss Ballet Folklorico!

Recent research by the World Health Organization shows that exposure to arts and performance can have a lasting positive health impact on audience members as well as performers. This program can reach past the student performers into the broader community with a cultural and social impact. Many successful performers, artists and entrepreneurs have stories of how even a single exposure to an artistic event had a profound impact upon them and changed the course of their lives forever.

BACKGROUND: Green Room Theatre Company Coachella Valley (GRTCCV) will partner with Desert Recreation District to provide after school and weekend Ballet Folklorico classes and performance opportunities for elementary to high school students. Ballet Folklorico is a collective term for traditional Mexican cultural dances that emphasize local folk culture with highly choreographed and stylized movements. Traditional Ballet Folklorico varies by state/region with very specific music, costumes, hair pieces, and dances for each.

Since its founding in 2008, GRTCCV has been providing children with professionally-run theatre conservatory training. In 2012, our continued growth resulted in Green Room adding Ballet Folklorico instruction as a component for learning, performing, and cultural enrichment. As a complex and varied art form, Ballet Folklorico provides multiple opportunities for students to improve physical and mental health, enjoy social interactions, and build cultural knowledge. At times, Green Room has combined Ballet Folklorico with theatre; at other times, we have focused on its pure form as dance.

In 2022, Green Room began partnering with Desert Sands Unified School District to provide Ballet Folklorico to students as an after-school enrichment program. During the 2022-23 school

year, this program was able to serve more than 75 students with four classes at four schools and ultimately entertain more than 2,500 audience members. In 2023-24, Green Room expanded to two more schools for a total of six with a program that reached 4000 children, parents, and community members in a single year. Student and audience demand for this unique art is expected to grow by 20% in the company's *sixteenth* successful season (August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025).

Instruction in Ballet Folklórico introduces juveniles to the physical and cultural practices of an extremely precise Mexican form of dance. Songs and costumes vary by geographic region and provide a wonderful avenue to cultural learning and appreciation for students and audiences we serve. Often, children and their families have connections to the regions represented our performances, and the opportunity to practice these dances provides an exploration of family history and self-identity.

THE PROGRAM: Currently, our program consists of 7-10 weeks of fun and rigorous weekly lessons, culminating with a public showcase for the students to demonstrate their new dance skills. Unfortunately, after the recital, we must move on to other school sites. Schools can only host our program for about 2-3 months during the year. As a consequence, many children feel that painful lack of continuity. They vocalize a wish to continue. With an expanded, more available year-long program, we could continue to provide the sustained social-emotional support and learning that the students crave.

Classes will cover a variety of dances from a range of Mexican states, including Jalisco, Sinaloa, Vera Cruz, and others that will speak to the heritage of our juvenile population. To be inclusive, the classes are taught bilingually in English and Spanish and further engage a diversity of students by using ESL Total Physical Response teaching techniques. Children from all ethnic and national backgrounds and skill levels will be welcomed to participate and learn.

Funding from this grant will help supply costumes the students need. An important aspect of Ballet Folklórico is utilizing very meticulous and culturally correct costumes for the various dances. We will supply participants with three sets of high-quality matching costumes, hairpieces, and - when needed - shoes. In addition, the elements of theatrical performance will be supplied: makeup artists, lighting, and sound to showcase students and make them feel like superstars. We want our juveniles and families to feel proud of themselves and their community. While the initial costs of costumes and accessories will be significant, these are items that can be reused for years so that future learners can also benefit.

GOALS AND OUTCOMES:

Goal 1: To provide two or more 15-week semester-long sessions of Ballet Folklórico instruction per year, over a two-year period.

Outcome 1: More availability of classes means larger numbers of at-risk, in-need children can be served by this program.

Goal 2: To serve up to 40 students per session, for a total of 80 or more students per year over two years.

Outcome 2: Up to 160 children and their families benefit from improved physical, mental, social, behavioral and cultural health provided by Ballet Folklórico.

Goal 3: To provide professional instruction and high-quality costumes for this program.

Outcome 3: Children benefit from high-quality instruction from caring and knowledgeable adults who support their unique identities, diversity, and learning styles. Significant and validating cultural knowledge can be transmitted through the use of culturally correct costumes and responsive teaching.

Goal 4: To end each session with a dance recital showcase or community performance, providing an opportunity for students to experience the thrill of performance and for the general public to celebrate itself through the art form of Ballet Folklorico.

Outcome 4: Up to 80 students participate in two to four performances each year. Each performance has a potential average audience of 500 children and adults, exposing more than 2,000 members of the general community to cultural awareness, art, and parental and familial involvement with youth activities each year. Over a two-year period, more than 4,000 Coachella Valley residents benefit from this program.

SUMMARY: The target population for this two-year program includes every juvenile living in the East Coachella Valley who would like to participate. This program is designed to target children of various cultural backgrounds with lower economic status who have other risk factors for physical or mental health. Young people of ages 5-16, of all socio-economic statuses, races, genders and language proficiencies are welcome in this program.

This program will be most beneficial in providing struggling or otherwise underserved students with a positive and validating physical, mental, and social experience that creates confidence, self-esteem, improvement in physical and mental spheres, and opportunities for growth and development.

Likewise, this program will benefit an estimated 4,000 Coachella valley residents of all ages, children and adults, who are able to be audience members at Ballet Folklorico showcases performed by students.

“Many parents shared their gratitude to Ballet Folklorico for motivating their children to learn new dance steps, for modeling traditions, and for a culminating activity that filled their hearts. Our students gained an experience they will never forget and cherish throughout their lives.”
Daniel Martinez, Ph.D., Principal – Roosevelt Elementary School, Indio

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