



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

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(Attach additional pages as needed, however applicants are encouraged to be brief.)

1. Application Funding Cycle:

Date: 12/10/2025

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

2. Total Amount Requested: \$ 1,000

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:

Funds would provide performances of Newish Shakespeare Festival 2026

4. Agency/Organization:

Green Room Theatre Company CV

5. Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 103

City: Coachella Zip: 92236

6. Telephone: (442) 215-7039

Fax:

7. Official Contact Person:

Name: David Catanzarite

Title: Executive Artistic Director

Telephone: (310) 850-2296

Fax:

E-mail: david.catanzarite@grtccv.org

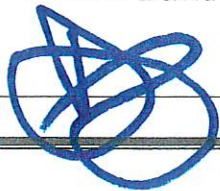
2025 12 10

8. Does this organization have a non-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)? ☐
Yes ☒ No ☐ (Attach documentation)
9. How long has this organization been in existence?
16 years
10. Has the organization previously received funding from the City of Coachella?
☒ Yes ☐ No
If yes, please identify the program/service, total prior grant allocation, and the fiscal year in which the funds were received.
\$1,000 for Ballet Folklorico costumes in October 2024
11. Is this request for a ☐ New or ☒ Existing program/service within the City?
12. What is the anticipated time frame to provide the proposed program/service and the expenditure of the requested funds?
Funds would be used by June 2026
13. Describe briefly how the requested funds will be used.
Funds will help underwrite sets and costumes for a fully professional production of TWO different, timely Shakespeare-related works in rotating repertory for desert audiences.
14. Will the program/service require additional funding sources? If so, identify all funding sources and provide the steps taken to acquire funding.
The total cost is \$62,000. Funds leveraged from the RAP Foundation (\$10,000), Inland Empire Community Foundation (\$18,000), Cathedral City (\$2500), City of La Quinta (\$500+), Palm Springs (\$3000), Palm Desert \$1000), individual donations, fundraiser.
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?
The current request is for Spring 2026 Shakespeare Festival only.
16. How will the proposed program/service serve City of Coachella residents? Will the proposed program/service also serve non-Coachella residents? Please describe.
Performances will be local and accessible, with Pick-What-You-Pay tickets available to Coachella residents, especially if we can afford to rent the Community Center on 6th St.
17. Describe the characteristics of the clients the proposed program/service anticipates to serve (i.e. age group, gender, income level, ethnicity, etc.)
Primary audience in ECV has extensive agricultural worker population; median income \$23,962; 45% with high school education; 4% with bachelor's degree, 11% in poverty; 41% foreign-born; 97% of Latine heritage and bilingual or speak only Spanish.

18. Attach a proposed budget for requested funds.

Authorized Official: David Catanzarite

Title: Founding Artistic Director

Signature: 

Date: 12/9/2025

December 10, 2025

Mayor Steven Hernandez
Mayor Pro-Tem Denise Delgado
Ms. Stephanie Virgen
Dr. Frank Figueroa
Ms. Yadira Perez



Estimados Mayor Hernandez and City Council:

With recent cuts to arts funding at all levels, theatre and the lively arts have never been more imperilled. Can you imagine yourself as a member of the community who wants to broaden her outlook? Or as a talented child or teenager who desperately desires to become an artist, but has virtually no access to theatre or dance performance or training? Sadly, this is the case for many families in our beautiful desert.

Adults and children cannot access performing arts due to financial and geographic limitations. A growing body of research shows that the arts are a major contributor to overall social-emotional health and well-being from cradle to grave. Creative expression is an inherent human need. Those who lack access to the arts, just like those who suffer from homelessness and food insecurity, are subject to more frequent and severe mental and physical illnesses. Communities without a healthy performing arts scene also miss out on the economic benefits of “downstream” spending that creates jobs and civic revenues. You have an opportunity to join Green Room Theatre Company in helping to solve these problems.

A grant of \$1,000 from the City of Coachella would support performances of the Newish Shakespeare Festival during 2026 and provide access to the arts for those without means.

Request – A grant of \$1,000 will help Green Room Theatre Company Coachella Valley (GRTCCV) underwrite four weekends with 16 performances of two plays - the Newish Shakespeare Festival - throughout Coachella Valley in March 2026. Funds will underwrite sets and props construction; professional acting and direction; costume and makeup; lights, sound and media for a fully professional rendition of these timely, Shakespeare-based works for desert audiences from Cathedral City to Coachella. Entry-level positions for crew, actors and interns - who work alongside industry professionals - offer career pathways across technical, artistic, and logistical elements of production. In the past we have hired many of our technical crew, designers, and actors from Coachella and hope to continue to do so. **The total cost of the Festival is \$62,000.** Additional funds will be leveraged from the Inland Empire Community Foundation, RAP Foundation, Cathedral City, City of La Quinta, Palm Springs, Palm Desert, individual donors, and a fundraiser at an elegant Palm Springs home.

Background – Green Room Theatre Company is the only company in our region that tours bilingual, professional theatre and ballet folklórico performances to desert residents close to the neighborhoods where they live. Serving a geographical area and local population that severely lacks access to high-quality performing arts, Green Room Theatre Company Coachella Valley creates new works, reinvented classics, touring productions, and site-specific performances for the Coachella Valley. We direct our education programs toward young people and underserved communities with a focus on social-emotional and mental health and empowerment.

History and Successes - Over 16 consecutive seasons, GRTCCV has built increasing success with innovative professional arts offerings. In 2022, we began offering Ballet Folklórico classes: This continuing collaboration with school districts and the Desert Recreation District has served several hundred students with direct instruction at 12 schools in Indio/Palm Desert, as well as the Jerry Rummonds Community Center in Thermal. **The program has impacted more than 10,000 audience members young and old.**

In 2024, GRTCCV garnered widespread media praise, 14 award nominations, and three Desert Star Awards from the Desert Theatre League. We were the honored recipient of a \$130,000 grant from California Creative Corps-Inland SoCal to devise an original play. *Displacement: Stories from Section 14*, was developed by a team of directors, playwrights, and actors, including youth, from the Inland Empire. It provided put a human face on the facts of the 1960s forced evictions on "Section 14" in Palm Springs.

Plays featured this season are a **compacted, bilingual adaptation of *As You Like It (Como Te Gusta)***, set in the Calexico desert and weaving together Spanish, cowboy slang, and Shakespeare's original language. ***American Moor* is a provocative take on *Othello*** from the perspective of a veteran African-American actor auditioning for the title role. Rights are secured for the weekends of March 13 - 15, March 20 - 22, March 27-29, and April 3 and 4, 2026. Each performance of *Como Te Gusta* features a pre-show performance by GRTCCV's Ballet Folklorico project, working with a professional dance company.

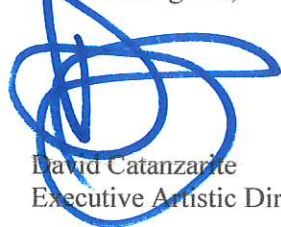
Many of our adult attendees, in post-show surveys, report that ***they have never before seen any form of live theatre***. Participation is inhibited by lack of venues and transportation, and by cost of attendance. Tickets to most desert theatricals range from \$40 to \$150... not viable for a family living at or below poverty level. Residents of Thermal, for example, have a median income of \$15,565. Many families don't own a car and cannot afford transportation to typical desert theatre venues, which are concentrated in Palm Springs. Green Room hires the same actors, designers, and directors as venues in Palm Springs, but **our tickets are Pick-What-You-Pay, starting at \$5.00**. By bringing productions to people within blocks of their homes, we enable patrons to reap the multitude of health and social benefits the arts provide. By keeping ticket prices flexible, GRTCCV removes the barrier of cost.

Need - In the City of Coachella where GRTCCV has its office, performances are still rare. Home to an extensive agricultural worker population, it has been left behind among regional cities, with median individual income of \$23,962 (only 75% of metro average); only 45% of population with even high school education; only 4% with bachelor's degree, 11% of population in poverty; 41% of population foreign-born; 97% are of Hispanic-Latino heritage and are bilingual or speak only Spanish. A staggering 97% of CVUSD students qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch and 98% of CVUSD students identify as Latine. Organizations as diverse as the World Health Organization and National Endowment for the Arts are creating policies to promote public arts offerings with a focus on combatting mental health issues and noncommunicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, Parkinson's, diabetes, and more.

Finances - GRTCCV has thrived for 16 years in a difficult financial and artistic environment. For 2025-26, the S. Mark Taper Foundation expressed its confidence in our work with a \$50,000 investment to support general operating expenses. The California Arts Council has provided another \$16,600. Local cities (including La Quinta, Palm Springs, Cathedral City and Palm Desert) provide sponsorships and grants. Every member of our Board contributes an annual capacity gift.

Your consideration of this request is deeply appreciated. Enclosed, please find a copy of our 501(c3) letter and Program Budget. We would love to answer any questions you may have and discuss our offerings in further detail.

With best regards,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read "David Catanzarite", is written over a circular blue stamp or seal.

David Catanzarite
Executive Artistic Director

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
DIN:
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.

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
Touring Production Spring 2026 Budget
Coachella Valley "Newish" Shakespeare Festival

City of Coachella Request

Line Item Description of Project	Line Item Explanation of Project	Request	Line Item Total of Project
Director Compensation	<i>Como Te Gusta</i> : Oversee all aspects of production	--	\$2,000
Director Compensation	<i>American Moor</i> : Oversee all aspects of production	--	\$1,500
Stage Managers	Manage crew and tech aspects of performances – 2 individuals x \$2000	--	\$4,000
Actors	Compensation for fourteen Actors at \$1,000 each	--	\$14,000
Running Crew	5 crew X \$100 X 16 performances (Sound, Lights, Followspot, Deck Crew, Props)	--	\$8,000
Other Creative Labor	Lighting, Sound, Multimedia, Costume, Makeup and Set Designers at \$1,000 each	--	\$6,000
Publicity and Social Media	Advertising and Marketing/Ticket printing and sales	--	\$5,000
Lighting – Portable Spotlights	Essential to illuminate performers. Megalite Baby Color Q70s for lighting performances at \$350 each plus tax	--	\$4,500
Backdrops- Pipe and Drape Kits	Essential for traveling productions to establish performance space. 2 x Drape Kings 50' x 8' Black Velour at \$2,050 each plus tax	--	\$4,400

Portable Stage Platforms	Allows us to bring the stage with us. ProX XSQ-12x16PKG48 12' x 16' StageQ 6-Stage Platforms 4' x 8' Package Platforms Height Adjustable 28-48"	--	\$6,400
Sets and Props	For Stage Sets, Design – building materials for stage sets and props	\$1,000	\$2,000
Transportation of Equipment	U-Haul Truck Rental for 4 Weeks to transport all props, sets, equipment to performance sites	--	\$1,184
Hair and Makeup	\$100 per show X 16 Performances	--	\$1,600
Costumes	Simple costumes X 14 actors	--	\$1,400
TOTALS:		\$1,000	\$61,984

Each performance is projected to serve an audience of 150 Coachella Valley residents of all ages, backgrounds and income levels for a total of 2,400 individuals benefitting.

This project brings professional quality performing arts directly to the community at a cost of only \$25 per person served.



Supporting Your Community

909.733.5495

P.O. Box 150
San Bernardino, CA 92402
charities@staterbros.com
staterbros.com

December 23, 2025

Mr. David Catanzarite
Green Room Theatre Company
P.O. Box 40
Coachella, CA 92236

Dear Mr. Catanzarite,

At Stater Bros. Charities, we are dedicated to creating opportunities that inspire our communities to thrive. That's why our mission is to uplift Southern California communities through fundraising and investing in local nonprofits that provide hands-on support.

We wholeheartedly believe that the strength of a community is built on multiple acts of kindness. It is this belief that drives our passionate commitment to partnering with local nonprofits who share our mission to connect, collaborate, and build uplifting relationships within our community.

Thank you for taking the time to submit a grant application. We are delighted to further your mission with a \$1,500 donation in support of **Ballet Folklorico in Eastern Coachella Valley**.

We're grateful to partner with like-minded organizations that share the same passion for creating positive change in our communities.

Thank you for all you do, and best wishes for continued success.

Kindest regards,

Nancy Negrette
Chairman and President

