

**2026 Dia de los
Muertos Festival**

**Wilsonville High
School ASB**

Submission information

Form: [2026 Project Nomination Form–Community Enhancement Program](#) [1]
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)
Fri, 01/09/2026 - 1:51pm
198.236.41.35

Applicant Information

Sponsor:

Wilsonville High School ASB

Tax ID#

93-6000234

Contact Person:

Angennette Escobar

Daytime Phone:

971-533-9004

Email Address:

escobara@wlwv.k12.or.us

Address:

6800 SW Wilsonville Rd.

City:

Wilsonville

State:

OR

Zip code:

97070

Type of Organization:

A school or institution of higher learning

Project Information

Project Title:

2026 Dia de los Muertos Festival at Wilsonville High School

Amount Requested:

\$ 12,000

Mark all of the goals below which your project meets and explain how in the boxes below:

- Improve the appearance or environmental quality of the community

- Benefit youth, seniors, low income persons and/or underserved populations
- Foster and enhance community enrichment through educational programming, arts and cultural projects.

How project meets 'Improve the appearance or environmental quality of the community' (be clear & specific)

The Dia de los Muertos Festival at Wilsonville High School will improve our community appearance by adding vibrant colors, flowers and unique art to our public space, transforming it into a beautiful, culturally rich display. This event will boost our school and community pride and social cohesion by bringing diverse groups of people together to share heritage. This will foster inclusivity and a sense of belonging. An ofrenda will be built that will overflow with colorful marigolds, brightly colored papel picado, bread of the dead and sugar skulls. The ofrenda is the heart of the festival and will turn our space into a living art installation. Wilsonville High School and Wilsonville at large will become a site of cultural pride and visual interest, drawing people in and creating a festive atmosphere with art, food, craft, culture, costumes, music and dance.

How project meets 'Benefit youth, seniors, low income persons and/or underserved populations' (be clear & specific)

The Dia de los Muertos Festival at Wilsonville High School is a FREE event that benefits youth, seniors and underserved populations. Our Dia de los Muertos celebration offers significant social, emotional, and cultural benefits to diverse populations by transforming the subject of death into a joyful, communal, and therapeutic experience. This celebration facilitates healing through collective grief processing, strengthens community cohesion, and provides educational opportunities that foster pride in heritage.

There are many benefits to youth including:

Cultural education and identity: For younger generations, especially those with Mexican heritage, the holiday helps embed pride, identity, and connection to ancestral heritage.

Healthy understanding of death: The celebration teaches children that life and death are part of a natural circle, reducing fear and anxiety associated with mortality.

Creative engagement: Through crafting sugar skulls and papel picado and building ofrendas (altars), youth engage in hands-on, artistic, and educational activities.

Emotional processing: Activities like creating an ofrenda allow children to process grief and maintain a continued, loving bond with deceased loved ones.

Benefits to seniors include:

Combating isolation: Our festival involves music, dancing, food and art, offering seniors a way to connect with the community and reduce feelings of isolation.

Intergenerational connection: Seniors often play a key role in sharing traditions and memories, which helps them feel valued and keeps their stories alive.

Processing grief and regret: The celebration provides a structured, and supportive space for older adults to process long-term grief and reconcile with memories of the departed.

Benefits to low-income and underserved populations are:

Accessible healing and community power: For marginalized communities, this public celebration is a form of "ritual communication" that strengthens community and reinforces collective identity.

Solidarity and mutual support: Our festival fosters a spirit of solidarity, emphasizing that collective effort is more meaningful than individual effort, which is essential for supporting vulnerable populations.

Increased visibility: This event brings attention to and celebrates the culture of marginalized groups, fostering a sense of belonging and recognition in the wider community.

General benefits to our overall community include:

Mental health : The holiday provides a "therapeutic" space to turn sorrow into gratitude, helping

people navigate complex emotions like guilt and pain.

Community cohesion: It strengthens social ties, bringing people together to share stories and support one another, thus improving overall mental health.

How project meets 'Foster and enhance community enrichment through educational programming, arts and cultural projects' (be clear & specific)

Wilsonville High School's Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) celebration fosters community enrichment by promoting cultural understanding, empathy, and intergenerational connection through educational programming like altar-building workshops, storytelling, music, dance, art, crafts, traditional food, and history, which normalize conversations about life, death, and remembrance, reinforcing community identity and shared humanity across diverse backgrounds.

Brief Project Description and Explanation of how the CEP funds will be used, include project start and end dates:

The Dia de los Muertos Festival at Wilsonville High School is a free event to remember, honor and celebrate ancestors, loved ones and heroes who have passed. The festival will take place on Wednesday, October 28th- Sunday, November 1, 2026 at Wilsonville High School. Festivities will include a Dia de los Muertos ancestor ofrenda/ altar, memory wall activity, music and dance performances, a student art show, face painting, sugar skull decorating, arts and crafts and more. Families can purchase dinner and treats from food carts and vendors at the event. The festival will include several days of events for students at school during the school day, culminating into a public event to be held during non-school hours.

CEP funds will be used to pay for decorations for the event spaces, purchase supplies for arts, crafts and activities, pay performers, pay for advertising and promotion, and to cover the costs of event management and administrative fees.

Where would the project be located and who owns the property if applicable?

Wilsonville High School owned by the West Linn Wilsonville School District

For a project located on private or other public land (property not owned by the City of Wilsonville), written documentation from the landowner that gives the project sponsor and City permission for the project to occur on the land is required. Indicate here if the project is located on private or other public land (property not owned by the City of Wilsonville) and indicate if written permission from the landowner is to be submitted.

Does not apply.

What impact might the project have on nearby homes and businesses?

None

What kind of on-going maintenance needs and costs might be required by the project?

None

Who will benefit if this project is funded? Estimate how many Wilsonville residents will benefit if this project is funded.

The Dia de los Muertos event at Wilsonville High School is open to the public and free of charge. All Wilsonville residents can benefit from this diverse cultural event. In recent years the event has grown more and more popular. In 2015, the first year it was held, 500 Wilsonville residents attended the event. In 2024, it was estimated that over 1200 participated in the event.

With the help of the Community Enhancement Program, I estimate that upwards of 2000 or more Wilsonville students, their families, residents and visitors will benefit if this project is funded.

How does the project serve diverse or traditionally underserved populations?

The Dia de los Muertos Festival at Wilsonville High School will serve diverse and underserved communities by fostering cultural pride, strengthening community bonds, and offering positive ways to confront mortality and honor ancestors. This is especially important for marginalized groups like Latinx communities.

This celebration will bring people together and unite diverse Latino groups as well as welcome neighbors to share in traditions, fostering a sense of belonging and mutual understanding. It will also provide vital space to remember immigrant ancestors and the sacrifices of past generations, connecting them to the present and honoring their journey.

Does this project serve a specific cultural or ethnic group in Wilsonville? If so, please specify.

Yes, the Dia de los Muertos festival will serve the Mexican and Mexican American community in Wilsonville by acting as a vital celebration and cultural expression for honoring ancestors and reclaiming indigenous roots. But its themes of remembrance and vibrant artistry will also make it a popular, inclusive celebration for many others. In the US, Day of the Dead celebrations have evolved into a unique American hybrid cultural practice for all who want to connect with heritage and honor loved ones.

Upload Optional Supplemental Materials:

Project Budget

Upload project budget sheet available at www.ci.wilsonville.or.us/cep [2]

Upload Budget:

[proposed_budget_for_2026_dia_de_los_muertos_festival.docx](#) [3]

How were these costs estimated (quotes, catalog, previous projects, etc.)?

These costs were estimated based on previous Day of the Dead Festivals ad activities at Wilsonville High School.

Is there secure funding for Sponsor's share of the total costs including funding from other public or private agencies and what are the sources of funding?

N/A

Will the project be completed with the proposed funding or will future funding be necessary?

The project will be completed with the proposed funding.

Funds are available for projects after July 1, 2026. Is this project compatible with that timing? How and when might this project be implemented?

Preliminary planning for the November event will commence as soon as notice of funds are awarded available, with the bulk of the organizing, planning and implementation to occur from Aug- late October ahead of the festival.

Identify if the project is included in an adopted Master Plan or Strategic Plan. (City of Wilsonville, school district, non-profit, etc.)

To my knowledge this project is not included in any master or strategic plan.

Project Management

Provide a brief narrative outlining the major tasks and projected time schedule for completing of each task:

August- September 15: Schedule music/dance performances, schedule/reserve food vendors, order marigolds

September 1- 15: Order supplies/ materials for decorations and activities. Request invoices and arrange payment for performers, food vendors.

September 15- October 15: Organize, fabricate and store decorations for the event. Design, print and distribute event posters. Advertise in Spokesman and Boones Ferry Messenger.

October 15- 30: Email blasts about the event, advertise on social media. Prepare arts and activities centers. Install art show in event space.

October 27-29: In school building events and activities leading up to Festival: Memory wall activity, musical/dance performances, art show attendance, sugar skull decorating, etc.

October 30- Nov 1st: Build/ decorate ofrenda, prepare and decorate venue for activities, performers and event spectators/visitors, hold public Day of the Dead Festival event.

Describe prior experience managing similar projects. Include prior Community Enhancement Projects:

I am a working artist as well as an art director/ art educator for Wilsonville HS. I have started, organized, planned and executed every Dia de los Muertos Festival at Wilsonville HS from 2015-2025. I also, recently, completed one of the Hearts of Wilsonville painted hearts with my National Art Honor Society students.

Does this project require coordination with other public and private organizations? Has the necessary coordination been completed? If yes, please describe.

N/A

If the project is located on private land, discuss the public benefit of the project and provide landowner permission for the project with this application:

N/A

Do you have currently have an active CEP grant?

No

If yes, will you be seeking and exception?

No, an exception is not needed or requested.

Project Certifications:

- This project will not promote or inhibit religion in any way.
- This project will not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, age, gender or sexual orientation in any way.

Signature:

Angennette Escobar

Date Signed: Fri 1/9/26

Electronic signature agreement. By selecting the "I Accept" button, you are signing this agreement electronically. You agree your electronic signature is the legal equivalent of your manual signature on this Agreement. By selecting "I Accept" you consent to be legally bound by this Agreement's terms and conditions. You further agree that your use of a key pad, mouse or other device to select an item, button, icon or similar act/action, or in accessing or making any transaction

regarding any agreement, acknowledgement, consent terms, disclosures or conditions constitutes your signature (hereafter referred to as "E-Signature"), acceptance and agreement as if actually signed by you in writing. You also agree that no certification authority or other third party verification is necessary to validate your E-Signature and that the lack of such certification or third party verification will not in any way affect the enforceability of your E-Signature. You also represent that you are authorized to enter into this Agreement for all persons who own or are authorized to access any of your accounts and that such persons will be bound by the terms of this Agreement.

I accept: Yes

Source URL:<https://www.wilsonvilleoregon.gov/node/129493/submission/67583>

Links

[1] <https://www.wilsonvilleoregon.gov/bc-mce/webform/2026-project-nomination-form%E2%80%93community-enhancement-program> [2] <http://www.ci.wilsonville.or.us/cep> [3] https://www.wilsonvilleoregon.gov/system/files/webform/proposed_budget_for_2026_dia_de_los_muertos_festival.docx

Proposed Budget for 2026 Dia de los Muertos Festival at Wilsonville High School

Ofrenda supplies	\$500
Face Painting supplies	\$300
Performers	\$5000
Sugar Skull Making and Decorating	\$300
Memory Wall activity supplies and incentives (school day event)	\$1800
Decorations for event spaces	\$600
Costumes	\$1200
Advertising (printing)	\$300
Administrative/ staff time	\$2000
Total=	\$12,000

Kaylee Edwards

From: Zoe Mombert
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 9:50 AM
To: Angenette Escobar
Cc: Kaylee Edwards
Subject: RE: Wilsonville - Metro Community Enhancement Grant Application Follow up

Importance: High

Angenette,

I hope you are doing well! As a reminder, please plan to answer the questions below at the April 30 Community Enhancement Committee meeting.

Kind regards,

Zoe Mombert
(she/her/hers)
Assistant to the City Manager
City of Wilsonville

Disclosure Notice: Messages to and from this e-mail address may be subject to the Oregon Public Records Law.

From: Zoe Mombert
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2026 1:34 PM
To: Angenette Escobar <escobara@wlwv.k12.or.us>
Subject: Wilsonville - Metro Community Enhancement Grant Application Follow up

Hello Angenette,

I hope you are well and looking forward to spring break! I met with city staff to review the Wilsonville – Metro Community Enhancement grant applications in preparation for the April 30, Wilsonville – Metro Community Enhancement Committee grant review meeting. Staff had the following questions and feedback:

- Is this a one-time enhancement of the Dia de los Muertos event?
- How will the larger event be maintained?
- How much volunteer labor will be provided (in kind match)?
- How much of the request is for the school only vs. community event(s)?
- Can you please provide more detail about the types of school and community events included in this project?
- What is the cost of the school (daytime) events and cost of the community (evening) events?
- What supplies are needed for an activity wall?
- To confirm, the event will not prohibit or exclude anyone based on religion.

If you have an opportunity to provide additional information to me via email by April 15, that would be appreciated.

As a reminder, the Wilsonville – Metro Community Enhancement Committee will meet on April 30, 2026, 6:00pm in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. Your grant presentation can up to 5 minutes long and the committee may also ask you questions about your proposed project. Please let me know if you have any questions and I look forward to learning more about your grant proposal.

Kind regards,

Zoe Mombert

(she/her/hers)

Assistant to the City Manager

City of Wilsonville/ Explore Wilsonville

503.570.1503

mombert@wilsonvilleoregon.gov

www.ci.wilsonville.or.us

www.ExploreWilsonville.com

[Facebook.com/CityofWilsonville](https://www.facebook.com/CityofWilsonville)



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