

Black Theatre Troupe

Location: Tempe Center for the Arts

Date: October 15 – November 3, 2024

Description: This year's project, *The Color Purple*, marks Black Theatre Troupe's return to Tempe in collaboration with Tempe Center for the Arts for another year. As the second longest continually operating Black theatre company in the U.S., they bring Alice Walker's powerful story to life with a talented cast lineup. Directed by Patdro Harris, the production runs from October 15 to November 3, 2025, in TCA's Studio. Through support from Community Arts funding, this project not only celebrates African American heritage but also fosters community engagement and diversity in the arts. With a rich history of cultural impact, Black Theatre Troupe remains committed to uplifting marginalized voices and advancing Tempe's cultural vibrancy through compelling theatre experiences.

Website: blacktheatretroupe.org

CaZo Dance Theatre

Location: Tempe Center for the Arts

Date: November 8 and 9, 2024

Description: CaZo Dance Company's upcoming production, "Fate," explores how lives intertwine under the influence of otherworldly powers. Featuring bi-racial couples and addressing themes like love, loss, and war, the heartfelt production appeals to wide audiences. Performances will be held at Tempe Center for the Arts on November 8th and 9th, 2024, with both live and virtual options. Through the help of grant funding, CaZo seeks to connect the dance community with the Tempe community by promoting inclusivity and cultural engagement through dance. The performances will blend varied dance styles, live music, and powerful storytelling to revolutionize the perception of dance and transcend cultural stereotypes.

Website: cazodance.com

CAFÉ Flutes

Location: Inspirations of Tempe and Sage Point Mobile Home Park

Date: September 2024 – June 2025

Description: Central Arizona Flute Ensemble (CAFÉ Flutes) enriches and inspires the community through interactive concerts and programs showcasing the diverse instruments in the flute family. From September 2024 to June 2025, CAFÉ Flutes will perform ten interactive concerts for seniors in two Tempe communities: Inspirations of Tempe and Sage Point Mobile Home Park. These concerts will provide intellectual engagement, emotional connection, and a shared community experience. Five concerts will be hosted at Inspirations of Tempe Assisted Living on Thursdays at 6pm, and five at Sage Point's Clubhouse on Friday evenings at 7pm. The performances will feature various genres, from classical to jazz, and involve the audience through singalongs and interactive elements. With grant funding, this project aims to create a lasting impact on Tempe seniors by fostering inclusivity, engagement, and a love for music.

Website: cafeflutes.com

Childsplay

Location: Sybil B. Harrington Campus for Imagination and Wonder

Date: September 2024 – June 2025

Description: Childsplay's grant funds will be used to support their Theatre Academy, which operates out of the company's Sybil B. Harrington Campus for Imagination and Wonder in Tempe and will feature final performances at Tempe Center for the Arts. The program provides a diverse range of theatre learning experiences for children ages 4-17, in classes taught by professional teaching artists. The Academy teaches valuable theatre skills, engages children in an active, whole-body learning experience, providing them with tools for collaboration, self-confidence, and creativity. Nearly 1,500 children benefit from the Academy. The program also serves disadvantaged youth who have limited access to organized activities through an active scholarship program.

Website: childsplayaz.org

Desert Dance Theatre

Location: Tempe Center for the Arts

Date: September 19-21, 2024

Description: Community Arts grant funding will support Desert Dance Theatre's 25th Arizona Dance Festival (ADF), held September 19-21, 2024 at the Tempe Center for the Arts to showcase the diverse talent of Arizona's dance community. This festival enriches Tempe by providing local artists with performance opportunities, fostering connections, and promoting cultural engagement. Featuring up to 30 dance artists and companies, ADF offers a platform for both emerging and established dancers to present their work. The inclusive programming reflects Tempe's rich cultural diversity, and post-show Q&A sessions deepen connections between artists and audiences. The long-standing success of ADF highlights its vital role in supporting and growing Tempe's vibrant arts community.

Website: desertdancetheatre.org

Desert Overture Live Cultural Entertainment

Location: Tempe Center for the Arts

Date: September 2024 and June 2025

Description: Desert Overture Live Cultural Entertainment (DOLCE) is an LGBTQIA+ organization dedicated to entertain, enrich, educate, and support the community through music. Comprised of the 60+ member Desert Overture Wind Symphony and the 18-member Desert City Jazz, DOLCE's two ensembles regularly perform concerts throughout the year. With this grant, Desert Overture Wind Symphony will perform "Symphony of the Wild" in September 2024 and a themed concert in June 2025 at the Tempe Center for the Arts. The organization continues to create bridges of understanding between the LGBTQIA+ community and the general public as their concerts offer educational and entertaining experiences while fostering inclusion. DOLCE's commitment to support and accessibility helps to continually enhance the cultural fabric of Tempe.

Website: desertoverture.org

Downtown Tempe Foundation

Location: Centerpoint Plaza

Date: June 14, 2025

Description: Downtown Tempe Foundation (DTF)'s mission is to curate diverse and impactful experiences that cultivate community engagement. This grant will support the inclusion of both the visual and the performing arts in their 4th annual Juneteenth event on June 14, 2025 in Downtown Tempe. The event aims to highlight Black history, education, and immersive artistic experiences. The celebration will feature diverse activities such as live performances, interactive art installations, haiku poetry, dance showcases, and local Black and Brown-owned vendors, which helps foster cultural celebration and promote both social justice and racial equality. By integrating Black culture and history into a welcoming environment, the Juneteenth event aims to inspire and educate attendees of all ages, encouraging reflection, engagement, and community unity in Downtown Tempe.

Website: downtowntempe.com

FABRIC Tempe

Location: FABRIC Tempe

Date: September 2024 – June 2025, last Thursday of each month

Description: FABRIC Tempe empowers Arizona's fashion designers and entrepreneurs by offering essential resources, education, and support to create sustainable businesses. Their monthly event series, "Behind The Seams," runs from September 2024 to June 2025 and features industry experts who share their journeys and insights. These free events provide interactive Q&A sessions, networking opportunities, and post-event resources, ensuring inclusivity for all community members. This grant will support the event series, enabling FABRIC to continue offering high-quality, relevant programming that connects with the Tempe community. By supporting local artists and fostering a vibrant fashion community, FABRIC continues to contribute to the cultural development of Tempe.

Website: fabricincubator.com

Grey Box Collective

Location: Childsplay Theatre

Date: November 15-16, 2024

Description: Grey Box Collective (GBC) is a performance group dedicated to creating original shows that address social and emotional wellbeing rooted in social issues. With this grant, GBC will host "Positive Ruminations," an event featuring five multidisciplinary performances exploring mental health, climate change, transformative grief, busy culture, and empathy/compassion fatigue. The performances will take place on November 15 and 16, 2024, at Childsplay Theatre in Tempe, and will provide a unique evening of thought-provoking programming. The performances are developed through an iterative process, involving community feedback and collaboration. By addressing critical topics and fostering open dialogue, GBC aims to enhance empathy, curiosity, and connection.

Website: greyboxcollective.com

Heart Heals AZ

Location: Tempe Center for the Arts

Date: April 17-18, 2025

Description: Community Arts grant funds will support Heart Heals AZ's upcoming event, "Life in Motion: Finding Purpose Through Dance" on April 17 and 18, 2025. The event will provide arts education, community resources, and performance opportunities to local dancers, choreographers, and filmmakers. Held at the Tempe Center for the Arts and in collaboration with The Jukebox Grounds, a local hip-hop dance studio, the project will feature 10 dance films with Q&A opportunities on April 17th, followed by 10 live choreographed performances on the 18th. Through mentorship and a platform for diverse voices, the initiative highlights the transformative power of the arts in personal and communal growth. By inviting artists to showcase their work, the event emphasizes the importance of purpose-driven art in enriching individual lives and strengthening community bonds, contributing to the cultural vibrancy of Tempe.

Website: hearthealsaz.com

HeARTsy

Location: Pathways to Work and The Center for Rehabilitation

Date: September 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Description: HeARTsy is dedicated to bringing fine art programming to underserved populations. Grant funding for HeARTsy will support six art sessions at Pathway to Work (PTW), as well as four advanced art sessions, three arts business development classes, and two Q&A sessions at The Center for Habilitation (TCH) from September 2024 to June 2025. Participants will develop new art mediums to sell at PTW's maker space. The new location at TCH will also feature an onsite "Unique Boutique" for selling higher-quality arts products. This project fosters economic independence for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities by providing creative skills and business training, enriching their lives and contributing to Tempe's continuous cultural and economic growth.

Website: beheartsy.com

Lights Camera Discover

Location: Lights Camera Discover

Date: August 5, 2024 – June 27, 2025

Description: Lights Camera Discover's Animation Program will offer free, nine-week courses for K-12 students in Tempe, focusing on traditional animation skills such as character design, drawing, and cell animation. Supported by grant funding, this program serves up to 30 students annually, promoting inclusivity and access to arts education for youth from low-income backgrounds. Given that 16.8% of Tempe children live in poverty, this program addresses a significant community need by providing valuable creative opportunities. With a focus on BIPOC populations, the program aims to foster diversity in the animation industry. Through partnerships with local schools and a dedicated staff of professional artists, Lights Camera Discover impacts the community by equipping the next generation with artistic skills and inspiring career aspirations in STEAM fields.

Website: lightscameradiscover.org

Methods of Madness Dance Theater

Location: The Graduate Hotel

Date: January 29-30, 2025

Description: Methods of Madness presents the Arizona Drive-in Dance Film Festival, a free, site-specific pop-up performance for all ages at the Graduate Hotel that occurs annually for the Tempe community. Dance enthusiasts, film lovers and drive-in movie daydreamers come together for an evening of film choreography and community gathering from the comfort of their own car. Supported by grant funds, the event will feature local choreographers from diverse backgrounds in varying stages of their artistic journey. The festival will increase artists' exposure by presenting their work on a giant outdoor projector to the Tempe public while providing an inclusive evening of immersive art performances. The Arizona Drive-in Dance Film Festival continues to bring people together as the films function as relics and reflections of today.

Website: halleywillcox.net

Movement Source Dance Company

Location: Tempe Center for the Arts

Date: March 22, 2025

Description: Movement Source, a nonprofit multi-media modern dance company, is dedicated to expanding the audience for dance in Arizona through engaging performances, education programs, and events. Grant funding will go towards producing this year's season finale, "No Boundaries," at the Tempe Center for the Arts. The event exemplifies Movement Source's mission by presenting innovative works by in-house choreographers and national guest artists, accompanied by an original soundscape from violinist Megyn Neff. By integrating dance with other art forms and ensuring diverse representation among its performers and collaborators, Movement Source creates immersive, community-centered experiences.

Website: movementsourcedancecompany.org

Musician Enrichment Foundation

Location: Corona del Sol High School

Date: June 9-13, 2025

Description: Musician Enrichment Foundation's 9th Annual MEF Band Camp will be held at Corona del Sol High School in June 2025. This world-class camp, catering to students in grades 7-12, focuses on developing both musical and life skills through its week-long timeframe. Twenty Tempe students will benefit from the Tempe Resident Financial Assistance Tuition Rate, attending the camp for only \$50. Additionally, the camp will host a culminating concert and instrument try-out field trip for 100 Tempe Elementary District summer school students at 5pm on Friday, June 13th. With its mission to enhance community life and enrich musicians, MEF continually provides exceptional musical instruction and community engagement for over 40 volunteers and 140 campers.

Website: musicianenrichmentfoundation.org

Phoenix Funk Familia

Location: The Battleground Gym

Date: March 21-23, 2025

Description: Grant funding will support Phoenix Funk Familia's EachOne/TeachOne (EOTO) festival, backing their mission of uniting artists and culture bearers to represent Arizona on national and international stages. The three-day EOTO arts festival will feature dance performances, competitions, workshops, and community-building opportunities. By providing free arts education, workshops, and events, the organization breaks down barriers, making street dance accessible to all. Prioritizing collaboration with BIPOC artists, entrepreneurs, and partners, the festival fosters inclusivity and supports emerging artists through mentorship and professional development. This initiative not only enhances the artistic growth of young dancers but also strengthens community bonds, promoting cultural expression and unity within street dance.

Website: [instagram.com/phoenixfunkfamilia](https://www.instagram.com/phoenixfunkfamilia)

Phoenix Gay Men's Chorus

Location: Tempe Center for the Arts

Date: June 6-7, 2025

Description: The Phoenix Gay Men's Chorus (PHXGMC) is dedicated to uniting, inspiring, educating, and entertaining diverse audiences through powerful performances. The Summer 2025 concert at Tempe Center for the Arts will address significant LGBTQ issues, promote understanding, and foster community unity. By tackling themes such as bullying, discrimination, and acceptance through choral music, dance, and theater, PHXGMC's performances resonate deeply with audiences and inspire social change. Grant funding is essential to support these initiatives, enabling the chorus to provide free arts education, workshops, and events that make their performances accessible to all. The chorus's message of acceptance and unity is more critical than ever, offering a crucial strategy for gaining new allies and changing hearts and minds.

Website: [phxgmc.org](https://www.phxgmc.org)

Phoenix Screenwriters Association

Location: ASU's Marston Theater

Date: May 2-4, 2025

Description: The Phoenix Screenwriters Association (PSA) will present the 3rd Annual Phoenix Emerging Screenwriters Conference in May 2025 at Arizona State University's Marston Theater in Tempe and online via Zoom. This unique event brings together over 120 screenwriters to learn from industry professionals through workshops, networking opportunities, presentations, and screenings. With grant funding, PSA is able to offer the event to a diverse audience, making it accessible to individuals from all socio-economic backgrounds. The conference is a crucial component in Arizona's growing film industry, supporting the professional development of screenwriters by providing invaluable resources. By promoting inclusivity and community engagement, the PSA continues to be a vital resource for emerging and established screenwriters in Tempe and beyond.

Website: [phoenixscreenwriters.org](https://www.phoenixscreenwriters.org)

Rising Youth Theatre

Location: Tempe Transportation Center

Date: March 2025

Description: Rising Youth Theatre (RYT), in partnership with Valley Metro and the Tempe Transportation Center (TTC), will bring The Light Rail Plays to Tempe in March 2025. Celebrating over a decade of success, the project draws on mentorship, innovative performances, live music, and youth-adult collaboration. Set on the Light Rail platform at the TTC, the performances attract diverse audiences, including those who might not typically attend theater. Starting in 2014, the plays continuously engage the community in unique public spaces, fostering inclusivity and connection. This year's performance aims to build on new relationships with Tempe schools, engaging a broader group of youth and providing a dynamic arts experience. With grant funding, RYT continues to create meaningful opportunities for youth leadership and community engagement, making theater accessible and inviting for all.

Website: risingyouththeatre.org

Tetra String Quartet

Location: Tempe History Museum and Arizona Autism Academy

Date: September 28, December 14, 2024, March 1, May 3 & June 2025

Description: Tetra String Quartet will use this grant to present four Azure Family Concerts at the Tempe History Museum with a final performance at Arizona Autism Academy. These chamber music performances are tailored to individuals on the autism spectrum or with sensory processing challenges, providing a welcoming environment where all behaviors are accepted, aiming to create an engaging experience for every attendee. These free, one-hour events feature multi-sensory elements such as "fun fidgets" and interactive music-making opportunities. Admission to Azure concerts is free for all audience members. Each concert session contributes to building community bonds within Tempe by celebrating and embracing neurodiversity in artistic expression.

Website: tetraquartet.org

The Bridge Initiative

Location: Tempe Center for the Arts

Date: January 31 – February 7, 2025

Description: The Bridge Initiative, a women-led artistic collective, continues its mission to foster inclusivity and equity in the arts with their upcoming productions at Tempe Center for the Arts in early 2025. The Bridge will stage the regional premiere of Nia Vardalos's "Tiny Beautiful Things" and the world premiere of "Crooked Shadows" by Shawneen Rowe, featuring a guest artist from New York City. These productions not only showcase diverse local talents both on and offstage but also underline TBI's commitment to fair compensation and gender parity in theatre, offering multiple performances to engage and inspire the Tempe community. Additionally, TBI will host interactive talkbacks after select performances, enriching the audience's experience and fostering deeper connections between artists and viewers in Tempe.

Website: bridgeinit.org

Theater Works

Location: Tempe Public Library (Desert Willow Room)

Date: December 16, 2024

Description: With Community Arts grant funding, TheaterWorks presents Hans Christian Andersen's "The Fir Tree" at Tempe Public Library's Desert Willow room in December 2024. This production features two free performances integrating music, puppetry, and storytelling, inviting audiences of all ages to participate in a communal celebration of hope and patience through familiar holiday songs. TheaterWorks ensures accessibility by removing financial barriers, fostering a shared cultural experience that resonates across diverse backgrounds. Through inclusive casting practices and employment opportunities for local artists, TheaterWorks not only strengthens the artistic community but also empowers diverse voices to shape and contribute to the cultural landscape of Tempe and beyond.

Website: theaterworks.org

Third Space Dance Project

Location: ASU's Nelson Fine Arts Center Studio and Escalante Community Center

Date: September 2024 – June 2025

Description: Third Space Dance Project (TSDP) is excited to present their Training, Research, and Dance Enquiry (TRADE) Labs series. Facilitated by renowned teaching artists, TRADE Labs will offer immersive workshops from September 2024 to June 2025 to enrich the local dance community by exploring diverse dance traditions and techniques. Grant funds enable TSDP to support artist research and training, fostering the development of intermediate to professional dancers in Arizona. Through these workshops, TSDP ensures that both established and emerging artists can develop their artistic voices and transition into the professional arena. This initiative addresses the critical need for accessible, intensive training opportunities, helping to bridge the gap for local dance artists who may face socioeconomic or geographic barriers to professional growth.

Website: thirdspacedanceproject.org

Yes And Productions

Location: Eisendrath House

Date: January 25-26, 2025

Description: Yes And Productions is dedicated to creating interactive, site-specific performances in unexpected locations outside of the traditional performance environment. "Open House," a 50-minute performance tailor-made for Tempe's historic Eisendrath House, will take place on January 25 and 26, 2025. Grant funding will support the production's diverse cast and the creation of an immersive, high-quality event. The Ladies will play two delightfully awkward '90s moms hosting an open house, where the audience plays the roles of potential buyers. Encountering some eccentric characters, participants will enjoy a humorous and inviting theater experience. This grant-supported show enriches the community by making innovative, interactive art accessible while highlighting the charm and history of the Eisendrath House.

Website: yesandproductions.org