

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
2026 PROP 202 – 12% CONTRIBUTION GRANT APPLICATION

NARRATIVE

PROJECT TITLE:

Maricopa Desert Music & Arts Festival 2027: Community Arts, Cultural Enrichment, and Economic Development Initiative

APPLICANT:

Great Sounds Promotions

FISCAL AGENT:

City of Maricopa (Pending Approval)

AMOUNT REQUESTED:

\$15,000

A. PURPOSE OF GRANT

1. Describe the proposed program, project, or purchase.

Great Sounds Promotions seeks funding to support the Maricopa Desert Music & Arts Festival 2027, a two-day community arts and cultural event scheduled for March 5–6, 2027, in Maricopa, Arizona. The festival will feature nationally recognized and regional performing artists representing jazz, gospel, and contemporary music traditions while providing residents and visitors with opportunities to experience high-quality live arts programming within their own community.

The project addresses the growing need for accessible arts and cultural programming in the City of Maricopa and surrounding communities. As Maricopa continues to grow, residents seek opportunities that foster community connection, cultural engagement, and quality-of-life experiences. The festival serves as a gathering place where diverse audiences can come together through music, artistic expression, and shared cultural experiences.

Funding requested through the Ak-Chin Indian Community Prop 202 Grant Program will support direct project expenses including artist fees, production services, sound and lighting equipment, venue expenses, marketing and promotional activities, and other event-related costs necessary to produce a successful community arts event. No grant funds will be used for salaries or wages.

In addition to live performances, the festival will incorporate arts appreciation and cultural engagement opportunities that encourage audiences to learn more about musical traditions, artistic expression, and the cultural significance of the performing arts.

2. Identify the target population that will be served by the Project.

The Maricopa Desert Music & Arts Festival will serve residents of Maricopa, Pinal County, and neighboring communities throughout Central Arizona. The event is designed to be inclusive and accessible to adults, families, seniors, veterans, community leaders, arts supporters, and visitors.

The festival is expected to attract approximately 500 to 1,000 attendees over the two-day event. Participants will represent diverse cultural, economic, and age demographics. The project will provide opportunities for residents who may otherwise have limited access to professional performing arts experience within their local community.

3. Describe the Project goals and objectives and outline a plan to meet these goals.

Goal 1: Increase access to arts and cultural experiences.

Objective: Present two days of high-quality live performances featuring nationally recognized and regional artists.

Goal 2: Strengthen community engagement and cultural appreciation.

Objective: Create opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in shared cultural experiences that celebrate music, creativity, and artistic expression.

Goal 3: Support local economic activity.

Objective: Attract attendees to Maricopa who will utilize local businesses, restaurants, lodging facilities, and other community services during the festival weekend.

Goal 4: Enhance quality of life through arts programming.

Objective: Provide meaningful cultural experiences that foster civic pride and strengthen Maricopa's identity as a growing arts and cultural destination.

Great Sounds Promotions will meet these goals through artist recruitment, community outreach, strategic marketing, sponsorship development, volunteer engagement, and collaboration with local partners.

4. Provide a timetable for implementation of the Project.

July–September 2026

- Artist contracting and project planning
- Sponsorship development
- Venue coordination

October–December 2026

- Marketing preparation
- Community outreach planning
- Production and logistics planning

January–February 2027

- Public marketing campaign
- Media promotion
- Volunteer recruitment and coordination

March 5–6, 2027

- Maricopa Desert Music & Arts Festival presented

March–April 2027

- Evaluation and reporting
- Financial reconciliation
- Collection of attendance and community impact data

B. RESOURCES

1. Identify current funding sources for the Project and characterize each funding source listed as either a one-time-only or long-term funding source.

The Maricopa Desert Music & Arts Festival is supported through a combination of grants, sponsorships, ticket revenue, organizational contributions, and community partnerships.

Current and anticipated funding sources include:

- Great Sounds Promotions Organizational Contribution – Long-Term
- Ticket Sales and Event Revenue – Long-Term
- Corporate Sponsorships – Long-Term
- Community Donations – Long-Term
- Arizona Arts and Cultural Grant Opportunities – One-Time and Renewable
- Ak-Chin Indian Community Prop 202 Grant Request – One-Time Request

The requested Ak-Chin funding will serve as a critical investment in the 2027 festival and will leverage additional community and organizational support.

2. Identify other organizations or partners participating in or contributing to the Project and describe their roles or contributions.

Great Sounds Promotions collaborates with community organizations, local businesses, media partners, volunteers, artists, and civic leaders to successfully present the festival.

The City of Maricopa is approaching to serve as fiscal agent for the Ak-Chin grant application and supports community arts and cultural initiatives that benefit residents.

Additional partners may provide promotional support, volunteer assistance, sponsorships, in-kind services, and community outreach efforts that contribute to the overall success of the festival.

3. Define the Project as a new or continuing project or purchase. Provide information about how the Project will be sustained after grant funding is exhausted.

The Maricopa Desert Music & Arts Festival is a continuing community arts project. Great Sounds Promotions successfully launched the festival and intends to continue building it as an annual cultural event serving Maricopa and surrounding communities.

The festival's long-term sustainability strategy includes:

- Corporate sponsorship development
- Community partnerships
- Ticket revenue
- Grant funding
- Individual donations
- Organizational support from Great Sounds Promotions

The requested Ak-Chin funding will strengthen the festival's capacity and assist in establishing a stronger foundation for future growth and sustainability.

4. Tribal Funding History

- a. Pending Requests Made Within the Last Eighteen (18) Months

Great Sounds Promotions has not submitted any pending funding requests to other Arizona tribes for this project within the last eighteen (18) months.

- b. Funded Requests Made Within the Last Five (5) Years

Great Sounds Promotions has not received funding from any Arizona tribe within the last five (5) years.

C. REPORTS

Great Sounds Promotions maintains financial oversight and accountability through established nonprofit financial management practices. All grant funds will be tracked separately and used exclusively for approved project expenses.

If selected for funding, the organization will maintain detailed records of expenditures including invoices, contracts, receipts, and payment documentation. Financial records will be reconciled throughout the project period to ensure compliance with grant requirements.

Project progress and results will be documented through:

- Attendance counts
- Ticket sales reports
- Marketing and media metrics
- Audience feedback
- Community partner feedback
- Event photography and documentation
- Financial reporting

Following the completion of the project, Great Sounds Promotions will prepare a comprehensive report detailing project activities, outcomes, expenditures, attendance figures, and community impact.

D. BUDGET-Amount Requested: \$15,000

Proposed Use of Funds:

Total Project Budget: \$40,000

Revenue Sources	Amount
Ak-Chin Prop 202 Request	\$15,000
Ticket Revenue	\$8,000
Corporate Sponsorships	\$10,000
Great Sounds Promotions Contribution	\$2,000
Additional Grants & Donations	\$5,000
Total Revenue	\$40,000

Project Expenses

Expense Category	Amount
Artist Fees	\$15,000
Production / Sound / Lighting	\$8,000
Venue & Operations	\$5,000
Marketing & Promotion	\$6,000
Insurance / Security / Misc.	\$3,000
Hospitality / Artist Support	\$3,000
Total Expenses	\$40,000

Budget Justification

The Maricopa Desert Music & Arts Festival is a two-day community arts and cultural event designed to provide residents and visitors with access to high-quality performing arts programming while contributing to community engagement and local economic activity.

The requested Ak-Chin funding of \$15,000 will primarily support artist fees, production expenses, and technical services necessary to present professional-quality performances. Artist fees represent the largest project expense and are critical to attracting nationally recognized and regional performers capable of drawing audiences and enhancing the overall festival experience.

Production expenses include professional sound, lighting, staging support, and technical services required to ensure a safe, accessible, and high-quality event. Additional project costs include venue expenses, marketing and promotional activities, insurance, security, and hospitality services necessary for successful event operations.

The requested grant represents approximately 37.5% of the total project budget. Remaining project costs will be supported through ticket revenue, sponsorships, community donations, and organizational contributions from Great Sounds Promotions.

Grant funds are expected to be expended between September 2026 and March 2027, with final reconciliation and reporting completed by April 2027.

E. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Great Sounds Promotions is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with more than thirty years of experience producing community-based arts, music, educational, and cultural programming. The organization is dedicated to promoting music, education, and entertainment that offers sound positive values to the community.

The Maricopa Desert Music & Arts Festival represents an important investment in the cultural vitality of the City of Maricopa and surrounding region. In addition to providing meaningful arts experiences, the festival contributes to local economic activity by attracting visitors who support area businesses, restaurants, hotels, and community services.

The requested funding will help ensure that residents have access to professional-quality arts programming while strengthening community engagement, cultural appreciation, and quality-of-life opportunities. Great Sounds Promotions appreciates the opportunity to submit this request and respectfully seeks the Ak-Chin Indian Community's consideration and support. The festival also contributes to Maricopa's growing reputation as a destination for arts, culture, and community engagement, helping attract visitors and encouraging continued investment in local quality-of-life initiatives.