

## **Ak Chin Indian Community 2026 Grant Application Narrative**

### **1. Description:**

Maricopa's new Pedestrian Bridge, opening in 2027 enhances connectivity, safety & accessibility, linking highway, rail line, residential, retail, entertainment, arts & dining with self guided walkability. Greater Maricopa Business Alliance is a 501c6 who connects, supports and advances businesses across Western Pinal County.

Imagine Maricopa the way it was always meant to feel — streets buzzing with music, the smell of food trucks drifting through the evening air, neighbors stopping to actually talk to one another, and a downtown corridor alive with art, commerce, and laughter. That's not a dream. That's Maricopa First Fridays Downtown happening every first Friday of the month, from 6 to 10 p.m.

What began as a vision for a walkable, pedestrian-first historic downtown experience has grown into one of the most ambitious community events the city has seen. Spanning eight distinct zones across a mile of downtown Maricopa, the event brings together local restaurants, minority-owned businesses, food trucks, artists, cultural venues, veterans, youth entrepreneurs, pets and families under one extraordinary evening.

This is not a street fair. This is Maricopa's heartbeat made visible — and the city's most exciting opportunity for businesses to grow their brand in front of a captivated, engaged, and growing crowd.

Every zone has been thoughtfully curated to serve a different audience while feeding the same electric energy. "Roots Eatery Social Garden" delivers Date Night vibes with dining & music at Maricopa Manor. The Greater Maricopa Business Alliance hosts "Pets & Vets Night Market" including Music, Food Trucks, Locally Owned Veteran Businesses & Pet Friendly Vendors, Little Whiskers Animal Rescue and local Children's Author of "Can I have a Dog?" Barbara Schmuland Miller. A "Car & Bike Show" anchors near Historic Headquarters Restaurant. Black Maricopa Chamber of Commerce features minority-owned vendors, DECA Student entrepreneurs, and the new Sunset Picture Booth experience near the Historic Water Tower. Dukes Roadhouse offers dining, music, line dancing & yardgames, FOR Maricopa shines a light on local non profits, flower shop & tattoos, "Art Heals" at StageStop Marketplace offers live music, Adult & Youth Artisans, Demonstration Station, Live Artists, a HealthMobile, food trucks & Venus Moon Wellness Boutique. The Historical Society Museum will offer a warm welcome, RailCar Tours, Sunset Yoga on the grass, Be Awesome Youth Coalition Lego Shop, LED balloons & toys, & Rotary Club Therapy Dogs, entertainment at the outdoor performance stage, Mandy's Wine Bar, DSPA Gems Snack Bar, 4H Youth SideWinders offering a Mini Petting Zoo, Free Pokemon Go Course, Brooklin Grant's Sound Bath Therapy, Food Trucks & featuring a Quiet Area on the Porch for those who need a break from noise & activity, bike racks, free public parking, RIDE347 presence and the city's full safety infrastructure.

*"This isn't just a street fair. This is Maricopa's heartbeat made visible — and the city's most powerful platform for local businesses."*

**EVENT STRUCTURE — EIGHT ZONES. ONE UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT.**

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Date Night</b>	Maricopa Manor · Roots Eatery · Social Garden · DJ
<b>Zone</b>	<b>Pets &amp; Vets Night Market</b>	Greater Maricopa Business Alliance · Local Veteran Business Zone · Food Trucks · Night Market - Free treats for your dogs, Little Whiskers Animal Rescue, Local Children's Author Barbara Schmuland Miller, "Can I Have a Dog?"
<b>Zone</b>	<b>Car &amp; Bike Show</b>	Historic Headquarters Restaurant · Car & Bike Show
<b>Zone ★</b>	<b>BMCC Culture &amp; Commerce</b>	Black Maricopa Chamber Hub · local high school entrepreneur DECA Club Vendor Booth Night Market · Historic Water Tower Sunset Picture Booth experience · Youth Zone, Historic 1910 Century Palm Tree
<b>Zone</b>	<b>TrailBlazers Round UP</b>	Duke's Roadhouse · Dining, Music, Line Dancing, Yard Games, FOR Maricopa Food Bank, Flower Shop, Tattoo Shop, Non- Profit Highlight · Late Night Zone. Dukes open til 1:00am
<b>Zone</b>	<b>Art Heals</b>	Stage Stop Marketplace · Maricopa Friends of the Arts Antique Sales · Food Trucks · Nightlife, Live Music, Live Artist Mecca Hunter, local Artist Carlos Jimenez, Venus Moon Wellness Center, Demonstration Station,
<b>Zone</b>	<b>Kid/Family Zone</b>	Historical Society's Museum & Welcome Center, Zephyr Silver Horizon RailCar Tours · Concert/Movie in the Park Performance Stage Entertainment, Mike Ingram Heritage RailRoad themed Park, Historical Walkway, Mandy's Wine Bar, DSPA Gems SnackBar, Quiet Area on the Porch, Sunset Yoga on the grass, 4H Side Winder Mini Petting Zoo, Be Awesome Youth Coalition Lego Shop with Dirty & Special Sodas w/LED light ice cubes & LED Balloons & Toys, Rotary Club Therapy Dogs, Willows Wellness Sound

		Bath Therapy, Pokemon Go Course, Food Trucks, Bike Racks, Free Public Parking,
Zone	<b>CopaFarmers Night Market</b>	CopaFarmers Night Market, Food Trucks, Information Booth, First Fridays Merch,

2. **This project addresses economic leakage** in Maricopa. Many families pack up their kids and drive out of Maricopa on Friday nights looking for dining & entertainment. Maricopa First Fridays Downtown Heritage District creates an area where families can spend quality time together, support local businesses, enjoy local talent and make meaningful connections with their neighbors. Maricopa has new families who want to connect, make new friends while learning more about Maricopa's history.

Our Target Population is all age groups and all ability levels. Our youngest and our oldest residents will feel welcome due to the variety of activities offered by local groups. We are hoping for 500 to 1,000 residents, depending on the weekend.

Location is our Heritage District on Maricopa Rd./Mercado Rd near the Historic Water Tower & invaluable Overpass, including the Mike Ingram Railroad themed Park, Zephyr Train & new outdoor Amphitheater that sits 300 people.

3. **Project Goals, Objectives & Outline:** Funds from this grant will provide free monthly centric events that include arts, food, entertainment, fostering community relationships in a family friendly space where opportunities for connection are promoted, increase foot traffic to local businesses and create a see and be seen block party atmosphere. Hosting 30+ local Artists, Musicians, Performers, Craft Vendors & Creators will be consistently featured to showcase their work and connect directly to the community, including live music, demonstration stations and interactive activities, ensuring a fresh experiences with new themes each month with a variety of live entertainment, including DJ's, street performers & live artists.

Revitalize Maricopa's Downtown Heritage District, establishing defined placemaking for historical significance while offering vibrant, safe, deep cultural hubs for reexperiencing Maricopa's rich history while supporting our local economy, acting as a driver for tourism, increase foot traffic, help local vendors & restaurants. Extended hours offers convenience, flexibility, time sensitive response, enhanced

customer experience, accessibility, competitive edge. This event will bring awareness and support to our local non profit groups, highlighting FOR Maricopa Food Bank. Attendees will be educated about FOR Maricopa and encouraged to make a donation.

Our plan to meet these goals is to invite and include as many groups as possible, keeping this a grassroots event, bringing diversity and evolution.

4. **Our first event is scheduled for October 2, 2026.** We began bi monthly planning meetings in February as a large group and each zone are having regular planning meetings as well. We will begin meeting weekly prior to the event beginning. Our first fundraiser is June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

#### Resources:

1. **Current funding sources:**

The City of Maricopa will provide advertisement & electricity at the amphitheater – long – term

The Greater Maricopa Business Alliance will use ChamberNation, a web based program to create a map & registration of Vendors and build website, design brochure – long term

Dukes Roadhouse is providing Walkie Talkies long term and is hosting a Fundraiser– one time

InMaricopa - free advertising – long term

Maricopa LifeStyle Magazine - free advertising long term

Vendor Registrations - \$4,000 per event

City Council Member Amber Liermann provided prizes for the Maricopa High School Sticker Contest Winners \$225 and the Logo Contest Winner \$100 - One time Revenue from Vendor (Food Trucks, Non-Profits and Business) fees will go to monthly operational costs. We estimate \$5,000 - \$6,000 a month – long term

2. **Organizations/Partners**

Maricopa Friends of the Arts - hosted our Logo Contest, will also be a host of the monthly events and the “Art Heals Zone”

Maricopa High School Arts Department hosted our Sticker Contest

Adam Ortega with Arizona Latino Arts & Cultural Center is hosting a Talent Show to help further identify local talent and bring awareness to Maricopa First Fridays

Rudy Riley mapped the Pokemon Go Course

Willows Wellness will provide free Sound Bath Therapy at the event

Rotary Club – provide Therapy Dogs at the event

Little Whiskers Animal Rescue will host a Pet Adoption Booth

Local Children's Author Barbara Schmulander Miller will be selling her new book  
"Can I Have a Dog?"

Volunteer Parking Attendants

Volunteer Security Guards

Dukes Roadhouse – Free Music, Line Dancing. Yard Games – Long Term

3. Project Purchases: Maricopa First Fridays Downtown Heritage District  
Signage/Brochures: \$2,500 One time purchase  
Maricopa First Fridays Downtown Heritage District Merch: Hats, T-Shirts,  
Sweatshirts, Tank Tops, Tube Tops: \$1,000 one time purchase  
Volunteer T-Shirts: \$500 one time purchase  
Entertainment: DJ \$300, Live Band \$600 = \$900 on going cost  
Garbage Cans \$300 on going cost  
RAD Port O Potties \$1800 on going cost  
Sunbelt Tower Lighting \$1800 on going cost  
Audio/Visual \$1,000  
Event Handle Sacks for attendees \$400 on going cost  
PediCab \$5,000 – move people to and from their vehicles. RIDE347 Shuttle has  
agreed to operate/maintain. One time purchase
4. None

C. Maricopa Friends of the Arts 501c3 has opened a Maricopa First Fridays Bank Account which all deposits and withdrawals will be recorded. Mr. Colin Brent serves as Treasurer. A Ledger including receipts will be created to document all transactions. Meeting Agendas are created and saved every meeting to measure progress and are available.

D. Budget Line item Requests – Costs are reasonable, necessary and aligned with project goals. Project is staffed with volunteers. There are no paid staff. Event is local with no travel expenses. Vendors will provide their own supplies. Entertainment is a critical element of our project. Port O Potties, Tower Lighting, Audio/Visual, Signage and mobility will improve the quality of the event.

E. Slides included in application

# Maricopa First Fridays Heritage District

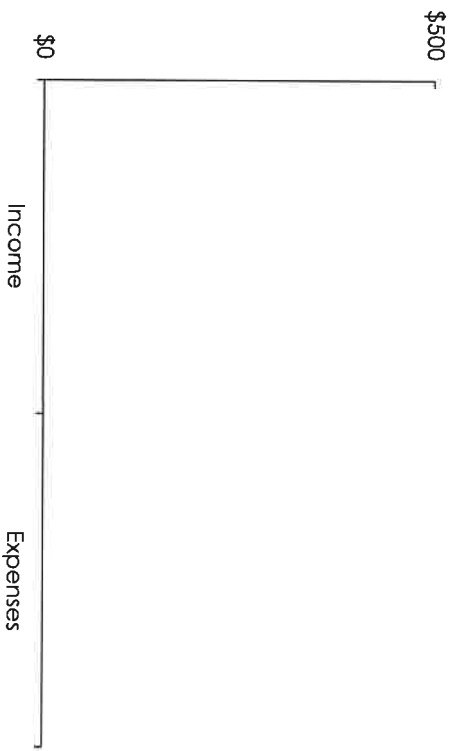
2026

## SUMMARY

Estimated Total Monthly Income

Total monthly expenses

**BALANCE** **\$0.00**



# MONTHLY INCOME

**Item**

**Amount**

Vendor Fees

\$5,000.00

# MONTHLY EXPENSES

Item	Amount
Signage/Brochures	\$2,500.00
Branding Logo/Merch	\$2,000.00
Volunteer T-Shirts	\$500.00
Entertainment	\$1,500.00
Additional Garbage Cans	\$500.00
RAD Port O Potties	\$1,800.00
Sunbelt Tower Lighting	\$1,800.00
Audio/Visual Costs	\$1,000.00
Event Handle Sacks for Attendees	\$500.00



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
Tax Exempt and Government Entities  
P.O. Box 2508  
Cincinnati, OH 45201

MARICOPA FRIENDS OF THE ARTS INC  
C/O SUSAN CAMERON  
21347 N SUNSET DR  
MARICOPA, AZ 85139

Date: 02/26/2024  
Employer ID number: 93-3095741  
Person to contact: Name: Customer Service  
ID number: 31954  
Telephone: 877-829-5500  
Accounting period ending: December 31  
Public charity status: 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)  
Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required: Yes  
Effective date of exemption: August 25, 2023  
Contribution deductibility: Yes  
Addendum applies: No  
DLN: 26053452003804

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](http://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.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements