

# Downtown San Rafael Arts District Grant Opportunity

## *ArtBurst 2026 Grant*

Application period: April 7, 2026 - April 26, 2026

Are you an arts organization ready to make a meaningful impact in Downtown San Rafael through a creative, community-driven project? The **Downtown San Rafael Arts District (Arts District)** invites non-profits, visual and performing artists, designers, and cultural creators of all disciplines to apply for **ArtBurst 2026** grant funding to support innovative, inclusive, and culturally resonant arts programming.

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### About the Downtown San Rafael Arts District:

The Downtown San Rafael Arts District (Arts District) is a collaboration among arts and culture organizations, businesses, and the City of San Rafael. By amplifying arts and culture, we strive to advance economic vitality and the quality of life in San Rafael. It is one of 24 designated Cultural Arts Districts within the State of California, and was awarded a major grant in 2023 by the California Arts Council.

### About the ArtBurst 2026 Opportunity:

The ArtBurst 2026 grant supports artists and arts organizations whose work reflects the spirit of Downtown San Rafael and aligns with the Arts District's core values:

- **Creative collaboration** among artists, arts organizations and/or community
- **Support for creative entrepreneurship** and economic vitality
- **Multicultural pride, inclusive and accessible** to San Rafael's diverse community

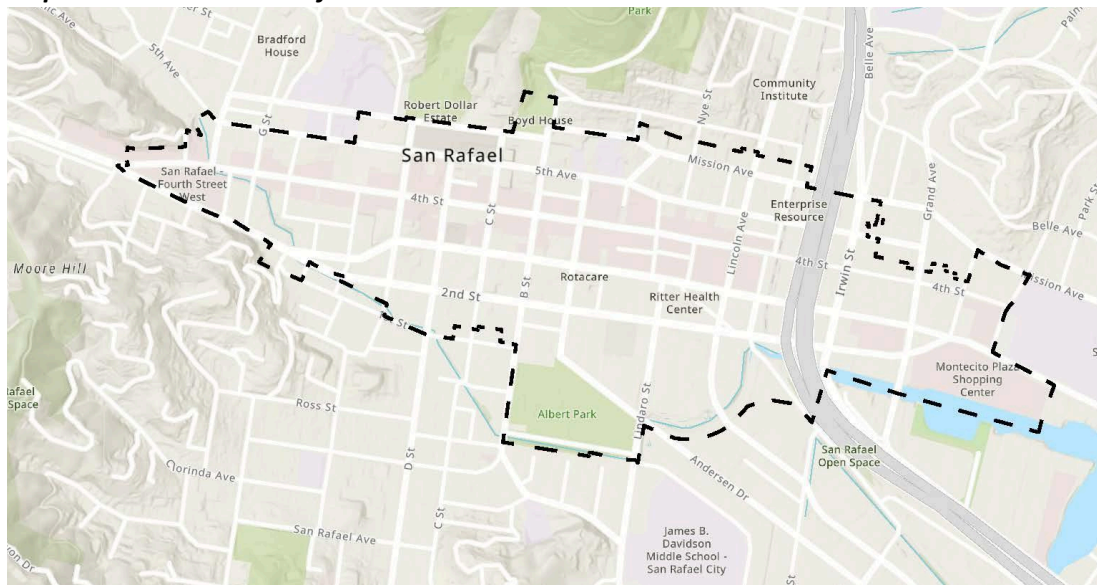
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**ArtBurst 2026 eligible projects** may include, but are not limited to:

- Fine visual arts: murals, sculptures and architectural interventions
- Digital media and immersive experiences
- Public performances and community-centered events

All projects must be implemented in downtown San Rafael as defined by the map below.

### **Map 1: Downtown San Rafael Precise Plan Area**



Each proposed project or event will be scored on eight key criteria: **Arts Need, Revitalization, IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility), Collaboration, Enduring Impact, Funding Sustainability, Return on Investment, and Supporting Local. Preference may be given to Marin-based artists and San Rafael-based arts non-profits.**

**What We're Looking For:**

- New projects that contribute to a vibrant, thriving Downtown San Rafael Arts District
- Projects that engage the public in meaningful ways
- Projects that promote accessibility, equity, and community participation
- Projects that build partnerships and reflect the diversity of the community
- Projects that reflect the facets of San Rafael's cultural identity
- Projects that can be completed by June 26, 2026. Projects extending beyond this completion date only may be considered if the applicant provides a detailed explanation and a schedule demonstrating why and how the project will be finished by the applicant's proposed alternative completion date.

**Applicants are responsible for serving as the project managers for their grant request; the Arts District will not manage projects directly.**

**Project Funds may NOT be used for:**

- Ongoing or pre-existing programs or operations
  - Activities or administrative costs outside the scope of the project description
  - Lobbying or attempts to influence legislation, political activity or electioneering
  - Fundraising, grant writing, staff time
  - Scholarships, fellowships, or individual financial aid
  - Land acquisition, real estate purchases, capital improvements or repairs, or equipment purchases
  - Food and beverage, transportation or private activities
  - Religious purposes
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**Applicant Eligibility:**

Funding is available to emerging and established artists and/or arts organizations in any medium. Non-profit art organizations will be prioritized. The art activity must be completed within the Downtown San Rafael Arts District area. Connection to San Rafael and a commitment to community engagement are encouraged.

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**Funding:**

Selected projects may be awarded a minimum of \$5,000 and up to \$10,000 in funding. **There is no required match to receive this grant, however successful grantees must demonstrate the project is feasible and fully funded.**

Projects will be awarded funds based on scope, impact, and available resources. Funded projects must be completed within the agreed timeline and budget, with regular updates and final presentation to the Arts District Steering Committee. Funds will be disbursed upon full project completion.

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**Required Application Packet Materials:**

Applications should provide complete information describing the proposed project, including relevant details specific to the items below sent in a **single PDF document**:

1. Cover Letter with artist or organization contact information
2. Project description
  - a. Include community impact and accessibility

- b. Clear project objectives and deliverables
- 3. Visual examples or concept sketches (if applicable)
- 4. Artist bios and resumes (if applicable)
- 5. Full project budget, including materials, design time, labor, insurance, encroachment permit as required
- 6. Implementation timeline
- 7. Documentation plan (photo/video capture, written summaries, etc.)

**Grant Terms**

- Successful applicants will be selected by the Downtown San Rafael Arts District Steering Committee. Grant funds will be awarded through the City of San Rafael with funding provided through a grant from the California Arts Council, and subject to terms of that grant agreement.
- The City of San Rafael does not regulate fine art on private property. However, projects such as architectural changes, signage, physical installations, or other improvements regulated by the City’s municipal code may require permitting and approval. Contact [StaceyL@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:StaceyL@cityofsanrafael.org) for information.
- Please be aware of these definitions: "Mural" means a large painting that is executed directly on or permanently affixed to the surface of a wall depicting, among others, a scene or art. "Mural sign" means mural that depicts or includes written script, logo or art that is intended to display or advertise the sale of goods or services shall be considered a sign, subject to the provisions of San Rafael Municipal Code [Chapter 14.19](#), Signs.
- Any project requiring work in the public right of way will require an [Encroachment Permit](#) from the City of San Rafael. The minor temporary encroachment permit fee is \$376, and must be accounted for in the proposed budget if applicable. For information about encroachment permits contact Public Works. [Contact Public Works via Email](#); Telephone: (415) 485-3355. [Encroachment Permits Webpage](#)
- Plaque – An acknowledgement of funding from the Arts District and the California Arts Council is required.
- Acknowledgment of rights: All selected artists grant the Downtown San Rafael Arts District non-exclusive rights to publish, market, and document their work for promotional and archival purposes. Artists retain full ownership of their original work.

**TIMELINE:**

April 7, 2026	Application period is open
April 26, 2026	Application period is closed at 11:59pm
May 6, 2026	Awards announced
May 15, 2026	Proposal refinements if requested to selected projects due
June 30, 2026	Projects complete
July 7, 2026	Final documentation submitted

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Please direct questions and the application packet to [info@DSRAD.org](mailto:info@DSRAD.org)

Let your vision shape the cultural heart of Marin.  
Apply today and bring your creativity to life in Downtown San Rafael!