

Request for Qualification Guidelines

2024 Grant Cycle: Art Speaks

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) is the first step in a two-step application process that will facilitate the allocation of funding for Escondido-centered art projects. The funding range is from \$15,000 to \$50,000. Escondido Community Foundation (ECF) will evaluate all RFQ submittals and pre-qualify those that meet the program and eligibility criteria.

The deadline for submitting the RFQ is 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Artists that are chosen to submit a full Request for Proposal (RFP) will be notified by **March 5, 2024**. The full RFP will be due on **May 15, 2024**.

Mission and Purpose

The mission of ECF is to improve the quality of life in Escondido by meeting emerging needs through:

- Encouraging and increasing responsible and effective philanthropy,
- Building a community endowment,
- Providing funds annually to organizations and causes, and
- Giving the community a vehicle for legacy planning and cash gifts that will benefit the residents of Escondido annually and in perpetuity.

The vision of ECF is to inspire a culture of giving that supports, strengthens, and enriches the quality of life in the Escondido community now and for generations to come.

Introduction

Art Speaks: Escondido invites qualified artists or artist teams, working with a registered nonprofit organization as a fiscal agent, to submit a proposal(s) to create public artwork(s) that offers broad community benefits such as fostering a sense of place, enhancing Escondido's image and identity, and heightening community exposure to and appreciation of the arts. All artwork is to be placed in the city of Escondido. The goals of Art Speaks: Escondido include:

- Enhancing the image of Escondido through iconic art and culture
- Increasing community pride and identity
- Providing an opportunity for underrepresented artists
- Supporting community-based, interactive designs where artwork engages the public in a meaningful way
- Contributing to healthy and thriving local arts community and fruitful collaborations

Medium Types

Murals, sculptures, kinetic art, fiber works, neon, glass, mosaics, photographs, prints, calligraphy, any combination of forms of media including sound film, holographic and video systems, hybrids of any media and new genres that are permanently installed for public access.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible all applicants must meet the following criteria:

Grants must be administered by a 501(c)(3) public charity, or an organization that is fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3), a school or other government agency. If the artist is invited to submit an RFP, the artist needs to be prepared to either provide a letter of support from the fiscal sponsor OR use California Center for the Arts Escondido - Foundation as their fiscal sponsor.

Projects must meet the following criteria:

- Serve Escondido residents within the geographic boundaries of the greater Escondido area (as defined by the Escondido Union High School District boundaries to include the San Pasqual Valley, up to Deer Springs Road by Lawrence Welk and out toward Del Dios).
- The project must be achievable before December 31, 2024.

Grant Seekers Forum

A voluntary online informational workshop will be held for applicants interested in learning more about the RFQ/RFP process.

- **Date and Time:** Monday, February 12, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Zoom

RSVP to Eve Childs at echilds@sdfoundation.org to receive a Zoom link.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the deadline?

The deadline for submitting the RFQ is 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

How do we apply?

Escondido Community Foundation has introduced a [new grant application portal](#) to submit your RFQ. Please visit www.escondidocommunityfoundation.org for guidelines and a link to apply. All artist applicants are required to create a user account to submit your RFQ. After creating your account, click the “Apply” button to access the application.

For additional guidance regarding creating a new user account, please [see this tutorial. Register/apply today.](#)

Who is eligible to apply for Escondido Community Foundation Art Speaks funding?

Individual artists or nonprofit arts organizations. (An organization may serve as a fiscal sponsor for an artist that does not have tax-exempt status if a cooperative relationship between the two can be clearly demonstrated, and the fiscal sponsor must be willing to administer the grant if awarded.) Escondido Community Foundation at San Diego Foundation does not make grants to supporting organizations or private, non-operating foundations.

How much can we request?

Escondido Community Foundation will accept requests in the range of \$15,000 to \$50,000.

What reporting is required?

Escondido Community Foundation will require artists' participation in reporting on progress, as well as additional follow up, retouch and maintenance (the details of which will be specified in the grant award letter). Any project that is awarded funding will be required to submit 5 high-resolution photographs plus a short video showcasing the result of the project with the required final report.

What will ECF not fund?

ECF does not fund:

- Capital or annual campaigns
- Existing obligations/debt
- Scholarships
- Projects that promote religious or political doctrine

Who can I contact if I have any questions?

For program questions or technical questions regarding the online application, please contact Eve Childs at echilds@sdfoundation.org.

What is the Escondido Community Foundation Timeline for Art Speaks?

- February 12, 2024 – RFQ Grant Seeker's Forum
- February 20, 2024 – RFQ due by 5:00 p.m.
- March 5, 2024 – Invitations to submit full proposals (by invitation only)
- April 4, 2025 – RFP Grant Seeker's Forum (by invitation only)
- May 15, 2024 – Full RFP applications due by 5:00 p.m. (by invitation only)
- May 29, 2024 – In-person presentations by invited artists, time and location TBD
- June 2024 – Selection of award recipients
- December 2024 – Project completion

Request for Qualification Process

To submit your information, all applicants will need to access the [secure online RFQ form](#).

The application will require the following information:

- Artist's Name:
- Address:
- Phone:
- Email:
- Letter of Interest (Upload Document):
- Professional Resume (Upload Document):
- Samples of Work: (Upload Images, audio, and video links) along with a separate document containing descriptions of each link. These links should be recent and relevant, do not to exceed 10 samples of previous work.
- Letter of Support of Fiscal Sponsorship* (Optional - Upload Document):

*If an artist does not already have a nonprofit sponsor, the California Center for the Arts, Escondido will be the default 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.