Agency Name:	Arts Commission		
Agency Code:	H910	Section:	28

Fiscal Year FY 2026-2027

Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING REQUESTS (FORM B1)	For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):
X	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
	Not requesting any changes.

NON-RECURRING REQUESTS (FORM B2)	For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):
	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
X	Not requesting any changes.

CAPITAL REQUESTS (FORM C)	For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):
	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
X	Not requesting any changes.

PROVISOS (FORM D)	For FY 2026-2027, my agency is (mark "X"):
	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
X	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	Name	Phone	Email
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Angela Brewbaker	(803) 734-8759	abrewbaker@arts.sc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Milly Hough	(803) 734-8698	mhough@arts.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2026-2027 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	Board or Commission Chair
SIGN/DATE:	David T Platts	F Harton
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	David Platts 9/25/2025	Flavia Harton 9/25/2025

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Arts Commission
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BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Arts Industry & Creative Workforce Support	3,000,000	0	0	0	3,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	DTO Increased Costs & IT Support	100,000	0	0	0	100,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			3,100,000	0	0	0	3,100,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Agency Name:	Arts Commission		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**1**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Arts Industry & Creative Workforce Support**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $3,000,000** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $3,000,000**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**0.00**

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
X	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	Consulted DTO during development
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
X	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Outcome 3: Students receive a comprehensive education in and through the arts that aligns with the knowledge, skills, and characteristics outlined in the Profile of the SC Graduate.

B. Cultivate programs and partnerships that advance learning in and through the arts statewide and within Arts Hub Regions.

3. Creative Careers Studio provides resources for students to explore creative fields through a digital catalogue as well as virtual and in-person programming.

Outcome 4: Arts organizations and other arts providers have the necessary resources to deliver diverse arts experiences throughout South Carolina.

A. Provide a robust grant portfolio for arts organizations and providers based on

SCAC budget levels, funding sources, and agency capacity.

2. General Operating Support and Operating Support for Small Organizations grant guidelines are revised based on evaluation data.

3. FY25 General Operating Support and Operating Support for Small Organizations grants are renewed for one year.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Funds will be distributed to grantees using existing competitive program processes and newly designed processes. Grantees will include local arts organizations, nonprofit community organizations, faith organizations, local government entities such as recreation departments and libraries, statewide service organizations. Funding will also be retained at the Commission to administer the arts industry and related program expenses.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The mission of the SC Arts Commission is to expand access to the arts and foster creativity for all South Carolinians. The primary way we can accomplish this is through our support of the statewide network of local arts providers. Our main grantmaking category continues to be Operating Support. This category includes both General Operating Support grants and Operating Support for Small Organizations. In FY2025 we were able to offer grant support to 200 organizations throughout the state. This is an increase of 12 organizations from FY2024. A recent survey showed that 35 organizations were interested in receiving more information about the operating support category, so this is something that SCAC feels can continue to grow. While the agency would be interested in growing this category, without additional funding the only way to bring on additional arts organiztions would be to cut the funding level of the current grantees. This is not an ideal scenario as the arts organizations across the state have also been feeling the crunch of the economy and increased costs. With an additional $2.5 million for operating support the SC Arts Commission could continue to support local arts organizations across the state and bring in new organizations as well.

In addition to funding for our Operating Support grant categories, SCAC is requesting $500,000 in new, recurring funding to continue to support our Creative Careers Studio website and programming. Launched in FY2025, Creative Careers Studio is a website for high school and college students who want to explore a career in the arts. It was created after hearing from students, parents, and guidance counselors that it was not easy to find information about arts careers. SC Future Makers was involved in creating a companion video series showing creative professionals working in fields such as the automotive industry and product development. For FY2026, SCAC has developed three direct programs: college and career fairs, arts industry field trips, and an arts professionals speakers bureau for high school students. While the website helps students find careers in the arts it can also help workforce development partners and can help to lead people into non-arts related jobs.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**2**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**DTO Increased Costs & IT Support**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $100,000** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $100,000**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**0.00**

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

	Mark "X" for all that apply:
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
X	Consulted DTO during development
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
X	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Outcome 1: South Carolina citizens and visitors benefit from diverse arts experiences in communities throughout the state A. Activate Arts Hub Regions and Hub Extension locations to expand access to the arts.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF	The SC Arts Commission would retain these funds in order to cover IT related costs for Arts Hubs and cost increases for technology and software. The funds would also be remitted to the Department of Technology for the increase in shared services

FUNDS	costs.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	The Arts Commission contracts with the Dept. of Admin/Division of Technology Operations (DTO) Shared Services for IT support. In April 2025, DTO alerted state agencies of an impending Shared Services price increase to be effective July 1, 2025. Because the SCAC had not budgeted for an immediate increase, DTO agreed to postpone the increase until FY27 to allow the SCAC to request additional funds through the budget process. The Arts Commission's annual cost will increase from \$65,811 to approximately \$97,841 beginning July 1, 2026. We are requesting an additional \$40,000 to help underwrite the increase. The Department of Technology also provided justification for increase in costs: Admin manages the IT operations for more than 40 state agencies in the areas of network, firewall, desktop support, server hosting and storage. With this management comes redundant staffing, flexible scaling of computing resources through an operational expense model and dedicated security oversight that lets agencies focus on their core missions and provide better service to citizens. These capabilities provide the opportunity for shared services customers to experience savings from not having to recruit and retain staff with increasingly difficult to find IT skillsets, allows for the adoption of a common statewide computing platform that drives consistency and efficiency, and offers enhanced security to rapidly identify and remediate security vulnerabilities while adhering to state standards. The IT shared services model also allows purchasing at an enterprise scale, which drives millions of dollars in negotiated savings for the state as a whole. Admin had not substantially raised rates for approximately 20 years until July 2025, and during that time, absorbed the increased cost associated with the delivery of IT shared services. While some service costs increased due to the exponentially rising expenses associated with technology (hardware, software, vendor support, etc.), other costs were reduced due to economies of scale and the continued adoption of IT shared services by agencies throughout the state. In one such example, the cost of server hosting and management was reduced by over \$2 million yearly, resulting in an overall billing reduction of 12%. The recurring funding requested by SC Arts Commission will allow DTO to return to a net neutral financial position and continue to deliver secure, flexible and scalable shared IT services. The SC Arts Commission is also requesting \$60,000 in new, recurring funding to help with the costs of technology support at the agency Arts Hubs across the state. SCAC intends to have at least 2 offices open by the end of FY2026, with the additional locations opening in FY2027. When the agency has the spaces ready, which will be located in existing offices of SCAC partners, we will need to ensure that each office has the technology needed such as: laptops, copiers, printers, and software costs.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

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FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	SC Arts Commission Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Plan

AMOUNT	$316,519

What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	N/A

How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	Statewide Arts Services would be reduced by the calculated amount. Specifically funds for other operating and distributions to subdivisions would be affected.

What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

SUMMARY	Other Operating ($31,652) This cut would reduce funds for agency's travel to meet with constituents; professional development for staff; travel to national conferences for staff; and software programs recenly implemented for staff use. Distributions to Subdivisions ($284,867) This cut would reduce funds available for grants to community arts providers and arts education programs in schools and community organizations, which would reduce programming available to the public from these local entities statewide.

Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS	The commission works consistently to identify cost savings in all aspects of our operations. However, with minimal funds allocated to these operations we do not anticipate that we will achieve savings of more than $50,000.

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than $50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

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FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	SCAC Cost Reduction Plan
	Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.
EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	SCAC does not charge any fees or fines to our constituents, so cost savings are found in implementing greater efficiences for our staff and reducing expenses in other operating areas.
	What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.
FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	**Mark "X" for all that apply:** [ ] Repeal or revision of regulations. [ ] Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens. [X] Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden. [ ] Other
METHOD OF CALCULATION	N/A
	Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.
REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	N/A
	Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?
REDUCTION OF REGULATION	N/A
	Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?
SUMMARY	The SC Arts Commission continues to look for ways to save time and reduce costs across the board while also offering valuable assistance to our constituents. While not a direct cost savings for citizens, we recently conducted an internal information technology audit to identify cost savings for software contracts and annual subscriptions. Depending upon whether our Priority 2 budget request is granted, we should be able to save approximately $40,000 in other technology costs.

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?