

Expanding Student Arts Access

By Alamo City Arts



Alamo City Arts is a multidisciplinary nonprofit committed to providing inclusive education in dance, music, and theater while producing accessible, high-quality performances.

Critical Need in our Community and Population to Be Served by the Project:

Students across Bexar County, particularly those in underserved and Title I schools, often have limited access to high-quality live arts experiences and arts education due to financial, geographic, and transportation barriers. Following the loss of major regional student concert programming, many schools no longer have consistent access to large-scale performances that expose students to music, dance, and cultural traditions. For many students, school-based programs provide their first, and sometimes only, opportunity to experience the performing arts.

This need directly relates to the Arts & Culture focus area because access to the arts cultivates creativity, cultural appreciation, confidence, and community engagement. Research has also linked arts participation to increased student engagement, attendance, confidence, and social-emotional development, making equitable arts access especially important for underserved students.

Arts Connect addresses this need by bringing accessible arts experiences directly into schools and communities while creating pathways for continued engagement. Demand continues to grow, with schools requesting additional performances and expanded afterschool opportunities. Expansion is needed to increase access, deepen participation, and ensure more students can experience the educational and cultural benefits of the performing arts.

Currently serves elementary and middle school students across Bexar County through in-school performances, afterschool arts programs, and ticket access initiatives. The program primarily benefits students from underserved and economically disadvantaged communities particularly those attending Title I campuses. Participants reflect the demographics of the region and partnering districts, including large Hispanic populations, along with Black, White, Asian, and multiracial students, with programming serving all genders equitably.

Expansion will increase access across Bexar and Guadalupe Counties through partnerships with Edgewood ISD, Judson ISD, NEISD, NISD, Southwest ISD, SCUC ISD, and SAISD, while also inviting neighboring districts, charter schools, private schools, and homeschool groups. The expanded initiative will include up to 10 weekly afterschool classes at Title I schools and ticket donations distributed through nonprofits serving children and families facing financial barriers.

Description of Project and Proposed Use of Impact SA Funds:

Arts Connect is a multidisciplinary arts access initiative combining in-school performances, afterschool arts education, and community ticket access to provide underserved students with meaningful engagement in the performing arts. The program includes TEKS-aligned performances featuring symphony, concert band, ballet, folklórico, and mariachi, along with afterschool dance programs in Title I schools and ticket donations distributed through nonprofit partners serving children and families.

The program addresses barriers to arts access by bringing performances and instruction directly into schools and communities, reducing financial and transportation challenges that often prevent participation. Expansion will allow Arts Connect to serve more schools, increase afterschool programming, and broaden access to live arts experiences for students.

This initiative advances Alamo City Arts' mission by providing inclusive arts education and fostering long-term engagement in the performing arts.

Impact SA funding would primarily support teaching artists, musicians, conductors, and arts educators who directly deliver Arts Connect programming through student performances and afterschool instruction. Funding would also support program-related costs including music, educational materials, costumes, ASL interpretation services, and TEKS-aligned curriculum development to enhance accessibility and educational impact. Alamo City Arts already owns portions of the production inventory, including some costumes, drops, and performance elements, allowing funds to focus on direct program delivery and expansion.

The proposed expansion will increase the number of in-school performances, expand afterschool arts programming in Title I schools, and broaden community ticket access initiatives. Expansion will allow Arts Connect to grow from serving approximately 10,000 students annually to approximately 15,000 students across Bexar and Guadalupe Counties.

Impact on People to Be Served - Measurable Outcomes (Described in "S.M.A.R.T." terms):

Specific: Arts Connect will expand access to performing arts experiences and arts education for underserved elementary and middle school students across Bexar and Guadalupe Counties. The program will increase annual student participation from approximately 10,000 to 15,000 students through TEKS-aligned in-school performances, afterschool arts programs in Title I schools, and community ticket access initiatives. The project will provide students with greater exposure to symphony, concert band, ballet, folklórico, and mariachi while increasing opportunities for sustained arts engagement.

Measurable: Outcomes will be measured through student participation totals, school and program attendance records, number of performances and afterschool classes provided, ticket distribution tracking, and participating campus data. Alamo City Arts will also collect feedback from educators, school administrators, and community partners regarding student engagement and program impact. Repeat participation from schools and continued requests for programming will serve as additional indicators of program effectiveness and community need.

Achievable: As it is an existing and operational program that has already demonstrated the ability to serve approximately 10,000 students annually through inschool performances, afterschool arts education, and community engagement initiatives. Alamo City Arts has established partnerships with multiple school districts, experienced artistic and administrative leadership, and existing production resources that support program delivery. While expanding to 15,000 students is ambitious, the organization has the infrastructure, collaborators, and experience necessary to achieve these outcomes successfully

Relevant: Achieving these outcomes directly supports Alamo City Arts' mission to provide inclusive access to high-quality arts education and performing arts experiences for underserved communities. Expanding Arts Connect increases opportunities for students to engage with music, dance, and cultural arts experiences that may otherwise be inaccessible due to financial or geographic barriers. The program also supports the organization's long-term objective of fostering continued participation, cultural appreciation, and community engagement through the performing arts.

Time-Bound: The proposed outcomes are expected to be achieved by October 31, 2027. Arts Connect anticipates increasing annual student participation from approximately 10,000 to 15,000 students through expanded in-school performances, afterschool arts education, and community ticket access initiatives. The organization also expects to establish additional school partnerships, increase sustained student engagement opportunities, and broaden access to culturally relevant and live performing arts experiences for underserved students across Bexar and Guadalupe Counties.

Project Budget:

Funding Source	Amount	Narrative
Government (Fed/State/Local)	\$23,500.00	Texas Commission for the Arts and San Antonio Arts and Culture
Foundations/Corporations	\$65,000.00	San Antonio Symphony Society
Total Other Revenue	\$88,500.00	

Expense Category	ISA Exp	ISA Narrative	Other Exp	Other Exp Narrative
Indirect Costs	\$10,000.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Agency Personnel (Salaries, Wages, Benefits)	\$75,300.00	This will include musicians, dancers, tech, conductors, TEKS writers, conductors, and choreographers, and ASL interpreters	\$88,500.00	This will include musicians, dancers, tech, conductors, TEKS writers, conductors, interpreters, and choreographers
Program Supplies and Expenses	\$14,700.00	This will include sheet music, costumes, and sets	\$0.00	NA
Total Expenses	\$100,000.00		\$88,500.00	