

City of Phoenix State of the Arts

April 2026



arts +
culture
CITY OF PHOENIX



Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture is the City's designated local arts agency. It supports, champions, and promotes the local arts and culture community to make Phoenix a great place to live, work, and visit.

OPPORTUNITIES

- After overseeing the management and distribution of \$7.6 federal emergency relief dollars, the Office is exploring new paths towards diversified funding, including Art in Private Development, tribal grants, and coalition-building across the sector.
- The Office has taken over the management of the S'edav Va'aki Museum, the City's Archaeology Office, and four cultural facilities from the Parks and Recreation Department.
- The Office is managing seven cultural facility projects and eight public art projects as part of the 2023 GO Bond Program and will oversee a new round of projects set to launch in 2028.

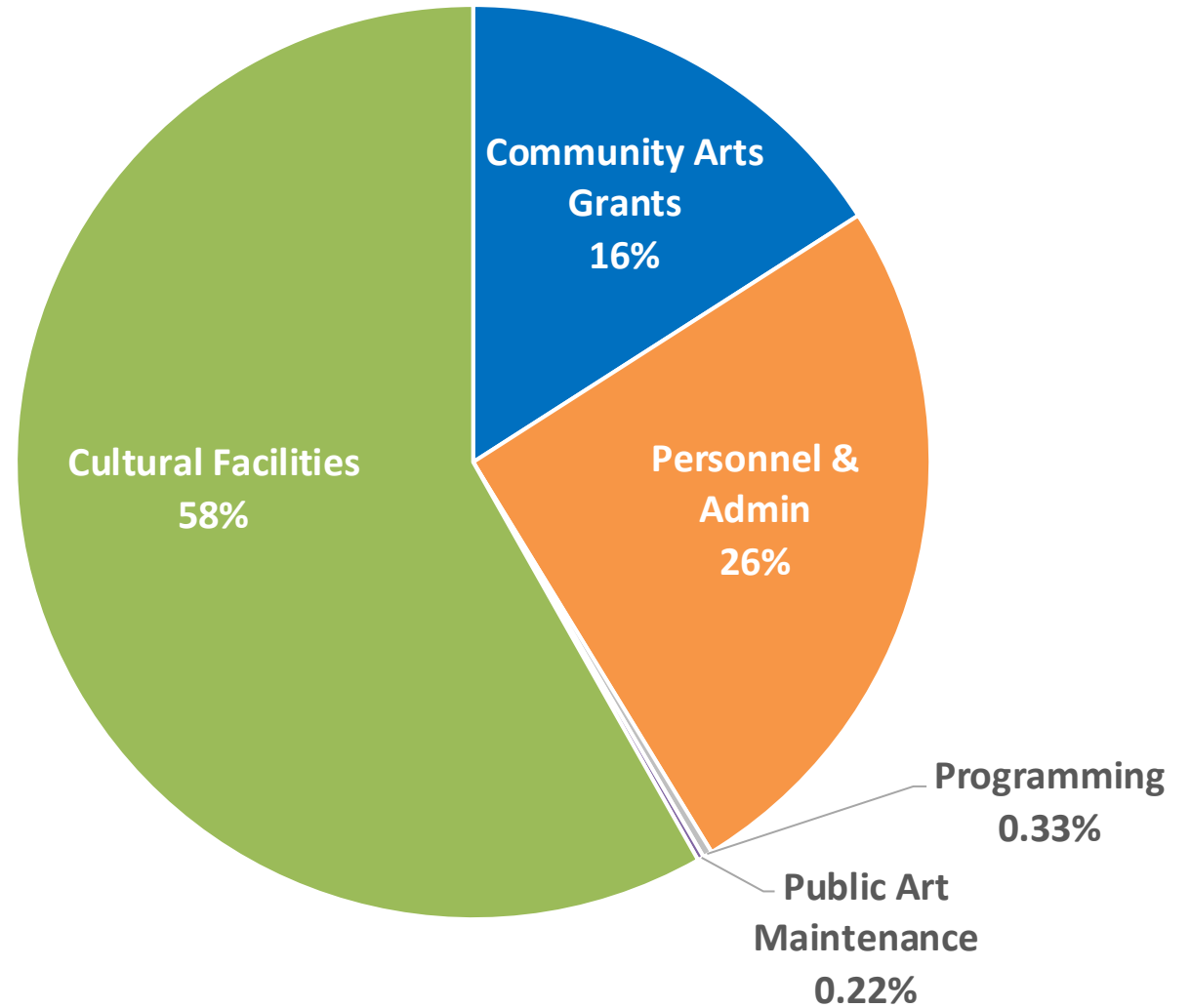
CHALLENGES

- For the 4th year in a row, the City has maintained a flat budget for Grants allocations while the number of applicants has continued to increase by 10-20% each year.
- The City and its residents face various crises, including heat, homelessness, and immigration concerns, making the case for increased public funding for the arts challenging.
- Post-pandemic, arts and cultural organizations across the city continue to struggle financially with an overreliance on individual donors.
- The economy continues to suffer, with oil, materials, and labor costs rising, making capitol improvements and facility maintenance increasingly costly.

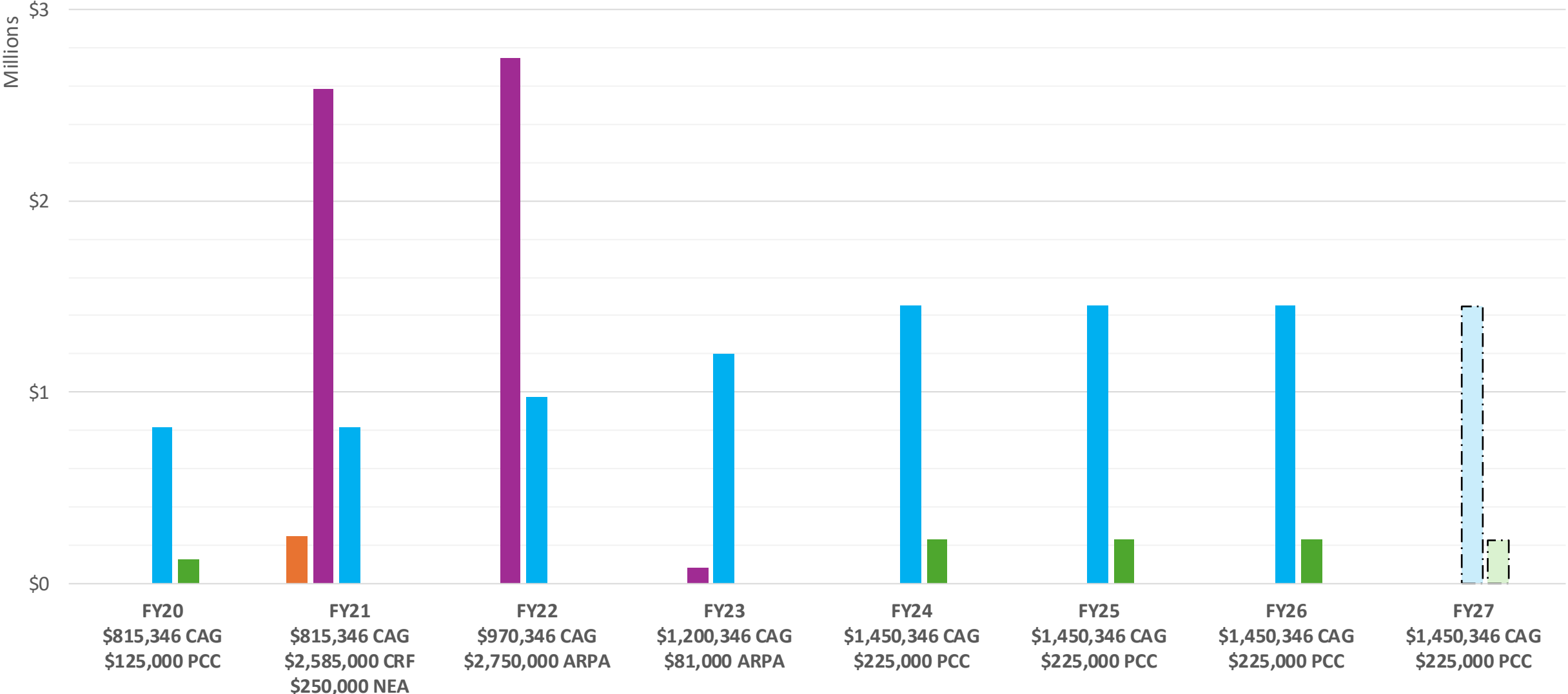
PHOENIX OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE BUDGET

\$9.1 Million

FY26-27 Proposed Operating Budget
(General Fund + Grants)



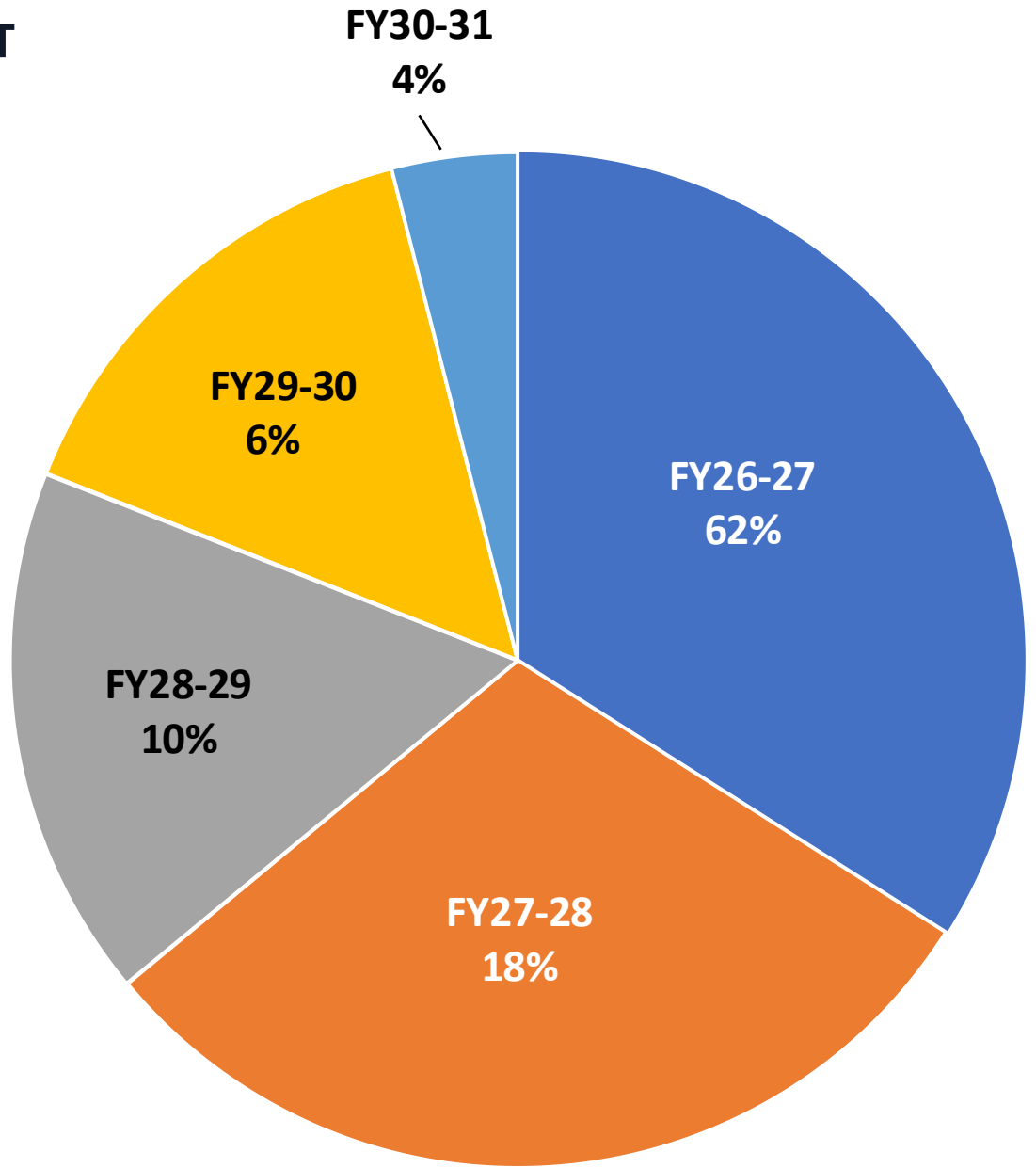
COMMUNITY ARTS GRANTS BUDGETS OVER THE YEARS



PHOENIX OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE BUDGET

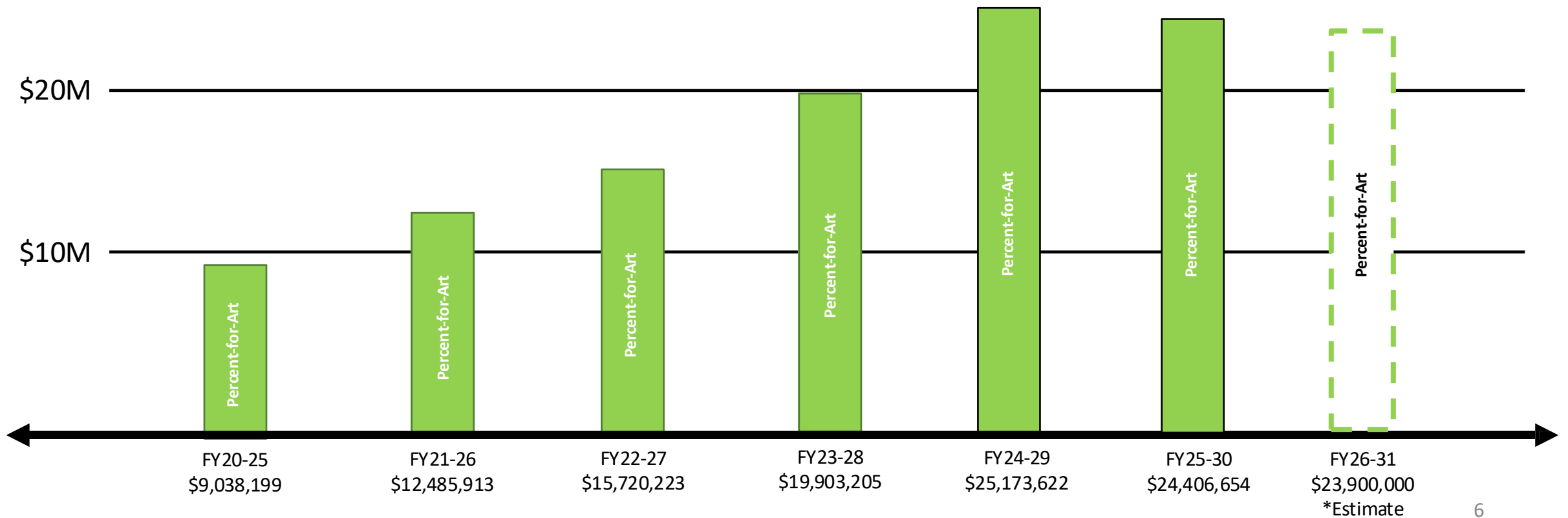
\$23.9 Million

FY26-31 Percent-for-Art Budget
(Capital Improvement Program)



PERCENT-FOR-ART BUDGETS OVER THE YEARS

Public art is supported with a penny from every CIP dollar used to build or improve city infrastructure. These CIP funds must be used for public art. They cannot be used to hire city workers, such as librarians, police, or firefighters, or pay to operate public buildings like libraries, senior centers, parks, and swimming pools.



FY 26-31 PROPOSED PUBLIC ART PLAN

- \$23.9 million 5-year budget (\$500,000 decrease)
 - Includes GO Bond funds and continuing Aviation funds (Terminal 3)
 - Continuing long-term initiatives like Heat Mitigation Projects and Temporary Art Program
 - Limited new projects due to previous project commitments
- Approval process – tentative dates
 - Phoenix Arts & Culture Commission on April 21
 - Phoenix City Council on June 17



2023 GENERAL OBLIGATION (GO) BOND

\$50+ Million

Arts and Culture Facility Projects

On November 7, 2023, Phoenix voters passed the \$500 million General Obligation (GO) Bond Program. GO Bond programs help to fund critical infrastructure and rehabilitation needs of City facilities such as parks, libraries, fire and police stations, affordable housing, streets, and cultural facilities.

Arts and Culture received 10% of GO Bond funding to complete the following projects, all of which are in various stages of development:

1. Arizona Jewish Historical Society
2. Children's Museum of Phoenix
3. Cultural Facilities Equipment Replacement (complete)
4. Latino Cultural Center
5. Phoenix Center for the Arts (complete)
6. Phoenix Theater Company
7. Valley Youth Theater