

Albany County and City of Laramie Community Partner Organization Funding Request Application FY2027

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE 5:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH 2026 AND WILL ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF ALL PREVIOUS FINAL REPORTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

The City of Laramie and Albany County provide funding to local community partner organizations through their annual budget making processes. Organizations receiving these funds do not operate within the formal structure of city or county governments but may utilize support from these governments to achieve their missions or fund special projects. Community partner organizations generally have a strong presence within the community and provide vital services, products, or activities that serve to improve the community in a variety of ways. Only non-profit/not-for-profit entities are eligible to apply for funding. For-profit entities are ineligible.

Historically, organizations requesting funding fall within the following three categories:

Recreational/Arts and Culture: These organizations exist to promote, sustain, and develop recreational, cultural, and leisure activities within the community. These organizations may also sponsor educational and community events and celebrations designed to encourage a diverse cultural and active lifestyle while promoting a strong sense of community.

Social Services: The primary objective of these organizations is to support or engage in activities designed to enhance the wellbeing of individuals and families within the community. These organizations provide a variety of services that focus on basic human needs, access to programs and services designed to maintain human dignity and health, and the overall welfare of citizens.

Civic Organizations/Quasi-Governmental: These organizations have been established within our community to A) work for the overall improvement, advancement, and economic health through civic involvement, economic development initiatives, and fostering community spirit; or B) provide services, programs and other opportunities for the betterment of the community through the organization of Joint Powers Boards or other Quasi-Governmental Organizations that work collaboratively with the City of Laramie and/or Albany County on shared goals, concerns, and interests.

This Community Partner Funding is available from funds collected via Albany County's 5th Penny Tax and historically has funded approximately \$250,000 in County requests and \$235,000 in City requests. In their sole discretion, the City and County each reserve the right to waive any informality in any application and/or reject any application.

Organizations can submit a request to both the City and County. If an organization is awarded funding, the organization is solely responsible for its costs including, but not limited to, operations, personnel, taxes, maintenance, and insurance coverage against public liability and property damage.

Priority of requests is as follows:

- Requests that improve the community.
- Requests that are not more than 20% of organization's general operating budget and do not exceed \$20,000 each from City or County.
- Requests to either City or County that are less than 20% of organization's general operating budget but in excess of \$20,000 are considered on a case by case basis and may affect the priority of the organization's request.
- Demonstration of multiple revenue sources for organization.
- The number of people served by organization.
- Clear identification of those who benefit from the organization's work.
- Demonstration of the organization's partnership with other organizations in the community.
- Requests that do not duplicate efforts already existing in the community.

For-profit entities are not eligible to apply. Only non-profit/not-for-profit entities are eligible to apply for funding.

Presentation dates are as follows:

City-Only and Joint City/County Applicants:

March 24th, 2026 beginning at 5:30pm.

City Hall-Council Chambers, 406 Iverson Ave.

County-Only Applications:

April 7th, 2026 beginning at 9:30 am

County Courthouse, County Commissioners Room, Room 105.

*****Send presentation materials to Nancy Oakland-Potter noaklandpotter@cityoflaramie.org by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13th*****

Schedule for Decision Making Process and Availability of Funds:

City: Laramie City Council intends to make its preliminary funding decisions in early to mid-April 2026 and final funding decisions will be announced upon adoption of the City's FY2026/2027 Budget in June 2026. The City's award payments to successful organizations will be made on or around August 1, 2026, pending receipt of the fully executed agreement.

County: The Albany County Commissioners make their final funding decisions upon the adoption of the County's FY2026/2027 Budget in June 2026. Agreements will be sent to

successful organizations in July 2026. Pending the County's receipt of the fully executed Agreement, the County's award payments to successful organizations will only be made on a reimbursement basis.

All information on this form and all requested documentation must be complete and submitted before the application will be considered. Applications that are incomplete or are missing required materials may be rejected. If there are additional questions from City Council or the Albany County Commissioners after review of the applications Nancy Oakland-Potter or Bailey Quick will reach out to the organization for additional information.

Contact the following for assistance:

City of Laramie: Nancy Oakland-Potter, noaklandpotter@city.oflaramie.org, 307-721-5226

Albany County: Bailey Quick, grants@albanycountywy.gov, 307-721-1803

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

info@science loves art.org

2. The organization has read, understands, and agrees to the above guidelines? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Applicant Information

Please provide the following information about your organization:

3. Organization Name: *

Science Loves Art

4. Contact Name, Title: *

Rene Williams, President

5. Mailing Address: *

PO Box 1595, Laramie, WY 82073

6. Contact Phone: *

307-399-5262

7. Contact E-Mail: *

info@sciencelovesart.org

8. Type of Organization: *

Check all that apply.

- Recreation/Arts and Culture
- Social Service
- Civic/Quasi-Governmental
- Non-Profit Agency (501(c)(3))
- Not-for-Profit Agency (501(c)(4) or 501(c)(7))
- Other: _____

9. Are you a first time applicant for Community Partner Funding? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

10. Requested Amount from the City of Laramie: *

Enter dollar amount only

\$ 9,000.00

11. Requested Amount from Albany County: *

Enter dollar amount only

\$ 13,000.00

12. Will this amount be used to leverage additional funds through grants or other means? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

13. If yes, indicate the dollar amount of additional funds that will be leveraged.

\$ 8,000.00

14. Provide examples of grants the organization has received in the past 2 years. *

(Excluding prior City of Laramie and Albany County Community Partner Funds programs)

Wyoming Arts Council, National Science Foundation/Wyoming EPSCoR, Wyoming Community Foundation, Albany County Tourism

15. List organization board of director(s), indicating officers. *

Rene Williams, retired CPA and small business consultant, Artist, Founder and CEO

David Williams, VP, scientist and consultant

Cynthia Weinig, scientist, consultant and board member

Anne Moore, artist, teacher and board member

Ginger Paige, scientist, consultant and board member

Description of request:

16. Provide a detailed explanation of how the requested funds would be utilized by the organization. *

Include any additional funding sources and amounts received by the organization.

Maximum character count is 2,500, including spaces.

Science Loves Art continues to grow our community with outreach programs, collaborations with other nonprofit groups and providing DIY projects using nature and recycled materials. Funds from this grant will help fund community projects for all ages. Currently SLA collaborates with many Laramie and Albany County organizations to provide free or low-cost art, music and workshops to members of all ages.

SLA is providing more summer programming to our local communities and groups. We are joining in with Laramie Parks & Recreation summer programs with weekly Wild Art Camp / Create. Explore. Get Wild. — with Science Loves Art.

This summer, SLA is presenting another festival, **BumbleBrew S-L-O-W Festival**. Instead of experiencing these creative experiences in one day at a live festival as in previous years, this summer we are expanding these activities throughout the summer. Creative hosts will submit their ideas, organize their experience at 4th Street Studios & Greenhouse and receive a financial stipend. SLA will continue our support to our community, artists, gardeners, musicians and more creative experiences with this big summer project and finish the summer with an evening event to showcase the art, music and creative summer our community has shared. SLA and collaborators will offer visual art, literary art, gardening, cooking, fermenting, music, dance and more throughout the summer.

We continue to provide SLA Kits that are used by local businesses, groups, schools and nonprofits. The Kits are very helpful and allows us to reach more in our community and those that don't have the time or availability for scheduled art time.

SLA purchases equipment, tools, art supplies and designs unique art projects and programs that use eco safe products, nature inspired activities and upcycled or recycled materials. SLA uses funds from grants, sponsors, retail sales of art kits to fund these projects. Using volunteers and in-kind contributions helps SLA focus financial resources on our mission.

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17. Describe the positive effects and benefits the requested funds would provide to the organization and the community, including goals the organization hopes to accomplish. *

Maximum character count is 2,500, including spaces.

Science Loves Art is a grass roots local nonprofit that was created by artist Rene Williams, a UW BFA graduate. She noticed services lacking for those that have financial means for art workshops and the lack of quality art supplies and organized art projects for all ages in Laramie. Because of her own inspiration of nature and science for her work, she began coordinating community art events that brought scientists, artists and the community together. A grant from the National Science Foundation and the University of Wyoming in 2018 provided funds for the Science Loves Art to become an official nonprofit and grow the mission to bring art, nature and science to our community.

Because SLA is based in Laramie (4th Street Studios is our home base where we design, create, assemble, store and gather) we can create even more opportunities for our city and county with in-person projects. In April of 2025, our festival merged Fermentation Festival and Pollinator Festival into the BumbleBrew Fest. Over 30 local artists and musicians received financial funds for their contribution to the festival and over 350 individuals attended the afternoon festival.

SLA provides art experiences to individuals, nonprofits and businesses people in our community and we believe that what we do and how we do it is unique and fills a void. Although there are art groups that provide some services for fees, SLA focuses on collaborating with nonprofits to bring these "experiences " for free or a low cost. We help nonprofits with programs, fundraising and discovering art and science through these experiences.

Our mission supports the concept

that art and nature experiences have huge impacts on our community health, satisfaction of life and the mental health of those young and old. Research supports the importance of using our brain creatively and our SLA approach invites participants to enjoy a "no pressure" and "unintentional" art with projects that are exploring such as eco-dying, creating inks from plants, simple gardening, abstract and simple but powerful projects like Suminagashi Marbling, Paper Making, and simply painting terra cotta pots and planting a plant with friends. As a community, we need to recognize that these benefits should be valued, because based on the number of people in our community that would like these projects and ask for more indicates we are providing a valuable service.

Every year, SLA impacts over 3,000 individuals between the ages of 9-96. Our in-person activities touch local lives and the growth of SLA Kits that are shipped worldwide help match our grant funding and also introduce Wyoming and Laramie to the world through art and experiences. Shipped kits and social media/video are all part of our outreach but our focus is our local community.

18. Describe your organization's partnerships with other organizations in the community and how your organization avoids duplication of efforts while carrying out impactful work in your service area. *

Maximum character count is 2,500, including spaces.

Science Loves Art has established a community of like-minded collaborators and nonprofits and businesses. SLA has consistently provided services, art projects and outreach along with providing fundraising activities for nonprofits using our own art supplies, program design, artists and projects. Some examples include Big Brothers Big Sisters, Albany County Public Library, Laramie Parks & Recreation, Family Promise, Laramie Youth Crisis Center, United Way, Laramie Public Art, Epson Center, UW science outreach and many more. SLA also provides free art projects to schools in Laramie and outside Laramie to small county schools. We travel to bring art to the locations to facilitate outreach and organize art projects and supplies for these groups.

More groups are asking SLA to provide experiences for their business or their nonprofit events. We create custom projects that benefit these nonprofits and we do this for little financial gain. SLA's impact on our community is felt in low income groups, senior citizens and children communities.

There is not another nonprofit group or business in our local area that provides these creative services free or at our cost. We have social media followers and believe this form of communication is valuable and connects us to each other in ways that are personal and illustrates our goals, impact and ideas.

We look forward to creating something this year through our BumbleBrew S-L-O-W Festival that has never been offered before and will have big impact on our community.

Parents are looking for fun and creative ways to keep their families busy while keeping their children challenged and entertained with fun projects. SLA will do that all summer long with the live programs designed for the BumbleBrew Fest and ALSO the companion videos that will be shared to inspire and demonstrate some fun creative projects for all ages. Using nature and found objects, dance, or other "free" resources we all have available, we can enrich many lives by thinking outside the box with our programs and being thoughtful and resourceful with our financial funds.

19. Is this a new or existing project, or ongoing operations? *

Mark only one oval.

- New Project
- Existing Project
- Ongoing Operations

20. Is this a one-time request or an ongoing expense? *

Mark only one oval.

- One-time request
- Ongoing expense

21. Number of individuals your organization serves annually. *

2,000

22. Populations served: *

Check all boxes that apply

Check all that apply.

- Children Ages 0-5
- Children Ages 6-10
- Children Ages 11-18
- Adults Ages 18-25
- Adults Ages 26-40
- Adult Ages 41-64
- Adults Ages 65+
- K-12 School/School District
- Veterans
- Low to Moderate Income
- LGBTQIA+
- Persons with Disabilities
- College/University
- Tribal Organizations
- Other: Community groups and othe nonprofit agencies

23. Additional information in support of this application?

Maximum character count is 1,000, including spaces.

24. Provide your organization's financial statements for the most recent fiscal year. *

Please Attach

- 25. Provide an itemized budget for this request and include other revenue sources as applicable. Budget Template available in the link below. *

Please Attach

- 26. Provide organization's most recent Form 990-N. *

Please Attach

FY2025 City Award Information

Please complete the following additional questions if you are applying for City funds. If you are only applying for County funds you may skip this section.

- 27. Amount of **City** funds awarded in FY2025?

\$2,967

- 28. Has your organization spent all awarded FY2025 **City** Funds?

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

- 29. If organization has not spent all awarded FY2025 **City** funds, note the remaining amount and the date by which you intend to expend those funds.

Assurance and Signature

Please review all previous questions to ensure their completeness and accuracy, and make sure all files have been attached.

30. We, as the Grantee Organization, understand that we are responsible for signing an Agreement with Albany County and/or the City of Laramie if funds are awarded: *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

31. We, as the Grantee Organization, understand that a final report **must** be submitted to the awarding agency as part of this funding: *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

32. We, as the Grantee Organization, understand that a representative must present to the City Council and/or County Commission at the appointed date to be eligible for funding: *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

33. We, as a Grantee Organization, have submitted all previous required final reporting to each funding agency. *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

34. We, as the Grantee Organization, understand that all funding awarded through **Albany County** will be on a reimbursement basis: *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

35. We, as the Grantee Organization, understand that submission of this application is not a guarantee of funding: *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

36. Digital Signature, Title: *

Rene Williams

37. Date: *

March 12, 2026

Example: January 7, 2019

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Google Forms

Science Loves Art Inc

Profit and Loss

Basis: Cash

From 01.01.25 To 12.31.25

Account	Total
Operating Income	
Grants, Fundraising, Sponsors	0.00
Albany County Community Partner Grant	7,000.00
BumbleBrew Fest Fundraising	12,196.93
Cash Contributions	4,000.00
City of Laramie Community Grant	2,334.00
General Income	50.00
Interest Income	2.33
Sponsorships	1,450.00
Visit Laramie Tourism	2,500.00
WAC Community Programs Grant	7,387.00
Workforce Internship	1,692.00
Total for Grants, Fundraising, Sponsors	38,612.26
Program Services	0.00
Retail sales (4th St)	9,742.52
Total for Program Services	9,742.52
Total for Operating Income	48,354.78
Cost of Goods Sold	
Total for Cost of Goods Sold	0.00
Gross Profit	48,354.78
Operating Expense	
Art supplies - KITS	11,453.74
Art supplies - other	3,987.78
Bank Fees and Charges	45.96
Board meeting	55.33
CC and online fees	80.09

Account	Total
Dues & Subs	45.00
Events / permits	144.13
IT and Internet Expenses	926.59
License/admin fees	27.25
Marketing	479.94
Meals and Entertainment	18.79
Mini artist/scientists grants	150.00
Musicians/artists support	8,619.76
Office Supplies	113.00
Online software packages	1,125.29
Payroll studio	3,068.22
Postage	16.67
Printing and Stationery	246.63
Rent Expense	15,369.00
Total for Operating Expense	45,973.17
Operating Profit	2,381.61
Non Operating Income	
Contributions In-Kind	13,000.00
Total for Non Operating Income	13,000.00
Non Operating Expense	
In-Kind Contribution Expenses	0.00
In-Kind Accounting Services Expense	2,000.00
In-Kind Contribution Art and Kit Design Exp	4,000.00
In-Kind Contribution Fundraising Exp	2,000.00
In-Kind Contribution Professional Services	2,000.00
In-Kind Website/Social Media/Marketing Expenses	3,375.00
Total for In-Kind Contribution Expenses	13,375.00
Total for Non Operating Expense	13,375.00
Net Profit/Loss	2,006.61

Amount is displayed in your base currency **USD

Science Loves Art Inc Operations Budget

Basis: Cash

FY27

Account	Total
Operating Income	
Contributions, Gifts Grants ...	-
Albany County Community Partner Grant	10,000
Cash Contributions	5,000
City of Laramie Community Grant	10,000
Sponsorships	5,000
Visit Laramie Tourism	2,400
WAC Community Programs Grant	12,000
Total for Contributions, Gifts Grants ...	44,400
Program Services	12,000
Total for Operating Income	56,400
Operating Expense	
Art supplies - KITS	9,000
Art supplies - other	5,000
CC and online fees	200
Events / permits	2,000
IT and Internet Expenses	200
License/admin fees	100
Marketing	1000
Musicians/artists support	5,000
Office Supplies	500
Online software packages	1,000
Outreach and program design	12,000
Postage	150
Printing and Stationery	400
Rent Expense	15,000
SLA Kit Assembly Labor	1,200
Video production/film	600
Total for Operating Expense	53,350
	3,050
Contributions In-Kind	14,000
In-Kind Contribution Expenses	
In-Kind Accounting Services Expense	2,000
In-Kind Contribution Art and Kit Design Exp	4,000
In-Kind Contribution Fundraising Exp	2,000
In-Kind Contribution Professional Services	3,000
In-Kind Website/Social Media/Marketing Expenses	3,000
Total for In-Kind Contribution Expenses	14,000
Net Profit/Loss	3,050