

County of Marin Community Service Fund Program Application Form

Fields labeled as "(public)" will be viewable to the public.

Request is for Fiscal Year: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Application Date (public) Thursday, March 31, 2022

Project Number 60

Organization Information

Full Legal Name (public) Marin Symphony Association

Organization URL (public) www.marinsymphony.org

Mission

What is the mission/purpose of your organization? (Limited to 1000 characters) (public)

The Marin Symphony's mission is to enrich, educate, and transform lives through classical music. Founded in 1952, the Marin Symphony Association is dedicated to producing the highest-quality symphonic music for the enrichment, education, enjoyment, and inspiration of Marin County residents. Under the artistic leadership of Music Director Alasdair Neale since 2001 and one of Marin's most accomplished cultural organizations, the Orchestra performs four pairs of subscription concerts and a series of Pops concerts in the Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium. In addition, Marin Symphony operates the Marin Symphony Youth Orchestra (established in 1954), a leading youth orchestra in Northern California that trains more than 150 students annually; and boasts a robust education and community outreach program that brings music off the stage to people and communities throughout Marin County.

Grant Request Information

Program/Project Name (public) Outreach Ticketing Program, April - June 2022

Provide a very brief summary description of your project. (Limited to 250 characters) (public) The Marin Symphony seeks funding from County of Marin to support its outreach ticketing program for the remainder of its 2021-22 Season. The Symphony hopes to distribute up to 100 tickets for its five remaining performances through June 2022.

Amount Requested Dollar (public) 10000

Total Project Cost (public) 25000

Being as specific as possible, describe the proposed project/program and its goal(s). Include implementation plans as related to the COVID 19 pandemic and identify what elements of the project would be paid for using County funds. (Limited to 2000 characters) (public)

The Covid-19 pandemic has rendered at-risk populations more vulnerable to economic instability, social isolation, and concerns over individual health and safety. The arts, and access to artistic experiences, are vital on both the societal and individual level, but they are amongst the most quickly and frequently disposed-of aspects of everyday life in times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic that we are currently experiencing. The Symphony feels that it is imperative to provide additional resources to serve these communities as they endure and slowly recover from the wide-ranging impacts of the pandemic.

Marin Symphony events are currently among the largest indoor gatherings hosted in Marin County. Symphony events are a primary source of local cultural enrichment for many of the county’s seniors. In addition to offering in-person outreach via tickets, the Marin Symphony has developed a library of original digital content that is accessible to the public, ranging from full concerts to educational programs geared toward youth. This season, we have capitalized upon the high-level production value of our concerts to capture audiovisual content and produce educational materials that will be distributed county-wide to Marin’s schools and made available to our wider Symphony audience. With the County’s support, the Symphony can commit to extending the increased breadth of outreach ticketing through the 2021-22 Season, with a goal of distributing 100 tickets per concert. We widen our impact by partnering with local community organizations that serve some of the county’s most vulnerable youth, seniors, and families. Working with these organizations ensures that individuals have administrative support to attend our concerts, with agencies providing social, transportation, or translation assistance as needed. These collaborations allow the Marin Symphony to receive specific feedback and information on organizations’ needs and their recipients following each event.

List all community interests that will be affected by the proposed project/program and the public benefit to be derived from it. (Limited to 2000 characters) (public)

Marin Symphony strives to make positive and lasting contributions to the health of Marin County and its individuals by fostering a robust, diverse, and engaged cultural community and making musical enrichment opportunities widely available to those encountering economic, social, or physical challenges that may limit them from participating in the arts.

Nonprofit beneficiaries of outreach tickets have shared gratitude from clients who attend Symphony concerts through our ticketing program. We have seen many young attendees grow interested in learning an instrument after being introduced to classical music via the Marin Symphony. Each year we introduce classical music to thousands of students, families, and elderly who come back to listen with us as members of our audience or learn from our musicians as members of our Youth Orchestra (we offer additional in-school outreach and scholarship programs to help advance financially disadvantaged young students who demonstrate skill in music). Our beneficiaries have repeatedly testified to the fact that, for some of our elderly recipients, who are prone to social isolation or unable to afford tickets on their own, the ability to attend Symphony concerts throughout the year brings significant joy to their lives and boosts their mental health.

By breaking down the barriers for Marin residents to access the power, healing, and joy of music, we hope to advance equity and deliver arts education and enrichment to a larger and more diverse population that truly represents and enriches Marin County.

Has your organization received Community Service funds before? (public)

Yes

If Yes, please list the total amount received for the past three fiscal years: (public)

	Amount (\$)	Project
FY 2020-2021	0	N/A
FY 2019-2020	7500	Symphony Day

	Amount (\$)	Project
FY 2018-2019	0	N/A

Is your organization receiving any other County funding for this project or others? (public)

Yes

If Yes, please list type of other County funding and amounts: (public)

The Marin Symphony is a recipient of the County's Nonprofit Community Partners Program for FY22, which granted \$20,000 in support of youth education and outreach programs. Funding has been used to support our Marin Symphony Youth Programs, our Family Concert in March 2022 (for which we distributed hundreds of outreach tickets), and an educational video project using materials recorded from the Family Concert.

Can you successfully complete your project by June 30, 2021 if you receive less than your requested amount of Community Service funds? (public)

Yes

Applicants are encouraged to leverage funding from other non-County sources, and priority will be given to requests that represent no more than 50% of total project cost. To demonstrate all sources of project funding, including other County sources, please provide a project/program budget below.

Please fill in as applicable, and round to the nearest dollar. (public)

	Funding Agency	Funding Requested (\$)	Funding Received (\$)	Notes
County CSF	County of Marin	10,000	0	
Federal Grant				
State Grant				
Individual Contributions	Allocations from Annual Fund	10,000	10,000	
Other Local Agencies	Private & Community Foundations	10,000		
In kind services				
Other				

Total Funding Requested \$30000

Total Funding Received \$10000

Total Budgeted Expenses (public) \$0

Total Spent to Date (public) \$0

This cycle is funded by proceeds from the American Rescue Plan Act and the following questions are necessary to satisfy federal reporting criteria. All applicants are required to respond to these questions for completion of this application, but the responses will not be used in evaluating whether your project will receive Community Service Fund program funds from the County of Marin.

Has your organization been significantly impacted economically by COVID (such as financial loss due to periods of closure, implementing additional COVID safety precautions, lost fundraising opportunities, or inability to meet payroll, rent or utilities?) (public)

Yes

If Yes, please provide a specific description of the impacts and quantifying impact where possible. (public)

Both contributed and earned income for the Marin Symphony have been significantly negatively impacted by COVID in the last couple of years. Prior to the pandemic, the Marin Symphony's revenue was on a consistent growth trajectory year over year, thanks to responsible donor stewardship and robust marketing efforts that saw success across all age demographics and ticketing modules. With COVID interrupting the momentum, and a percentage of people in the county who are not yet ready to return to in-person events, our ticket revenue and opportunities for patron stewardship and fundraising have significantly decreased.

Along with the decrease in ticketing and contributed income, the Marin Symphony has had to assume numerous additional production expenses to ensure that our gatherings at the Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium are safe for our musicians, patrons, and staff, such as procuring materials for testing, security teams to conduct checks of vaccination proof, and additional orchestra personnel. Our concerts have fallen victim to multiple cancellation and postponements over the last two years, and the Symphony has made every effort to compensate our musicians for lost work, utilizing additional resources from our COVID relief funding.

Are you serving disadvantaged, minority or low-income residents who have been negatively impacted by COVID? (public)

Yes

If Yes, please provide a specific description of how the people you serve have been impacted. (public)

The Marin Symphony distributes free tickets to community service organizations throughout the county at every single Marin Symphony concert. We commit to extensive outreach throughout the year to counteract the fact that, while the arts are a vital and necessary part of the human experience, many people are not able to participate as a result of economic, social, or physical barriers that may limit them from accessing the arts. Those who are vulnerable to these challenges are often the most impacted by the effects of large crises such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and also often at risk of a slower recovery.

Does your organization have future plans for improvements needed to mitigate the impacts of COVID or to contain its spread? (public)

Yes

If Yes, please provide a description of your improvement plans with quantifying statements when possible. (public)

The 2021-22 Season was planned and marketed under the premise that proof of vaccination would be required to enter the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium, and that the County of Marin, as the operator, would provide a base level of funding for security personnel. As Marin Center and the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium transition to lifting their masking and proof of vaccination requirements effective April 1, 2022, Marin Symphony plans to independently uphold vaccination requirements at its 5 concerts between April – June 2022, and will from then on bear sole financial responsibility for staffing concerts with security personnel that will implement vaccination checks.

This decision to continue to enforce vaccination mandates is being made in response to the concerns posed by our community, and to ensure the health and safety of the people in the Marin community who have returned as early and dedicated contributors to the restoration of the vibrancy of Marin County's cultural landscape. In a survey that the Marin Symphony recently conducted of over 200 ticketholder households, a significant number expressed strong opposition to the possibility of lifting vaccination requirements during a still-uncertain time in the trajectory of the pandemic. Many expressed hesitation to return to the Marin Symphony should vaccination requirements be lifted. In contrast, less than 10% of respondents fully endorsed the lifting of vaccination requirements in the near future.

Due to the high risk of transmissibility of Covid-19 and the interactive nature of the Symphony's operations, without safety protocols, the work that we do with youth (in schools, at our concerts, and through our Marin Symphony Youth Programs) could be compromised. Thus, we are committing to dedicating our resources to ensure that participation by our musicians, patrons, and staff Symphony activities is able to go on as safely as possible, for the individuals, arts community, and the county that we serve.