



Grants Review Committee Agenda

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 1:00 PM Pacific Time

RAP Foundation, 41-550 Eclectic St., Palm Desert, CA 92260

Board members must attend in person. The public may participate in person or by way of Zoom/Teleconference:

Join Zoom Webinar Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84008014372>

Webinar ID: 840 0801 4372 Call In: (669) 900-6833 US

This meeting will be conducted in-person and is consistent with Governor Newsom's Assembly Bill 2449 preserving AB 361 and adding two more options for hybrid meetings: "Just cause" and "emergency circumstances".

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Craig Borba (Chair), Rosemary Ortega (Vice-Chair), Aurora Wilson, Maria Meyer, Sheryl Benoit, Vann Tanner

I. CALL TO ORDER: Roll call

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: **Action Required**

Staff Recommendation: To approve the February 17, 2026 Grants Review Committee Agenda.

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Persons wishing to speak are requested to be recognized at the appropriate time. General comments regarding non-agenda items will be called for at this time. Specific comments regarding agenda items will be called for during discussion of each item. Please be prepared to limit your Public Comment remarks to three (3) minutes

IV. APPROVE GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: (**Attach 1**) **Action Required**

Staff Recommendation: To approve the January 20, 2026 Grants Review Committee Meeting Minutes.

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

V. REAPPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR: **Action Required**

Staff Recommendation: To nominate a Chair and Vice-Chair. Chair and Vice-Chair may be the same person.

A) Nominate Chair:

Motion:	To nominate:			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

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B) Nominate Vice- Chair:

Motion:	To nominate:			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

V. GRANTS TRACKER FY2025-2026: [\(Attach 2\) \(2A\)](#)

As of the end of January, the Small Grants balance was \$45,000. Staff recommends transferring \$40,000 from the Performance Grant to increase the Small Grants balance to \$85,000.

VI. GRANT FUNDING REQUEST

Sponsorship #1 at 1:20 PM [\(Attach 3\)](#) Action Required

Organization:	Alianza Coachella Valley
Program:	Youth Art & Wellness Gathering-Art as Healing, Art as Action
Requested Amount:	RAP - BOD Approved \$5,000 for the HUE Music Festival FY25-26 Sponsorship: \$5,000;
Representative:	Patricia Carrillo
This proposed art and wellness gathering will create a safe, affirming space for students in Alianza's Youth Organizing Council (YO-C) and community members in the Eastern Coachella Valley to engage with art as a form of expression, resistance, and healing.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY21-22 Mental Health: \$50,000; FY22-23 Juvenile Intervention Grant: \$16,600; FY23-24 Sponsorship: \$5,000; FY23-25 Juvenile Intervention Grant: \$60,000; FY25-26 Sponsorship: \$5,000;
NPO Member:	No

Staff Recommendation: To approve the updated event and new \$5,000 budget due to the change in the scope of the sponsorship previously approved.

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

Sponsorship #2 at 1:30 PM [\(Attach 4\)](#) Action Required

Organization:	Friends of the Desert Mountains
Program:	<i>Wildflower Festival</i>
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
Representative:	Oscar Ortiz
Details:	Saturday, March 7, 2026 9 am – 4 pm Palm Desert Civic Center

Wildflower Festival promotes education, environmental stewardship, land conservancy, and an appreciation of the Desert Mountains. The Festival is a free day-long event featuring artisans, information booths, enchanting wildflower displays, and live music.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY25-26 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY24-25 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY23-24 Small Grant: \$10,000
NPO Member:	Yes

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$5,000

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

Small Grant #1 at 1:45 PM (Attach 5) Action Required

Organization:	Friends of the Desert Mountains
Program:	<i>Cahuilla Cultural and Environmental Education</i>
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Representative:	Oscar Ortiz
Reviewer's Scores:	75% Three reviewers scoring: 86,86,54
For the past 2 years, Friends of the Desert Mountains has been working to incorporate Cahuilla cultural history into our environmental education programs. In 2023, we hired Alyssa Johnson, our Indigenous Community Liaison to help communicate and coordinate with our local tribes and to accompany out environmental education staff during our hikes and classroom courses. During our programs, Alyssa is able to include historical references to Cahuilla culture in terms of tribal cultures, resourceful uses of native plants, as well as environmental education around local wildlife.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY25-26 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY24-25 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY23-24 Small Grant: \$10,000
NPO Member:	Yes

Staff Recommendation: To deny the request due to limited funding and because the applicant already received a FY25-26 Small Grant.

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

Small Grant #2 at 1:50 PM (Attach 6) Action Required

Organization:	Coachella Valley H.S. Health Academy & HOSA
Program:	<i>Unbound: A Human Trafficking Awareness Town Hall</i>
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Representative:	Simon Moore
Reviewer's Scores:	78% Three reviewers scoring: 78,76,84
1-"Human Trafficking Awareness Town Hall" is a student-led public health initiative from Coachella Valley High School's Health Academy and HOSA-Future Health Professionals that addresses critical gaps in youth awareness of human trafficking in the eastern Coachella Valley. 2-"Eat Well, To Give Well: Nutrition to Save Your Life and Others" addresses a public health need connected to blood donation readiness.	

3-“Protect Your Peace: The Mental Cost of High Performance” confronts growing mental health concerns among youth.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY23-24 Small Grant: \$9,500; FY24-25 Small Grant: \$6,000
NPO Member:	No

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for \$7,000 to support the series of activities offered by HOSA. According to the final report, the applicant has a \$2,000 balance remaining from last year's award.

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

Small Grant #3 at 2:10 PM (Attach 7) Action Required

Organization:	Galilee Center
Program:	<i>Galilee Center Emergency Services</i>
Requested Amount:	\$10,000.00
Reviewer's Scores:	77% Three reviewers scoring: 86,84,60
Representative:	Claudia Castorena
	Funding will be used to fund the Galilee Center OLG Shelter and the Rental Assistance Program. The Galilee Center believes that every person should have a safe place to stay, enough food, and other basic items. The Our Lady of Guadalupe Center (OLG) offers dignity, safety, and well-being to the homeless migrant farm workers and the working poor and their families.
Prior RAP Funding:	FY18-19 Sponsorship: \$1,250; FY16-17 Desert Fast Pitch: \$23,000;
NPO Member:	No

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$10,000

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

Small Grant #4 at 2:25 PM (Attach 8) Action Required

Organization:	Cancer Support Community Palm Springs and Coachella Valley
Program:	Cancer Support Community
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
Representative:	Julia Forth
Reviewer's Scores:	84% Three reviewers scoring: 90,86,76
We are respectfully requesting \$5,000 from the RAP Foundation to support program staff salaries and marketing expenses as we continue to increase awareness of our free mental health support services for those facing cancer in this region. Through this program, Coachella Valley residents impacted by cancer will therefore have increased access to all our existing virtual services, as well as exclusive support groups dedicated to the region, and more...	
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Member:	No

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for \$2,500 of the \$5,000 requested

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

Small Grant #5 at 2:40 PM (Attach 9) Action Required

Organization:	College of the Desert
Program:	Geek Squad: A student work based learning opportunity
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Representative:	Caroline Maloney
Reviewer's Scores:	83% Three reviewers scoring: 92,88,70
College of the Desert's CIS Geek Squad is a juvenile intervention and prevention program that supports young adults—primarily ages 18–24—who are at elevated risk of educational disengagement and economic instability due to poverty, limited employment access, and immigration-related barriers. The program intervenes at a critical developmental transition point, using paid, structured employment to stabilize students, strengthen persistence, and redirect pathways toward long-term economic self-sufficiency.	
NPO Member:	No
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for \$40,000

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

VII. Sponsorship Criteria (Attach 10) For Discussion: Possible action may be necessary.

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

VIII. GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS:

I. The FY 2025-2027 Coachella Valley Health/Mental Health Request for Proposal (RFP) LOI is due on February 19th.

II. Parkinson Symposium update: [click here](#)

A Special Thank you message from Eyleen, Executive Director – Parkinson Resource Center

The Second Annual Parkinson's Today Symposium, which took place this past Saturday. I had a feeling we were building something special, but the packed 300-person auditorium, busy overflow room, and additional 80-person waitlist speaks volumes about this event's value to our community. Attendees were really happy – many of them commented on how much this event has grown since last year. More people, more expo partners, richer content. My favorite response so far: "The energy, engagement, and sense of community throughout the day were really special."

*I am more convinced than ever that our unique Coachella Valley community is hiding a staggering number of Parkinson's patients – and they are hungry for knowledge and connection. **Really grateful that, with your help, we were able to provide that.***

III. Do the Right Thing Awards Ceremony: February 18, 2026, at 4:30 PM.
Palm Springs Police Department, 200 S. Civic Drive, Palm Springs, CA

IV. Next scheduled meeting: Monday, March 16, 2026, at 1:00 PM.

X. ADJOURNMENT: Agenda Posting: Agendas will be posted on the Foundation website at <https://www.rapfoundation.org> a minimum of 72 hours prior to the meeting date. All public record documents for matters on the open session of the Agenda are available for inspection upon request three (3) days prior to the meeting date. If a public record document that relates to a matter on the open session of the Agenda is distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date, the public record document shall be available for inspection at the same time it is distributed at the address listed above. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.