

MESTIZO ARTS SCHOLARSHIP CULTURAL AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

GRANT AWARD APPLICATION INFORMATION 2025

The Mestizo Arts Scholarship Cultural And Recreation Association (MASCARA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing Mestizo cultural arts through events and educational initiatives. Students interested in creative and cultural arts, recreation programs, vocational and technical programs or general academic programs are encouraged to apply. Grant awards are available in the amounts of \$500, \$750, or \$1000.

Scholarship Criteria:

Applicants will be selected based on the following:

- Commitment to education
- Potential for success in an institution of higher learning
- Minimum GPA of 2.0
- Participation in community service, extracurricular activities and/or related work experience
- Current resident of Santa Maria Valley and south San Luis Obispo County
- Attend a program of study in the counties of Santa Barbara or San Luis Obispo

Grant Awards are available for:

- Students attending career/technical schools, community colleges or four-year universities in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties
- Graduating high school seniors; community school students.
- Re-entry to education students
- AB540 and Dreamers are welcome to apply

Application announcements are made to local high schools, colleges and post-secondary programs, local and community agencies.

How are grant recipients selected?

1. Completion of the application packet
2. **Financial Need:** Applicants must demonstrate and provide description of financial need.
3. **Community Involvement:** Participation in community service, volunteer work, or extracurricular activities.
4. **Special Circumstances:** Consideration of unique personal or family circumstances, such as single-parent homes, foster care, disability or special needs, first-generation college student.
5. **Personal Statement:** A written personal statement detailing the applicant's background, challenges faced, goals, and how the scholarship will help achieve those goals.
6. **Letters of Recommendation:** Two (2) letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors, and community leaders who can speak to the applicant's character and achievements.

****Prior to distribution of funds, applicants must verify that they have been accepted and/or are enrolled in a career/technical/vocational program, a college or university.**

Recipients will be notified by email and invited to an event where they are the honored guest. Eligible recipients are selected by a Grant Awards committee composed of MASCARA and community members. Applications are reviewed competitively.

Applicants can request an application packet at wearemascara@gmail.com

MASCARA

540 E Betteravia Rd., Ste D Box-157, Santa Maria, CA 93454 (805) 723-0150

EMAIL: WEAREMASCARA@GMAIL.COM

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540 E Betteravia Rd., Ste D Box-157, Santa Maria, CA 93454

(805) 723-0150

2025 GRANT AWARD APPLICATION

Personal Information:

Name:		Age:
Address where you reside:		Phone:
City/Zip:	Email:	

Name of Parent(s)/Caretaker(s), if Applicable:	Phone:
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Educational Information:

Current School/Institution:	GPA:
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Current Grade Level/Year in School:	Expected Year of Graduation:
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Educational Institution you Plan to Attend in 2025-26:
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Program of Study/Major:

THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA WILL BE USED TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY:

- A. Submit completed application and all required documents.
- B. One page statement (minimum 200 words) regarding your educational goal, extracurricular activities, community involvement– Must be typewritten.
- C. One (1) letter from an educational professional or counselor who is knowledgeable about your academic capabilities, skills, and leadership activities.
*Letters must be on official/business letterhead with a recent date.
- D. One (1) letter from a community member who is knowledgeable about you, your community service and leadership activities.
*Letters must have a recent date.
- E. Copy of your college, high school program or educational program unofficial transcript, if applicable. (most current – need not be sealed).
Please cross out any personal identifying information, such as social security number or date of birth
- F. Copy of page from the SAR (Student Aid Report) that indicates your EFC (Estimated Family Contribution) SAR is required, but if you do not have it, you are still encouraged to apply
*Letters must be from individuals not related to applicant. Letters from family members will not be accepted. *

Mail this application and all items to:

MASCARA
540 E Betteravia Rd., Ste D Box-157
Santa Maria, CA 93454

**** Completed Application and all items can also be emailed to WEAREMASCARA@GMAIL.COM****

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2025 11:59 P.M (PST)

(Applications must be postmarked by and/or received by March 31 2025)

No applications will be accepted after this deadline. Application Packets requiring a signed receipt will not be accepted