



City of Naperville Community Arts with a 501(c) - SECA Application CY2026

Before you Begin

Please refer to the SECA Fund Policy and Procedures Manual for a complete list of eligibility and application requirements. The manual may be downloaded on the City's website. By submission of this application, you are certifying that to the best of your knowledge and belief, data in this application is true and correct, the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant, and the applicant will comply with all regulations applicable to the City of Naperville SECA program. The applicant agrees that this application is a public document and is subject to the Freedom of Information Act. **In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, if you wish to contact SECA Commissioners, please send your communication to the Special Events Coordinator to forward to the Commission.**

Eligibility Quiz

Yes

- Is the sponsoring organization a non-profit 501(c)(3) or recognized by the State of Illinois as a non-profit organization?
- Is your project/program located within incorporated Naperville?
- Is your project/program going to be held in the current SECA funding cycle?
- Can you confirm your project/program will not promote religion or a religious organization?
- Have you read the SECA Fund Policy and Procedures Manual?
- Have you attended one of this year's mandatory SECA fund workshops?

You must check **Yes** to each item on this list in order to be eligible for SECA funding from the City of Naperville.

If you have questions regarding your eligibility or this application form, please contact:

Jake Fiedler
Special Events Coordinator
630-420-6045
fiedlerj@naperville.il.us

Section 1: General Information

Organization Name: **Mandala South Asian Performing Arts**

Address: **410 S Michigan Avenue, Suite 528**

City: **Chicago**

State: **Illinois**

Zip Code: **60605**

Phone: **312 420 1000**

Web Address: **www.mandalaarts.org**

Executive Director/CEO: **Pranita Nayar**

Tax Status (select one): **501 (c)(3)**

Tax ID Number (FEIN): **47-2431304**

Is your organization required to file a Federal 990 form? **Yes**

Organization Primary Contact:

Name: **Pranita Nayar**

Title: **Artistic Director**

Phone: **312 420 1000**

E-mail: **pritananayar@mandalaarts.org**

If funding is awarded, will this person sign the SECA Grant Agreement as Organization Contact? Yes No

If no, please provide a name and email for the preferred signer: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Project/Event Primary Contact

Name: **Pranita Nayar**

Title: **Artistic Director**

Phone: **312 420 1000**

E-mail: **pritananayar@mandalaarts.org**

If funding is awarded, will this person sign the SECA Grant Agreement as Attestor? Yes No

If no, please provide a name and email for the preferred attestor: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Section 2: Performance Art Grant Request and Applicant Details

2.1 Organizational History: Provide a brief description of the organization, including: (a) brief history, (2) number of years in existence, (c) mission statement, (d) provide a link to past performances.

Mandala South Asian Performing Arts was founded in 2014 by Artistic Director Pranita Nayar, a visionary choreographer and educator whose career spans more than three decades. Established as a nonprofit organization, Mandala was created to serve as a bridge between the classical and contemporary performing arts of South Asia and the broader global community. Over the past ten years, Mandala has become a leading voice in Chicago's cultural landscape, known for mainstage productions such as *The Story of Ram*, *Conversations with Devi*, and *Singing Together*, as well as its robust

portfolio of educational outreach, community residencies, and cross-disciplinary collaborations. The organization has been recognized nationally with the MacArthur Foundation Award (2018), the National Endowment for the Arts (2021), the Joyce Foundation Award (2023), and the United States Artists Award (2025) for Creative Impact. Mandala's mission is to celebrate and advance the vibrant performing arts traditions of South Asia by connecting audiences and students with evocative dance, theatre, and music. Guided by a commitment to diversity and inclusion, Mandala engages artists and educators representing a broad range of cultural, linguistic, and gender identities. Through its ensemble, teaching residencies, and community partnerships, Mandala builds bridges between traditional and contemporary practices, fostering cross-cultural understanding and positive social awareness. By combining artistic excellence with social engagement, Mandala brings the splendor of South Asia to life for global citizens everywhere.

Links to past performances: *The Story of Ram* at Naper Settlement, October 2021: [YouTube link](#) *Diwali: The Story of Ram*, October 2022: [YouTube link](#) *The Story of Ram*, September 2018: [YouTube link](#)

2.2 Request Details: Provide the details regarding the program, including: (a) title and description, (b) date of the program, (c) location of the program, (d) anticipated attendance, (e) number of years the program has existed.

Mandala South Asian Performing Arts requests support for its signature production, *The Story of Ram*, a multicultural dance-theatre experience that reimagines the ancient South Asian epic *Ramayana* through a contemporary lens. This annual program brings together diverse Asian diasporic traditions—Indian, Balinese, Thai, and Cambodian—on one stage, showcasing a vibrant cast of professional dancers, musicians, and youth artists. Now entering its ninth year, *The Story of Ram* has become a cornerstone of Mandala's performance calendar and a beloved cultural event for audiences across Chicagoland. The 2026 performance is scheduled for October at Naper Settlement in Naperville, Illinois. In addition to the mainstage production, Mandala will conduct a robust series of outreach workshops and residencies throughout the summer and early fall at local schools, libraries, park districts, and social service agencies to engage community members of all ages and build awareness around the production. The 2026 performance will feature an ensemble of approximately 20 dancers and 8 musicians, including specialists in Hindustani classical music, Indonesian gamelan and Thai percussion. The performance will also incorporate large-scale projections of Wayang Kulit (Balinese shadow puppetry), crafted and animated live by master artist Ngurah Kertayuda, who serves as one of the show's lead choreographers alongside Artistic Director Pranita Nayar. The production emphasizes cross-cultural collaboration and intergenerational engagement, as youth performers are integrated into the ensemble and presented alongside master artists. Anticipated attendance for the 2026 program is 1,000 audience members. Mandala is committed to keeping the program accessible to the public, with ticket prices ranging from \$10 to \$50, as well as offering free tickets to workshop participants, students, and seniors. Now in its ninth year, *The Story of Ram* continues to grow in both artistic ambition and community impact, offering Naperville residents and visitors an opportunity to experience the depth

and diversity of South and Southeast Asian performing arts in an inclusive and celebratory environment.

2.3 Cost: Provide the details regarding the program cost, including: (a) total cost of the program, (b) total SECA grant funding requested, (c) funding for capital purchase (if applicable), (d) expected life of capital purchase (if applicable), (e) number of years this request has received a SECA grant, (f) if a SECA grant has been awarded in the past, please list the award amounts for the last 3 years.

The total cost of the program is 53,300.

Mandala is seeking 25,400 from SECA.

Mandala has received support from SECA since 2021 for a total of 5 years.

The award amounts from 2023- 2025 add up to 29170.

2.4 Supplemental Funding: Explain why supplemental funding is necessary for the program.

Supplemental funding is necessary for the project to enhance the success of the project. While monies raised from SECA are spent back in the city of Naperville, additional money raised allows Mandala to attract member of different and neighboring townships to come to Naperville. Supplemental funding allows for increase participation and better quality of the program. Supplemental funding will be used for marketing, paying the artist and better technology support at the event.

2.5 Self-Sustainability: Describe your plan to make the program self-sustaining and in a position to no longer need SECA funding.

Mandala is consistently working to make our program self-sufficient by raising funds from the community and, the state and federal government. Consistent inroad made with other sponsoring organizations and donors is leading Mandala towards making its program self-sustaining in the city of Naperville

Section 3: Physical Art Grant Request and Applicant Details

3.1 Organizational History: Provide a brief description of the organization, including: (a) brief history, (2) number of years in existence, (c) mission statement.

Click or tap here to enter text.

3.2 Request Details: Provide the details regarding the project, including: (a) title and description of the project, (b) artist(s) involved, (c) location of the project, (d) estimated completion date, (e) proposed installation and decommission dates, (f) scope/dimension of the project, (g) materials to be used.

Click or tap here to enter text.

3.3 Cost: Provide the details regarding the project cost, including: (a) total cost of the project, (b) total SECA grant funding requested, (c) number of years this request has received a SECA grant, (f) if a SECA grant has been awarded in the past, please list the award amounts for the last 3 years.

Click or tap here to enter text.

3.4 Supplemental Funding: Explain why supplemental funding is necessary for the program.

Click or tap here to enter text.

3.5 Self-Sustainability: Describe your plan to make the program self-sustaining and in a position to no longer need SECA funding.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Section 4: Impact to the Naperville Community

4.1 Artist/Organization Objectives: Explain (a) the specific objectives to be achieved, (b) how the objectives will be tracked and evaluated, (c) how the objectives of the request support the SECA mission of assisting the City in furthering special events and artistic cultural experiences that support an inclusive community that values diversity for Naperville and its visitors, (d) the target audience for the project/program, (e) how the success of reaching your target audience will be measured, (f) whether the project/program is open to the public and if not, provide a reason why, (g) what the cost is to attend/view.

The Story of Ram seeks to deepen cultural understanding in Naperville by presenting a reimagined version of the ancient epic through Indian, Indonesian Thai, and Cambodian traditions. The production brings together diverse professional and youth artists in a shared space of performance, collaboration, and community dialogue. Objectives include offering high-quality performances that are accessible to all, engaging youth alongside master artists, and extending learning through workshops and residencies in schools, libraries, and community organizations. Success will be evaluated through attendance tracking, participant and audience surveys, and partner feedback, measuring both artistic impact and community engagement. By connecting audiences with South and Southeast Asian traditions in innovative ways, the program fulfills SECA's mission to foster inclusive artistic experiences that reflect Naperville's growing diversity. The production is open to public with tickets starting from free tickets to \$50 tickets

4.2 Accessibility: Describe the project/program accessibility plan (if applicable).

Accessibility is central to the projects. The Story of Ram will be staged at Naper Settlement, a fully ADA-compliant venue located in downtown Naperville and easily reached by car, bike, and public transportation. Ticketing is designed to ensure access for all, with sliding-scale prices and free admission for students, seniors, and workshop participants.

4.3 Waste Reduction: Describe plans to reduce waste by recycling and/or composting, including signage, procurement policies for event materials and supplies, and any giveaway policies that promote the use of durable items as appropriate.

The story of Ram will implement sustainable practices to minimize waste. For the performance, marketing will prioritize digital platforms over print and sets and costumes will be reused or repurposed across productions.

4.4 Transportation Plan: Describe transportation options available to attendees (e.g. bicycle-friendly, walking-friendly, close to public transportation, etc.)

Naper settlement is easily accessible by bike, on foot and close to public transportation. It's easy accessibility makes it an attractive venue for Mandala programs

4.5 Clean Energy Plan: Describe any on-site event energy usage and the fuel source used (e.g. electricity, diesel generators, biodiesel generators, solar power, etc.)

The production of *The Story of Ram* at Naper Settlement will primarily rely on the site's existing electrical grid, which is powered by local utility electricity. No diesel or biodiesel generators will be required for the performance. Stage lighting, audio equipment, and other production needs will be supplied through standard on-site electrical outlets. Where possible, the team will utilize energy-efficient LED lights to minimize electricity consumption.

Section 5: Finance Details

Note: All budgets must be reviewed by the applicant for accuracy prior to submission. The application will not be considered if the budget section is inaccurate or not completed.

The documents below must be submitted with the application:

- Budget worksheet
- Nonprofit status documentation
- Most recent completed agency audit or annual financial statement
- Federal Form 990 (if required to file)
- Governing body authorization
- Disclosure of Interest

Section 6: Conflict of Interest

Applicants must disclose whether any Director, Board Member, or employee of the applicant/organization receiving funds has a family interest, employment interest, or ownership interest in the applicant/organization's use of SECA Grant funds being requested. Family interest, employment interest and ownership interest are defined in 1-13-1 of the Naperville Municipal Code.

For example: If an applicant owns a web design firm and is applying for a SECA Grant for work being done by that firm, the interest must be disclosed. If an applicant is also an artist or receives an honorarium, the interest must be disclosed.

6.1 Do any of the employees or parties listed above have a family interest, employment interest, or ownership interest in the applicant's use of the SECA funds requested?

No

6.2 If you selected Yes to the item above, please describe the conflict(s) below.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Section 7: Required Documentation

All applicants are required to submit the following documentation, if applicable.

- Attachment A – Nonprofit Status Document
Determination of 501(c)(3) or Registered Non-Profit status
- Attachment B – Most Recent Financials
Attach your most recently completed audit or annual financial statement
- Attachment C – Budget Worksheet
Attach your completed Budget Worksheet
- Attachment D – Federal Form 990
Attach your most recent Federal 990 form (if required to file)
- Attachment E – Governing Board Authorization
Attach a resolution or written endorsement by your governing body authorizing this application
- Attachment F – Insurance
Attach insurance or permits applied for through the City of Naperville
- Attachment G – Resume
Attach resume of the proposed artist(s)
- Attachment H – References
Attach three professional references for the proposed artist(s)
- Attachment I – Samples of Past Work
Attach samples of past work
- Attachment J – Physical Art
Attach sample, model, photograph or drawings of the proposed art
- Attachment K – Site Plan/Landscaping Plan

Attach plan for proposed placement of art, orientation of the art, distance in measurement between the piece of art and public streets, location of trees and shrubbery, and types of trees

Attachment L – Maintenance Plan

Attach instructions for routine preservation and long-term preservation of the art

Attachment M – Written Statement

Attach written statement by the artist of the valuation of the art

Attachment N – Property Owner Agreement

Attach agreement with private property owner

Attachment O – Disclosure of Interest

Attach any additional documentation needed to disclose conflicts of interest

CY26 Event Budget

	Estimated Total	SECA Allocation	Actual Total (Final Report)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 53,400.00	\$ 25,400.00	\$ -

	Estimated Total	SECA Allocation	Actual Total
Site			
Venue Rental Fees	12,000.00	6,000.00	
Equipment	4,000.00	1,500.00	
Totals	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -

	Estimated Total	SECA Allocation	Actual Total
Program			
Artist Fees /Honorariums	15,000.00	7,000.00	
Tech Support	3,000.00	1,500.00	
Light Designer	1,000.00	500.00	
Stage Hands	1,200.00	600.00	
Production Manager	1,200.00	500.00	
Totals	\$ 21,400.00	\$ 10,100.00	\$ -

	Estimated Total	SECA Allocation	Actual Total
Event Materials			
Totals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

	Estimated Total	SECA Allocation	Actual Total
City Services			
Totals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

	Estimated Total	SECA Allocation	Actual Total
Marketing and Publicity			
Marketing Administrator	3,000.00	2,000.00	
Website & Social Media Mgmt	2,500.00	1,200.00	
Promotional Material	3,000.00	1,500.00	
Advertisements	600.00	500.00	
Totals	\$ 9,100.00	\$ 5,200.00	\$ -

	Estimated Total	SECA Allocation	Actual Total
Miscellaneous			
Costumes	500.00	100.00	
Travel	1,000.00	-	
Administrative Expenses	5,000.00	2,500.00	
Totals	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ -

	Estimated Total	SECA Allocation	Actual Total
Catering			
Meals for Artist & Crew	400.00		
Totals	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ -

	Estimated	SECA	Actual Total
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 53,400.00	\$ 25,400.00	\$ -

	Estimated	SECA	Actual
Project/Event Revenue			
Sponsorship	6,000.00		
Tickets	4,000.00		
Donations	4,000.00		
Totals	\$ 14,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

	Estimated	SECA	Actual
Miscellaneous			
In-Kind Marketing	2,000.00		
In-Kind Administrative	2,000.00		
Totals	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

	Estimated	SECA	Actual Total
SECA Grant			
	25,400.00	25,400.00	
Totals	\$ 25,400.00	\$ 25,400.00	\$ -

	Estimated	SECA	Actual Total
Other			
Foundation Support	7,000.00		
Mandala Cash	3,000.00		
Totals	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

Key:

Estimated Total = Entire Estimated Project Cost Before the Event
 SECA Allocation = Amount Received Toward Total Event Cost
 Actual Total = Entire Project Cost After the Event has Occurred