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**Mesa Arts Center Announces In-Kind Rental Grant Opportunity For Nonprofits:
Creative Economy Fund now accepting applications**

(Mesa, AZ) April 15, 2016 – The City of Mesa Department of Arts and Culture Creative Economy Fund will support reduced rental rates at Mesa Arts Center for non-profit organizations presenting an arts project, event, activity, workshop or a series of any of the above. Applicants must be a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization based in Arizona. Grant guidelines and application are available for download at <http://www.mesaaz.gov/things-to-do/arts-culture/creative-economy-fund>, and the deadline to apply is 5 p.m. May 13, 2016. Those interested in learning about the grant are invited to participate in a free workshop at Mesa Arts Center in the South Studios Conference Room on Monday, May 9, 5-6 p.m.

The program is part of a larger initiative to further activate the urban center of Mesa, to increase the growing number and variety of offerings in downtown Mesa, and to continue to build an environment of creativity and discovery in the downtown district. The Creative Economy Fund in-kind grant program intends to provide support to professional and semi-professional organizations that use or wish to use the MAC venues, to bring new cultural offerings to the East Valley and to encourage new partnerships among cultural organizations in the region.

“We are so pleased to offer this mutually beneficial program, which supports organizations bringing valuable and enriching experiences to Valley citizens, while offering new events and opportunities to Mesa and the East Valley,” said Mesa’s Director of Arts & Culture, Cindy Ornstein.

The review process is competitive, and applications will be reviewed by a community panel based on criteria outlined in the program guidelines.

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About Mesa Arts Center

Mesa Arts Center, owned and operated by the City of Mesa, is a unique, architecturally stunning facility located in the heart of downtown Mesa. Arizona's largest multidisciplinary arts center is home to four theaters, five art galleries in the MCA Museum, and 14 art studios. Guests, patrons, and students come to Mesa Arts Center to enjoy the finest live entertainment, performances and festivals, world-class visual art exhibitions, and outstanding arts education classes. The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.