



**Proposition 202 Tribal Gaming  
Application Sponsorship/Support Form  
Requesting Pinal County serve as the Fiscal Agent/Pass Through Entity**

**Name of the Tribal Community:** Tohono O'odham Nation

**Due date of the application to the Tribal community:** 6-7-2024

The following information will be used by Pinal County to 1) send the resolution and grant documents for the applicant to submit to the Tribal community, 2) send the funds, if awarded.

**Name of the Non-profit:** Oracle Piano Society

**Contact person/title:** Dr. Stephen Cook, Artistic/Executive Director

**Email address:** cook@oraclepianosociety.org

**Address:** Mailing Address: P.O. Box 24627 Tempe, AZ 85285

**Project name:** Oracle Conservatory of Music

**Amount being requested:** \$79,600

**Project summary:** We seek funding to support our Conservatory of Music which provides tuition-free music instruction for low-income youth in rural and Tribal communities.

**Beneficiaries:** Low income youth in Oracle, Mammoth, San Manuel, Ak-Chin Indian Community, and Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community

**Supervisor District:** 1

The undersigns hereby certifies they have read and comply with the responsibilities set forth in the PINAL COUNTY TRIBAL GAMING GRANT PROGRAM  
Request for fiscal agent/pass through support documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director name and signature  
Dr. Stephen Cook

# **Tohono O'odham Nation**

## **2024 Prop 202 – 12% Contribution Grant Application**

### **Narrative**

a) Explain the perceived need and explain how the proposal will address that need.

We are applying for a grant to fund Oracle Piano Society's Conservatory of Music. This program aligns with the Tohono O'odham Nation's priority area of Education.

The Oracle Piano Society is bringing high-quality music instruction to rural and Tribal communities where such services would otherwise not be available. It is proven that music instruction is extremely beneficial to cognitive, emotional, social, and intellectual development. Studying an instrument also builds coordination, fine motor skills, discipline, time management skills, creativity, and an appreciation for the preservation and development of culture. We believe that all children, regardless of their location or family income level should be provided with equal access to high quality music instruction. Our goal is to provide barrier-free music education to as many students as possible. We have established a generational program that provides a path for students to grow from beginner to collegiate level. Our program is multi-tiered so that it serves all levels of students.

We currently provide weekly private music lessons, operate an after-school band program at the Mammoth-San Manuel PK-12 school, and a strings program at the Ak-Chin Indian Community. We have also established a partnership with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and plan to launch a summer after-school general music program for their community soon.

Additionally, as an arm of our Conservatory, we operate an annual tuition-free Chamber Music Festival. Students enrolled in our Conservatory attend this intensive festival which offers daily lessons, performances, master classes, and symposiums. Our Conservatory students collaborate with other students from across the state and country. This year, 34 students enrolled.

Another arm of our Conservatory is our Signature Series. This concert series brings world renowned performers to Oracle throughout the academic year. Those artists perform at our Oracle Center for the Arts venue, teach master classes, and present assemblies at the Mammoth-San Manuel PK-12 School and at the Oracle Mountain Vista School. Tickets to our guest artists' performances are always free for students.

Our Conservatory students receive tuition-free private lessons, participate in our annual chamber music festival, and attend our Signature Series concerts where they meet face-to-face with the celebrated guest artists and work directly with them in master classes. Additionally, those students gain valuable insight into nonprofit leadership by serving as apprentices to the Artistic Director. This means that students give back to their community by helping with the festival and concert logistics. Not only does this help our students to develop a sense of responsibility and ownership, but it also enables further immersion in the world of music.

The quality of our education programs is exceptionally high due to our reliance on highly qualified instructors and performers who are selected by our Artistic Director, Stephen Cook who holds a doctorate in music performance. Our Artist Advisory Committee Members who advise the Artistic Director include Native Flutist R. Carlos Nakai; Ursula Oppens, Professor of Piano at Mannes College, and Distinguished Professor of Music at Brooklyn College and the CUNY Graduate Center in New York City; Robert Hamilton, Retired Professor of Piano at ASU; Eteri Andjaparidze, Professor of Piano, NYU; Dr. James DeMars, Retired Professor of Composition, ASU; Paul Harvey, Jr., Pianist, Author, Radio Hall of Fame; Alexander Korsantia, Professor of Piano New England Conservatory; Dr. John Milbauer, Dean of DePaul University School of Music, Chicago.

The main academic session of our Conservatory is a two semester program from September to April, annually. Our Chamber Music Festival, which is part of the Conservatory, operates every January 2-7. We also operate a month-long summer program.

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Because our students receive free tuition, we must raise funds for our education programs from donations, grants, and through our concert program revenue. We are fortunate to belong to a large community of generous and enthusiastic supporters. They donate and attend our Signature Series Concerts which helps to bring in revenue throughout the season. We have been certified by the Arizona Tax Credit Program as a QCO which will provide sustaining annual support. Every year, in addition to this application to the Tohono O'odham Nation, we apply for funding from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, the Gila River Indian Community, the Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona's Operating Grant, and the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona's CORE Grant. This year, we partnered with Cuba Rhythm and Views which helps us to raise additional education funds and will help us to establish a Cuba exchange program for students.

In 2023, we were extremely fortunate to receive a \$50,000 grant from the Ak-Chin Indian Community. This funding enabled us to reach a large number of students in rural and Tribal communities. We also received a 2023 \$15,000 Creative Capacity Grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts and raised \$9,000 from the Cuba Rhythm and Views organization. We also received a \$5,000 grant from Pinal County to make ADA improvements to our Oracle Center for the Arts venue. We rely heavily on donations from our loyal supporters who contribute a significant portion of our budget and we have been classified as a Qualifying Charitable Organization by the Arizona Tax Credit Program which will help to ensure sustaining support for our program.

Oracle Piano Society also works closely with many small businesses and community organizations. The Ak-Chin Community Library provides a space for our string instruction. We rent our instruments from Milano's Music in Mesa and Hachenberg Pianos of Tucson. We are going to present a summer music class at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Center. Our Band class takes place at the Mammoth-San Manuel PK-12 School and we periodically host assemblies at the Oracle Mountain Vista School. In Oracle, DeMarco's Pizzeria provides a practice space during our Chamber Music Festival as does the Way of Bean Coffee Club, the Oracle Historical Society, and the Oracle Community Center. Additionally, we rent the El Rancho Robles Guest Ranch every January for our one-week Chamber Music Festival, and we work with the Patio Cafe in Oracle for catering of our events. We also work with Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, Scottsdale Community College, Mesa Community College, Concordia College, Brigham Young University, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Reno.

Our progress is measured by the size of our impact in the community, the number of students enrolled, and by the quality of the programs we are providing. Our education programs are led by experienced instructors who ensure that quality is high. We assess our students through recital performances and evaluations. We also send surveys to our enrolled students to identify areas of improvement.

b) Describe the population who will benefit from the proposal if approved.

Our programs are making a big impact in rural communities where family income falls below 150% of the federal poverty level as well as throughout Arizona. Our assemblies at the Title 1 Mammoth-San Manuel PK-12 School and the Oracle Mountain Vista School, reach over 500 students. There are 41 low-income students enrolled in our various Conservatory programs and this year's Chamber Music Festival served 34 students from around the country. Our local Conservatory students collaborated with collegiate students from BYU, Concordia College, UNLV, ASU, and U of A. We also invite students from local universities and community colleges from around the state to participate in master classes taught by our guest artists. So far this season, we have brought 25 students from ASU, U of A, Scottsdale Community College, and Mesa Community College to study with our world class visiting performers.

c) Include a budget of the requested funds, with the total amount requested clearly notated.

# Tohono O’odham Nation

## 2024 Prop 202 – 12% Contribution Grant Application

### Narrative

Budget Period: 2024-2025

Proposed Budget Expense (list each budget item)	Amount requested from Ak-Chin	Amount requested or secured from other sources	In Kind contributions	Total Budget
Instruction fees for Conservatory Faculty Members	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$50,000
Chamber Music Festival honoraria for festival instructors and performers	\$9,600	9,600	\$0	19,200
Signature Series honoraria for visiting guest artists and master class clinicians	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$0	\$24,000
Meals and Lodging for Chamber Music Festival & Visiting performers	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$2,000	\$20,000
Instrument Rental (Chamber Music Festival and Conservatory)	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$11,000
Piano Tuning Fees For the Year	\$0	\$1,500	\$500	\$2,000
T Shirts	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Print & Misc	\$0	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$5,000
Rehearsal, teaching, and practice Spaces	\$0	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$4,000
Administrative Costs	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$80,000
Total Budget	\$79,600	\$121,100	\$15,500	\$216,200

d) List any other funding requests that have been made for this or substantially related proposals and provide the status of those requests.

We applied for funding from the Gila River Indian Community and the Ak-Chin Indian Community’s 12% Grant in 2024. Those 2024 applications are open and award notifications have not yet been determined.

e) Indicate whether the entity has previously received a 12% distribution from the Tohono O’odham Nation or other Arizona tribes, along with the amount and date awarded.

We were extremely fortunate to be awarded \$50,000 from the Ak-Chin Indian Community in 2023. This major award enabled us to significantly expand our offerings including to the Tribal Communities of Ak-Chin and Salt River Pima-Maricopa. We are hopeful that the Ak-Chin Indian Community will continue to provide support for our vital programs.

f) Identify a designated contact person and alternate contact person for follow-up. Include the following information for each contact person: e-mail address, phone number, mailing address, and fax number.

# Tohono O'odham Nation

## 2024 Prop 202 – 12% Contribution Grant Application

### Narrative

Primary Contact: Dr. Stephen Cook, Artistic/Executive Director email: [cook@oraclepianosociety.org](mailto:cook@oraclepianosociety.org) phone: 773-454-2509

mailing address: Oracle Piano Society P.O. Box 24627 Tempe, AZ 85285

Secondary Contact: Rachel Opinsky, Co-Chairperson email: [opinsky@oraclepianosociety.org](mailto:opinsky@oraclepianosociety.org) phone: 623-523-9989 mailing address: Oracle Piano Society P.O. Box 24627 Tempe, AZ 85285

g) Indicate which priority area (from the above list) the proposal falls under.

This program aligns with the priority area of Education.

h) If the proposal is from a non-profit organization, include the name of the city, town, or county an agreement will be made with if funds are granted. A letter from the governmental entity acknowledging its agreement to work with the non-profit is not necessary for the initial proposal.

Oracle Piano Society is a nonprofit organization situated in Oracle, Arizona. Pinal County is the entity with which the agreement will be made.





**Tohono O'odham Nation  
2024 Prop 202 – 12% Contribution Grant Application  
Narrative**



INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: JUN 29 2013

ORACLE PIANO SOCIETY  
C/O STEPHEN COOK  
1413 E HALL ST  
TEMPE, AZ 85281

Employer Identification Number:  
45-5577678  
DLN:  
17053227321022  
Contact Person:  
JERRY FIERRO ID# 31119  
Contact Telephone Number:  
(877) 829-5500  
Accounting Period Ending:  
December 31  
Public Charity Status:  
509(a)(2)  
Form 990 Required:  
Yes  
Effective Date of Exemption:  
June 26, 2012  
Contribution Deductibility:  
Yes  
Addendum Applies:  
No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Letter 947 (DO/CG)

ORACLE PIANO SOCIETY

We have sent a copy of this letter to your representative as indicated in your power of attorney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kenneth C. Corbin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kenneth Corbin  
Acting Director, Exempt Organizations

Enclosure: Publication 4221-PC