PINAL COUNTY
WIDE OPEN OPPORTUNITY

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

Due date of the application to the Tribal community: June 9, 2025

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 Director
Email address:	cook@oraclepianosociety.org
Address:	Physical: 700 E. Kingston St. Oracle, AZ 85623 Mail: P.O. Box 24627 Tempe, AZ 85285
Project name:	Oracle Piano Society Education Initiatives
Amount being requested:	$88,550
Project summary:	A program providing tuition-free, high quality music education services for low-income rural youth through a Conservatory, a Signature Concert Series, and a Chamber Music Festival
Beneficiaries:	Low-income youth primarily situated in the rural AZ towns of Oracle, San Manuel, and Mammoth
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

Tohono O'odham Nation2025 Prop 202 – 12% Contribution Grant Application Narrative

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

We are applying for a grant from the Tohono O'odham Nation to support the Oracle Piano Society's Conservatory of Music—an educational initiative designed to expand access to high-quality music instruction for students in rural Arizona. This program aligns with the Nation's priority area of Education.

Oracle Piano Society delivers intensive, high-level music training to students in Oracle and surrounding rural areas where such resources are scarce or nonexistent. Research shows music education significantly enhances students' cognitive, social, and emotional development, while also fostering discipline, creativity, and cultural preservation.

Our Conservatory offers a multi-tiered, generational curriculum designed to serve students at all levels—from beginners through college-level musicians. Tuition is always free to ensure equitable access regardless of family income.

Key Program Components:

- Weekly private music lessons
- An after-school band program at the Mammoth-San Manuel PK-12 School
- A tuition-free annual Chamber Music Festival (Jan. 2–7), featuring daily lessons, master classes, and ensemble performance
- Our Signature Series concert program, which brings renowned artists to perform, teach master classes, and conduct school assemblies

Our students also gain real-world experience in nonprofit leadership by assisting with festival and concert logistics. This helps them develop responsibility, communication, and organizational skills in addition to musical growth.

The Conservatory is led by Artistic Director Dr. Stephen Cook (D.M.A.) and an elite Artist Advisory Committee including:

- R. Carlos Nakai – Navajo flutist
- Ursula Oppens – Piano Professor, Mannes College & CUNY
- Robert Hamilton – Retired Piano Professor, ASU
- Eteri Andjaparidze – Piano Professor, NYU
- Dr. James DeMars – Retired Composition Professor, ASU
- Paul Harvey Jr. – Pianist & Radio Hall of Fame inductee
- Alexander Korsantia – Piano Professor, New England Conservatory
- Dr. John Milbauer – Dean, DePaul University School of Music

Tohono O'odham Nation2025 Prop 202 – 12% Contribution Grant Application Narrative

Annual Program Timeline:

- Academic term: September – April
- Chamber Music Festival: January 2–7
- Summer intensive: One month

Funding Strategy:

As all instruction is tuition-free, the program is sustained through grants, donations, and concert revenue. The Oracle Piano Society is a Qualifying Charitable Organization under Arizona's Tax Credit Program and receives annual support from donors and grant-making bodies.

Recent Support Includes:

- $50,000 – Ak-Chin Indian Community (2023)
- $6,500 – Arizona Commission on the Arts (2024)
- $10,000 – Pinal County
- $9,000 – Raised through Cuba Rhythm and Views partnership

Key Partners:

- School districts: Mammoth-San Manuel PK-12, Oracle Mountain Vista
- Universities: ASU, U of A, BYU, Concordia, UNLV, Mesa & Scottsdale CCs
- Businesses: DeMarco's Pizzeria, Way of Bean Coffee Club, Oracle Historical Society, Oracle Community Center, El Rancho Robles Guest Ranch, Hachenberg Pianos (instrument rental), Patio Café (catering)

Measuring Impact:

- Number of students served
- Quality of instruction and events
- Student performance evaluations and surveys
- Community engagement and school outreach

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

Tohono O'odham Nation2025 Prop 202 – 12% Contribution Grant Application Narrative

Our programs primarily serve low-income and underserved populations, especially students in communities where family income falls below 150% of the federal poverty level.

Current Impact:

- 500+ students reached via assemblies at Mammoth-San Manuel PK-12 (Title I) and Oracle Mountain Vista
- 41 low-income students enrolled in Conservatory programs
- 34 students from Arizona and beyond participated in the 2025 Chamber Music Festival
- Collaborative training and master classes included students from BYU, Concordia, UNLV, ASU, U of A, Scottsdale CC, and Mesa CC

This grant will help us expand our reach to even more rural students.

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c) Budget Summary for 2025–2026

We respectfully request **$88,550** from the Tohono O'odham Nation to support instruction, artist honoraria, lodging, administrative costs, and student engagement materials.

Expense Item	Tohono O'odham Nation Request	Other Sources	In-Kind Contributions	Total Budget
Instruction fees for Conservatory Faculty	$10,000	$10,000	$0	$20,000
Festival Honoraria (Chamber Music Festival)	$9,000	$9,000	$0	$18,000
Guest Artist Honoraria (Signature Series)	$7,000	$7,000	$1,000	$15,000
Lodging & Meals for Performers and Festival	$11,500	$11,500	$2,000	$25,000
Instrument Rental	$1,500	$1,500	$1,000	$4,000
Piano Tuning Fees	$750	$750	$500	$2,000
T-Shirts	$300	$300	$0	$600
Printing & Miscellaneous	$2,000	$2,000	$1,000	$5,000
Rehearsal/Teaching/Practice Spaces	$1,500	$1,500	$1,000	$4,000

Administrative Costs	$45,000	$45,000	$10,000	$100,000
TOTAL	**$88,550**	**$89,550**	**$16,500**	**$194,600**

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d) Other funding requests

We have applied for support from the Arizona Commission on the Arts (Creative Capacity Grant) and the Pinal County Board of Supervisors. Decisions on these applications are still pending.

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e) Previous tribal funding

In 2023, we received a $50,000 grant from the Ak-Chin Indian Community. This enabled us to significantly expand our offerings, including outreach to students from the Ak-Chin and Salt River Pima-Maricopa communities.

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f) Contact Information

Primary Contact:
Dr. Stephen Cook, Artistic/Executive Director
Email: cook@oraclepianosociety.org
Phone: (773) 454-2509
Mailing Address: Oracle Piano Society, P.O. Box 24627, Tempe, AZ 85285

Secondary Contact:
Rachel Opinsky, Chairperson
Email: opinsky@oraclepianosociety.org
Phone: (623) 523-9989
Mailing Address: Oracle Piano Society, P.O. Box 24627, Tempe, AZ 85285

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g) Priority Area

This proposal aligns with the priority area of **Education**.

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h) Governmental Agreement

Oracle Piano Society is a nonprofit based in Oracle, Arizona. If awarded funds, an agreement will be made with **Pinal County**.

Tohono O'odham Nation2025 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.

ORACLE PIANO SOCIETY

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

Sincerely,

Kenneth C Corbin

Kenneth Corbin
Acting Director, Exempt Organizations

Enclosure: Publication 4221-PC