

May 21st, 2026

2nd Budget Public Hearing

Write in Comment

Sender:	Rupam Rahul - Visual Artist, Art Educator, CZT
Received:	May 11 th , 2026 - 11:38AM
Email:	rupam@theartpalette.com
Phone:	(704) 819-6114
Other:	www.theartpalette.com
Subject:	Thank you for supporting Local Artists and ASC Culture Blocks

Message: My name is Rupam Varma (visual artist, art educator) and I am a resident of the Ballantyne, Charlotte area. I am writing to sincerely thank you for supporting the Culture Blocks Arts & Science Council in the FY2026 budget and for recognizing the importance of arts and culture in Mecklenburg County. Your commitment directly supports artists, cultural educators and community programs that bring people together in meaningful ways.

This year, I was fortunate to receive two ASC Culture Blocks grants. From January to June 2026, I received \$12,096 to offer free Mithila Motif workshops for seniors at the Belle Johnston Community Center and for all ages at the Matthews Community Center. The response was overwhelming, full of joy and connection. Participants shared how the sessions helped them relax, feel creative and experience a cultural tradition many had never encountered before.

I am also thrilled to share that I received a second grant of \$8,378 for my upcoming July–December 2026 Culture Blocks program, which will take place at the Pineville Library, Mint Hill Library and Matthews Community Center for all age groups. I am truly excited to bring these culturally rooted Mithila art experiences to even more neighborhoods and to continue building community through creativity.

ASC's investment in local artists strengthens the creative economy, supports cultural diversity, and ensures that residents of all ages and backgrounds have access to enriching arts experiences. Your support makes this possible, and I am deeply grateful.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your continued commitment to keeping arts and culture accessible for everyone in Mecklenburg County.