

Popular Cabrillo Music Festival loses major source of funding

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SANTA CRUZ — The Cabrillo Music Festival will lose a federal grant that makes up 5 percent of its annual budget this year, according to its executive director.

The National Endowment of the Arts, which has provided funds for the Santa Cruz festival since 1979,

has discontinued a \$13,700 grant due to budget cuts.

Though Executive Director Tom Fredericks was aware that the federal government was paring down its funding for the arts, the immediate loss of annual funds was unexpected.

"It was a shock because we were assured that ... we could get through

one more year at some level. The shock was that it would be nothing," Fredericks said.

The nationally acclaimed festival, which is entering its 34th year, is held the first two weekends in August. Because ticket sales account for just 25 percent of the festival's \$270,000 annual budget, Fredericks expects to intensify fund-

raising efforts to make up for the loss.

Two years ago, attendance at the festival climbed 67 percent, despite difficulties brought on by the Loma Prieta earthquake and further aggravated by the recession, Fredericks said. So the festival's paid performances and free outdoor music events, which drew an estimated

17,000 people last year, will likely survive another budget crunch, the question is how.

"Our challenge right now, is how to replace that grant that we were counting on," Fredericks said.

In 1990, earthquake damage to area churches prompted festival officials to seek a new venue. It has since made the Santa Cruz Civic

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Auditorium its new home cut its number of performances in half. As a result, a return of performances in churches is not possible because they would not accommodate the crowd of 6,500 that attends the indoor concerts.

Raising the price of tickets,

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which range from \$6 to \$22, is an unattractive option, Fredericks said.

"What we've learned is that we have to create a price so that everyone is a part of it," he said.

Fredericks plans to use the reduction as an appeal to potential donors, but said, "there's no one waiting in line to replace our third largest grant."

He credits community support for helping to maintain the festival, noting that in-kind services and donations make up over half of its budget.

One potential new funding source are corporate foundations

that are beginning to be established as area businesses become established, Fredericks aid.

"I suspect we're going to have to replace it in little pieces; a little here, a little there. What not going to be possible is to cut it out of our budget. So we're going to have to make it up somehow."