

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stimpunks Foundation **Email:** stimpunks@stimpunks.org **Web:** stimpunks.org **Date:** June 26, 2026

Stimpunks Foundation Named in Seen & Celebrated Fund by Ariana Grande's Brighter Days Ahead Foundation During Austin Tour Stop

"To be seen like this — championed, not pitied; trusted, not tested — is rare."

AUSTIN, TX — Stimpunks Foundation, an Austin-based mutual aid and human-centred learning organisation led by and for neurodivergent and disabled people, has been named as a grantee in the **Seen & Celebrated Fund** of the **Brighter Days Ahead Foundation** — the philanthropic initiative founded by Ariana Grande — as part of her *Eternal Sunshine* world tour's stop at the Moody Center.

Stimpunks is one of three Austin-based organisations selected for support at this tour stop, alongside **@teafund** and **@outyouth**. Together, they represent a local ecosystem of care for communities the world too often treats as disposable.

The Brighter Days Ahead Foundation directly funds small, grassroots organisations working in mental health access, LGBTQ+ and trans rights, crisis relief, and the simple, foundational right to exist safely. Stimpunks recognises its own mission woven into that work.

Statement from Stimpunks Foundation

"We are overwhelmed with gratitude.

In a time when neurodiversity is being misrepresented and weaponised, being seen and championed by Ariana and her foundation means everything to our communities, and to us.

We heard our own language in both names — Eternal Sunshine and Brighter Days Ahead. Authenticity is our eternal sunshine. Eternal sunshine is starlight. So are you.

What moves us about the Brighter Days Ahead Foundation is the same thing that grounds our own philosophy: the light is already in you. It always was. Brighter days are not a repair of something broken — they are better conditions for light that was always there. You were never dim. The sky was.

To be seen like this — championed, not pitied; trusted, not tested — is rare. There were no forms to fill, no worth to prove, no temporal lottery to win. That is not a small kindness. It is the whole argument.

Because how you are funded says whether you are believed. And most philanthropy says the opposite of what Brighter Days Ahead just said to us. For every \$10 in U.S. grantmaking, only about one penny goes to disability. Disability support systems are being dismantled on every front at once. The Brighter Days Ahead Foundation is doing exactly what this moment needs: providing trust-based support to those on the front lines of pluralism and survival, with no strings attached.

To be ★stuff — star stuff — is to be made of the same fusion that lights the Sun: forged inside stars, scattered by their deaths, gathered again into the particular, irreplaceable shape of you. In every colour, key, and frequency of neurodiversity. Autistic, disabled, neurodivergent, queer, here — a way for the Universe to know itself.

Brighter days, built together.

We love you down to your star stuff. LYSS. ★🌞"

— **Stimpunks Foundation** Ryan Boren and Helen Edgar, Co-Creative Directors

Background: The Future of Philanthropy

Stimpunks has long argued that how you fund an organisation communicates whether you believe in it. Traditional grant models place the highest administrative burden on the smallest organisations doing the most urgent work — what disability activist Liz Jackson (crediting collaborator Alex Haagaard) calls a "temporal lottery," where the buy-in is not money but time, and the people working closest to community are the least likely to win.

The Brighter Days Ahead Foundation's trust-based approach — direct, no lengthy application, no worth-proving — enacts a different set of values. It is grounded in the disability rights tradition

of "nothing about us without us," which insists that those most affected by inequity must lead the solutions.

Stimpunks has built its own aid and grant processes on the same principle: access should not cost what people have least of.

The full Stimpunks reflection on this announcement is available at:

stimpunks.org/2026/06/26/ariana-grande-brighter-days-ahead-stimpunks-and-the-future-of-philanthropy/

About Stimpunks Foundation

Stimpunks Foundation is a mutual aid and human-centred learning organisation built by and for neurodivergent and disabled people. Rooted in Autistic and disability justice, Stimpunks provides direct aid grants, creator grants, community learning resources, and a living design framework for reimagining environments around human diversity.

Stimpunks operates from a neurodiversity-affirming, anti-ableist philosophy grounded in the conviction that access is infrastructure, dignity is not optional, and we build at the edges — for the people most systems leave behind.

Web: stimpunks.org **Star Stuff:** stimpunks.org/star-stuff **Blog post:**

stimpunks.org/2026/06/26/ariana-grande-brighter-days-ahead-stimpunks-and-the-future-of-philanthropy/ **Donate:** stimpunks.org/give **Bluesky:** [@stimpunks.org](https://bsky.app/profile/stimpunks.org) | **Instagram:** [@stimpunks](https://www.instagram.com/stimpunks)

About the Brighter Days Ahead Foundation

The Brighter Days Ahead Foundation, founded by Ariana Grande, uplifts and directly funds small organisations that provide protection, support, and vital resources for vulnerable communities. With a focus on protecting trans and LGBTQ+ rights, expanding access to mental health care, and responding with care and compassion in moments of crisis, the foundation champions justice and equity. It is a fund of the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF), a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organisation.

Web: brighterdaysaheadfoundation.org | **Instagram:** [@brighterdaysaheadfdn](https://www.instagram.com/brighterdaysaheadfdn)

Short Statement for Press Use

The following is available for direct quotation:

"In a time when neurodiversity is being misrepresented and weaponised, being seen and championed by Ariana and her foundation means everything to our communities. The Brighter Days Ahead Foundation trusted us without asking us to prove our worth first. That is not a small kindness. It is the whole argument. Brighter days, built together. LYSS. ★🌞"

— Stimpunks Foundation

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★stuff | LYSS | Love You Down to Your Star Stuff