Artists in Schools | FY2023 Guidelines

Artists in Schools Grants support quality, multi-day arts experiences in schools with Vermont teaching artists in residence and encourage collaborations between schools, youth, artists, and arts organizations. Residencies may take place during the school day or in a sequential, after-school setting. Grant funding supports multi-day projects typically between 3-10 days in length and support preK-12 teachers and students within a given school or district.

Artists on the Council’s Teaching Artist Roster meet standards of artistic excellence, have teaching experience, and have experience planning collaboratively. Schools and arts organizations may apply for support of projects led by teaching artists not on the roster. Priority is given to projects led by Vermont artists and projects that support the Council’s priority areas. Teaching artist fees vary from artist to artist; grant funds may not cover the entire cost of the proposed project.

Arts and arts-integrated projects provide experiential learning opportunities that offer many benefits, including fostering connections within the school and the broader community, supporting students around targeted proficiencies or personal goals, helping students discover and express ideas, building student confidence, building connections with the arts and artistic process, and encouraging reflection.

Who May Apply

• Schools or school districts recognized by the Vermont Department of Education. This includes public schools, union schools, independent schools, Career and Technical Education programs, or Adult Education programs serving students in grades preK-12
• Non-profit arts organizations registered in Vermont with a documented school/district partnership

Unique Entity ID (UEI)

As of April 4, 2022, the federal government transitioned from the use of DUNS Numbers to a new Unique Entity ID (UEI). All organizations applying for funding will be required to have a UEI. This ID is a 12-character alphanumeric value assigned, managed, and owned by the federal government through SAM.gov. School applicants may consult school or district administrators for their UEI or learn how to get your free UEI here. Contact us with any questions about a UEI.

Who May Not Apply

• Applicants that have already received an Arts in Schools Grant for the same school year
• Applicants applying for the same project with the same teaching artist more than two years in a row
• Applicants that have incomplete reports for any Vermont Arts Council grant program
• Applicants that receive operating support through Vermont Arts Council’s Arts Partners or Arts Impact programs in the same year
Grant Amounts
Schools/arts organizations may apply for an award of up to $3,000 to support eligible project costs.

Eligible project costs include:

- Teaching artist instruction or student contact time. (Artist fees vary. As a guideline, typical projects fund artist’s instructional time at a base rate of $100/hour.)
- Other time contributed by the teaching artist. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, planning time, development of content, and/or time for assembling participant projects or performances. This may include culminating events. (Artists fees vary. As a guideline, typical projects fund artist’s instructional time at a base rate of $30/hour.)
- Materials—up to $250 of the funds may be used for materials to be purchases or supplied by the teaching artist.

Fees should be negotiated with the artists or artist groups before the application is submitted. A budget worksheet is available to help determine eligible costs.

The full grant award will be paid upon the approval of the grant. Grant amounts are dependent upon federal and state funding and are subject to change.

Criteria for Selection
Applications will be reviewed based on:

Artistry:
- The strength of the project in creating opportunities for students to work and express themselves creatively

Learning Objectives:
- The strength of the learning objectives and goals for the development and success of all students and/or teachers. This should include objectives aligned with National Core Arts Standards or arts learning targets. This may also include goals or objectives in other content areas such as transferable skills, literacy, mathematics, global citizenship, physical education, equity literacy, etc.
- The strength of the activities and strategies for achieving and assessing the goals and objectives, including:
  - Opportunities for students to express their voice, make important choices, and/or take on significant responsibility and work independently with support
  - Opportunities for students to inquire, discover, engage, and reflect through the creative process or the arts
  - Inclusive opportunities for students to learn about themselves and the world around them

Project Planning:
- The plan for making the program accessible for youth of all abilities and/or serving underserved and under-represented populations
- The clarity of the budget, project timeline, and team roles
- The strength of the project integration, the makeup of the teaching team, and the proposal for planning and communicating throughout all stages of the residency

Grantee Requirements and Expectations
- Students are served by multi-day projects driven by an eligible teaching artist. This may include remote learning opportunities, school or outdoor-based project, or projects delivered by classroom teachers with support and/or mentorship from a teaching artist
- Grantees assume responsibility for ensuring Vermont health and district guidelines are met
- When publicizing the activity in the local press, grantees give credit to the Vermont Arts Council as well as the National Endowment for the Arts
Grantees assume responsibility to conduct appropriate criminal background checks per organizational policy

Grantee Requirements and Expectations (continued)

- Teaching artists will receive payment directly from the school/arts organization as agreed upon by both parties. Grant funds will be released soon after the notification of the award. Teaching artists may request partial funds before or during the residency as negotiated to support their planning time or the purchase of materials
- A final report is due 30 days after the end of the activity, and no later than September 30, 2023

Priority Areas
The Council is especially interested in projects that respond creatively to the Council’s program priorities:

- **Expanding access to the arts and culture for all Vermonters.** This includes projects designed to engage individuals with limited access to the arts due to age, ability, income, race, or other factors. It may also include projects that cultivate knowledge and skills for understanding and addressing the existence of inequity. This may include, for example, projects using the equity literacy framework, projects using ethnic studies frameworks, or projects designed to serve underrepresented students

- **Creative placemaking.** We welcome projects that re-envision public spaces and strengthen community identity through the arts. Creative placemaking projects would involve multiple partners and may be a part of a larger community effort while altering the use or perception of a public space through creative work

- **Creative economy.** We welcome projects that support and mentor students preparing to enter the creative workforce. This includes projects for students preparing for or enrolled in Career and Technical Education Programs

Application and Deadline
Funds are to be used for activities that begin after September 1, 2022, and end by August 31, 2023. Applications will be reviewed internally at the end of each month and awards will be made accordingly until the funding is exhausted. The Council reserves the right to work with the applicant to improve or clarify grant requests before funding decisions are made. Applications must be submitted no later than one month before the start of the activity.

Preparing Your Application
You will be asked to provide:

- A description of the proposed residency and answers to narrative questions
- The name of the teaching artist selected from the Council’s Teaching Artist Roster
- A project budget

Access and Nondiscrimination Policy
The Vermont Arts Council is committed to supporting entities that maintain an environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic bias, disability, citizenship, veteran status, or other category protected by applicable state or federal law.

Arts Council grant recipients who receive federal or state funds must be in compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and the ADA Amendment Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325) which became effective on January 1, 2009.

Questions?
Inquiries about the Artists in Schools grant program should be made by sending an email to Troy Hickman or by calling 802.402.4496.
Inquiries about using the online granting system should be made by sending an email to Meredith Bell or by calling 802.402.4478.