



## Head Start Arts Integration | FY2024 Guidelines

The Head Start Arts Integration program supports children and teachers in early education programs with direct opportunities to think, create, and learn through the arts, helping children gain an appreciation for the arts and be better prepared for school. Organizations may request up to \$6,000 to ensure access to arts-based and creative programming for children and families enrolled in Head Start and/or to build the capacity of existing arts partnerships between Head Start and/or a regional organization—such as a school district—serving children enrolled in Head Start. Fundable project activities take place between January 1, 2024, and August 31, 2024.

### Who May Apply

The applicant must be a Vermont nonprofit with 501(c)(3) status, such as an arts organization, school/district, or service organization that:

- either directly serves children and families enrolled in Head Start or partners with a regional Head Start organization or other organization such as a school district to serve students enrolled in Head Start
- has been in operation for at least one year before applying
- has a [Unique Entity ID \(UEI\)](#)

### Who May Not Apply or Receive Funding

- Organizations that have received any other Arts Council grant in FY2024 to support the same project
- Organizations that have previously received Arts Council grants and have not completed required reporting

### Grant Amounts

Grant amounts are up to \$6,000. Grant amounts are dependent upon federal and state funding and are subject to change.

### Criteria for Selection

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

#### artistic merit (50%)

- Well-planned creative opportunities for children enrolled in Head Start
- Appropriately compensate at least one high-quality teaching artist(s) around implementing arts-integrated activities
- Meaningful community partnerships between arts and non-arts groups or entities that enhance the quality of the project

## Criteria for Selection (continued)

### impact (30%)

- Activities that positively impact the participants and community, especially activities that:
  - support children in reaching creative, academic, social, and/or emotional outcomes
  - support classroom teachers during and beyond the proposed timeline
- Activities for developing and connecting teaching artists
- Well-defined and measurable goals with a clear plan for evaluation
- Activities rooted in reflection on previous work or community need
- May include activities for developing and connecting teaching artists

### project management (20%)

- Clear and reasonable budget
- Realistic timeline
- Clear roles, responsibilities, and contributions for all partners and entities involved in the project
- May include contributions from partners including financial or in-kind support

## Application and Deadline

Apply online by **November 1, 2023**, for activities beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and to be completed by August 31, 2024.

## 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 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the ADA Amendment Act of 2008, and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design as well as the 2010 ADA Title III regulations for nondiscrimination.

## Questions?

Inquiries about the Head Start Arts Integration 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.