



Artists in Schools Grant | FY2026 Guidelines

Artists in Schools Grants support schools and eligible non-profit organizations to provide quality, multi-day arts and arts-integrated experiences in schools with Vermont teaching artists. The program encourages collaborations between schools, youth, artists, and arts organizations. Grant funding supports multi-day projects typically between 3-10 days in length and supports preK-12 teachers, staff, and students within an eligible school or district. Activities may engage students in classrooms; school-wide projects; or accessible, after-school programs.

The Council's [Teaching Artist Roster](#) provides a list of teaching artists that meet standards of artistic merit, teaching experience, and collaboration. Applicants are welcome to submit proposals to work with artists not on the Teaching Artist Roster. They will be asked to upload background information about the artist's artistry and experience as a teaching artist. 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, but not limited to, fostering connections and community within the school; supporting students to nurture targeted proficiencies, skills, or personal goals; and helping students express themselves or document their learning creatively.

Who May Apply

- Schools or school districts recognized by, in good standing with, and not on probation with the [Vermont Agency 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 and a plan for ensuring programs and services are available to students regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity through collaboration

Who May Not Apply

- Applicants who have already received an Artists 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 who have incomplete reports for any Vermont Arts Council program
- Applicants who receive a multi-year operating grant award from the Vermont Arts Council during the project year

Unique Entity ID (UEI)

All organizations applying for funding will be required to have a Unique Entity ID. ***Awards will not be made without 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 the UEI.

Grant Amounts

Schools/arts organizations may apply for an award of up to \$4,000 to support eligible project costs. Projects are typically funded at a rate of up to \$400/day for individual artists or \$600/day for a group of two or more artists. Funds are to be used to support teaching artist fees for instruction and planning. Up to \$250 of the award may be used for materials and/or student transportation.

Eligible project costs include:

- teaching artist instruction or student contact time
- 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 culminating projects or performances
- materials—up to \$250 of the funds may be used for materials or student transportation

Fees should be negotiated with the artists or artist groups before the application is submitted. Teaching artist fees vary from artist to artist and from project to project. Generally, it is recommended an artist be paid a minimum of \$100/hour for instructional or contact time and/or a minimum of \$30/hour for other time dedicated to the project. A full day should not exceed five contact hours with students. Grant funds may not cover the full cost of the project.

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

Criteria for Selection

Applications will be reviewed based on:

Artistry and Learning Objectives

- The opportunities for students to deeply explore an art form or artwork, engage others through creativity, and/or express themselves creatively
- The strength of the learning objectives and goals for the development and success of all students and/or teachers. This may include objectives aligned with [National Core Arts Standards](#), arts [learning targets](#), or [other content areas](#)
- The strength of the activities in engaging students, which may include:
 - opportunities for students to express their voice, take on significant responsibility, and/or work independently with support
 - opportunities for students to inquire, engage, and reflect through the arts and creativity
 - opportunities to build skills in the arts and creativity

Project Planning

- The clarity of how the funds will be used, who is involved, and how the project is integrated into the classroom, school, or program
- Funds adequately support artists involved in the project

Access

- The program prioritizes proposals designed to support schools with continuous improvement goals and addressing equity challenges. Educational equity in and through the arts provides students with access to resources, opportunities, and educational rigor in and through the arts whatever their race, gender/identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, language, ability, family background, or family income may be. It also elevates and reflects the many perspectives of ethnic and social groups within the classroom and the state
- The program seeks to distribute funding across the state, engage new schools, and engage as many teaching artists as possible each year

Grantee Requirements and Expectations

- Students are served by multi-day projects driven by an eligible teaching artist
- 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
- 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 and agreed upon by all
- A final report is due 30 days after the end of the activity, and no later than September 30, 2026

Application and Deadline

Funds are to be used for activities that begin after September 1, 2025, and end by August 31, 2026. The application will open on June 1, and applications will be reviewed internally at the end of each month. Applications must be submitted on or before **July 28** to be considered in the first review process. As funds are available, applications will be pulled for review on **August 26** and **September 23**.

Applications will be reviewed, 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 and may propose partial funding to the applicant. 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 the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 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.

For technical issues relating to the online grant application, [send an email to Meredith Bell](#) or call 802.402.4478.