Youth Development Teaching Artist Roster | FY2026 Guidelines

The Vermont Arts Council Youth Development Teaching Artist Roster is a juried directory of teaching artists living and/or working in Vermont who have notable experience leading multi-day activities for groups of youth in settings such as schools, after-school programs, or summer camps.

The roster highlights active and experienced teaching artists and is a resource to facilitate connections between teaching artists, arts organizations, schools, and other communities. The roster is also a tool for schools and organizations applying to the Council's grant programs such as Artists in Schools. Artists on the roster receive visibility and communications from Vermont Arts Council about professional development and grant programs. Please note being listed on the Youth Development Teaching Artist Roster does not guarantee funding through Vermont Arts Councils grant programs.

Who May Apply

Artists that:

- have been living and/or leading arts education activities in Vermont communities for the past year or longer
- are eighteen years of age or older at time of application
- have demonstrated (two years minimum) teaching experience relevant to youth arts education in education settings such as schools, after-school programs, summer camps, or community-based programs

Criteria for Selection

Applications will be reviewed by a panel according to three criteria.

artistry (40%) Teaching artists are models for artistry in the classroom. Information in the application demonstrates:

- a sustained commitment to working in and sharing about a chosen art form or discipline
- a passion for artistry and activating creativity within groups of youth
- clear communication about one's artistic practice, inspiration, and education philosophy

communication and collaborative planning (30%) Teaching artists on the Council's roster plan collaboratively with classroom teachers and administrators. Information in the application demonstrates:

- the use of materials such as websites, flyers, social media, CreativeGround profiles, and other means to communicate about the teaching artist's artistry and education experience
- experience working in school systems and/or community settings
- experience and examples of planning with others to adapt instructional design to meet shared goals and objectives

instruction delivery (30%) Teaching artists deliver instruction to groups of students with diverse abilities, needs, and cultural backgrounds through the arts in a variety of settings. Information in the application demonstrates:

- a commitment to inclusion and accessibility including strategies that promote participation, leverage students' self-motivation and, create opportunities for risk taking
- a commitment to centering students and building instruction around age-appropriate learning goals or targets (which may include National Core Arts Standards or other content-area standards)
- a commitment to assessing skill gain effectiveness

Expectations of Teaching Artists

The Council does not guarantee contracts for artists listed on the roster, and teaching artists on the roster are encouraged to market their services directly to schools and other organizations with whom they wish to collaborate. Applicants to the Council's grant programs such as the Artists in Schools grant program are encouraged to work with artists on the roster. Applicants working with artists not on the roster must submit background information about the Vermont artist they have selected to work with.

To maintain a position on the roster, selected artists agree to:

- create, and maintain annually, a profile on CreativeGround that includes:
    - a description of education offerings
    - a recent photo
    - current contact information and links to social media
    - list a recently completed project or professional development opportunity that has taken place within the last two years in their CreativeGround profile's "I have worked with" section
- be committed to professional growth
- maintain a presence in Vermont while on the roster

Artists working in schools should expect to meet a given schools' screening and background check policies, which may require an education record check and/or a fingerprint supported record check through the Vermont Crime Information Center.

Deadlines and Notifications

Applications are due on or before **March 30, 2026**. An independent panel will review applications and make recommendations for adding artists to the roster. After an initial review of the applications, panelists may request a virtual interview with an applicant to take place at an agreed upon time in early May. Final notifications will be sent to applicants no later than early June 2026.

Preparing Your Application

To complete the application, applicants will provide background information about their experience, a biographical statement, and a sample lesson plan. Applicants may upload up to four supporting documents, including:

- letter(s) of support
- résumé(s) outlining artistic and education-related achievements
- artistic samples, which may include images or a document with links to videos, sound files, websites, or other media
- additional sample lesson plan(s)

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), and the ADA Amendment Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325) which became effective on January 1, 2009.

Questions?

Inquiries about the Youth Development Teaching Artist Roster should be made by sending an email to Troy Hickman or by calling 802.402.4496 (voice and relay calls welcome).

For technical issues relating to the online grant application, send an email to Meredith Bell or call 802.402.4478 (voice and relay calls welcome).