

Washington State Arts Commission - ArtsWA
Arts in Education Program

FIRST STEP GRANT FY2015 ♦ REVIEW CRITERIA

*There are three review areas: **Program Plan**, **Partnership Capacity**, and **Budget / Management Capacity**. Each of these areas has subcategories with detailed criteria listed below.*

Panelists will provide a rating for each criteria area using a 30-point scale. Program Plan scores will be doubled, so that Program Plan will count for 50% of the total score, and the other two categories will count for 25% each.

Program Plan

Overall Approach, Goals, and Alignment with Intent of Grant

- Does the plan have at least one core, well-informed strategy to improve teaching and learning in the arts?
- Does this strategy address specific local challenges/needs in the area of arts education for all students, and is it an appropriate “first step” (or second or third step)?
- Does the program demonstrate a move toward the development of deeper and longer-term opportunities and systemic support for learning in and through the arts?
- Does this project engage community members in support of K-12 arts education, and are they developing partnerships with the capacity to continue and/or grow?

Quality of Project / Alignment with Grant Goals

- Does the narrative address student learning in the arts, and/or other student/teacher outcomes, and are they appropriate and realistic?
- Does the plan address state standards in the arts and assessing learning in the arts?
- Are the key activities of the project clearly described and appropriate for meeting the stated goals?
- Does this project address the planning for the future through program evaluation, setting goals for sustainable arts education programs within their school/community, or developing increased understanding of and support for arts education?

Overall quality and clarity of plan

- Are the plans and the timeline realistic and achievable, given the capacity and resources of the partnership?
- Is the narrative clear, concise, specific, and well written?
- Does the narrative demonstrate strategic thinking, creativity, energy/enthusiasm?

For Returning Applicants, also consider:

- Is there evidence of success from previous years’ work?
- Does this year’s proposal demonstrate appropriate growth/change based on evolving needs, capacity, lessons learned, etc.?

(over)

Partnership Capacity

Composition and Strength of Partnership

- Does the partnership include at least one school or district, one arts or arts education organization, and some kind of parent/community representation?
- Is there engagement from at least one principal, superintendent, or district staff person?
- Is the partnership broader than the required minimum?
- Do the partnership form, narrative, and letters of commitment present a picture of a genuine partnership, with collaborative efforts on project planning and implementation?

Professional / Artistic Quality

- Do the application materials demonstrate that there are high quality providers of arts and arts education, with appropriate levels of educational and artistic expertise?
- Are other key partners and contractors bringing skills, expertise, and support that are relevant and appropriate to the proposal?

Budget / Management Capacity

Budget aligned with program plan

- Does the budget support the narrative, and vice-versa?

Funding mix / reasonable match

- Does support from other sources, both cash and in-kind, match or exceed the request from ArtsWA?
- Is there cash support that demonstrates strong partner commitment?

Realistic and appropriate for both income and expense

- Is the budget well thought-out and mathematically accurate?
- Have major expense categories been addressed accurately; are the expenses appropriate for the scope of the project?

Management capacity

- Do the program coordinator and other key players seem to have the skills and capacity to manage this project as planned?

Note: panelists should take into account whether the applicant's program focus is planning and development, student learning, or professional development, and should apply these criteria accordingly.