



WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION ARTS IN EDUCATION

CREATIVE START REGIONAL GRANT | FY21 GUIDELINES

CREATIVE START REGIONAL GRANT FUNDING

\$10,000 - \$35,000 FY21

FUNDING TIMELINE

Applications Due: September 18, 2020, 5:00pm

Notification by: November 12, 2020

Program Implementation: December 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Final Report Due: July 31, 2021

Regional Program Goals

The Creative Start Regional Grant Program seeks to close the opportunity gap by supporting and expanding **regional** and **multi-regional** arts integration efforts in service of early learning communities. The Washington State Arts Commission aims to recognize, support, and amplify creative professional learning opportunities for early learning providers in every region of the state. Selected Creative Start Regional grantees will partner with arts integration leaders to develop culturally responsive professional learning opportunities for educators that serve students in preschool through 3rd grade.

ArtsWA seeks to support **regional** and **multi-regional** early learning efforts across Washington State that increase statewide access to quality professional learning through the arts.

- **Regional efforts:** provide professional learning and implementation support for educators and community members at a minimum of **three** school sites that serve students in preschool through 3rd grade (ages three through eight years old). All school sites associated with the project must be in **one ArtsWA defined region**. Applicants must be based in the region where services are provided. A Regional Creative Start Project may be eligible for up to \$25,000.
- **Multi-Regional efforts:** provide professional learning and implementation support to multiple school districts, Educational Service Districts, or Tribal communities in **at least two ArtsWA defined regions**. A Multi-Regional Creative Start Project may be eligible for up to \$35,000.

Expected Outcomes

Regional efforts are expected to:

- **Support** creative, academic, and social emotional learning to close the opportunity gap for young learners.
- **Expand** statewide capacity to support culturally responsive arts integration practices.
- **Contribute** to the development of statewide and regional arts integration resources.
- **Develop** statewide early learning and arts in education leadership networks in the field.

Who Can Apply?

Regional Creative Start efforts: Any Washington State **Educational Service District (ESD), school district, or tribal government, within a single ArtsWA defined region** is eligible to apply and serve as the **lead partner** of the application. The lead partner is the legal entity with whom ArtsWA will contract and will be responsible for receiving grant funds, submitting invoices, and completing the final report.

Multi-Region Creative Start efforts: Any consortium of Washington State **Educational Service Districts (ESD's), school districts, or tribal governments, from at least two ArtsWA defined regions** are eligible to apply together with one organization serving as the **lead partner**. The lead partner is the legal entity with whom ArtsWA will contract and will be responsible for receiving grant funds, submitting invoices, and completing the final report.

Who is Not Eligible to Apply?

Washington State law prohibits funding of parochial schools or other organizations with a religious affiliation or purpose. Individual artists, arts organizations, parents, or community members may not apply on their own, however, these individuals are encouraged to initiate and support projects in partnership with their local public school, school district, Educational Service District, or Tribal Government.

Selection Process and Review Criteria

A panel of education and early childhood leaders, ArtsWA commissioners, and staff review your application alongside other applications in the same category. Applications are reviewed in detail and scored by each panelist using the review criteria listed below. The panel meets as a group to review their scoring decisions and recommends high scoring applications for funding. ArtsWA's [Board of Commissioners](#) approve all funding recommendations.

Review Criteria are standards panelists use to score applications (*70 points possible*). Strong applicants demonstrate a readiness to benefit from this support and have strength in all four categories below. To qualify for funding, applications must receive a minimum cumulative score of 65% or higher from panelists.

1. Address Regional Strengths and Needs (15 points)

What foundational work in your region(s) will a culturally responsive arts integration approach build upon?

- Regional strengths and gaps in youth/educator access to **arts integration** practices are clearly addressed.
- Regional strengths and gaps in supporting **culturally responsive** teaching practices are clearly addressed.
- Project leaders demonstrate clear understanding of past and present efforts to close the **opportunity gap** for early learning students.

2. Partnership Capacity (20 points)

What regional partnerships will best support culturally responsive arts integration efforts?

- Key partners demonstrate commitment to regional collaboration and implementation.
- Early learning educators, families, and communities are invited as key partners at all stages.
- Project leaders show capacity to provide paid time and logistical support for educator collaboration, reflection, and planning.
- All partners demonstrate ongoing commitment to culturally responsive arts integration as a tool to close the opportunity gap.

3. Project Design (25 points)

What are the expected outcomes of this project and how will you get there?

- Project goals are aligned with Creative Start **program goals**.
- Outcomes for students in preschool through 3rd grade include meaningful learning in the arts (dance, music, theatre, media, visual arts, 21st century skills) alongside cross-content understanding (math, reading, science, social studies, and the development of social and emotional skills).
- The project plan addresses why and how the arts will help close the achievement gap in their community.
- Project outcomes focus on both teacher and student growth.
- The project budget is accurate, realistic, and in line with stated goals, partnership capacity, and project plan.

4. Distribution of Services (10 points)

- The project plan includes efforts to increase access to innovative professional learning for underserved communities.
- The project plan includes efforts to broaden geographic distribution of professional learning opportunities for early learning educators.
 - **Regional** Creative Start project provides culturally responsive arts integration experiences and professional learning for educators in a minimum of **three** school sites in **one** ArtsWA defined region.
 - **Multi-Regional** Creative Start project provides professional learning and implementation support to multiple school districts, Educational Service Districts, or Tribal communities in **at least two** ArtsWA defined regions.

Application Requirements:

Applications must have:

- **A lead partner:** *Clearly identify one lead partner (Educational Service District, School District, Tribal Government).*
- **A minimum of two additional partners** committed to your arts integration plan.

Examples of additional partners include, but are not limited to:

- Early Learning Leadership: *local/regional early learning leadership such as early learning ESD leads and Early learning fellows.*
- Early Learning Educators: *local/regional educator that is inspired to implement culturally responsive arts integration practices at their early learning site.*
- Arts in Education leadership: *local/regional arts in education leadership such as district arts program directors and arts organization education managers.*
- Teaching Artists
- Arts Organizations
- Regional/local library system
- Family/Community member
- Higher education partners: *Arts, education, and/or early learning programs.*
- **Letter(s) of commitment** submitted by **each** member of your partnership.
- Applications must be completed in full and **submitted in Zoom Grants by 5pm on September 18, 2020.**

Creative Start Program Policies

- **Payments** will be made after the approved program elements have been delivered, and after appropriate expense documentation and invoice forms have been submitted. Grantees will need to track expenses and keep clear records.
- **Final Reports.** Grant recipients are obligated to submit a final report at the end of the contract period. Final grant invoices will not be paid until the final report is received. Grantees who do not submit a Final Report will receive a ten percent reduction in funding on a subsequent ArtsWA grant.
- **Documentation.** We encourage grantees to document their workshops and trainings with either digital photos, video, or both, and to share this documentation as part of their final report. This helps ArtsWA demonstrate the value of our investments, and helps grantees demonstrate this to local leaders.
- **Evaluation.** ArtsWA will work in collaboration with the Creative Start grantees and a contracted evaluator to measure student learning outcomes and program effectiveness.
- Applicants may **not** apply for multiple grants through Arts in Education (AIE) programs per fiscal year. (First Step, Community Consortium, Creative Start).

How to Apply:

Applications are submitted through our online grant platform, ZoomGrants, until **5:00pm** on the deadline date. Applications open on **April 24** through **September 18, 2020**. Please visit our [website](#) for the application link.

For more application resources in support of a successful grant application, please refer to the following:

- [How to Apply](#)
- [Arts in Education: Glossary of Terms](#)
- [Planning for Equity](#)

Contact Us

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About ArtsWA

ArtsWA is the [Washington State Arts Commission](#). The Washington State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts fund our programs. Grants are contingent on available state and federal funding. ArtsWA complies with all local, state and federal laws and regulations concerning civil and human rights. For more information regarding Washington State Arts Commission's policies on Accessibility, Diversity, and Nondiscrimination, [click here](#).

Planning for Equity:

ArtsWA's current strategic plan includes a ["Crosscutting Objective"](#) focused on advancing equity and inclusion in arts programming. We are continuously refining our work to ensure that ArtsWA-funded programs are reflective of Washington's diverse populations including cultural diversity, artistic disciplines, geographic locations, and underserved populations.

Transparency

Let us know if individuals involved with your organization also have an affiliation with ArtsWA. Individuals that are ArtsWA staff, commissioners, consultants, contractors, current grant panelists, or the immediate family members, etc. are included. This is for transparency only; the panel will review your application without bias. [Read our full Conflict of Interest policy](#).