

Creative Start Grant Guidelines

ArtsWA FY23 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023)

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

About this Grant:

ArtsWA's Creative Start Grant program seeks to support the creative, academic, and social emotional growth of Washington State's early learners through **arts integration***. This one-year grant is designed to expand professional learning opportunities for early learning educators in arts integration teaching methods. Creative Start Grant funds support collaborative projects between educators, schools, early learning centers, and families that increase innovative and relevant opportunities for teaching and learning through the arts in preschool to 3rd grade classrooms across the state.

**Arts integration is an approach to teaching and learning that connects an arts discipline with non-arts curriculum in a way that meets standards and objectives for both.*

The Creative Start Grant is:

- Focused on arts integration and professional learning.
- Focused on preschool through 3rd grade students and educators.
- Open to Single-Site (one location) or Multi-Site projects.
- Open to new or continuing arts integration projects.
- Note: Non-profit arts and cultural organizations are encouraged to apply for an [AIE Partnership Grant here](#).

Funding Amounts

- Single-Site: \$5,000 - \$10,000
- Multi-Site: \$10,000 - \$25,000
- No matching funds required

Important Dates

- Application Opens: March 10, 2022
- Applications Deadline: April 14, 2022, at 5:00 pm
- Grant Notifications: by June 8, 2022
- Grant Funds Distributed: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
- Final Report Due: July 31, 2023

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Public school, school district, or Educational Service District (ESD) serving early learning students, preschool through 3rd grade
- Tribal school or government serving early learning students, preschool through 3rd grade
- Early Learning Center with 501(c)(3) status

Who is Not Eligible to Apply?

- Individuals
- Arts organizations
- For-profit organizations
- Political or advocacy organizations
- Organizations based outside of Washington State
- Organizations seeking to fund projects and/or programs that promote religious content

Can Organizations Apply for Multiple ArtsWA Grants?

- **Allowable:** Applicants to the Creative Start grant program can apply for and receive other ArtsWA grants if those funds are used to support different expenses and services from those outlined in their Creative Start application. This includes:
 - [Arts for All \(A4A\) Recovery Grant](#) – Application open January 15 - February 24, 2022
- **Not Allowable:** Applicants may not apply for both the Arts in Education Partnership Grant and Creative Start Grant programs in the same fiscal year.

How Does ArtsWA Select Creative Start Grant Recipients?

Screening for Eligibility

Creative Start Grant applications submitted by the deadline are reviewed by ArtsWA staff for completion and eligibility. Complete and eligible applications are sent to a grant scoring panel for evaluation.

Evaluation and Grant Scoring Panel

A panel of arts education professionals, ArtsWA Commissioners, and ArtsWA staff evaluate eligible Creative Start Grant applications. Panelists use scoring criteria to give a numerical score to each application. An application's final score is the combined average of all panelists' scores. Applicants are awarded grant funds using the ranking score order until available funds are exhausted.

What are the Criteria Used to Score Applications?

Panelists will assign each Creative Start Grant application a score between 0-60 using the criteria and point system below. 60 points is the highest possible score for this grant application.

1. **Project Design: (20 points possible)** The proposal describes:
 - a. Arts Integration: focused student learning goals in an arts discipline and non-arts curriculum informed by relevant learning frameworks or standards
 - b. Project Management: project budget, timeline, a feasible staffing plan, and administrative support for project implementation
2. **Support for Educators and Artists: (20 points possible)** The proposal describes:
 - a. Professional Learning: learning opportunities for participating early learning educators that support project goals
 - b. Educators and Artists: financial support, appropriate planning time, and relevant growth opportunities for contributing educators and artists
3. **Community Access (20 points possible)** The proposal describes:
 - a. Planning for Access: focused actions that aim or seek to increase access to arts integrated learning for a diversity of students, educators, and families
 - b. Community and Family Connections: efforts to increase project connections to the lives of participating students and families

Notification of Grant Awards

Notifications are sent to Creative Start Grant applicants as soon as possible after the ArtsWA Board of Commissioners meet and approve final panel scores. Notifications will be sent via email no later than June 8, 2022.

What is Required to Apply?

All Creative Start Grant Applicants:

- **Letters of Commitment:** Organizations applying to the Creative Start Grant must submit (2) letters of commitment as part of their application. Letters should come from individuals directly involved in the proposed project, including:
 - Leadership from the school or district
 - An early learning educator
- **SWV Number:** Organizations must have an SWV ([Statewide Vendor](#)) number to receive grant funds from the state. An SWV number is not required to apply but must be registered and up to date before funds are given. An SWV number can take up to three weeks to be assigned. If your organization has received payment from Washington State in the past, it is likely you already have an SWV number. You can check on the status of your SWV number by using the [vendor number lookup](#).
- **DUNS Number:** Organizations must have a [DUNS number](#) to receive grant funds from the state. A DUNS number is not required to apply but must be registered and up to date before funds are given. A DUNS number can take up to two business days to receive. You can look up or register for a DUNS number by visiting the [Dun & Bradstreet website](#).
- **UEI (SAM):** Organizations must have a Unique Entity ID (UEI) to receive grant funds from the state. The UEI is a 12-digit alphanumeric identifier that will replace the use of DUNS numbers after April 4, 2022. If you have a current registration at SAM.gov, you have already been assigned a UEI. To view your UEI in [SAM.gov](#), log in to your registration and follow the steps outlined in [this guide](#). If you do not have a SAM.gov account registration, complete the steps outlined in the *Guide to Getting a Unique Entity ID* linked [here](#).

How to Apply:

Online Application

Creative Start Grant applications must be submitted through the online grant platform, [Submittable](#). ArtsWA will accept applications in Submittable starting March 10th through **April 14th at 5:00 pm**.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Application Resources:

- [FY23 Creative Start Grant Worksheet PDF](#) (*application preview, for drafting purposes only*)
- [Submittable FAQs](#)

General Grant Policies:

- **This is a reimbursement grant.** It provides funding to grant recipients after expenses have been incurred.
- **Payments** will be made after the grant recipient's approved project plans have been completed, and after expense documentation and invoice forms are submitted to and approved by ArtsWA.
- **Documentation.** Grant recipients must track expenses, keep clear records, and provide appropriate and timely documentation.
- **Final Reports.** Grant recipients must submit a final report to ArtsWA by July 31, 2023.

Use of ArtsWA Funds

Examples of What We Do Fund:

- Fees for project staffing can include:
 - Artists, Teaching Artists, and Arts Organizations
 - Project Planning, Curriculum, and Resource Development
 - Project Management or Outside Consultants
- Fees for professional learning opportunities for early learning educators
- Travel expenses for in-state teaching artists and consultants
- Materials, supplies, software, and technology that clearly aligns with expected project goals. **Note:** Material fees covered by ArtsWA grant funds cannot exceed \$5,000.
- Administrative expenses, including printing costs, postage, and other administrative fees
- Fees for project related student tickets and transportation expenses
- Fees for increasing access to programming such as closed captioning, translation services, interpreters, differentiated materials, or consultant support on these efforts

We Cannot Fund:

- Arts programming that charges tuition or material fees to students and families.
- Purchase of food and beverages.
- Purchase of materials, supplies, software, and technology not aligned with project goals and/or that exceed \$5,000.
- Building construction, renovation, or other permanent capital projects.
- Stand-alone field trips, events, or assemblies not aligned with project goals.
- Travel out of the state of Washington, or fees to out-of-state contractors.

Additional Information

Contact Us

Alexis Sarah, Arts in Early Learning Project Manager at 360-228-6359 or alexis.sarah@arts.wa.gov
Audrey Molloy, AIE Program Coordinator at 360-252-9987 or audrey.molloy@arts.wa.gov

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 the Washington State Arts Commission's policies on Accessibility, Diversity, and Nondiscrimination, [click here](#).

Transparency

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

Appeals

Unsuccessful grant applicants may appeal in accordance with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 30.12.036, found [here](#).