



Arts in Alternative Education Grants FY2023 Program Guidelines

Application Deadline: 60 days before your project begins

Students who attend alternative education schools often require specific educational interventions. Artists in residence can help these students to build new skills and develop healthy methods of creative self-expression through classes like creative writing, painting, photography, music, and theatre while also allowing them to complete a Fine Arts credit (required for high school completion). Previous participating schools report that artist in residence visits result in increased attendance and higher graduation rates, among other positive student outcomes.

Arts education can play an important role in improving academic performance in Oklahoma. Studies show that students who have four years of high school arts education score higher on college entrance exams than students with little or no arts education. Arts education often improves performance in math and science, increases school attendance, promotes civic engagement, and decreases anti-social behavior. In addition, arts education supports the development of the whole child, builds skills, and offers students positive methods of creative self-expression.

Students receive the most benefit when they receive an arts education that is:

- Sequential, building skills and knowledge over time,
- Hands-on, allowing students to engage deeply in the creative process, and
- Led by educators with both artistic expertise and educational experience.

Program Goals

- Expand arts access (dance, drama, literary arts, media arts, music, and/or visual arts) to more Oklahoma students
- Support hands-on, sequential arts learning
- Offer arts education for students in alternative education school sites that is tailored to meet individual student and site goals and that supports the goals of Oklahoma Alternative Education
- Allow participating students to complete a Fine Arts credit required for graduation
- Create more opportunities for Oklahoma students to meaningfully engage with the arts during the school day

Overview

Project Activity Dates: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 (Grant Period FY2023)

Grant Amount: Each school site is eligible to receive up to two \$5,000 grants per school year
Match requirement: 5%. Matching funds may not be other Oklahoma Arts Council funds.

Informational Webinar: Please see the Arts in Alternative Education webpage on the Oklahoma Arts Council website for more information.

Accessibility: If you require accommodations to participate in the webinars or in-person information sessions, please contact us in advance at (405) 521-2040.

Application Deadline: 60 days before the project begins

Who Can Apply?

Schools identified by the Oklahoma State Department of Education as Alternative Education school sites

What Types of Projects Can Be Supported?

Learning-based arts projects, including:

- In-school classes, residencies, and workshops (frequency and duration may vary; focus should be on sequential hands-on learning) where each student receives six or more hours of hands-on arts engagement.
- Online/virtual learning-based arts programs where each student receives six or more hours of hands-on arts engagement.

What Expenses Are Allowable?

Funding from the Arts in Alternative Education Grant can be used to reimburse the following expenses:

- Teaching Artist Fees (payment to the teaching artist hired or contracted to lead instruction)
- Teaching Artist Travel Expenses (may include mileage, lodging, or other costs but cannot include food or drink)
- Contracted Administration or Technical Fees (payment for a contracted project coordinator, grant writer, or other professional services)
- Consumable Supplies (must be directly related to the project)
- Other Expenses (including printed programs, signage, licensing and/or royalty fees, etc.)

Unallowable Expenses: include tickets, tuition, field trips, student travel, scholarships, capital expenditures and/or building improvements, permanent art installations, activities for which college credit is given, loss of revenue, debt repayment, subgranting, duties or expenses related to fundraising and/or lobbying, activities or expenses that may advance or inhibit any religious belief, events that are not open to the public, cash prizes or awards, and hospitality expenses (i.e., food, drink, receptions, parties, galas)

Required Outcomes

Proposals for funding must seek to accomplish the following:

Outcome 1: Student Success and Performance, Addressing Learning Loss

Arts education promotes student engagement and increased attendance, critical factors in helping students overcome learning loss caused from disruptions in education. Studies show that arts education offers unique benefits to students beyond the classroom. Consistent, high-quality arts education allows students to develop skills in the arts and is also linked to higher literacy and performance in math, science, and other content areas. Arts education also encourages students to practice critical thinking, problem-solving, goal-setting, and strong habits for working individually and as part of a group. Participation in the arts also correlates with increased empathy, healthier emotional regulation, and self-confidence.

Outcome 2: Hands-On, Sequential Arts Experiences

Projects should offer students meaningful opportunities for hands-on participation in the arts. Projects should also focus on sequential learning experiences in which students build artistic knowledge and skills over time. Students should receive no less than six hours of hands-on time directly engaging in the art form. Projects should include sequential skill-building beyond one-time and make-and-take experiences. The benefits of arts education are most fully realized when students engage with the arts consistently over time.

Outcome 3: Creative Expression

Projects will offer students opportunities to make creative choices and/or experiment within the parameters of the artistic discipline and/or medium. Students are encouraged to express themselves creatively as they participate in the arts.

Outcome 4: Excellent Teaching Artists

Students receive instruction from excellent teaching artists whose expertise in the art form is well demonstrated. Teaching artists also demonstrate proficiency as educators, bringing skills such as classroom management, arts learning assessment, and student engagement to their arts classrooms.

How to Apply

Step 1: If your organization has not applied for an Oklahoma Arts Council grant in the past three years, you will need to [request access to the grant system](#). Once you have access, you can log in and apply for a grant. If you have questions about logging in, please contact our grants office at 405-521-2040 or grants@arts.ok.gov.

Step 2: Once your organization has access to the [grant system](#), your organization's Grant Contact can log on and complete an application. Submit the application at least 60 days before the start date of your project.

Grant Process

1. Request access to the grant system (for new schools only)
2. Submit an application
3. Application is reviewed by Oklahoma Arts Council
4. Award notification (if the project is selected for funding)
5. Accept grant contract
6. Project activity occurs
7. Submit a final report
8. Grant payment is processed

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What types of artistic disciplines can be supported?

A. The Oklahoma Arts Council uses artistic quality as one of its review criteria for grants. Artistic disciplines include, but are not limited to, music, theatre, dance, literary arts, media arts, and visual arts. If you have questions about the eligibility of your project, please contact our Arts Education Director.

Q. Can these grant funds support a memorial sculpture, mural, or other permanent artwork?

A. Unfortunately, no. ARPA Grants for Oklahoma Arts Organizations cannot be used to support capital improvements/expenses including the creation of permanent artwork or the improvement of buildings/properties.

Q. My school is already receiving funding through Oklahoma Arts Council's other school grant program(s). Can I apply for this opportunity?

A. Yes, Alternative Education sites can apply for up to two Arts in Alternative Education Grants between July through June in addition to other school grants like the Classroom Supply Grant for Visual and Performing Arts. If your school is selected to receive an Arts in Alternative Education grant, your school or district will need to provide a 5% match for the award. None of the match may not come from another Oklahoma Arts Council grant awards.

Grantee Requirements

If selected for funding, grantee organizations must comply with all requirements as outlined in the Legal Assurances/General Grant Terms, grant contract, and grant program guidelines, including but not limited to the following:

- Signed electronic grant contract by the deadline specified in the award notification email
- Updated contact, mailing, and payment/banking information with the Oklahoma Arts Council and Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) vendor office
- Thank you letters to your organization's legislators
- Timely submission of required reports
- Retention of all financial records (including invoices and receipts) related to the grant award for seven years

Who to Contact for Help

For questions about this grant program, contact Jennifer Allen-Barron, Arts Education Director, at jennifer.allen-barron@arts.ok.gov or 405-521-2036

For questions about grant system access, contact the Grants Office, at grants@arts.ok.gov or 405-521-2040

For questions about managing your grant award, contact Thomas Tran, Grants Director, at thomas.tran@arts.ok.gov or 405-521-2041