Community Arts Learning Grant
FY2024 Program Guidelines

Application Deadline: 60 days before your project begins

**New for FY24:
- Eligible organizations can apply for the following:
  - Two Community Arts Learning Grants per fiscal year; or,
  - One Community Arts Learning Grant and one Community Arts Experience Grant per fiscal year
- The maximum grant award request is up to $5,000 per project. A 100% (1:1) award match is required. This is a competitive grant program and award amounts are determined using the grant program scoring criteria and agency priorities.

Oklahomans of all ages and abilities benefit from hands-on learning in the arts. In addition to acquiring knowledge and developing skills, Oklahomans experience greater quality of life through creative learning opportunities. To ensure lifelong learning in the arts for all Oklahomans, the Oklahoma Arts Council awards project funding through Community Arts Learning Grants to support arts instruction, classes, workshops, and more.

Program Objectives
- Support access to hands-on, sequential arts learning opportunities for Oklahomans of all ages and abilities
- Engage learners through participatory skill-building experiences led by qualified teaching artists
- Create more opportunities for all Oklahomans to meaningfully engage with the arts

This grant program supports the following focus areas of Oklahoma Arts Council's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan:

- *Invest in Quality Arts Education and Lifelong Learning (Goal 2: Advance Arts Education)*
- *Build and Empower Partnerships to Ensure Equitable Access Statewide (Goal 2: Arts Education)*
- *Invest in Oklahoma's Arts and Cultural Assets (Goal 1: Cultivate and Support the Arts in Oklahoma)*
- *Elevate Artistry and Catalyze Creative Community Development (Goal 1: Cultivate and Support the Arts in Oklahoma)*
- *Promote and Equip Oklahoma Artists and Programs (Goal 1: Cultivate and Support the Arts in Oklahoma)*

Overview

Project Activity Dates: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (Grant Period FY2024)

Grant Amount: Up to two $5,000 grants per fiscal year. Organizations may apply for two Community Arts Learning Grants, or they may apply for one Community Arts Learning Grant and one [Community Arts Experience Grant](). Match requirement: 1:1 (100%). Half of the match (50%) may be in-kind support. Matching funds may not be federal funds or other Oklahoma Arts Council funds. Award amounts are determined using the grant program scoring criteria and agency priorities.

Application Deadline: 60 days before your project begins

Who Can Apply?

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations incorporated in the State of Oklahoma as a Domestic Not for Profit Corporation
  - In good standing with the IRS
  - In good standing with the State of Oklahoma
  - Registered with a SAM UEI and eligible to receive federal support (organizations and individuals associated with OAC-supported projects cannot be listed under the SAM Exclusions federal debarred or suspended list)
- City, county, and tribal governments
- Colleges and universities
- Public libraries

What Types of Projects Can Be Supported?

Arts instruction, classes and/or workshops for participants of all ages including, but are not limited to:

- Arts-focused workshop series
- Summer camps and after school programs
- Arts-focused prevention or intervention programs for youth or adults
- Creative aging programs

If your project is focused on audience-based events such as concerts, exhibits, festivals, or conferences, please see the [Community Arts Experience Grant]() *program.*

What Expenses Are Allowable?

Funding from this grant program can be used to reimburse the following expenses:

- Artistic fees for contracted artists
- Administrative fees to support the programming or administration of the project such as payment to a coordinator or grant writer
- Technical fees to support the implementation of the project such as professional event services
- Artist travel expenses such as mileage, rental, airfare, rideshare, etc.
- Consumable supplies directly related to the project
- Marketing expenses to promote access to the project
- Rental fees such as rental of facilities, equipment, etc.
- Other Expenses such as printed programs, temporary signage, licensing and/or royalty fees, etc.

Unallowable expenses include tickets, tuition, 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). Please refer to the Oklahoma Arts Council General Grant Terms and Conditions for Cost Principles and a list of General Grant Allowable and Unallowable Costs.

Grant Program Required Outcomes

Projects should accomplish the following:

Outcome 1: Hands-on, Sequential Arts Learning

Projects should offer participants meaningful opportunities for hands-on learning in the arts, focusing on sequential learning experiences where participants build artistic knowledge and skills. The benefits of arts learning are most fully realized when participants engage with the arts consistently over time.

Outcome 2: Creative Expression

Projects will offer participants opportunities to make creative choices and/or experiment within the parameters of the artistic discipline and/or medium. Participants are encouraged to express themselves creatively through the arts.

Outcome 3: Learning from Teaching Artists

Participants receive instruction from teaching artists whose expertise in the art form is well demonstrated. Teaching artists also demonstrate proficiency as educators, bringing skills such as arts learning assessment and participant engagement to their learning programs.

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, your Grant Contact 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 Grant Contact can log in and complete an application. Submit the application by the deadlines published in the program guidelines.

Grant Process

1. Request access to the grant system (for new organizations and organizations that have not applied in three years only)
2. Submit an application
3. Application is reviewed by Oklahoma Arts Council
4. Award notification (if the project is selected for funding)
5. Authorizing Official accepts grant contract
6. Project activity occurs
7. Grant Contact submits final report
8. Grant payment is processed

Grant Funding Priorities and Review Criteria

As the state agency to lead, cultivate, and amplify the transformative power of the arts for all Oklahomans and their communities, Oklahoma Arts Council will prioritize investing in projects with a strong arts focus, arts-focused organizations, and projects that create opportunities for more Oklahomans to participate in the arts. The grant review panel will consider the following review criteria when evaluating applications for community arts programs. Additional consideration may be given to applications and organizations aligning with grant funding priorities, which support key focus areas of Oklahoma Arts Council's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.

FY2024 Arts Learning in Communities Grant Funding Priorities	
Arts-focused 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization	
Organization's mission is arts-focused and more than 50% of the organization's current-year operating budget is dedicated to arts-focused programming, administration, and operations. *(2021-2025 Strategic Plan Goal 1: Cultivate and Support the Arts in Oklahoma – Invest in Oklahoma's Arts and Cultural Assets)*	
Based in a Rural and Geographically Isolated Area	**Serves a Rural and Geographically Isolated Area**
Organization's primary location address is located in a county with less than 50,000 residents as reported by the United States Census Bureau. *(2021-2025 Strategic Plan Goal 1: Cultivate and Support the Arts in Oklahoma – Elevate Artistry and Catalyze Creative Community Development)*	Project serves a county with less than 50,000 residents as reported by the United States Census Bureau. *(2021-2025 Strategic Plan Goal 1: Cultivate and Support the Arts in Oklahoma – Elevate Artistry and Catalyze Creative Community Development)*
Based in an Underserved and Under Resourced Community	**Serves an Underserved and Under Resourced Community**
Organization's primary location address is located in a county with a poverty rate greater than the current state average as reported by the United States Census Bureau. *(2021-2025 Strategic Plan Goal 1: Cultivate and Support the Arts in Oklahoma – Elevate Artistry and Catalyze Creative Community Development)*	Project serves a county with a poverty rate greater than the current state average as reported by the United States Census Bureau. *(2021-2025 Strategic Plan Goal 1: Cultivate and Support the Arts in Oklahoma – Elevate Artistry and Catalyze Creative Community Development)*
Oklahoma Arts Council Rural Arts Opportunity County	
Organization's primary location address is located in an Oklahoma Arts Council-designated Rural Arts Opportunity County for the current grant period. *(2021-2025 Strategic Plan Goal 1: Cultivate and Support the Arts in Oklahoma – Elevate Artistry and Catalyze Creative Community Development)*	

FY2024 Arts Learning in Communities Application Review Criteria

Artistic Quality

Artist Selection
- Selected artist(s) demonstrate artistic expertise and educational experience relevant to the proposed project.
- Artist(s) and project provides a relevant, engaging, and meaningful arts experience for their community.
- Project fosters creative expression, originality, and/or innovation.

Arts Learning Goals
- Arts learning goals are discipline-specific, developmentally appropriate, and reflect a strong curriculum plan.
- Project demonstrates adequate student hands-on engagement time to achieve provided arts learning goals.
- Student learning assessment plan measures progress toward provided arts learning goals.

Project Planning and Design
- Project is relevant to the community and incorporates community input.
- Project goals are well-defined.
- Project evaluation plan effectively measures progress toward the provided project goals.
- Strong community partnerships and support are evident (may include financial support, non-monetary in-kind support, and volunteer support).
- Timeline, format, and activities are feasible within the scope of the project.
- Key stakeholders, such as members from the target audiences and communities, are involved in planning and design of the project.

Artistic Merit

Community Access and Opportunity
- Target audiences and communities are clearly defined.
- Project aims to actively eliminate barriers to participation through intentional strategies such as free or reduced admission, bilingual marketing, multiple performance opportunities, etc.
- Project incorporates meaningful arts engagement with their community through outreach, partnerships, etc.
- Project provides opportunities to participate in art experiences that are either not available or currently difficult to access for the identified audiences and communities.
- Effective promotional and marketing plans are utilized to reach the identified audiences and communities.

Public Value
Proposal demonstrates the applicant's ability to execute a project that:
- Aligns with the grant program objectives and goals.
- Addresses barriers and meets the needs of their target audiences and communities.
- Creates opportunities for more Oklahomans to participate in the arts.
- Directly relates to and serves Oklahomans.
- Demonstrates a high need for public investment and presents a strong case for public funding.

Maximum of two Community Arts grant awards per grant period:
The Community Arts Experience and Community Arts Learning Grants present new opportunities for organizations to apply for higher levels of funding as well as a tailored application process aligning with the purpose and nature of their proposed projects. Eligible organizations can apply for up to two Community Arts grants per grant period (audience-based programming fall under the Community Arts Experience Grant and learning-based programming fall under the Community Arts Learning Grant). This is a competitive grant program and awards are determined using the grant program funding priorities and application review criteria. To ensure equitable access to this grant opportunity for organizations and communities across the state, organizations can receive a maximum of two Community Arts grants per grant period. Additional submitted applications beyond the two awarded grants will not be considered for funding.

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 one of our team members (contact information listed below).

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

A. Unfortunately, no. Oklahoma Arts Council's grants for organizations cannot be used to support capital improvements/expenses including the creation of new permanent artwork or the improvement of buildings/properties.

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

A. Please contact one of our team members to see if your organization is eligible to apply for this grant opportunity. If your organization is selected to receive a grant, you will need to provide a 100% (1:1) match for the award. None of the match may not come from another Oklahoma Arts Council grant award or federal grant awards.

Q. Can we purchase a sound system, instruments, or electronic devices with this grant?

A. No, this grant cannot be used to purchase permanent equipment. However, this grant can be used to support equipment rental expenses.

Q. How do I find a teaching artist for my project?

A. You can find artists on our [Oklahoma Teaching Artist Roster,](#) however you are not required to use artists on this roster for your grant.

Q. How can I update my organization's Grant Contact or Authorizing Official?

A. Contact the Grants Office at [grants@arts.ok.gov.](mailto:grants@arts.ok.gov)

Q. How do I find out if my organization has access to the grants system to apply for a grant?

A. Contact Martyna Sandoval, Grants and Programs Associate, at [martyna.sandoval@arts.ok.gov.](mailto:martyna.sandoval@arts.ok.gov)

Grantee Requirements

If selected for funding, grantee organizations must comply with all requirements as outlined in the [General Grant Terms and Conditions,](#) 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) Supplier Portal
  - Oklahoma Arts Council will process grant payments to your organization's registered bank account or address as registered in the [Oklahoma Supplier Portal](#)
- 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:

Erika Wilhite, Arts Learning in Communities Director

(405) 521-6280 (office) | (405) 249-7615 (cell)

erika.wilhite@arts.ok.gov

For questions about grant system access, contact:

Martyna Sandoval, Grants and Programs Associate

(405) 521-2040 (office) | (405) 239-0257 (cell)

martyna.sandoval@arts.ok.gov

For questions about managing your grant award, contact:

Thomas Tran, Grants Director

(405) 967-3290 (cell) | (405) 521-2041 (office)

thomas.tran@arts.ok.gov