



Arizona Commission on the Arts

Call for Proposals: Strengthening Schools Through Arts Partnerships

Program Description

A tremendous body of research stands behind the benefits of arts education for students, including improved academic performance, greater leadership and social skills, advanced creative problem-solving skills, and overall enhanced ability to compete in a 21st Century workforce. In addition, there is significant evidence supporting the positive effects of arts programs on a school community, such as improved student attendance and motivation, higher graduation rates, and a child’s enhanced sense of belonging.

Research and case studies also show the transformative effects that leveraging community resources can have, providing schools with the support they need to implement new (or to grow existing) programs. A strong partnership with an arts or cultural organization can provide infrastructure, personnel, teacher professional development, access to additional funding sources, and more. However, the ability of schools to offer arts education and to partner with community entities is often significantly impacted when resources are lacking.

Follow-up research to the 2009-2010 Arizona Arts Education Census found that the percent of Arizona “D” label schools which offer zero arts courses in any discipline is much higher than the statewide average (34% compared to less than 20%).

The Arizona Commission on the Arts, in partnership with the Arizona Department of Education, developed the Strengthening Schools Through Arts Partnerships program to support school-based initiatives aimed at effecting change in these “D” label schools by strengthening teaching and learning in arts education and/or arts integration, through school/community partnerships.

Proposals may focus on any number of effective models, and must articulate the desired goals and outcomes related to the support of school improvement and/or capacity-building efforts that will be addressed through the proposed arts education programming.

Applicant Eligibility

Partnerships must include at least one school and one nonprofit arts organization or governmental entity; eligible schools must be Arizona “D” label schools (based on 2012-2013 accountability letter grade). Either partner may serve as the primary applicant. Proposed programming must take place in Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014).

Grant Program Review Criteria & Scores

Impact (40 points): Proposal strengthens teaching and learning in arts education and/or arts integration, and contributes to ongoing school improvement or capacity-building efforts.

Quality of Programming/Outcomes (30 points): Proposal presents quality, school-based programming designed to address clearly articulated outcomes that are appropriate for the partners.

Viability (30 points): Proposal demonstrates viability of programming and capacity of the partners to manage the project to successful completion.

Review score based on a total of 100 points.

Deadline & Grant Cycle

DEADLINES:

5:00pm, Monday, April 22, 2013
for submitting a letter of interest

11:59pm, Monday, June 17, 2013
for submitting an application

Primary Staff Contact

Alex Nelson
Director of Arts Learning
602-771-6521
anelson@azarts.gov

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Grant Does Not Fund

- Support for teacher or staff salaries (*stipends for professional development or supplemental activities beyond the teacher contract are eligible for support through this grant*).
- Funding for insurance.
- Support for food and beverages for receptions and hospitality functions.
- Support for fundraising projects.
- Support for scholarships and awards.
- Religious institution-led or religious group-sponsored projects not open to participation by non-congregants.
- Religious institution-led or religious group-sponsored projects whose primary purpose is the religious socialization of individuals, or which exist as parts of religious sermons or services.

This list is not comprehensive.

Award Amount

Grant requests can range from \$10,000 to \$15,000. A 1:1 match is required; up to 50% of the matching funds may be made up of in-kind support. Up to 3 grants will be awarded.

Requirements of Funding

This grant program is developed in partnership with the Arizona Department of Education, which will provide expertise to support comprehensive evaluation of funded projects. Successful applicants must agree to participate in the evaluation process. Successful applicants must also agree to meet with the funders at the mid-point and conclusion of the funding cycle to provide feedback regarding the evaluation process and the grant program, overall.

Submission Process

Letter of Interest

Potential applicants will submit a letter of interest which will be reviewed by the Arts Commission and the Arizona Department of Education. Letters of interest will be reviewed for their potential to meet the grant program review criteria and their alignment with the intent of the funding initiative.

Potential applicants should submit one letter of interest, no more than two pages in length. The letter of interest should:

- describe the proposed programming;
- articulate the desired outcomes;
- identify partners and their roles related to the proposed programming;
- provide a timeline;
- provide a budget, describe matching funds (including in-kind support) and grant request amount; and
- be signed by the authorizing official of *both* the school and the primary partner organization, indicating agreement on the proposed programming's development, focus and scope.

Letters of interest must be received via email by Alex Nelson, the Arts Commission's Director of Arts Learning, at anelson@azarts.gov no later than 5:00pm on April 22, 2013. Letters submitted after the deadline will not be eligible for review.

Formal Application

Promising partnerships will be invited to submit a short narrative application. Applications will be reviewed by a public panel consisting of Commissioners, State Board of Education members, community members and staff of the Arts Commission and the Arizona Department of Education. Each application will be evaluated based on the published grant program review criteria.

Successful proposals will likely demonstrate several of the following:

- Potential to build the school's capacity and to strengthen teaching and learning in arts education and/or arts integration.
- Alignment with the school's arts education goals.
- Alignment with the partner organization's mission and goals.
- Alignment with the Arizona Academic Standards in the Arts.
- Support of and contribution to the school's reform efforts and/or capacity-building initiatives.
- Utilization of effective approaches that are promising (*based on research*) or proven (*based on outcomes*) and enhance the learning environment.
- Description of an organized plan for implementation.
- Clearly articulated outcomes.
- Capacity of the partners to manage the project to successful completion.

Additional guidelines will be provided to those partnerships invited to submit formal applications.

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Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. I represent an Arizona “D” label school and would like to apply. How can I find a nonprofit arts organization or governmental entity which might be an appropriate partner?**
We encourage you to contact Arts Commission staff, who can assist in connecting you with potential organization partners.
- 2. I represent a nonprofit arts organization or a governmental entity and would like to apply. What is the best way to determine which school might be an appropriate partner?**
We encourage you to contact Arts Commission staff, who can assist in connecting you with potential school partners.
- 3. Can I submit a letter of interest without having an established partner/partnership in place?**
No. Letters of interest must be submitted jointly by the school and the nonprofit arts organization or governmental entity, indicating agreement on, and commitment to, the proposed programming.
- 4. How do I find a school’s accountability letter grade?**
Visit the Arizona Department of Education’s website at <http://www.azed.gov/research-evaluation/a-f-accountability/>, to find a list of schools and their letter grade.
- 5. What if our school does not yet know its letter grade for the next school year?**
Letter grades published in the 2012-2013 school year will be used to determine eligibility.
- 6. Can a school district apply?**
A school district cannot be the primary applicant, but a school district can serve as the applicant on behalf of a “D” label school in the district.
- 7. What if we have more than two partners?**
To be eligible to apply, one partner must be an Arizona “D” label school, and one must be a nonprofit arts organization or governmental entity, but additional partners of any type may be included in the proposal.
- 8. Do the proposed program outcomes have to be student outcomes?**
The goal of this funding initiative is to support arts education programming which addresses outcomes that are appropriate and timely for a school, as determined by the partner organizations. Outcomes could be related to a number of efforts, including student learning, teacher professional development, classroom instruction, parent engagement, student support strategies, and more.
- 9. Where can the matching funds come from?**
Matching funds could come from any combination of school district maintenance and operations, Title I, Title II or other local funds (*e.g. tax credit, PTO/PTA*) as appropriate, the nonprofit or governmental partner’s budget or grant funds, other grants (excluding other Arts Commission grants), earned revenue or individual donations from your local community.
- 10. What can be used as in-kind support?**
In-kind support could include teacher salaries for time spent on the project, staff time in support of the project from the partner organizations (this can include administrative support from both nonprofit/governmental partners as well as the school partners), evaluation support at the local/partnership level, supplies provided for the project, etc. Contact Arts Commission staff for questions related to other possible in-kind support.
- 11. We would like to include a reception. How can we fund this without violating the “Does Not Fund” list?**
Receptions or similar events can be part of the proposed programming, but food and beverage items for those types of events must be purchased with funds other than the grant funds.

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Resources for Applicants

Arizona Department of Education-Approved Technical Assistance Providers For Arts Integration

A list of providers approved by the state of Arizona to help schools implement a high quality arts integration program.
<http://www.azed.gov/art-education/files/2012/11/technical-assistance-providers-arts-integration-approved-list.pdf>

Arts Ed Search

An online clearinghouse that collects and summarizes high quality arts education research studies and analyzes their implications for educational policy and practice.
<http://www.artsedsearch.org/>

Arts Education Collaborative Arts Ed Brief on Common Core Standards

http://artsedcollaborative.org/files/file/Arts%20Ed%20Brief%20issue%201_final_interactive.pdf

The Arizona Commission on the Arts is an agency of the State of Arizona which supports access to quality arts and arts education opportunities for all Arizonans; the development and retention of statewide jobs in the nonprofit arts, culture and education sectors; and increased economic impact in local communities through arts-based partnerships that develop tax and small business revenue.

We imagine an Arizona where everyone can participate in and experience the arts.

For more information, contact us at Arizona Commission on the Arts, 417 West Roosevelt Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003-1326 or call (602) 771-6502 or email info@azarts.gov or visit <http://www.azarts.gov>.



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