CREATIVE YOUTH GRANT
for young artists, ages 12-17

FISCAL YEAR 2027

WHAT IS IT?

A grant is a form of financial assistance. The State of Arizona sets aside a certain amount of money to invest in projects that have strong potential for public benefit.

Through Creative Youth Grants (CYGs) the State of Arizona invests in one of its greatest resources: creative young people.

CYGs provide funding support to young artists as they develop new skills or advance their artistic practice outside the traditional school day. This may include private lessons, attending a workshop, or buying supplies and equipment.

AWARD AMOUNT

Individuals can request between $250 and $500 based on eligible expenses.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants for the Creative Youth Grant include young artists, ages 12-17, who live in Arizona.

Applications that are developed by adults will be ineligible for funding. Parents, guardians or teachers may not apply for the young artist.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Grant funds may be used for any of the following (this list is not comprehensive):

- Fees for private lessons or workshops.
- Materials or supplies related to your artistic practice.
- Equipment, instruments or technology related to your artistic practice.
- Travel costs.

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APPLICATION & REVIEW TIMELINE

Application Due Date
March 30, 2026

Grant Review Panel Convened
May 2026 (dates TBA)

Grantees Notified
August 2026

FUNDING PERIOD

July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

PRIMARY STAFF CONTACT

Chaz Salazar (he/him)
Arts Learning Coordinator
Phone: (602) 771-6517
Email: csalazar@azarts.gov

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Step 1 : Review this document

As you read through these guidelines, ask yourself: Am I eligible for this grant? What would I do with the money? Can I do that within the funding period?

Step 2: Prepare and submit your application

The application materials are explained on page 3 of this document. You'll submit your application online, but you'll want to prepare the materials beforehand. Once your application materials are ready, you'll need to submit them by the due date: March 30, 2026.

Step 3: Panel Review

Your application will be reviewed by a panel made up of members of the AZ Youth Arts Council. The panel will evaluate your application based on the criteria described on page 4. As funding is limited, not all applicants will be awarded a grant.

BEFORE YOU APPLY

Applicants are encouraged to do the following prior to beginning their application:

Request Accommodations

If you require accommodation in completing the application, or otherwise participating in the grant application process, please contact Arts Learning Coordinator, Chaz Salazar, by phone at (602) 771-6517 or by email at csalazar@azarts.gov.

Prepare Narrative Responses

You can type your proposal narrative, or you can upload audio recordings of your responses. For each narrative question you will find a maximum word count (not character) and a maximum recording length. If you share your proposal narrative via audio recordings, keep it simple and to the point. Don't worry about impressing the panelists with your recording technique, just make sure we can hear and understand you. All audio files must be uploaded as MP3 files (.mp3).

HOW TO APPLY

When you're ready, go to https://azarts.smapply.io/prog/creative_youth_grant and click on "Apply Now." You do not have to complete the application in one session; at any point you can save a draft of your application and complete or submit it later.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT



If you encounter any technical issues with the online application platform, click on the info icon (like the one above) in the black ribbon at the top of the application page. You can then select to explore the platform's FAQ page or submit a request for technical assistance.

Note: technical support hours are Monday to Friday from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm **Eastern Time**, and Sundays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm **Eastern Time**.

CREATIVE YOUTH GRANT

APPLICATION

NARRATIVE

(600 word limit, 5 minute audio/video limit)

Answer each of these questions.

a) Tell us about yourself and your artistic practice.

b) Describe how you will use the grant funds. Why are these activities or purchases important to you as a young artist?

c) Provide a timeline of the proposed activities or purchases. All activities or purchases must take place July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

WORK SAMPLE

Submit a work sample you've completed. All levels of artists are encouraged to apply. The panel will use the work sample to support the narrative you have provided. They will not be judging the quality of the work sample as a part of their review.

From the list below, please choose the most appropriate artistic work sample format to represent your discipline:

- 3 minutes of recorded audio
- 3 minutes of recorded video
- 6 images
- 3 pages of double-spaced text or 3 poems

WORK SAMPLE NARRATIVE

(200 word limit, 2 minute audio limit)

Provide a brief description explaining how the submitted work sample relates to your proposal. Why did you choose them?

BUDGET

Expenses

List all expenses related to your proposal and provide a short explanation of the expenses.

Grant Amount Requested

Indicate the grant amount you are requesting, based on eligible expenses, between $250 and $500.

Budget Narrative

(200 word limit, 2 minute audio limit)

If your total expenses exceed the grant amount requested, explain how you will pay for the remaining costs.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Your narrative responses will be evaluated by AZ Youth Arts Council members based on the following criteria.

Quality of Proposal

Did you clearly outline your artistic form and how you will spend the grant funds?

Potential Impact

Did you describe how these funds will impact you as a young artist?

Viability

Are the expenses you describe appropriate for the grant? Does the application demonstrate substantial evidence that the proposal will be realized within the proposed timeline?

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

- Food and beverages for any purpose.
- Fundraising projects.
- Opportunities that take place outside of the funding period.
- Equipment not related to the opportunity.
- Opportunities related to academic research or formal study toward an academic or professional degree, such as capstone projects.
- Applications that are developed by adults will be ineligible for funding.
- Grant administration, overhead or processing fees taken by an umbrella/parent organization as a percentage of the total award, with the exception of fiscal sponsors.

This list is not comprehensive.

Additionally, according to the Arts Commission's enabling statutes, "Notwithstanding any other law, no monies from the Arizona Commission on the Arts may be spent for payment to any person or entity for use in desecrating, casting contempt on, mutilating, defacing, defiling, burning, trampling or otherwise dishonoring or causing to bring dishonor on religious objects, the flag of the United States or the flag of this state." Recipients of Arts Commission support are further instructed to "take into consideration general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the American public" within funded programs.

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

One of 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies across the United States, the Arizona Commission on the Arts is a 59-year-old agency of the State of Arizona and a leading force in the creative and professional development of Arizona's arts sector. Through robust programs, research initiatives and strategic grantmaking, the Arts Commission catalyzes arts-based partnerships that strengthen Arizona communities through the arts.

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

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

For more information, contact us at (602) 771-6501 or email info@azarts.gov or visit www.azarts.gov. To request this or any other publication in an alternate format, contact the Arts Commission offices. An equal employment opportunity agency.