



Advancement Grant

GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

ELIGIBILITY

Los Angeles County school districts that are in partnership with the Arts Ed Collective and will be implementing board approved strategic plans for arts education in 2024-25 are eligible to apply.

Interested school districts must submit a funding request via the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture's (Arts and Culture) online grant portal at apply-lacdac.smapply.io by **6:00 pm, Wednesday, March 13, 2024**. Arts and Culture strongly recommends submitting the application at least five days prior to the deadline to give ample time to troubleshoot.

These guidelines and other grant resources are available at:
lacountyartsedcollective.org/advancement

The Advancement Grant Program is administered by the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture. The Advancement Grant Program is made possible with funding from LA County Board of Supervisors and the Arts Ed Collective Funders Council and through direct contributions from the Herb Alpert Foundation, Colburn Foundation, The Carl and Roberta Deutsch Foundation, The Music Man Foundation, and Sony Pictures Entertainment.

THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS EDUCATION COLLECTIVE

The Los Angeles County Arts Education Collective is a countywide public-private initiative dedicated to making the arts part of every child’s growth and development.

In 2002 the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors launched the Los Angeles County Arts Education Collective (Arts Ed Collective, formerly known as Arts for All) as a regional effort to restore the arts in public education. The Arts Ed Collective is coordinated by the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture), implemented in partnership with the LA County Office of Education (LACOE), and is recognized as a national model of collective impact in arts education. Starting with just one school district in each Supervisorial District nearly two decades ago, the Arts Ed Collective now includes a robust coalition of partners – that represent more than 74 school districts, 5 charter school networks and hundreds of community-based arts organizations, teaching artists, educators, philanthropists, and advocates – all working toward the shared goal that every young person in LA County engages in the arts all year, every year, because the arts are fundamental to human growth and development. The Countywide initiative is guided by a Leadership Council and an active Funders Council who continue to invest in this formidable movement for arts education across the region.

ARTS FOR ALL CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES: LOS ANGELES COUNTY’S NEW REGIONAL BLUEPRINT FOR ARTS EDUCATION

In April 2018, LA County became the first local government in California to formally adopt the Declaration of Students’ Rights to Equity in Arts Learning, recognizing the importance of arts education for all students regardless of race, culture, language, income, religion, national origin, legal status, place of residence, gender identity, LGBTQ+ status, or ability. With a renewed focus on equity and inclusion and a continuing vision that high quality arts instruction is an essential part of a well-rounded public education, the Board of Supervisors identified the need for an updated regional plan for arts education to reflect the current priorities and educational landscape of LA County.

Building on nearly two decades of work and drawing input from over 600 stakeholders, the Board of Supervisors adopted a new vision and policy blueprint in 2020. Los Angeles County’s New Regional Blueprint for Arts Education (Arts Ed Blueprint) sets forth ambitious goals for increasing youth access to the arts. The new Arts Ed Blueprint outlines strategies for advancing:

- arts instruction for all students, across all grade levels, in all public schools;
- expanded opportunities for arts education after school;
- year-round community-based arts learning;
- access to careers in the creative economy;
- arts-based programs and services, provided in collaboration with multiple County departments, that support children, youth and families; and
- a prioritization of historically underserved populations.

Despite the many positive benefits of the arts on child and youth development – including improved academic achievement, school attendance, engagement, sense of identity, self-esteem, creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities – there remain long-standing systemic barriers to accessing arts education and cultural resources, particularly for historically underserved communities, English-language learners, and youth of color. To address these disparities and to promote cultural and racial equity, the new Arts Ed Blueprint centers access and equity and prioritizes historically underserved youth, schools, and communities.

HOW DOES THE ARTS ED COLLECTIVE SUPPORT SCHOOL DISTRICTS?

The Arts Ed Collective offers a continuum of services to school districts to help build sound infrastructure that allows all students to receive arts education as a core part of a well-rounded education.

Coaching for Strategic Planning

Coaching is provided to school districts interested in creating or updating strategic plans for arts education. A district arts committee comprised of local stakeholders develops a five-year plan for sustaining long-term district-wide arts education. Coaching will support planning for the use of increased arts education funding from the November 2022 passage of Proposition 28, also known as the Arts and Music K-12 Education Funding Initiative, as well as other district identified goals aligned with the Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education. Applications for coaching support during the upcoming school year are available at surveymonkey.com/r/ArtsEdPlanningRequest

Coaching for District Arts Coordination

Once the local school board approves the strategic plan, a year of coaching is available to help build the capacity of the arts committee and district staff to coordinate and manage successful implementation of the plan. School districts completing strategic plans this spring will be offered another year of coaching. School districts with new staff assigned to arts coordination for the upcoming school year may also request a coach.

Countywide Network

Ongoing support for arts coordinators and district arts committee members is available through a countywide network of leaders and practioners who convene regularly to learn and collaborate. Events can be found at lacountyartsedcollective.org/initiatives/school-based-arts-education/school-district-arts-coordinator-network.

Arts Ed Profile

The LA County Arts Ed Profile online tool allows teachers, parents, administrators, policymakers, funders, and others to find data about arts education provided by LA County public schools. The Arts Ed Profile Report 2015-18 provides key recommendations for addressing quantity, quality, and equity of arts education. The online tool and report are available at lacountyartsedcollective.org/research-evaluation/arts-ed-profile. (Note that school principals are encouraged to update their data at annually.)

Funding for Implementation

School districts in partnership with the Arts Ed Collective that have school board-adopted strategic plans for arts education are eligible to apply for grant funding. These matching grants help districts initiate or expand strategies that increase and improve arts education in their district.

Technology Enhanced Arts Learning (TEAL)

Developed and implemented as a partnership between the Department of Arts and Culture and LACOE's Center for Distance and Online Learning, TEAL provides TK-6 educators with interactive, experiential professional development and online resources focused on integrating the arts and social-emotional learning (SEL) into the teaching of other core subjects (e.g., language arts, math, science, social studies). Get started at tealarts.lacoe.edu/.

It is recommended that you contact Arts and Culture for assistance in considering your entry point for participation in Arts Ed Collective services for the upcoming school year.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THIS GRANT?

The Advancement Grant offers financial support to Los Angeles County school districts working to provide quality arts education to all students. The goals of the grant are to:

- assist school districts in achieving key action items in their strategic plans for arts education
- generate resources, practices, skills, or knowledge that will be sustained beyond the term of the grant
- direct resources and investments into historically underserved communities to increase learning in the arts for youth who continue to face structural and systemic barriers to high quality, culturally sustaining arts education

WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

The new Arts Ed Blueprint sets new targets for providing arts education for every child across all of LA County. The Advancement Grant seeks to address the following:

Scale

Every young person in every neighborhood has year-round opportunities for learning in and through the arts in school, after school, and in their community.

Equity

Every young person, regardless of race, culture, language, income, religions, national origin, legal status, place of residence, gender identity, LGBTQ+ status, or ability, receives high-quality, culturally sustaining arts education. Young people who have been historically excluded or precluded from learning in the arts receive priority for the resources and investments required to meet their needs.

Within the context of the Arts Ed Blueprint, the terms historically underserved and historically excluded or precluded are defined as specific groups of people who, over many years in the past which may extend into the present, have been denied or prevented from accessing resources or opportunities by institutions, systems, and/or dominant power structures. This may include Black, Indigenous, and other youth of color, current or former foster youth, as well as youth who are currently or formerly homeless, impacted by the justice system, LGBTQ+, migrants, English language learners, living in poverty, in rural areas, and/or with disabilities. This term can also apply to schools, neighborhoods, and communities with high proportions of people who have been historically excluded or precluded.

Quality

Arts instruction is thoughtfully and intentionally designed to:

- build artistic, technical, and creative skills;
- encompass a variety of art forms and genres;
- connect arts learning to other areas of study, growth, and development;
- reflect the culture, language and heritage of the learner;
- introduce the learner to the cultures, languages and heritages of others;
- expose young people to creative careers; and
- recognize the region's rich cultural diversity.

Culturally Relevant, Responsive, and Sustaining Instruction

Asset-based teaching practices that view diversity in thought, culture, and traits as strengths. Instruction is designed to accept and affirm the backgrounds of students of color (Culturally Relevant); connect to students' cultural knowledge, prior experiences, and frames of reference (Culturally Responsive); and

sustain cultural ways of being in communities of color while supporting students to critique dominant power structures in society (Culturally Sustaining).¹

In-School Arts Education

Learning in the arts takes place during the school day as part of an integrated or discrete, sequential arts curriculum.

After-School Arts Education

Learning in the arts takes place outside of school hours, either on a school campus or for youth who are part of a specific school community, and intentionally augments or deepens in-school arts education.

Funded programs will be asked to report on progress at the conclusion of the granting cycle.

WHAT WORK DOES THE GRANT SUPPORT?

Eligibility

Los Angeles County school districts that are in partnership with the Arts Ed Collective and will be implementing board approved strategic plans for arts education in 2024-25 are eligible to apply (see page 10). If you are interested in learning more about becoming an Arts Ed Collective district partner, contact artsedcollective@arts.lacounty.gov for additional information.

Alignment with District Plans and Arts Ed Blueprint

The project outlined in your funding request must demonstrate alignment with existing district plans, including the district's strategic plan for arts education and the Local Control Accountability Plan, as well as alignment with the goals of the LA County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education.

Eligible Projects

Your district may submit a request for funding to **initiate or expand** activities or services that address one or more goals for advancing arts education in your schools.

If your district continues to struggle to provide student access to arts education due to the COVID-19 recovery period, contact Arts Ed Collective staff to discuss the possibility of requesting funding for projects that preserve or facilitate student access to arts education.

Ineligible Project Expenses

The funding request and the district cash match cannot include:

- Services for students that occur outside of the traditional school day which supplant or replace instruction previously offered during the school day
- In-kind services or materials
- Fundraising activities

¹ "Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy." California Department of Education. Accessed October 6, 2020. <https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ee/culturallsustainingped.asp>

HOW WILL THE GRANT FUNDING WORK?

All eligible school districts may apply for up to \$25,000 in matching funds to support strategies detailed in the funding request. Determination of awards will be based on the extent to which the application meets the review criteria (see page 8) and receives priority points (priority points are determined by the most current California Department of Education (CDE) data). Final awards may be less than the requested amount.

School districts that are approved for funding will enter into a grant contract with the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, which will govern the delivery of funds. Prior to contracting, all grantees must obtain a Los Angeles County Vendor Number and submit an Adjusted Grant Budget and Participation Form on which grant awards are accepted or declined.

Responsibilities

The funding period will begin upon final execution of the contract and will run through June 30, 2024. Grantees will be required to adhere to all provisions of the contract, including:

- Matching Funds must be invested in the project at a minimum 1:1 ratio. These funds may come from the district or its funding partners and must be applied toward the project detailed in the application. As noted above, ineligible project expenses also apply to matching funds. In-kind services and materials are not acceptable sources of matching funds.
- A project lead must be designated to coordinate, implement, and monitor the project. The project lead will be named as the primary contact in the contract if awarded.

Invoicing and Reporting

Grant funds will be distributed in up to three installments:

- 25% upon completion of all project planning and participation by the project lead in a dedicated Grantee Convening or a countywide network event
- 50% following a mid-project check-in call with Arts and Culture staff
- 25% upon completion of the project and submission of a complete final report that includes participation data, final budget, a brief narrative on project outcomes and at least one work sample.

Credit and Acknowledgment

School districts will be required to include standard credit language and/or logos acknowledging funding support from the Arts Ed Collective and LA County Department of Arts and Culture on all digital and print communications, promotional, press, product materials, facilities, or equipment, relating to the funded project, as relevant.

School districts will be encouraged to submit a letter recognizing funding support and sharing the impact of the grant.

School districts will also be encouraged submit data to the Arts Ed Data Profile.

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM TIMELINE?

Guidelines and Application Available	January 24, 2024
Open Office Hours	February 6, February 22, + March 5, 2024
Funding Request Deadline	March 13, 2024
Panel Review	April 2024
Notification of Awards via Email	June 2024
Adjusted Budget and Participation Forms Due Contracts Executed	September 2024
Grant Period	September 2024 - June 30, 2025
Grantee mid-project check in with Arts and Culture Staff	October 2024 - April 2025
Final Report Due	May 15, 2025

HOW DO WE SUBMIT THE FUNDING REQUEST?

The Funding Request can be accessed via Arts and Culture’s online grant portal at apply-lacdac.smapply.io. All applications must be submitted electronically.

New applicants to the portal must register a user account. Registration will link the user with the school district allowing access to the Advancement Grant funding request. Please review the Application Instructions prior to using the portal at lacountyartsedcollective.org/advancement.

Complete applications must be submitted no later than **6:00 pm, Wednesday, March 13, 2024**. Arts and Culture strongly recommends submitting the application at least five days prior to the deadline to give ample time to troubleshoot.

Applications submitted late or with section(s) blank will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered for funding.

As a public agency, all information submitted to Arts and Culture in conjunction with a funding request becomes public record at the time the application is submitted.

HOW WILL GRANT AWARDS BE DETERMINED?

Applications will be reviewed and scored by a peer panel of experienced arts and education professionals that may include district administrators, community arts partners, funders, and arts educators.

Each section of the application addresses items from one of the criteria below. Applications will be scored according to the following:

Criterion 1: STRATEGIC DIRECTION (35 points maximum)

Arts education goal(s) for the upcoming year are described in detail and are included in an active district plan such as the Strategic Plan for Arts Education or the Local Control Accountability Plan and align with the Arts Ed Blueprint. All district plan(s) are clearly cited. There is a compelling justification of why this is the right time to focus on this aspect of the district's arts plan, how this project builds upon past successes, and how it moves the district towards providing arts education for all students – and particularly those who have been historically and systematically excluded or precluded. It is clear how the project will initiate or expand arts education in the district. The proposed project is clearly aimed at generating resources, practices, skills, or knowledge that will be sustained beyond the term of the grant.

Criterion 2: QUALITY OF PROJECT PLAN (30 points maximum)

The project is thoughtfully designed. The project plan identifies specific activities that can be realistically accomplished with the designated resources and timeline. The project plan proposes specific tactics to support young people who have been historically and systematically excluded or precluded from participation in arts learning in ways that are culturally relevant, and responsive to the students to be served.

Criterion 3: QUALITY OF PROJECT EVALUATION (10 points maximum)

The project has measurable goals and an appropriate evaluation methodology in place that uses qualitative and quantitative data to assess changes in the scale, quality, or equity of arts instruction provided in the school district.

Criterion 4: PERSONNEL CAPACITY (15 points maximum)

Professional staff are in place to manage and implement the project. There is evidence of support from multiple levels of district leadership. Staff or community partners providing student instruction or professional development for educators have demonstrated capacity to engage participants in diverse and culturally responsive learning experiences. The roles and responsibilities of the staff, district administration, and proposed partners are clearly defined.

Criterion 5: FISCAL CAPACITY (10 points maximum)

Project expenses are clearly described and calculated accurately. Specific activities have been appropriately budgeted. A minimum of one-to-one matching funds are committed and identified.

Priority Point Area 1: STUDENT POPULATION (16 points maximum)

Districts serving large student populations will earn priority points for supplemental funding as follows:

- Enrollment of 10,000 – 19,999 = 8 priority points
- Enrollment of 20,000 or greater = 16 priority points

Priority Point Area 2: UNDUPLICATED PUPIL COUNT (16 points maximum)

Districts with a high percentage of students in the Unduplicated Pupil Count will earn priority points for supplemental funding as follows:

- Unduplicated Pupil Count of 72 – 85.9% = 8 priority points
- Unduplicated Pupil Count of 86 % or greater = 16 priority points

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS = 132*

* Scores over 100 may receive an award less than or equal to the funding request, based on available funding each year

HOW CAN WE LEARN MORE?

Application Workshops

For school districts interested in applying, check out our pre-recorded workshop series to learn about the guidelines, hear tips for submitting a strong request, and get support on navigating the Survey Monkey Apply grant portal.

Part 1: Understanding Eligibility and Requirements

Part 2: Scoring Criteria and Examples

Part 3: Using Survey Monkey Apply

The application workshops are available for viewing online at lacountyartsedcollective.org/advancement.

Technical Assistance Virtual Office Hours

Join us to have your questions answered by Arts and Culture staff. We are offering virtual office hours to support districts in applying for funding. Drop in anytime during the scheduled hours. We encourage you to review the recorded workshops before attending and bring questions for discussion.

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Virtual Office Hours: 3:30pm – 5:00pm

2024AdvancementGrantOfficeHours1.eventbrite.com

Thursday, February 22, 2024

Virtual Office Hours: 11:30am – 1:00pm

Immediately following the District Arts Coordinator Network Meeting

2024AdvancementGrantOfficeHours2.eventbrite.com

Thursday, March 5, 2024

Virtual Office Hours: Noon – 2pm

2024AdvancementGrantOfficeHours3.eventbrite.com

Schedule a Meeting

Arts and Culture staff are happy to meet with you one-on-one to discuss this opportunity, your district's eligibility, or the application process. Schedule an appointment directly through our [Bookings page](#).

Eligible Districts

ABC Unified	Glendora Unified	Palmdale Elem.
Acton-Agua Dulce Unified	Gorman Joint	Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified
Alhambra Unified	Green Dot Public Schools	Paramount Unified
Antelope Valley Union High	Hacienda La Puente Unified	Pasadena Unified
Arcadia Unified	Hawthorne Elem.	Pomona Unified
Azusa Unified	Hermosa Beach City Elem.	PUC Schools
Baldwin Park Unified	Hughes-Elizabeth Lake Union Elem.	Redondo Beach Unified
Bassett Unified	ICEF Public Schools	Rosemead Elem.
Beverly Hills Unified	iLead Charter Network	San Gabriel Unified
Burbank Unified	Inglewood Unified	San Marino Unified
Castaic Union	Keppel Union Elem.	Santa Monica-Malibu Unified
Centinela Valley Union High	Lancaster Elem.	Saugus Union
Charter Oak Unified	Las Virgenes Unified	South Pasadena Unified
Claremont Unified	Lawndale Elem.	South Whittier Elem.
Compton Unified	Lennox Elem.	Sulphur Springs Union
Covina-Valley Unified	Little Lake City Elem.	Temple City Unified
Culver City Unified	Los Angeles County Office of Education	Torrance Unified
Downey Unified	Los Nietos Elem.	Valle Lindo Elem.
Duarte Unified	Lynwood Unified	Walnut Valley Unified
East Whittier City Elem.	Magnolia Charter Schools	West Covina Unified
Eastside Union Elem.	Manhattan Beach Unified	Westside Union Elem.
El Monte City Elem.	Monrovia Unified	Whittier City Elem.
El Monte Union High	Montebello Unified	Whittier Union Elem.
El Rancho Unified	Mountain View Elem.	Wilsona Elem.
Garvey Elem.	Newhall Elem.	Wiseburn Unified
Glendale Unified	Norwalk-La Mirada Unified	

**Contingent upon the submission of a district adopted Strategic Plan for Arts Education by September 30, 2024.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Los Angeles County Arts Education Collective

The LA County Arts Education Collective is the countywide initiative dedicated to making the arts a core part of every child's growth and development. Starting with just one school district in each Supervisorial District nearly two decades ago, the Arts Ed Collective now includes a robust coalition of public and private partners that represents more than 74 school districts, 5 charter school networks, and hundreds of community-based arts organizations, teaching artists, educators, philanthropists, advocates, county agencies including the Departments of Mental Health, Probation, Parks and Recreation, Youth Development and the Office of Child Protection. The initiative is coordinated by the LA County Department of Arts and Culture, is supported by curriculum and instructional services provided by the LA County Office of Education, and is guided by a Leadership Council and an active Funders Council who continue to invest in this formidable movement for arts education across Los Angeles County. It is recognized as a national model of collective impact in arts education. For more information and a list of philanthropic funders, visit lacountyartsedcollective.org.

Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture

The mission of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture is to advance arts, culture, and creativity throughout LA County. The department provides leadership, services, and support in areas including grants and technical assistance for nonprofit organizations; professional development opportunities; public art commissions and the supervision of the County's civic art collection; countywide arts education initiatives; research and evaluation of the arts sector; the formation of career pathways in the creative economy; free community programs; and cross-sector creative strategies that address civic issues. This work is framed by the County's Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative, Countywide Cultural Policy, Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative, and a longstanding commitment to fostering access to the arts. For more information, please visit lacountyarts.org.

Los Angeles County Arts Commission

The Commission supports and advocates for the mission, vision and values of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, providing leadership, information, and resources with the community, artists, educators, arts organizations and municipalities in cooperation with the Department. The Commission is an advisory group to the Board of Supervisors, with three appointees for each District.

Arts Education Funders Council

The Funders Council is a coalition of government, corporate and foundation partners who support arts education and meet regularly to share knowledge, develop strategy, and provide fiscal oversight of shared investments in arts education in Los Angeles County. As a regional collaborative of public and private funders active since 2004, the Funders Council brings members together to have a collective impact on student learning in and through the arts.