

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. All district plan(s) are clearly cited. There is a clear and 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, or how it will preserve students' access to arts instruction during the current crises caused by COVID-19. 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 and clearly described. 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 a clear and 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. The evaluation methodology is appropriate to the anticipated outcomes.

Criterion 4: PERSONNEL CAPACITY (15 points maximum)

Professional staff with strong qualifications 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. The costs are consistent with equivalent programs or services in the arts education field. A minimum of one to one matching funds are committed and identified.