



Southwest Minnesota Arts Council

www.swmnarts.org • 507-537-1471 • info@swmnarts.org

Serving Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift & Yellow Medicine counties

ARTS IN THE SCHOOLS GRANTS

Fiscal Year 2022 Guidelines

Effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

The grants described in this guide are dependent on appropriations to the SW MN Arts Council from the Minnesota State Legislature and the State's arts & cultural heritage fund.

Deadlines: submitted online by 4:30 pm

Round I deadline: October 6, 2021

Earliest project start date: December 1, 2021

Round II deadline: January 26, 2022

Earliest project start date: March 1, 2022

The start date for a SMAC grant is defined as the point at which the project is set in motion (e.g. auditions, rehearsals, advertising and public notification, payment of fees, ordering and/or paying for supplies or printed material, etc.). **No funds can be expended prior to the project start date.** Funds spent before the project start date, such as a deposit on a contract, cannot be included in the grant project budget. **No advertising by the applicant organization can take place before the start date**, whether or not it will be paid for through the grant. However, posting basic information such as event dates is allowed. **Projects must be concluded no later than June 30, 2023.**

Program Intent & Eligibility

The Arts in the Schools grant program is open to public schools within the eighteen counties of the SMAC service region (*Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift, and Yellow Medicine counties*) or on tribal lands within our service area. We acknowledge that this region occupies the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of the Dakota people, who have stewarded these lands throughout the generations.

The program intent is to provide funds for artist residencies or field trips that include educator training and community involvement, juried student art exhibits, and prepackaged theater experiences. Community Education that is part of a school district may apply for Arts in the Schools grants. Community Education that is part of a city should apply through Art Project grants.

Arts in the Schools grant projects must be open to all students within a grade, subject discipline, or activity (i.e. fall play), rather than exclusive to a student organization or specific students selected by faculty. Projects may occur during the school year or during the summer. Projects types include:

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

An artist residency is a unique learning partnership between a professional artist and a school. Artists in any arts discipline may be contracted to teach and/or work side by side with students, conduct in-service or special teacher's training, and conduct performance, demonstrations, exhibitions, or special classes for the community at large.

Requirements:

- **Professional artist.** Artists selected must be independent, professional artists or professional organizations. Art-related background and quality of work will be heavily considered in the application review process.
- **Core groups.** It is strongly encouraged, though not required, to focus on one or more core student groups that will receive extended in-depth contact with the artist for the length of the residency.

- **Teacher must be present during all artist-student contact time**, with the teacher and artist working cooperatively to maintain a productive working environment in the classroom.
- **Teacher-artist contact time.** We strongly recommend that residencies include at least one hour of training for school instructors. A pre-residency planning day with the artist and involved faculty and planning committee is strongly encouraged.
- **Community component.** To broaden the total impact of the residency, the general community should be involved in some aspect. Examples: invite the community to an exhibit of students' residency work, host a *Meet the Artist* night, or sponsor a community education class.

JURIED ART EXHIBITS

A school or group of schools can bring in professional artists to jury a student art show that is open to the public. Grant funds can pay for the artists, advertising the show in the community, student awards, etc. Schools may also wish to include student music performances during the event. Only one grant per show is allowed, regardless of the number of schools involved.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are intended to help increase the exposure of students to professional artists through visits to studios, performances by professional theatre, dance or musical groups, readings by writers, visits to art galleries or other locations pertinent to the creation and exhibition of art.

PRE-PACKAGED THEATER

Schools may bring in pre-packaged theater experiences, such as Prairie Fire or Missoula Children's Theaters.

In addition to the restrictions listed in SMAC's general grant guidelines, following projects are NOT eligible for Arts in the Schools grants:

- Requests from parochial schools
- Payment of school personnel, excluding substitute teachers while the regular teacher is participating in the project
- Substitutions for regular school programs, including substitutions for cancelled arts programs that would normally have been part of the curriculum
- Supplies outside of those needed for the project

Before beginning an application, you are strongly encouraged to contact SW MN Arts Council to determine if this grant program is right for your project.

Grant Amounts

Arts in the Schools grants are available in the following amounts:

- **Artist Residencies:** up to **\$4,000**, with no cash match required, for each distinct, stand-alone residency.
- **Juried Art Exhibits:** up to **\$2,500**, with no cash match required.
- **Field Trips:** up to **\$2,500**, with no cash match required.
- **Pre-packaged theatre projects:** up to **\$2,500**. In fiscal year 2022, no cash match is required.

Review Criteria

The grant review panel will score your application based on:

- the project's artistic quality and merit (53%)
- the impact of the project on the participants (32%)
- the feasibility of the project (15%)

Applicants will also be awarded one additional percentage point for each of the following criteria they meet:

- First time SMAC applicant
- Applicant organization led by or primarily serving BIPOC or LGBTQIA2+ communities or people with disabilities
- Applicant from a county that has received three or fewer SMAC grants in the last fiscal year

The panel's evaluation scoresheet is available on the SMAC website. Read more about the grant review process in the SMAC's general grant guidelines.

*Contact the SW MN Arts Council office with questions, for a draft review,
or if you need accommodations while applying for this grant:
507-537-1471 or 800-622-5284, info@swmnarts.org*