



SPECTRA GRANTS 2023

GUIDELINES

Application Dates

Applications Available: May 1, 2023
Application Deadline: September 8, 4:59pm
Notification: September 29, 2023

Eligibility

K-12 public schools and community-based organizations offering programming to youth ages 5-18 are eligible to apply. Applicants who received a SPECTRA grant for the last two-year cycle will need to take a two-year cycle off before they are eligible to reapply.

Amount

Based on funding availability, matching grants are awarded up to \$3,000, for a two year cycle. \$2,000 is awarded in year one, \$1,000 in year two. Schools may apply for more than one matching grant as long as the total requested amount per school doesn't exceed \$3,000.

Contact

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Purpose: To assist Santa Cruz County K-12 public schools and community programs to enhance and expand upon their arts education curriculum by bringing SPECTRA Teaching Artists into classrooms for visual, performing, or literary arts workshops, residencies, and performances.

Priorities: We prioritize our funding based on equity and where we can make the greatest impact. Our number one priority goes to schools where high percentages (60-100% unduplicated) are students of color, English Language Learners, on free and reduced meal plans, and foster youth. We also acknowledge that some schools are without specific arts funding and/or strong parent groups to fundraise and support arts programs are prioritized. We prioritize sustainable models - arts programs that we know have been or will be a part of the school climate/culture for a long time and need our support to continue. We don't intend to fund arts programs just implemented for one year and then gone.

Please note that in some cases, we award partial grants. The percentage of funding is based on the overall score for each school based on a matrix that looks at the demographic makeup of students, the number of students on free and reduced lunch meal plans, and other factors like parent support (or lack thereof), sustainability of the program model, if the art program is embedded in school culture, etc.

Deadline: Applications will be accepted through Friday, September 8, 2023, at 4:59 pm. Once all applications are received, matching grants will be considered, with priority given to sustainable models, keeping county-wide equity in mind.

Process: Awards will be made payable within one month of approval, to the school, the district, or the school's parent association, as indicated on the application form.

It is the school's responsibility to contract with and pay the artist. If this is a challenge for your school/district please contact us to discuss other arrangements.

Reporting: Schools must submit a final evaluation for prior year in order to be considered for future grants. Reports are due within thirty days of the program completion or by June 30, 2023, whichever comes first.

Application Instructions:

Step 1. Select a SPECTRA Teaching Artist/arts organization. Use the Arts Council's [Teaching Artist Directory](#) for suggestions, contact information, and artist fees.

Step 2. Contact the artist to discuss curriculum and project goals for your class(es) and to confirm details such as dates, fees, preparation time, supplies, and other costs such as kiln time.

Step 3. Complete the online application found at <https://artscouncilsc.org/opportunities-resources/grants/spectra-grants>

Step 4. You will be notified by September 29, 2023 whether or not your grant request is approved.

Step 5. Upon grant approval, contract with the artist and set up an orientation* with the artist and all classroom teachers involved in the project.

*Orientation: Discuss your curriculum goals with the artist so their lesson plans or performance can be adapted to student needs. An orientation meeting with classroom teachers and artist is the best way to ensure that you make the most of your grant.

SPECTRA Teaching Artists have been screened by a panel of educators, artists, and Arts Council staff. They Are familiar with best practices for teaching artists and California Department of Education VAPA content standards.

Need help? Contact Sarah Brothers, Arts Education Director: 831-475-9600 x18 or artsed@artscouncilsc.org