



Program administered and coordinated by the Acadiana Center for the Arts and funded by the Lafayette Parish School System.

Arts Grants for Teachers

Guidelines 2026-2027

THE PURPOSE of this Arts in Education (AIE) grant is to encourage teachers to design and develop artistically creative and innovative projects involving the visual and performing arts. These projects can help to develop understanding and appreciation of the arts, complement other arts-related activities already implemented in the schools, provide direct student involvement in the arts, develop permanent arts resources, integrate arts into other academic disciplines or provide support for teachers to become more proficient in the arts.

Applications are reviewed on a competitive basis with one grant round per year. Applicants must use the official application form, which can be found at <https://artsinedacadiana.org/arts-grants-for-teachers/>. All forms must be received by the appropriate deadlines. There is no limit on the number of applications per school or teacher. Separate applications must be submitted for each project.

Eligibility

Any Lafayette Parish public school teacher, librarian, or guidance counselor directly instructing children is eligible to apply.

Important Dates

Funding Cycle: September 7, 2026 - May 27, 2027

Application Deadline: Friday August 14, 2026 by 4:00pm via online application

Notification Date: early September

Funding Amounts

- \$750 - Individual teachers
- \$1,500 - Shared grants submitted by two or more teachers, either within a school or between schools. (Please note that shared grants must directly impact more than one class of students to be eligible.)
- \$2,000 – Projects that culminate in a performance or exhibit at Student Arts Expo. To qualify for these grants, there must be a minimum of 3 participating teachers and classes.



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Arts Grants Categories

Art Works Grant

To promote direct student involvement in visual arts, dance, theatre, music, design, architecture/environmental arts, creative writing, media or folk life. The project may include production, performance, organization and development.

Integrated Arts Grant

To incorporate the arts into academic instruction, expand learning by involving arts and/or artists, and integrate them into literature, math, history, science and other curricula including social emotional learning.

Resource Grant

To develop permanent arts resources such as fine arts reproductions, non-expendable equipment, films, books, etc. All resource materials to be purchased through a grant must be accompanied by a detailed description of the educational project that will utilize these resource materials and an explanation of how the program will be implemented.

Training Grant

To provide teachers with arts education training by a recognized expert in the arts discipline. The project must have an associated educational component to be implemented upon completion of the training.

Hiring an Artist for Your Project

Grants may include the hiring of artists to help design and implement your project. Collaboration with an artist is encouraged, but not required or necessary for all projects. Artists may be selected from the AcA's Teaching Artist roster, which can be accessed [here](#). All others must submit a comprehensive resume of their arts in education experience. Long and short term residencies and workshops are eligible.

Things to consider

Artists are very knowledgeable in selecting the tools and supplies needed for the project. It is suggested that you consult with them before finalizing your application. Besides the artist's classroom session fees, also consider the additional administration fees such as planning time, advance preparation time and transportation costs in your budget.



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Checklist

- Statement of Support from Principal
- Statement of Support from Teaching Artist (if applicable)
- A copy of any information descriptive of art resource materials to be purchased
- Resumes of any individuals working directly with students and paid through the grant budget, unless the artist is on the current approved roster of the AcA's Teaching Artists. If teachers are directly involved in instruction for this project, please include their bio or resume

Evaluation Criteria

Your application will be reviewed by panels composed of community leaders, educators, and/or artists, using the following evaluation criteria. Panels will be instructed to score based on the criteria below, so please note the weight or value of each section.

Approach - Weight 40%

- Well-planned and designed proposal of the proposed project
- Expertise of the educators and artists involved in the proposed project
- Realistic timeframe of proposed project

Educational & Artistic Relevance - Weight 20%

- Importance of proposed project
- Impact on teacher practice and student understanding
- Connection to curriculum
- Artistic merit of proposed project

Budget - Weight 20%

- Appropriate request level and use of stipend funds

Results - Weight 20%

- Impact (large or small) this project could have on your students
- Plans for increased access, participation and exposure to the arts for your students



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Important Information

- Recurring and/or traditional school productions and exhibitions are not generally eligible unless there is evidence of significant programmatic changes.
- Salaries for administrative or teaching staff for any school or school system are not eligible.
- Art Works Grants and Integrated Arts Grants projects must allow for contact between the artist(s) and students during regular school hours. (May request special permission for some projects.)
- Artists may not be used to fill teacher vacancies.
- The teacher must be present at all times during grant activities.
- The project and any resulting materials become the property of the Lafayette Parish School System.
- Do not request more funds than the grant guidelines allow.
- "Other Contributions" section in the budget page is a significant factor in the grant review process.
- The decision process takes approximately one to three months, depending on the number of grants received.
- The grant review panel consists of administrators, educators, artists and community members. Sometimes the panel determines that a grant requires some budget adjustments. The panel may suggest partial funding after consultation with the applicant to determine that viability of the grant can be maintained.
- Keep copies of your completed application for your school and yourself to use as a guideline throughout the project.

Applications must be submitted online by 4:00pm on the deadline date, Friday August 14, 2026. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. Please read the guidelines and instructions carefully before completing this application. Applicants are advised to contact Bree Sargent (Education Director) at 337-443-9759, or Bree@AcadianaCenterfortheArts.org to discuss your project before you submit your application. AIE Arts Grants for Teachers guidelines and application are available online at www.artsinedacadiana.org.