



OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE
CITY OF SEATTLE

The Creative Advantage Community Arts Partner Roster 2027 Guidelines

APPLICATION OPENS: Nov. 2, 2026

APPLICATION CLOSES: Sept. 30, 2027

Roster Overview

[The Creative Advantage](#) is a partnership between [Seattle Office of Arts & Culture](#) (OAC) and Seattle Public Schools (SPS) to increase student access to arts learning.

[The Community Arts Partner Roster](#) is a list of teaching artists, and community arts and culture organizations approved to work in SPS and receive compensation through The Creative Advantage. The Roster is maintained by OAC as a resource for schools seeking partners to help them meet their arts education equity goals.

Community Arts Partners collaborate with schools to provide:

1. Student Art Residencies
2. Teacher Professional Development

You can apply to lead student arts residencies, teacher professional development or both.

For information and assistance with the application, eligibility or online technical support, **contact Tina LaPadula**, The Creative Advantage Project Manager, at **206-518-4205** or tina.lapadula@seattle.gov

We have interpreters who can speak to you in your language, including American Sign Language (via video). Just call us and tell us what language you speak. Expect a short pause while we find an interpreter to join the call.

Roster Purpose

The Roster supports SPS arts equity goals. It is an integral part of a coordinated method to bring a diversity of artists and art forms into SPS classrooms. These partnerships increase student access to arts learning, broaden the arts disciplines students can explore, and create bridges between communities and schools.

Application

[Apply online through Submittable.](#)

If you have trouble, [check Submittable's FAQ](#) which offers step-by-step guides. For further assistance with the Submittable online application, please [contact Submittable tech support](#).

If you don't have computer or internet access, or have any other barriers in applying, contact Tina LaPadula.

Due Dates

The application opens Nov. 2, 2026, and will stay open through Sept. 30, 2027. Applications will be vetted and approved by The Creative Advantage Roster Advisors through a panel process three (3) times annually in March, June, and October 2027

- Applications submitted between **11/2/2026 and 2/28/2027, 5 PM Pacific** will be reviewed during the **March review cycle**.
- Applications submitted between **3/1/2027 and 5/31/2027, by 5 PM Pacific** will be reviewed during the **June review cycle**.
- Applications submitted between **6/1/2027 and 9/30/27, by 5 PM Pacific** will be reviewed during the **October review cycle**.

Please allow ample time to complete your application. Applications submitted after the 5 PM Pacific deadline will be reviewed in the next cycle.

Eligibility

The Roster is open to teaching artists, community arts organizations, and cultural institutions serving students, teachers, and schools in Seattle with three or more years of teaching experience. You must be over the age of 18.

The Creative Advantage works in collaboration with SPS Native Education Department. **If you are a tribal elder who wants to bring your artistry and experience to The Creative Advantage, you do not need to complete this application.** Please contact Tina LaPadula.

If you are a non-tribal elder culture bearer who is thinking about applying to The Creative Advantage Partner Roster, please contact Tina LaPadula to discuss if this application is required.

AI Policy

We don't restrict applicants from using artificial intelligence (AI) to assist in the writing of grant applications, including proposal development, grammar improvement, plain language use, and draft review. It's your responsibility to ensure your application is factually accurate, clearly written, and proposes an achievable project that adheres to our funding guidelines.

When choosing to use AI, you must ensure copyright and authorship and consider privacy and intellectual property risks, loss of authentic voice and vision, inaccuracy, bias, and cultural insensitivity.

We require you to acknowledge you have used AI for writing or editing your grant application. This enables us to track how often and in what ways you rely on AI as a grant application tool. This information regarding AI use in grant writing is not considered during the grant review process and will not affect how your application is scored.

Due to the rapid pace of AI development, this policy will be reviewed regularly and is subject to change.

Funding

OAC provides community arts partnership funding to SPS centrally through The Creative Advantage. Community Arts Partners on the Roster are compensated through personal services contracts with each SPS they partner with.

Being on the Roster does not guarantee funding. There is no guarantee of work associated with this listing.

Benefits of being on the Roster:

- Profile on The Creative Advantage Community Arts Partner [Roster website](#).
- Active promotion to SPS and other youth-serving agencies.
- Regular professional development and training opportunities.
- Inclusion in [The Creative Advantage Research and Evaluation reports](#) to support partners' fundraising and advocacy efforts.

Information Workshops

Learn more about the Roster and how to submit your best application.

[Sign up to attend The Creative Advantage Office Hours](#) every other Thursday, 3-4 PM.

Schedule a 1:1 mentoring session for help completing the application or to talk through the basics of a class outline or learning plan. Contact Tina LaPadula.

Evaluation Criteria

Student Art Residencies

Arts Partners can apply to lead one, or both, kinds of in-school student arts residencies:

1. Integrated Residencies – Arts residencies that deepen learning in both the arts and other content areas e.g. language arts, science, math, or social studies.
2. Cultural Residencies – Arts residencies that increase students’ cultural awareness. These programs can take place through general classrooms, core art classrooms, physical education, technology, world languages, or library programs.

Criteria for Student Art Residency Applications

- Approach & Collaboration: Clear approach and experience teaching art to young people.
- Equity & Access: Experience and skills working with participants of diverse racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds; experience working with communities experiencing oppression and inclusion of culturally responsive teaching practices.
- 21st Century Skills: Ability to articulate clear arts learning objectives that include one or more 21st Century skills (creative and critical thinking, communication, collaboration, perseverance, and growth-mindset).
- Lesson Planning: Ability to develop a basic class plan or outline.
- Integrated & Cultural Arts: Experience teaching effective integrated arts and/or cultural arts to young people.
- Work Samples: Demonstrate your abilities, experience, and/or achievements as a teaching artist or teaching artist organization.

Teacher Professional Development

Individual artists, teaching artists, and community arts organizations that meet the following qualifications are invited to apply to the Roster as a professional development provider:

Three or more years’ experience leading professional development for K-12 teachers and experience providing integrated arts training for teachers, teaching artists or adults

Criteria for Evaluating Professional Development Applications

- Approach & Collaboration: Clear approach and experience leading teacher professional development.
- Equity & Access: Experience and skills working with participants of diverse racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds; experience working with communities experiencing oppression and inclusion of culturally responsive teaching practices.
- 21st Century Skills: Activities that support teachers to foster 21st Century skills with students in the classroom (creative and critical thinking, communication, collaboration, perseverance, and growth-mindset).
- Professional Development Planning: Ability to articulate clear arts learning objectives for adult learners.
- Integrated Arts: Ability to develop a professional development plan for teachers in integrating the arts.

- Work Samples: Ability to evaluate/assess and demonstrate impact of professional development on participants.

Application Outline & Components

Student Art Residencies

1. Resume or biography - Submit a current resume or short bio that provides information on your arts background and teaching history. Organizations may submit up to three total teaching artists on their faculty.
2. Sample lesson plan/class outline - Submit a sample lesson plan or use The Creative Advantage template listed under Supplemental Materials on our website that shows an integrated arts or cultural arts residency that you have led. If you would like to be considered as provider for both residency types, please do **one** of the following:
 - Submit one lesson plan that meets the goals for both integrated arts and cultural arts.
 - Submit two lesson plans: one on integrated arts; one for cultural arts.
3. Work sample - Submit one to two work samples that demonstrate your abilities or experience as a teaching artist or arts and cultural organization with an education program. Work samples may include:
 - Articles or blog posts
 - Media (photo, video, or audio) of projects created by students or student performances
 - Documentation of teaching in action (photo, video, or audio)
4. Narrative questions - These questions provide an opportunity to express your approach to teaching and to share your expertise. You will be asked to provide information on your teaching practice, including 21st Century skills, and integrated or cultural arts, how you work with teachers, and how you promote equity.

Teacher Professional Development

1. Resume or biography - Include current resume(s) or bios for lead teaching artist(s) that provide information on arts background and teaching artist history. Organizations may submit up to three total teaching artists on their faculty.
2. Sample outline of teacher professional development - Provide an outline of teacher professional development you have led that includes goals, learning objectives, and activities.

3. Work sample - Submit one or two work samples that provide evidence of participant satisfaction with professional development, including feedback from teachers on trainings you've provided. Work samples may include:
 - Participant surveys
 - Pre-/post-assessments
 - Focus group results
 - Other evaluative data that speaks to program outcomes
4. Narrative questions - These questions provide an opportunity to express your approach to providing professional development and to share your expertise. You will be asked to provide information on how you address 21st Century skills, integrated arts development for teachers, and how you promote equity and access.

Obligation of Award Recipients

Notification of Results

All applicants will be notified of panel decisions by email, after each round of panel reviews (end of March/early April, end of June/early July, end of October/early November).

Roster Duration

Arts Partners accepted to the Roster are approved for a two-year period. To remain on the Roster after the initial two years, you complete a renewal survey that requires evidence of participation in professional development and student art residency teaching activity during the previous two years. We use this process to verify that you are remaining active in the field. A Roster Advisory panel reviews all new applications and renewals are reviewed internally by program staff.

Removal

Individual artists and community arts and culture organizations can be removed from the Roster for actions or behavior that could be detrimental to students, teachers, the community, or The Creative Advantage. This includes:

- Inappropriate behavior or language in school settings.
- Behavior that violates school rules.
- Lack of responsible follow-through on terms of teaching contracts.
- Unlawful activities.

Planning Ahead

Once approved for the Roster, teaching artists and organizations selected to work with SPS will be required to:

- Complete an IRS W9 form.
- Possess a current WA State and City of Seattle business license.
- Complete background checks.
- Enter into a contract with SPS for the duration of a residency or professional development program (as applicable).

Our Policies

Commitment to Racial Equity

The Seattle Office of Arts & Culture commits to an anti-racist work practice that centers the creativity and leadership of people of color—those most impacted by structural racism—to move toward systems that benefit us all. We also acknowledge that we are on Indigenous land, the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples.

We envision a city of people whose success, safety, and health are not pre-determined by their race. A city where all artists, performers, writers, and creative workers have the freedom, agency and platform to share and amplify their stories, art, cultures, and experiences. At the same time, we acknowledge that our actions—both conscious and unconscious, past and present—have benefited some communities while limiting opportunities and outcomes for communities of color. We work toward our vision by addressing and working to eliminate institutional racism in our programs, policies, and practices.

In alignment with the [City's Race and Social Justice Initiative](#), we seek new solutions that use arts as a strategy to drive not only our office, but the City as a whole toward racial equity and social justice. We will continue to break barriers and build arts-integrated tools that challenge the status quo and push us toward the inclusive society we envision.

If you have any questions about our commitment or would like to know more about the work we are doing, please call us at 206-684-7171 or email at Arts.Culture@Seattle.gov.

Appeal Process

You may appeal the recommendations of the independent peer review panel. Appeals must be based solely on the information included in your original application.

Procedure:

- You must first contact the staff member responsible for the program to review the decision and hear a summary of the peer panel feedback: **Tina LaPadula** tina.lapadula@seattle.gov or 206-518-4205
- Your appeal must be sent in writing to the director of the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture within 30 days of formal notice of the decision.
- Our director consults with staff and/or members of the peer panel for input in making the final decision.

- If our director agrees that the award should have been given based on the merit of your original application, you will be awarded a grant.
- A rejection by our director is final and ends the appeal process.
- Our director will notify you of their final decision in writing.

Application materials are public information

Application materials submitted to the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture are governed by the Washington Public Records Act and may be subject to disclosure to a third-party requester. To learn more please see [Chapter 42.56 RCW](#) and the City's [Privacy Statement](#).

Discrimination is not allowed on City-funded projects

Applicants receiving funds from the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture must comply with Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 20.44, pertaining to prevention of discrimination in City contracts, and Chapter 5.44, pertaining to license requirements. The complete text of these City codes is available at the City Clerk's office and the Seattle Public Library.

Americans with Disabilities Act applies to City-funded projects

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law ensuring access to services and facilities for people with disabilities. The Seattle Office of Arts & Culture respects the needs of people with disabilities and seeks to make available to applicants, participants, and all interested persons information regarding the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and its applicability to the activities of our agency. For information about public meetings, accessibility, and auxiliary aids, please contact us at 206-684-7171 (voice), or 800-833-6388 (TDD Relay). We comply with all federal, state, and local laws that prohibit discrimination in employment and services.

Supports freedom of expression

The City believes a community that fosters freedom of speech and thought will advance as a society. Artists play an important role in reflecting and challenging the social concerns of the day. The strength of the United States as a nation rests in its tolerance of divergent opinions and ideas. Government support of the arts must similarly tolerate a spectrum of ideas and encourage freedom of thought.

For additional information about funding opportunities and the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, visit our website at seattle.gov/arts and [subscribe to our email newsletter](#).