

Adaptation and Innovation Grant Program 2020-2021

A program of the Alaska State Council on the Arts | Program Guidelines

Program Description

This grant program is intended to support arts activities in Alaska during a time of great change, response to community need, and creativity. Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic we see schools, organizations and individuals:

- adapting practice and growing capacity to respond to the changes in our communities,
- and/or developing innovative ways to operate programs and projects that support the arts in communities.

The Alaska State Council on the Arts, with support from Rasmuson Foundation, has developed this program as a means for Alaskan organizations, individuals and agencies to adapt and innovate practice and operations with reduced risk, across this time of instability. The purpose of this granting strategy is to support efforts to rebuild and advance our work together, to connect with community, and to positively impact Alaskan lives across the state in and through the arts and cultures of our state.

This funding supports schools, artists, culture bearers and organizations as they sustain their practice, advocate for the arts in their communities, and continue as touchstones for the community members they serve and rely upon in their work. Through participation in arts experiences, Alaskans will feel more creatively connected, respected, seen, and heard, through a time of isolation and uncertainty.

Support for Adaptation: organizations and individuals are encouraged to adapt practice and capacities that allow for Alaskans of all ages to have safe and supportive access to, and engagement with, the arts and artists in our state.

Support for Innovation: organizations and individuals are encouraged to try new ways of sharing arts practice, arts engagement, arts education, and/or arts commerce while keeping communities safe and well. This includes innovative projects and programs, innovation in operations, delivery of goods and services, connection with community, and building relationships with audiences.

Below are a few examples of what these efforts already look like in the field, and a few ideas we've heard from partners and grantees. Examples of adaptation and innovation in practice include but are not limited to:

- a local arts agency seeking support for a mobile studio to support local artists in presenting their work online.
- a theatre organization needs Plexiglas to make the lobby of the theatre safe for in-person access.
- a school seeks funding for "art kit" supplies to be used with an artist workshop online.
- a community parks organization with a history of arts programming fiscally sponsors an artist group to create a series of outdoor, socially distanced, pop-up events for youth outside the school day.
- an artist seeks funding for professional development in online commerce and developing a website.
- a culture bearer seeks funding for technology and supplies in the home to safely share traditional art forms with community.
- a group of Alaskans, fiscally sponsored by a cultural organization, create a community art campaign featuring youth artists.

Grant Guidelines and Eligibility

For each of the following categories of Adaptation and Innovation grants, **deadlines are ongoing on a rolling basis and an application must be submitted and complete no fewer than 30 days prior to the planned activity**. Schools, Organizations and Individuals may apply for and receive a single Adaptation and Innovation Grant award in fiscal year 2021 (through June 30, 2021).

Adaptation and Innovation in Schools (up to \$1,000.00)

Eligible Applicants: any public or nonprofit private school in Alaska.

- must be a school entity within a public school district in Alaska. or;
- must be a tribal nonprofit school in Alaska. or;
- must be able to provide documentation of your entity as a private nonprofit school in Alaska. And
- must provide a plan that includes at least one Alaska nonprofit arts organization, professional or community-based artist, culture bearer and/or teaching artist.
- plan must focus on access to the arts or arts education for Alaska children and youth who are students in your school, and may include students' families.

Adaptation and Innovation for Individuals and Organizations (up to \$2,000.00)

Eligible Applicants: nonprofit, tax exempt organizations and individuals.

Organizations: Alaska nonprofit, tax exempt 501(c)3 arts and cultural organizations, Alaska arts and cultural groups fiscally sponsored by an eligible nonprofit organization, Alaska tribal nonprofits, Alaska community nonprofit organizations with documented history of art practice.

- must be able to provide documentation of eligible nonprofit, tax exempt 501(c)3 status in Alaska, or work with a fiscal sponsor organization which can provide documentation of eligible nonprofit status in Alaska.
- must be able to document at least two years of intentional artistic practice in your community.
- an eligible nonprofit, tax exempt 501(c)3 organization whose mission is not wholly focused on arts and culture in Alaska must provide a plan that includes at least one Alaska nonprofit arts organization, professional or community-based artist, culture bearer and/or teaching artist.

Individuals: Alaska professional and community-based artists, culture bearers and teaching artists.

- must be able to document a sustained commitment to artistic career, making work, and/or to generating dialogue with a public audience or community in and through the arts, and must intend to continue in the state for the next 12 months or longer.
- must be 21 years of age or older.
- must be able to provide a W9 and Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN).

Adaptation and Innovation for Arts & Culture Organizations (up to \$10,000.00)

Eligible Applicants: Nonprofit organizations for which all or a significant portion of mission is met through arts practice, arts engagement, arts education, and/or arts commerce.

- must be involved in producing, presenting or undertaking a series of events or ongoing art programs.
- must be able to provide documentation of eligible nonprofit status in Alaska.
- must be guided by an arts and culture mission or purpose, for at least two years in Alaska.

Expenses not eligible for support through Adaptation and Innovation Grants:

- Capital equipment purchases greater than \$5,000.00, or new construction building projects are not eligible. (adaptations to existing spaces in support of safe operation are eligible.)
- Academic scholarships, tuition assistance or expenses related to academic practice for individuals (professional development/training related to the proposal is eligible.)
- Expenses for lobbying or fundraising in relation to political campaigns or other political activity.
- Fundraising expenses, specifically for the award of a prize.
- Offset of prior deficits.
- Alcohol.
- Out of state travel.

Grant Review Criteria and Process

For each category of Adaptation and Innovation Grant funding, the same review criteria and process will be applied. Once ASCA receives a complete and eligible application, Program Directors will review each application using the criteria identified below. If there are questions, the reviewer will contact the grant application by phone and/or email for clarification.

Following review, an applicant will be notified of the result of that review. Should grant funding be awarded, ASCA staff will provide an award agreement for signing along with guidance about becoming a payable vendor through the State of Alaska accounting system, as appropriate. Once a signed award agreement is returned to ASCA, it is submitted to the State of Alaska accounting system for payment on the award.

Grant Review Criteria

- How does the project meet the definition of adaptation and innovation?
- Does the applicant's qualifications/description/mission suggest an established educational, professional or community art practice?
- Is the project/program/proposal feasible?
- For schools and organizations: is there a clear connection to supporting Alaskan artists/culture bearers?
- Is there a clear connection to engaging community through the proposed project, program or activity?

A Note on Grant Reporting

It is critical now to eloquently show and discuss the value that the arts and culture brings to our state, whether economic, educational, in support of community connectedness, or any other value that is inherent in the arts and culture. It is also important to share—across distance and art forms—good ideas and what our colleagues (you) are learning as you work to adapt and innovate in your practice and operations.

Part of the way we will do this, is by sharing stories of your innovation and adaptation; we will ask you to share about your Adaptation and Innovation grant-funded program, project or activity by responding to three questions: 1) what did you do, 2) what was most successful in your adaptation and innovation process, 3) what learning or advice would you share with others in adapting or innovating in their work?

These questions may be answered in a variety of formats including in writing, or in video or audio recorded format, or grantees may make an appointment to interview with ASCA staff by phone. ASCA will then share out your stories and learning through our e-communications, website and social media, and by reporting to Council Trustees and partners.

Beyond your response to these three questions, ASCA will provide you with a simple form to report on how funds were spent, and on demographic and quantifiable data such as the number of Alaskans served by your program, project or activity. This form will be provided upon award of Adaptation and Innovation Grants, and will be due no later than 60 days following the end of your program, project or activity, 60 days after you have completely spent the grant funds, or no later than August 31, 2021.

How to Apply

A complete application consists of the Application Cover with Certification, a Project Narrative, and attachments as defined in the grant application. Submit a complete application at least 30 days prior to the planned activity.

You may either download and complete (typed or legibly handwritten) this paper application form for submission by mail or email, or you may complete an online application form through a platform called Submittable. The link to the online application through Submittable is on the Adaptation and Innovation Grant page on the ASCA website at <https://arts.alaska.gov/>, as are downloadable application forms. If you choose to submit the online application, you will first create an applicant profile on the Submittable platform.

Sending Mailed or Emailed Applications: Download and submit a complete application by at least 30 days prior to the planned activity by mail, in person, or via email to:

Alaska State Council on the Arts
Attn: Adaptation and Innovation Grant
161 Klewin Street, Suite 102
Anchorage, AK 99508
-or-

Via email to asca.grant@alaska.gov.

We are unable to accept faxed applications. If you are sending your application via email, please include "Adaptation and Innovation Grant Application" and your name or the name of your organization in the email subject line. Applications may be either typed or hand-filled; please be sure the application text and any digital file of the application (pdf materials are preferred) are legible, and compatible with a Windows-based PC. If sending a digital file, it is best to attach a single file to an email, but multiple attachments will be accepted. If sending multiple email attachments, please label them in such a way that the total number of attachments is apparent. For example: "Adaptation and Innovation Grant Application for XXXX-Attachment 1 of 4"

Email laura.forbes@alaska.gov or call (907) 269-6682, with questions, concerns or for technical assistance; in particular, please contact us right away if the application materials and requested submission process present a barrier to access for an eligible applicant.