

Youth Cultural Heritage Project Grant

A program of the Alaska State Council on the Arts | Youth Cultural Heritage Program Overview

Youth Cultural Heritage Program Overview

- Youth Cultural Heritage (YCH) is a program of the Alaska State Council on the Arts, with funding support from Rasmuson Foundation.
- The program supports youth-based projects and activities which enable children and youth to use the arts to approach, understand, express and share their cultural heritage. For the purposes of this program, arts-based activities might encompass any creative, expressive and cultural art form including visual and performing arts, literary and media arts, and other allied arts and crafts. We recognize that art is one facet of culture, and in many traditions and communities, creative, expressive arts and crafts may not be identified as separate from daily life and cultural practice.
- Alaska, 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations, schools, units of state, local or tribal government proposing YCH Program-aligned activities are eligible to receive grants within the program, or to fiscally sponsor otherwise eligible community groups.
- The program is inclusive of all Alaska's ethnic cultures and residents. Funding priority is given to cultural heritage groups and organizations who face challenges and/or barriers for receiving grants.
- The program is envisioned as network and capacity-building, as well as granting in the YCH Fast-track, Project, and Alumni categories of grants. YCH Fast Track grants and Project Grants are open to any eligible applicants, while Alumni grantees are identified by invitation. Individuals may be eligible to participate in the YCH Fellowship Program, which seeks young and emerging Alaskan leaders with a desire to grow youth cultural heritage programming in their communities.

YCH Program Goals

The overarching goals of the Youth Cultural Heritage Program are as follows:

- Strengthen Alaska children and youth's cultural knowledge and self-awareness
- Support direct, creative development opportunities for Alaska children and youth to engage with artists and culture bearers
- Engage citizens around cultural heritage
- Bridge culture and communities
- Create greater cross-cultural understanding and empathy

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YCH Project Grant Guidelines Overview

- The YCH Project Grant is designed to support organizations and groups that deliver cultural heritage programming to children and youth, through arts-based activities (*see description above in Overview section*). Project Grantees will also gather for a cohort convening with the Grant Coordinator, depending on grantee availability.
- Project Grants support organizations' youth cultural heritage work with grants up to \$10,000.00. Applicants are asked to clearly identify how the supported activity will increase access to arts-based, cultural-heritage activities for children and youth in Alaska.
- The Project Grant funding may be spent on: artist/culture bearer/Elder fees and stipends, supplies, food, travel and transportation, space and other materials needed for activities. Up to 15% of grant funding may be allocated to administrative, indirect, and staffing costs. Please contact the Grant Coordinator with questions about eligible expenses.
- Capital equipment, construction, fundraising, scholarships, or grants to others are not eligible expenses for YCH Project Grant funds.
- The Alaska State Council on the Arts works with Raven's Group as a partner in coordinating the YCH program. Please contact the Grant Coordinator, Nate O'Connor, at nate@ravensgroupak.com or (907) 269-6682 for technical support in preparing an application, as necessary.

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

Youth Cultural Heritage Project Grant applicants may receive one award per state fiscal year and must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Applicant is an Alaska 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, school, unit of state, local or tribal government proposing YCH Program-aligned activities. Note: YCH grantees are neither requested nor required to provide a waiver of sovereign immunity to apply for or receive grant funding from the Alaska State Council on the Arts.
- Applicant can provide proof of state of Alaska and federally tax-exempt/non-profit status, in good standing (example: a copy of an IRS letter confirming tax-exempt status);
- Applicant proposes arts-based, children and/or youth-focused, cultural heritage activities, occurring within the State of Alaska;
- If the application is from a school, the proposed activity enriches school programming and curricula, but does not supplant arts or cultural instruction or programming.

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Fiscal Sponsorship Information

Please note: If your group is not an eligible organization but operates regularly in the community to deliver cultural heritage programming for children and youth, please contact the grant coordinator to discuss fiscal sponsorships with partner organizations. Sponsor organizations must meet eligibility criteria, above.

- A fiscal agent may sponsor an otherwise eligible organization or group who has not attained Alaska and federal tax-exempt status.
- The applicant organization or group is encouraged to work with ASCA staff/YCH Grant Coordinator prior to submitting an application to determine the need for and to help identify an appropriate fiscal agent if required.
- A fiscal agent must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or other federally tax-exempt organization who has a close working relationship with the applicant, has fully reviewed and endorsed the proposal; and accepts any and all financial liability and reporting responsibility for the applicant.
- Grant funds are released directly to the fiscal agent on behalf of the applicant organization or group. A template, fiscal sponsorship, letter of support is available from the YCH Grant Coordinator to include with a YCH grant application, if needed.

Timeline and Contact

The Youth Cultural Heritage Project Grants are on a calendar year, and grant activity should be completed no later than the end of a given calendar year. An application should be submitted as soon as possible, and award of funds is contingent on attendance at a grantee convening by your organization's YCH project leads on a date, to be determined in coordination with the cohort of grantees.

A final report must be submitted by 60 days following the completion of the grant activity, and no later than January 30, following the end of the calendar year in which the activity is complete.

YCH Program contacts are:

- **Youth Cultural Heritage Grant Coordinator:** Nate O'Connor, at nate@ravensgroupak.com
- **Alaska State Council on the Arts, Arts Education Program Director:** Laura Forbes, at laura.forbes@alaska.gov, (907) 269-6682
- **Alaska State Council on the Arts, Indigenous Arts and Culture Program Director:** Patti Oksoktaruk Lillie, at patti.lillie@alaska.gov, (907) 269-7978



Youth Cultural Heritage Project Grant

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How to Apply

Contact us 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. The Youth Cultural Heritage Project Grant application materials are available for download on the ASCA website at <https://arts.alaska.gov/arts-education-grants>.

A completed application consists of:

the **Application Cover with Certification**, a two-page **Project Narrative**, the **Project Budget Form**, the **Project Timeline**, and **Attachments**. If you are working with a Fiscal Sponsor, please complete and include the **Fiscal Sponsor Information with Certification**, as well. Submit a completed application by the appropriate deadline by mail, in person, or via email to:

Alaska State Council on the Arts
Attn: AIE Program, YCH Project Grant
161 Klevin Street, Suite 102
Anchorage, AK 99508

-or-

Via email to nate@ravensgroupak.com.

We are unable to accept faxed applications. If you are sending your application via email, please include "YCH Project Grant Application" and the name of your organization/group 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 (scanned 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: "YCH Project Grant Application for XXXX: Attachment 1 of 4"

Please call or email (program contacts listed on page 3 of this document) 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.