

# Arts, Health and Well-Being in Alaska Program Guidelines + Information

A program of the Alaska State Council on the Arts

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Grants for individuals up to \$6,000 | for organizations up to \$20,000

**Deadline for applications: December 9, 2024**

This program is a pilot with a single application deadline, awarding grants to Organizations and Individuals for community-based and creative projects that integrate the arts to support the health and well-being of Alaskans. The impact of the arts on health and well-being can be seen at all stages of life, and the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) seeks proposals that will explore the practice of the arts, health and well-being in 2025. This pilot investment builds on previous granting and program development, including the Community Arts Partnership, Adaptation and Innovation, and Arts and Military programs of the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

- *Arts, Health and Well-Being in Alaska* is a program of the Alaska State Council on the Arts, with funding support from Rasmuson Foundation. Arts and Health initiatives from the National Endowment for the Arts will inform the *Arts, Health and Well-Being in Alaska* investments.
- ASCA will invest in community-based and individual arts projects that explore the way in which Alaska residents engage with the arts to 1) increase positive physical, mental and behavioral health outcomes, 2) foster connectedness as a critical protective factor for well-being and safety, and 3) stimulate conversations about arts, health and well-being. This pilot is oriented to community-learning about arts, health and well-being practices. Grantee partners will be invited to share the results of their proposed projects as part of an ongoing effort to develop an Arts and Health Framework. ASCA intends to guide future grant-making, and foster collaboration between arts, culture, and health sectors, through this framework.
- Alaska-based, 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations, schools, units of state, local or tribal government proposing Arts, Health and Well-Being activities are eligible to apply with proposals to support existing, ongoing or new community-based arts projects and programs. Tribal governmental 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. Eligible organizations may fiscally sponsor otherwise eligible community groups to apply. Individual artists are eligible to apply with proposals to support the creation and presentation of work, or to implement community-based arts projects proposed in alignment with *Arts, Health and Well-Being in Alaska* activities.
- Social emotional learning goals, and community connection and healing objectives already appear in funding proposals made by individuals and organization through ASCA's existing grant programs. Arts-based activity that addresses the health and well-being of any Alaskan groups or individuals will be considered. ASCA is particularly interested in proposals that address the experiences of Alaskan youth and elders, address isolation and disconnectedness, and which support those experiencing stress or burn-out when caring for others.

- Applicants and grantee partners may be invited to join future conversations on issues that surface through this pilot phase of *Arts, Health and Well-Being in Alaska*. All grantee partners will be provided with final reporting materials focused on learning, which we hope will provide a basis of discussion to develop an Arts and Health Framework.

## PROGRAM GOALS

The *Arts Health and Well-Being in Alaska* program is a pilot that will explore and expand upon efforts to support community in and through the arts. Successful proposals will align with one or more of the initial pilot goals:

- To learn about the role of the arts in reducing risks to life and safety, and improving health and wellness, by collaborating with the health sector to enhance well-being across communities.
- To support existing and new efforts to connect partners in arts, health and well-being through the creation and presentation of art works.
- To engage citizens in conversations about social isolation and community connectedness in and through the arts.
- To adapt arts practice and publicly accessible arts spaces to serve individuals and communities experiencing disability or other health risks that make it challenging to participate with others.
- To explore the ways in which the arts have a role in implementing health and wellness knowledge. We seek to understand how the practice of the arts can reduce negative effects on health and safety (risk factors) and increase positive effects on health and safety (protective factors).

## PROGRAM CONTACTS

- **Alaska State Council on the Arts, Arts Education Program Director:** Laura Forbes, at [laura.forbes@alaska.gov](mailto: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](mailto:patti.lillie@alaska.gov), (907) 269-7978
- **Alaska State Council on the Arts, Community Arts Program Director:** Charlie Sears, at [charles.sears@alaska.gov](mailto:charles.sears@alaska.gov), (907) 269-6608

## APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

Grants are awarded on the basis of artistic excellence and artistic merit in relation to the review criteria, proposed project, and the goals of the *Arts, Health and Well-Being in Alaska* grant category. All applications—for both organizations and individuals—will be reviewed for award through the lens of the following criteria:

- Applicant proposes arts-based activities that include artists and culture bearers as key leaders and has identified the way they are involved with the project from planning to culmination. The planning and implementation of the arts practice, as proposed, is thoughtful and of high quality and is of central importance within the project.
- Applicant has clearly described the way in which the project seeks to support the health and well-being of specific individuals or groups of Alaskans, in alignment with the program goals.
- The project has identified how Alaskans will be engaged in healthy activity and/or how the activity will stimulate dialogue about health and well-being in and through the arts.
- The applicant has identified clear and specific safeguarding practices within the scope of their project as appropriate, when the project activities are intended to serve vulnerable populations, or address challenging topics that may be sensitive for individuals experiencing risks to health and safety.
- The application reflects a clear timeline and feasible project plan, which can be completed by December 31, 2025. The budget and overall project logistics are feasible and appropriate to the proposed activity. The budget reflects compensation to artists and personnel within the project, appropriate to the project plan.

## A FEW RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR ARTS, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The National Endowment for the Arts | Arts and Health: <https://www.arts.gov/impact/arts-and-health>

The National Endowment for the Arts Guide to Community-Engaged Research in the Arts and Health: <https://www.arts.gov/impact/research/publications/national-endowment-arts-guide-community-engaged-research-arts-and-health>

Shared Risk and Protective Factors *Alaska* | Center for Safer Alaskans: <https://srpfalaska.org/>

We-Making Resources | University of Florida – College of the Arts, Center for Arts in Medicine: <https://www.response.arts.ufl.edu/we-making-framework>

Americans for the Arts | Arts & Healing: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-topic/arts-and-healing>

The Kennedy Center LEAD (Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability): <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/networks-conferences-and-research/research-and-resources/lead-research-and-resources/>

## GRANT CYCLE AND TIMELINE

- **Application Deadline: December 9, 2024.** Applications submitted by mail must be received at the Alaska State Council on the Arts no later than December 9. We are unable to receive application materials by fax.
- **Application Review: December 10 – 16, 2024.**
- **Application Award Agreements Generated: December 18, 2024.** This is a projected target, and grant award packets will be sent as soon as possible after this date, and prior to December 31, 2024. Once grant award packets are received by grantee partners, and fully executed grant award agreements are returned, it may take 3-4 weeks for grant award payments to be issued, depending on how quickly grantee requirements are met and ASCA/EED staff capacity.
- **Project Implementation Begins (earliest date): January 1, 2025.** This is the earliest date that supported activities may begin, but we recognize that for existing or ongoing programs and projects, activity may have already begun. The *Arts, Health and Well-Being in Alaska* funding may only support activities that are proceeding after January 1, 2025.

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Organizational applicants must be able to 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 certifies that they are eligible to receive payments from the Alaska State Council on the Arts, should they be awarded a grant.

Eligible organizations may fiscally sponsor otherwise eligible community groups to apply. Fiscally sponsored project applicants must complete both the applicant, and fiscal sponsor requirements within the application materials, including certification by the fiscal sponsor.

Eligible organizations may apply for up to \$20,000, with awards generally between \$15,000 and \$20,000. A match is not required.

- Individual applicants certify that they are at least 21 years of age, currently a resident of Alaska with the intent to remain in residence for at least the next 12 months. Applicants certify that they can provide a W-9 and Social Security Number (SSN), or Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN), should they be awarded a grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

Eligible individuals may apply for up to \$6,000, with awards generally between \$3,000 And \$6,000. A match is not required.

## ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- non-capital equipment, supplies and materials purchase (for example: non-capital adaptive equipment purchases; meeting supplies may include food supplies when NOT for purposes of entertainment or fundraising, and directly in support of the project goals)
- direct personnel/staffing costs and other contracted or purchased services, especially artist and culture bearer fees
- marketing and promotions costs
- facilities costs and equipment rental fees
- travel and transportation costs
- postage, freight and shipping
- administrative costs (no greater than 15% of the total requested grant amount)
- NOT ALLOWABLE: costs for lobbying, entertainment or fundraising, individual scholarships and school or higher education tuition, home office space, alcohol. Capital equipment purchase, purchase of vehicles, or capital facilities projects costing greater than \$5,000.
- For schools, proposed activity enriches school programming and curricula but does not supplant arts or cultural instruction or programming

## 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. Application materials are available for download on the ASCA website at:

<https://arts.alaska.gov/arts-health-grant>.

Application materials are available for download in word and pdf format and must be submitted to ASCA in a format that can be read on a Windows-based system, or legibly hand-written. The best file formats for submission are Microsoft word or pdf.

**Submit a completed application by December 9, by mail, in person, or via email to:**

Alaska State Council on the Arts  
Attn: ASCA Grants  
161 Klevin Street, Suite 102  
Anchorage, AK 99508

Mailed or delivered applications MUST be received at the ASCA Offices by the deadline.

-or-

Via email to [asca.grants@alaska.gov](mailto:asca.grants@alaska.gov).

If you are sending your application via email, please include "Arts, Health and Well-Being in Alaska Grant Application" and the applicant's name in the email subject line.

We are unable to accept faxed applications. If needed, we can mail a printed copy of the application, guidelines and information by regular mail.