

Youth Cultural Heritage Fast Track Grant

A program of the Alaska State Council on the Arts | Program and Grant 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.
- Alaska 501(c)3, tax exempt youth-serving organizations, schools, tribal organizations, libraries and other arts/cultural organizations 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 are open to any eligible applicants, while Project and Alumni grantees are identified by invitation and referral.

YCH Program Goals

The over-arching 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

YCH Fast Track Grant Guidelines Overview

- The YCH Fast Track Grant is designed to support organizations and groups that deliver cultural heritage programming to children and youth.
- Fast Track Grants support organizations' youth cultural heritage work with grants up to \$2,000. An organization may receive no more than one YCH Grant, per fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).
- The Fast Track 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.
- Capital equipment, construction, fundraising, scholarships, or grants to others are not eligible expenses for YCH Fast Track 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) 331-8384 with questions about planned expenses and projects if you are unsure of whether your organization/project/planned expenses are eligible, based on the information provided, below. The Grant Coordinator can also provide technical support in preparing an application, as necessary.

Youth Cultural Heritage Fast Track Grant

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Eligibility Criteria

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

- Be an Alaskan 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, school, unit of government or tribal entity proposing YCH Program-aligned activities;
- Can provide proof of state of Alaska and federal tax-exempt/non-profit status, in good standing (example: a copy of an IRS letter confirming tax-exempt status);
- 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/cultural instruction or programming.

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 nonprofit 501(c)3 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 organization who has a close working relationship with the applicant, has fully reviewed and endorses 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 applying 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 Fast Track Grants are on a rolling deadline, at least 30 days prior to the start of the activity. An application may be submitted as soon as June 1 of any given calendar year, in advance of the State of Alaska fiscal year start of July 1, and grant activity should be completed no later than June 30 of that fiscal year.

A final report must be submitted by 60 days following the completion of the grant activity, and no later than August 31, following the end of the fiscal year in which the activity is complete.

YCH Grant Coordinator: Nate O'Connor, at nate@ravensgroupak.com, (907) 331-8384

Arts Education Program Director: Laura Forbes at laura.forbes@alaska.gov, (907) 269-6682

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.

Youth Cultural Heritage Fast Track Grant

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How to Apply

Please read the Youth Cultural Heritage Fast Track Grant Guidelines before completing the application. *Application materials are included on the ASCA website for download in the same section as these guidelines.*

A completed application consists of the **Application Cover with Certification**, a two-page **Project Narrative**, the **Project Budget Form**, 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 Fast Track Grant
161 Klevin Street, Suite 102
Anchorage, AK 99508

-or-

Via email to laura.forbes@alaska.gov.

We are unable to accept faxed applications. If you are sending your application via email, please include “YCH Fast Track 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 Fast Track Grant Application for XXXX: Attachment 1 of 4”

Email nate@ravensgroupak.com or 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.

Below is a list of attachments that should be included with your application. Not all attachments are required, please contact the Grant Coordinator if you have questions about which attachments should be included with your application:

1. **IRS tax-exempt determination letter and State Certificate of Incorporation** if you have never applied to the Arts Council. (This attachment is not required if the applicant is an Alaska public school or district.)
2. **Activities Budget** - Please use the attached Project Budget Form to describe your project expenses and income, but you may also attach a more detailed budget, if you wish.
3. Fiscal Sponsor Organization’s Eligibility Documentation (if applicable, see attachment Item 1)
4. **Memorandum of Understanding for Fiscal Sponsorship** (if applicable, template MOU for fiscal sponsorship available from the Grant Coordinator)