

Alaska State Council on the Arts: *Creativity in Teaching Project Manager* Contract Available

Project Start Date: October 1, 2026

Project End date: June 30, 2029

DEADLINE TO RESPOND: September 4, 2026 (extended to September 10, 2026)

The Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) has a contractual position available for a *Creativity in Teaching Project Manager*. The contractor will work flexible hours between October 1, 2026 and June 30, 2029. Compensation is commensurate with experience, includes some travel, and is not to exceed \$151,000 USD for this period of work (33 months). Travel and reimbursable expenses are included in this total amount and are not to exceed \$8,000 over the life of the contract.

Project Description & Background Information

Creativity in Teaching is a project which seeks to grow teacher cohort partnerships in and through Alaska's arts and cultures. This is a three-year project - the first year will be dedicated to project planning and years 2-3 will be dedicated to project implementation. Creativity in Teaching is rooted in the learning and relationship building through the ten-year implementation of the Munartet Project, which supported teaching in and through the arts and cultures in Kodiak. Throughout the duration of this ten-year project, and its sustainability planning, several priorities were identified for how to continue the work built upon Munartet's foundation. To learn more about the Munartet Project, click [HERE](#). These were developed and formed into the focal points of Creativity in Teaching with three anticipated outcomes, which include:

- Overall Outcome #1:
A strong network of organizations, educators, community leaders, artists, culture bearers and other creative community members is engaged in the work of supporting teacher cohorts. The network opens pathways for teachers to grow in their competence and confidence to teach and learn in and through the arts and cultures of Alaska.
- Overall Outcome #2:
A diversity of Alaskans are recruited, enter teaching practice, and progress in their service with the support of a community that reflects the cultures and artistry of place. Teachers are respected for their professional creativity and connections to the community.
- Overall Outcome #3:
Using both existing and project-specific data about teaching and learning in and through arts and cultures of Alaska, public school districts, institutes of higher education and community arts partners develop policy and highlight practices that support positive school culture, positive working conditions for teachers, and personal connections between teachers, students and the communities where they live.

Strategies for achieving these outcomes include:

- Strong Cultural Partnerships
- Cohort Model for Teacher Mentorship and Support
- Flexibility and Responsiveness
- Innovative Professional Development
- Independent Partnership Coordination and Project Management
- Data-driven Insights

Activities & Deliverables include:

- Coordinate convenings with stakeholders to develop a plan and program that builds local cohorts which open pathways for potential and pre-service teachers, and connect in-service teachers with community resources. This planning will be informed by existing networks of public school districts, institutes of higher education and community arts partners. Early planning will include definition of inquiry questions and logic modeling to guide project evaluation. Promising practices implemented through the Munartet Project will form the basis of program development.
- Work in partnership with the HAYC? Coordinator to support networks at the individual level, engaging with *How Are You Creative? (HAYC?)* Ambassador cohorts. Individuals from across the state form facilitated circles of creatives interested in teaching and learning in and through arts and cultures of Alaska, with emphasis on connections between educators, artists, culture bearers, early career teachers, and community leaders. These cohorts will share insights from diverse communities, and help to identify resources, stories and opportunities to foster new partnerships. Individual grants to cohort members support participation.
- Coordinate convening opportunities for past statewide arts education cohort members, mentors, affiliates, HAYC? Ambassadors, and broader arts education network partners. Identified opportunities will focus on sharing practice and building relationships amongst teachers, artists, culture bearers and community leaders. Over time, relationships deepen into sustainable partnerships. Participants feel connected and more confident and competent as practitioners.
- Support ASCA in implementing a program of services, resource development and intermediary granting to subrecipients organizations focused on the project outcomes. While the size and number of grants per participant group is to be determined, ASCA's experience as an intermediary grantor indicates that multi-year commitments will be most effective and must include balanced partnerships with embedded support for backbone coordination. As relationships amongst grantees emerge, grantee needs and project development inform convening themes, topics and participation.
- Coordinate with the project evaluator, guided by the logic modeling and inquiry developed in the planning year, to implement a system of formative evaluation to support decision-making within the project, with summative evaluation for dissemination amongst policy makers, community leaders, and practitioners. Learning and project evaluation will be shared with special interest partners including the Alaska Arts Education Consortium, the New Visions Network of school Districts, the Alaska Arts Education Data Project and the Department of Education and Early Development.
- Support the administrative, operational, logistical and meeting needs required to meet the anticipated outcomes, deliverables and activities listed above. Specific activities may include: set up and maintain a central shared drive for document sharing, notetaking, scheduling, management of project team communications, action item follow up and task management. Specific items to be provided to the project team at the close of the project may include: a fully developed project plan and timeline, and interim/final reporting on the project to the Project Team and ASCA Trustees, including recommendations for future implementation.
- Help define and manage the roles and responsibilities of multiple threads of activity / sub projects. Act as the core coordinator (ie backbone) of the project to facilitate regular convenings for all the project leadership roles (HAYC? Coordinator, Evaluator, ASCA Arts Education Program Director, etc.). Support collaboration amongst team members.

Information about the Alaska State Council on the Arts

The Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) is a public corporation, administratively housed within the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development with a mission to represent, support and advance the creative endeavors of individuals, organizations and agencies throughout Alaska. To learn more about ASCA and our organizational strategic objectives, visit <https://arts.alaska.gov/strategic-plan/>.

We seek to approach this work through the goals and values of the *How Are You Creative?* initiative, which is the foundation of our approach to support for teaching and learning in and through the arts and cultures of Alaska. *How Are You Creative?* began as a discussion of collective approaches to teaching and learning in and through arts and cultures in Alaska in 2016, hosted by the Alaska State Council on the Arts, Arts Education Program Director. Since that time, groups of arts and cultural advocates, educators, and community leaders from across Alaska have been sharing and learning artistic, cultural, and creative experiences with one another. Learn more about the goals and values of *How Are You Creative?* at <https://howareyoucreative.org/about/>.

Required qualifications:

1. Knowledge of Alaskan arts and cultural sector; knowledge of Alaskan education systems; knowledge of diverse statewide communities and unique community contexts.
2. Excellent written and spoken communication skills, ability to do outreach and engage potential partners to grow networks in support of the anticipated outcomes. Strong interpersonal communication and understanding of unique team roles and responsibilities is necessary.
3. Experience coordinating and facilitating conversations for the purpose of supporting collaborative planning processes.
4. General knowledge of processes such as strategic planning, research, evaluation, including field scans, needs assessments, and learning communities.
5. Specialized knowledge of Google Workspace, scheduling tools (ie doodle poll), document sharing and project planning and management tools.
6. Comfort with or ability to learn and master new technologies to plan, develop and implement project needs.
7. Ability to contract with the State of Alaska as a business owner/contractor; ability to travel to support annual in person convenings and other travel as appropriate to the project.

Application

To apply for this opportunity, submit materials to ASCA Arts Education Program Director, Laura Forbes, by email at laura.forbes@alaska.gov. Contact Laura Forbes via this email, or by phone at 907-269-6682, with questions.

To respond, applicants must provide a resume; three references including name, relationship, email and phone number information; and letter of interest of no more than two pages in length that addresses the required qualifications in addition to other experience relevant to the scope of work. The deadline for submission of materials is September 4, 2026 (**extended to September 10, 2026**). Candidates may be requested to interview in mid-September.