

2026-2027

Artist-in-the-Classroom Grant

Program Guidelines

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Application Opens: Monday, Feb 9, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Application Closes: Friday, Mar 27, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS

- **Thoroughly read Program Guidelines**
- **Signed authorization form from Principal of Elementary School**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GRANT PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Artist-in-the-Classroom Grant provides funding for elementary schools in the Salt Lake City School District to support the placement of experienced artists in the classroom during school hours. This residency program is designed to augment existing arts activities during the school-day and can not be used for after-school programming. Residencies should be a minimum of six weeks in length and students should receive at least one session per week with the artist. If a school does not have a pre-selected artist we suggest reviewing [Utah Division of Arts and Museums Teaching Artist Roster](#) for potential artists to engage. Please reach out to our staff with any questions you may have.

ABOUT OUR FUNDING

The City Arts Grant program is generously supported each year in the Salt Lake City Mayor's proposed budget, which is subsequently approved by a vote of the Salt Lake City Council. In 2026, the Artist-in-the-Classroom Grant program distributed 7 grants of \$3,000 each to artists supporting elementary schools. We anticipate total funds available in this year's cycle to equal approximately \$30,000.

ABOUT OUR CITY ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM

For decades, the Salt Lake City Arts Council has administered the City Arts Grants Program, distributing millions of dollars to countless arts organizations and individual artists. The program is designed to provide financial support for arts programs and projects in Salt Lake City.

Please read the Program Guidelines thoroughly as changes may have been made.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

OVERVIEW

We aim to distribute approximately \$30,000. Grants awards will be for \$3,000 each and distributed based on adherence to the Funding Guidance, as well as the Evaluation Criteria detailed below. Priority will be given to Title I Schools.

GRANT AMOUNT

\$3,000

The Salt Lake City Arts Council administers the payments for the Artist-in-the-Classroom Grant funds on behalf of the school. Awarded funds are paid directly to the resident artist, half at the beginning of the residency and half upon completion and approval of the Final Report.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligibility Criteria at the time of submission:

Elementary School Criteria:

1. Maintains a physical, brick and mortar, building within the boundaries of Salt Lake City;
2. Maintains accreditation with the Salt Lake School District (including Charter Schools);
3. Is prepared to administer the grant during the 2026-2027 academic year.

Individual Artist OR Arts-Based Nonprofit Organization:

1. Is legally able to receive taxable income in the U.S. (e.g. citizen, green card holder, and/or permanent resident who can provide a W9 and SSN or ITIN)
2. OR maintains a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with an EIN;
3. Is 18 years of age or older;

FUNDING LIMITATIONS

Funds **cannot** be expended for the following activities and/or expenses:

1. Expenses incurred outside of the grant timeline (Sep 1, 2026 through Aug 31, 2027);
2. Activities already underway or completed before the grant timeline;
3. Sub granting to other artists or organizations;
4. Employment of an artist or instructor currently employed by the district;
5. Expenses related to administrative or overhead costs;
6. Expenses related to the indirect costs of the school.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Additional eligibility and/or limitations may be added at any time with written notice to funded projects. Both the artist and school must meet prior to applying.

If funded, artists must work with the school to complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and an Independent Contractor form. All artists who work unsupervised must go through a background check. This is required by the district, and is not administered or approved by Arts Council staff.

School's Responsibility:

1. Select the individual artist or arts-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization;
2. Plan and manage activities during the residency in partnership with the artist;
3. Complete and submit all grant documents.
 - The principal may authorize another individual (e.g. a parent, teacher, artist, or PTA member) to submit the application, however **the final report must be completed by a school administrator/educator or the principal.**
4. Complete and submit the required letter of agreement from the principal of the school. The template can be found [here](#).
5. Ensure the artist has all required district documents to work with students.

GRANT FUND USAGE AND GENERAL GUIDANCE

We envision that the grant funds are utilized by an artist, in partnership with a school, to enhance arts activities in the classroom, not to replace already existing arts education.

1. Grant funds are paid directly to the artist. Please specify if the artist will be required to provide supplies related to the residency from the grant award. *Generally, artists should be compensated no less than \$30 per hour;*
2. Each school may only apply for one grant. *Be sure to check with your school's faculty and administrative staff to ensure your school submits only one application;*
3. The Artist-in-the-Classroom Grant does not require any in-kind or cash match. However, schools are welcome to and should indicate these additional funds in the budget portion of the application.

GRANT APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

APPLICATION KEY DATES

- **Guidelines Released:** February 2026
- **Application Opens:** Monday, Feb 9, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Application Closes:** Friday, Mar 27, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.
- **Salt Lake Arts Council Committee Review Process:** April - May 2026
- **Preliminary Notification*:** Monday, May 25, 2026

**The Artist-in-the-Classroom Grants will not be formally approved by our Board of Directors until August, but for the purposes of planning, all applicants will be notified of the preliminary results of their application before this date.*

- **Salt Lake Arts Council Board Meeting:** Wednesday, Aug 19, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Written Grant Notification:** Friday, Aug 28, 2026
- **Grant Agreement Form Acceptance:** September, 2026
- **Grant Distribution of Funds:** October 2026
- **Final Grant Distribution:** Date based on completion and approval of Final Report.
- **Final Report Due:** 30 days after expenditure of the funds or no later than September 30, 2027.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

All applications will be scored in accordance with our scoring rubric, [found here](#).

The breakdown of available points is as follows;

Artists Qualifications:	20%
Residency Description:	40%
Art Instruction Details:	40%

FINANCE AND BUDGET INFORMATION

All applicants must submit information on the expected costs of the residency within the grant portal.

Artist fee is equal to \$3000. Additional artist fees can be paid, but should be noted on line two of the budget.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

All questions or concerns regarding this grant program should be submitted through email, ArtsGrants@SLC.gov. Once submitted, please allow 2 business days for a response. Additionally, all questions and answers will be released for any applicant to see, unless such release includes sensitive personal information. All applicants are encouraged to view our Frequently Asked Questions before submission, [found on this page](#).

OFFICE HOURS

From February 12, 2026 to March 24, 2026, applicants are encouraged to schedule one (1) twenty-five (25) minute appointment. The purpose of this meeting is to ask questions which are not answered in the Program Guidelines or Frequently Asked Questions. We are happy to help you with any additional technical or adaptive questions or concerns you may have, as well as answer specific questions you might have regarding your materials or application. We are administrators of the Program and, as such, we have to maintain a level of fairness to all applicants.

To schedule your 25 minute appointment with either grant administrator, please [click here](#).

CONTACT US

Our staff are here to provide as much help and assistance for easing your application process as we can offer. If you have any additional questions not found on our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page about the application, guidelines, or other technical or adaptive questions, If please contact Salt Lake City Arts Council Community Investment and Development Manager, Susan Campbell at ArtsGrants@SLC.gov.

SUPPORTIVE LINKS

- [2026-2027 Artist-in-the-Classroom Scoring Rubric](#)
- [Schedule Office Hours](#)
- [Artist-in-the-Classroom Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Online Application Portal](#)
- [Utah Division of Arts and Museums Teaching Artist Roster](#)
- [Principal Agreement Form](#)