



Arts Action Fund – for Houston ISD Schools

What is the Arts Action Fund?

Arts Connect Houston works to ensure that all students in Houston ISD have access to quality arts education. The Arts Action Fund provides funding support to schools and Arts and Culture partners for in-school arts programming to expand access to the arts for students and support capacity building efforts both in schools and arts organizations. If approved for funding, your school will manage the partnership with the Arts and Culture Partner to support the growth and development of your students and teachers through the arts. Apply today at bit.ly/AAFR1-Apply.

Arts and Culture Partners provide programming in five disciplines: creative writing, dance, music, theatre and visual arts. These programs fall within three arts education types: arts experience, arts instruction and arts integration. To learn more about these disciplines and education types, check out how Houston ISD defines an Arts-Rich Education. **We invite you to consider the Arts Action Fund as a tool to help your campus achieve an Arts-Rich Ecosystem, even when education is virtual!** Learn more about an Arts-Rich Education and Arts-Rich Ecosystem at bit.ly/HISDArtsEducation.

2020-21 Funding Pathways

1. Seed Funding: **Micro-grant of up to \$2,000** (50 available)
 - a. Seed Funding is a micro-grant intended to support one arts program with one Arts and Culture Partner. This program can be in any arts discipline or education type, and delivered in-person or virtually, but must be taught during school hours.
 - b. Any HISD school may apply to this funding tier and access *up to* \$2,000 per round for their use with **one** arts organization via **one** application **per round**.
 - c. *The Arts Action Fund does not fund after-school or weekend arts opportunities.*
2. Innovation in Action: **Grant up to \$10,000 for NEW program development** (15 available)
 - a. Innovation in Action is a grant intended to support a direct partnership between your school and one Arts and Culture Partner for a program specific to your school and its needs. The program should be developed in tandem with the organization providing the service and your school should be prepared to invest student and teacher time in an impactful partnership for all involved.
 - b. This application should be for a NEW program for both your school and the organization you are partnering with. A "new" program should be considered a new working concept, a new program for your school, a new relationship with an organization, etc. "New" **does not** mean "*transferring online*" or "*digital content previously created*" as in this moment that is a norm, not an innovation.
 - c. Houston ISD schools may apply to this funding tier and access *up to* \$10,000 for their use with **one** arts organization partnership via **one** application **per round**. If you receive an Innovation in Action grant, you will not be eligible to receive more funding from the Arts Action Fund within the school year.

****The 2020-21 Arts Action Fund directly reflects the impact of COVID-19 and is subject to change in January 2021.****

Dates to Remember

artlook® Survey

August 24 - artlook® survey window opens

October 31 - artlook® survey due (completion is required to receive funding)

Round One

August 24 - Round one application portal opens on Submittable

September 25 - Round one portal closes

October 9 - Round one notification

Round Two

October 26 - Round two application portal opens on Submittable

November 13 - Round two portal closes

December 11 - Round two notification

Application Requirements

Requirements

- A complete *Arts Action Fund application* submitted via Submittable (by September 25 for Round One and November 13 for Round Two)
- Complete *artlook® campus survey* (by October 31)
- Attend *Arts Action Fund Orientation* and/or review video recording on September 17
- Arts Liaison attends *Arts Liaison Session* (dates to be announced once funding is approved)
- Attend an *Arts for Ed Learning Series* session of your choice (sessions dates to be announced once funding is approved); required for Innovation in Action Funding, optional for Seed Funding

Agreements

- Campus buy-in from leadership team, including Principal and an appointed Arts Liaison to serve as a primary point person between the campus and the arts community
- Willingness to share stories, photos, and other data (in accordance with FERPA) to support Arts Connect Houston and arts organizations in grant reporting efforts
- Innovation in Action funded schools will present experience and potential learning at “Leading Through Learning” or Spring 2021 Partner Convening

Please note:

- Innovation in Action applications must include a specific Arts and Culture Partner
- Seed Funding applications made by campuses must receive consent from the named arts organization before funding is approved (ACH will get that consent)

Application Review Process

Applications received will be evaluated by a Review Committee comprised of community members. Applications will be reviewed based on school’s needs, current community needs, and data from the artlook® Houston platform.

Who is Arts Connect Houston?

Arts Connect is an organization that works alongside stakeholders including nonprofit arts organizations, Houston ISD, funders, community members and national partners. This huge collective works collaboratively to ensure all students in HISD have equitable access to quality arts education. To help reach this goal, Arts Connect has partnered with the Houston Arts Alliance to advance arts education for all young people in our city.

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Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for funding?

You can apply for funding at [link] when funding rounds are open. Applications must be submitted digitally via Submittable to be considered for review.

Who at my school should apply?

Arts Connect Houston recommends that the application is managed by the appointed Arts Liaison. That person will communicate with the Arts and Culture Partners and coordinate their activities. This ensures clear communication and the creation of a campus arts education expert that other educators can come to with questions! We also advise that the Arts Liaison be given a programmatic and budgetary framework to empower them to make the decisions regarding these opportunities.

What is an Arts Liaison?

An Arts Liaison is the campus arts education expert and point of contact for Arts Connect Houston, the Arts and Culture Partners, and the Houston ISD Fine Arts Department. This person should be passionate about arts education for all students, show a willingness to learn more and a desire to be manage funding for your school.

Can I use funding from the Arts Action Fund for any arts organization in Houston?

No. Approved funding from the Arts Action Fund should and can only be used for programs with Houston organizations who are Arts and Culture Partners with Arts Connect Houston. Check out our at www.artsconnecthouston.org to learn more about our Arts and Culture Partners.

Does the Arts Action Fund send funding directly to my school? Will my school be invoiced for this program?

The Arts Action Fund is designed to offset campus' costs for an arts program, therefore ACH will send approved funding directly to the organization who your school is working with when they invoice our organization on your behalf. Your school will never receive direct funding from Arts Connect Houston. Your campus may receive an invoice from the organization for any costs that are agreed upon in advance and that exceed the application request. We will not grant any amount more than what is requested on the submitted application. Please submit an application with an accurate funding request based off of your conversations with the arts organization you wish to partner with.

We ask that you maintain clear communication with the organization whom you wish to work with to ensure they know your intention to apply for and/or use Arts Action Fund grant money for an arts education program with them. If you are applying for funding, they should be aware you are doing so. If they are applying for funding on your behalf, you should NOT submit a second application – we should only receive one application for your school per round.

Do not finalize a partnership that will be funded by the Arts Action Fund prior to receiving notice that your application has been approved. We cannot guarantee that all applications will be approved and therefore do not encourage you to establish a partnership when you are unsure of funding. If you know your school can pay for the partnership without funding but are applying for funding to help, then move forward with the partnership as you see fit.

Please do not request an amount over the actual program cost. Funding will only support the actual program it is intended to fund. If you request more funding than necessary, other Houston ISD schools will be impacted and potentially not receive funding.

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What is artlook®?

When you fill out the artlook® survey, you help us put real time data on arts education in the hands of educators, administrators, policy makers, and funders, helping them make strategic decisions to ensure access to the arts for all students. Artlook has two key functions:

- 1) Input your school's current needs in the "What's Happening Now" section and connect to new partners and providers on the artlook® map. Many organizations have virtual programs this fall!
- 2) Input data on your school's arts classes and partnerships from last school year (2019-20) to help Houston ISD and Arts Connect track and understand arts education offerings across the district. We know last school year was interrupted by COVID-19, so please see the instructions on the artlook® survey for what to include.

How has the Arts Action Fund adapted to COVID-19?

Arts Connect Houston will continue to adjust to the changing nature of the upcoming school year and for each round of funding. Arts and Culture Partners and their organizations have been asked and encouraged to stay flexible and generous in their work with campuses. If a program is cancelled due to COVID-19, please contact us directly to determine next steps.

Is there a limit to how much my school may be granted through the Arts Action Fund?

One school will not be approved for more than (1) application per round of funding per funding pathway. One school will not be approved for more than (1) Innovation in Action grant per school year. As you develop partnerships with organizations and explore your school's opportunities through the Arts Action Fund, we encourage you to be intentional with the applications you submit or that are submitted on your behalf. All applications will be reviewed and approved as funding is available. Please keep this in mind as you develop partnerships. We hope this will ensure a level of fairness for all. Limit subject to change based on available funding after the disbursement of Round One funding.

What will happen if multiple applications are submitted for one school by partners?

If multiple applications are submitted for one school, we will defer the decision to the school principal. If a school submitted an application on their own accord, we will defer to the application they submitted. Please work to communicate clearly as you begin to work with organizations.

What if my school does not have any relationships with an Arts Connect Houston Arts and Culture Partner, what should we do?

Don't worry! Arts Connect Houston and the Arts Action Fund will host an Open House as well as create an Arts and Culture Partner program overview for you to review. Please keep checking your email and follow us on social media to stay in the loop! The Arts Action Fund should be used as a tool to aid you in building a relationship with organizations even if your school has concerns or is unable to fund arts education programming at your school. RSVP for the Arts Action Fund Round One Open House bit.ly/ArtsActionFundOH1.

Who reviews submitted applications?

The Arts Action Fund Review Committee will review all applications and a Board Member of Arts Connect will submit final approval.

Who will the Review Committee be comprised of?

The Arts Action Fund Review Committee will be comprised of community members. Members **will not** represent any organization who stands to benefit in the review process. Members will review applications based on school need as expressed by the school and current community needs as established through the artlook® Houston data platform and partnership with Houston ISD leaders.

What is Submittable?

Submittable is Arts Connect Houston's grant management and application platform. Through this platform we will manage applications, site visit follow-ups and reporting. Once an application in Submittable is approved, the system will send a notification email and follow-up with requests to submit all relevant information. **When you create a Submittable account, be sure to keep the information handy as this is how the Arts Action Fund grant will be managed moving forward.**

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Does my school have to participate in in-person arts programming this year?

Arts Connect Houston wants to ensure that we keep teachers, school employees, students, and teaching artists safe. Arts organizations and campuses are encouraged to discuss options for face-to-face and both synchronous and asynchronous learning environments. This year will demand flexibility and extra communication to ensure that we provide our students with the most engaging, rigorous education within the limitations of the coronavirus. **Individual campuses and arts organizations should work together to determine the risk, safety procedures, and best practices for your school.**

What is digital programming? How should we handle digital program distribution? What about virtual learning?

At this time, we are all still learning, but when Arts Connect Houston and the Arts Action Fund refers to digital learning, programming, etc., we are open to multiple definitions of what this might be or look like as it is relevant to your organization and Houston ISD school partner.

Here are some examples of what this may look like for your school and arts education programming:

- Houston ISD HUB, a digital platform, is slated to distribute programming district-wide to schools, teachers, and families. This could be a great platform to locate an arts education program.
- Live Teaching – Live teaching via programs like Microsoft Teams be used for public distribution by providing the link and opportunity to a large amount of people but might also be shared with just one school, one grade, or one classroom.
- Pre-recorded Lessons – Pre-recorded lessons teaching for public distribution, pre-recorded teaching for private distribution with a specific school/classroom

What is the Arts for Ed Learning Series and does it impact the Arts Action Fund?

The Arts for Ed Learning Series includes shared-learning opportunities developed for arts organization leaders, teaching artists, Houston ISD educators and the community at large. It focuses on sessions relevant to the current landscape of arts education including but not limited to equity and justice, COVID-19, its impact and best practices, digital learning, the importance of arts education, leadership, arts education best practices and more.

Have a question we did not address?

Contact Taylor Bush by email at taylor@artsconnecthouston.org. Please note that once you submit your application via Submittable, we encourage you to submit questions through your account via Submittable.