



Project Grants in Education: the new process

Summer 2022

How This Started

- After grants to individuals and organizations were successfully overhauled in 2021, the Council approved RISCA's education grants to undergo the same publicly engaged process at the December 2021 council meeting.
 - The Project Grants in Education funding category was suspended for the FY23 Cycle 1 deadline.
 - Invitations were sent to community members to serve on the working group in January 2022.
 - The working group met for the first time in February 2022, and then had monthly working meetings in March, April and May.
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Why/Goals


- Bring RISCA's education granting into alignment with:
 - Our new strategic plan.
 - Current and emerging best practices in granting.
 - Other state agencies granting in education, namely RIDE
 - The needs of the arts education community in Rhode Island.
 - Lower barriers to application.
 - Prevent PGEs from sneaking into other funding categories thus helping the agency to spread grant dollars further.
 - Directly ask and engage teaching artists and educators in the ideation and creation of these grants - bringing participatory grantmaking to the program process.
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Project Grants in Education - Highlights

What will be the same?

- Grants to individuals and schools/organizations.
 - Max award amounts \$3000 Individuals/ \$10000 schools/organizations
- April 1 and October 1 deadlines.

TO NOTE:

- Grants to individuals and schools/organizations.
 - Single grant category (no more PGA)
 - An individual applicant **MUST** have a letter of partnership with a school
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Project Grants in Education - Highlights

What is new?

Grant Category Description:

Arts Education helps students discover, develop, and create a rich context for learning all while deepening engagement.

RISCA's Project Grants in Education (PGE) program provides project-specific support to schools, nonprofit organizations, arts educators, and teaching artists to engage students in rich and meaningful artistic experiences in dedicated learning environments. PGE projects must be experiential and focus on the exploration of art and the artistic process. PGE strives to build the capacity of local teaching artists and nonprofit organizations, while providing students with high-quality artistic learning experiences.

Project Grants in Education are not intended to substitute for a school's arts education program.

Who can apply:

- Pre-K-12 schools based in Rhode Island (public, public charter, private, alternative, special education schools, career and technical centers).
- Nonprofit or fiscally sponsored organizations based in Rhode Island.
- Arts educators and teaching artists in partnership with a school based in Rhode Island.



Project Grants in Education - Highlights

What is new?

Program Priorities*

- Pre-K-12 In-School Projects
- Projects that authentically match students and school populations with teaching artists from shared cultural backgrounds and experiences
- Projects that center learners: of varying abilities; in non-traditional academic programs; of Africana, Latina, Asian, and Native American Diasporas (ALANDs); or of “economically disadvantaged” status as defined by the RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

* as encouraged by *The National Endowment for the Arts* and the *RISCA Strategic Plan '20*



Project Grants in Education - Highlights

What is new?

Match Requirement:

Organizations	Individuals
<p>1:1 Cash Match is Required for requests of \$3001 or more</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">the amount over \$3000 must be matched (see FAQs) <p>No Match Required if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Requesting \$3,000 or lessApplying as a program in a pilot year<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1st or 2nd year program)Applying as a school or non profit organization meeting Free-or-Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) or state identified need criteria	<p>No Match Required</p>

Free-or-Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) or state identified need criteria:

Schools or non profit organizations must serve students who primarily attend schools with 40% or more students eligible for Free-or Reduced-Price Lunch, or attend schools that had been identified by the state as being in need of support and intervention as determined by a 1 or 2 Star Rating on the RIDE School Report Card, or a district under "state control" at the time of application.



Project Grants in Education - Highlights

What is new?

Project Requirements

- Projects must include a drafted lesson plan with clearly stated learning goals, intended outcomes, and means for evaluation.
- Projects must consist of a minimum of **8 contact hours** with the same teaching artist(s) and a distinct group of learners. These contact sessions must occur on separate days.
- Projects must consist of in-depth, sequential, and participatory learning opportunities incorporating one or more art forms.

Further Project Requirements

- **Pre-K-12 In-School Projects:**

Applicant must be a school/district or an individual with a partner school letter of support.

- **Community Based Learning Projects:**

Non-profit organizations must be the applicant; projects must occur in a dedicated learning environment with a distinct group of learners. Individuals may not be the applicant for a community based learning project.

Project Grants in Education - Highlights

What is new?

PROJECT GRANTS IN EDUCATION (PGE) APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Grants applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- **Project Fit (25%)** - The project's goals and activities clearly fit the Project Grants in Education description.
- **Outcomes (25%)** - The expected outcomes, or results, of the project are clearly stated and correlated with the project's goals.
- **Project Implementation Evaluation (25%)** - The applicant has a clear definition of success and specific metrics to measure success.
- **Partnerships & Collaborations (25%)** - The applicant is working in coordination and/or collaborating on the project with specific organizations or artists to serve a distinct group of learners.

Artistic Merit: In all four criteria, high-quality, standards based arts learning, and cultural competencies must be present.

Allocating Funds:

Grants with moderate to high overall evaluative scores will be awarded funds by determining how well the project aligns to the Project Grants in Education Program Priorities.

Other Changes: Application Process

- Guideline format is very different, less scary, legalese, and formal.
- Reducing application to as little as is needed, while balancing what information a panel needs to make an informed decision.
- Design.
 - Table of contents
 - Images and page placement (headers/boxing/bold text)
- FAQ and Glossary.

