



WASHINGTON STATE ARTS COMMISSION

CREATIVE START

In service of early learning educators, children, families, and communities.



Students from Blue Heron School worked with teaching artist Margie McDonald in a "Tales, Texts, and Theatre Workshop". Photo by: David Conklin.

Program Overview

Creative Start is Washington State's first statewide arts and early learning program. The program supports regional grants, gatherings, and professional learning opportunities.

Creative Start program goals:

- **Support** creative, academic, and social emotional learning to close the opportunity gap for Washington's youngest learners
- **Foster** statewide teacher-leadership in culturally responsive arts integration
- **Develop** statewide capacity to offer high-quality professional learning

Creative Start program partners include Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and Washington's nine Educational Service Districts (ESDs).

What is Culturally Responsive Arts Integration?

Culturally responsive arts integration brings the arts into all aspects of teaching and learning. Students and teachers explore and share new ideas through a variety of art forms. This kind of teaching connects to the cultures and lived experiences of teachers, students, communities, and families.

About ArtsWA

Established in 1961, the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) is Washington's State's arts agency. Our mission is to advance the role of the arts in the lives of people and communities across the state.

ARTS INTEGRATION

INCREASES STUDENTS' ACADEMIC, COGNITIVE AND PERSONAL OUTCOMES

33%

OF ELEMENTARY STUDENTS IN WA RECEIVE LESS THAN

1 hr

PER WEEK OF ARTS INSTRUCTION¹

ARTS INTEGRATION

AMPLIFIES CLASSROOM LEARNING

STUDENTS ARE **4.4x**

MORE LIKELY TO BE HIGHLY ENGAGED IN REGULAR CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION²

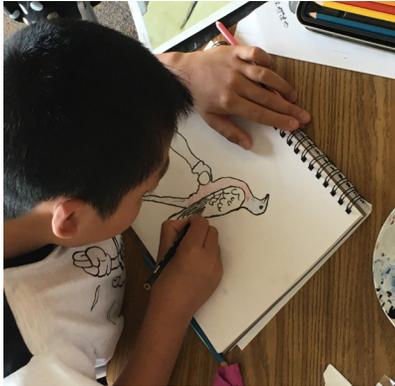
¹ ArtsEd Washington.

² Perpich Center for Arts Education, Arts Integration Project 2013-2014

To learn more, please contact: Alexis Sarah, Arts in Early Learning Project Manager
ArtsWA | PO Box 42675 | Olympia WA 98504-2675 | www.arts.wa.gov/creative-start
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Grant Programs to Support Arts Integration in Early Learning



ArtsWA's Arts in Education grants support partnerships between schools, community and arts organizations, and teaching artists. These partnerships ensure that arts instruction is an essential part of basic education.

The Creative Start grant program supports communities ready to adopt a comprehensive arts integration plan in their early learning classrooms (Preschool through 3rd grade).

Which **CREATIVE START** Grant is Right for Me?

FY20-21 SITE GRANTS

For individual school sites

Awards range from \$2,000-\$8,000

Available to any public or tribal school, school district, or nonprofit early learning center. Sites will receive support toward becoming regional leaders in culturally responsive arts integration.

Selected sites receive professional learning starting in May 2020.

Application opens: 2/21/2020
Application closes: 3/20/2020

FY21 REGIONAL GRANTS

For regional partnerships

Awards range from \$10,000-\$30,000

Available to partnerships between regional leadership (Educational Service Districts, school districts, tribal schools) and early learning educators that implement professional learning in arts integration.

Selected regions receive funding for the 2020-21 school year.

Application opens: 3/16/2020
Application closes: 4/27/2020

“Arts integration can change the entire classroom culture. When every student is participating, engaged in purposeful conversation with their peers, and focused on making sense of the content in both the art form and the other subject area, the room fills with focused energy.”

Lynne B. Silverstein and Sean Layne, The Kennedy Center, 2020

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Photo above: Student at Nothern Heights Elementary school in a book making class led by teaching artist Deirdre Czoberek.