

**ARTISTS IN
SCHOOLS &
COMMUNITIES
GRANT PROGRAM
2025-26**

WEBINAR
1.23.25



AGENDA

AISC History & Background

Overview of 2 Grant Processes

Grants Management System &
Application Process

Best Practices

Strategy Discussion + Q & A

ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES GRANTS:

A LITTLE BACKGROUND

- AISC has been in existence through numerous iterations over the past 50 years
- In every fiscal year offered since 2015, there have typically been at least two separate grant opportunities
- Program serves learners of every age and ability
- Provides nonprofit organizations an opportunity to achieve mission-driven outreach
- Grant projects range from single day opportunities to multi-week

ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES GRANTS:

A LITTLE BACKGROUND

- Designed to foster an increase in arts learning opportunities for all Montanans
- Places a priority on robust arts learning in all forms
- Often builds on prior learning or experience
- Connects learners with professional artists/teaching artists
- Offers opportunities to gain knowledge and/or master a technique, medium, genre or discipline

TWO GRANT OPPORTUNITIES:

* AISC
EXPERIENCES

* AISC
RESIDENCIES

AISC EXPERIENCES, SUMMARIZED

- 3 due dates (rounds) per year, in 2025: April 17, August 14, December 11
- Recognizes the many pathways for initial learning—a jumping off point or an extension of residency learning
- Request range of \$250 to \$2500, with no match requirement
- Many projects are led by or sponsored by non-arts (community) orgs
- Three categories: tools/supplies/equipment, transportation, arts experiences
- May or may not include hands-on learning (lecture demonstration, performance + “talk back”, virtual studio visit to share conversation with artist on their process...)
- Highly conducive to arts integration and multi-disciplinary projects

AISC RESIDENCIES, SUMMARIZED

- One deadline, this year: March 17, 2025
- Continues MAC's tradition of supporting teaching artist-led (Artist in Residence) experiential learning experiences
- Request range of \$2500 to \$10,000 with a match required (1:1 or 2:1 for first time)
- MUST include hands-on learning
- Projects typically of greater depth than AISC Experiences
- May be comprised of a longer one-day session or multi-day/parts/experiences
- Places emphasis on process vs. product
- Often includes a culminating event (exhibit, concert, etc.)

PRIMARY AISC GRANT DIFFERENCES

Each organization is eligible to receive up to a combined total of \$12,500 per year (1 of each grant type awarded)

FY26 Project period begins July 1, 2025 and ends June 30, 2026

ELEMENT	RESIDENCIES	EXPERIENCES
Request range	\$2500 - \$10,000	\$250- 2500
Match required	yes (1:1 or 2:1)	no
Due dates / year	1	3
Hands on component?	required	yes or no
Project categories	guest or teaching artist in residence	first-hand encounters w/art or artists; transportation; tools/supplies/equip.



AISC BEST PRACTICES

- Start planning early! Begin with a simple sketch of the possible project.
- Work as a team, involving more than one individual in the organization (divide and conquer)
- Engage the artist or arts learning organization with a commitment to the experience (fee, date(s), location(s), preview working agreement)
- Tackle the budget first to assess feasibility, logistics and key elements of the project



AISC BEST PRACTICES

- Collaborate with the guest or teaching artist on narrative answers (application and final report)
- Mutually determine means of collecting project data & documentation
- Give thought to assessing the learning – formally or informally. Benefits organization & final report
- PLEASE consult with me, or another staff member; ask for review of part or whole grant!

Who are the artists or arts organizations you might partner with?

How might AISC grants be used to your best advantage as an organization—to meet your mission and your funding goals?

How can we help you serve our state?

**DISCUSSION,
Q&A SESSION**



MAC

PLEASE BE IN
TOUCH!

Monica Grable

Arts Education Director

406.444.6522

Monica.Grable@mt.gov

www.art.mt.gov/aisc