

WHAT IS THE ADVANCEMENT GRANT?

The Advancement Grant provides funding to help Los Angeles County school districts expand and improve arts education for all students. It's designed to:

- Support key goals in your district's strategic arts education plan
- Build lasting resources, skills, or practices beyond the grant period
- Invest in historically underserved communities to increase access to high-quality, culturally sustaining arts education

WHO CAN APPLY?

To be eligible, your district must:

- Be located in Los Angeles County
- Be a partner of the Arts Ed Collective
- Have a board-approved strategic plan for arts education that will be implemented in the upcoming school year

Not yet a partner? Reach out to artsedcollective@arts.lacounty.gov to learn how to join.

WHAT KINDS OF PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

You can request funding for projects that **initiate or expand** arts education in your schools. Projects must align with:

- Your district's strategic arts education plan
- Your Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)
- The Arts Ed Blueprint

Note: Projects that only preserve existing programs may be considered, but you'll need to explain why (e.g., budget cuts, staffing issues, enrollment drops).

WHAT EXPENSES ARE NOT ALLOWED?

Funding (including your district's matching funds) **cannot** be used for:

- Student services outside the school day that replace in-school instruction
- In-kind services or materials
- Fundraising activities

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

Districts can apply for **up to \$25,000** in **matching funds**. That means for every dollar you request, your district must contribute a dollar from another source. Matching funds can come from:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| • ELOP | • Prop 28 |
| • General Fund | • Title I |
| • LCAP | • Other district or partner sources |

Important: In-kind contributions (like donated services or materials) don't count as matching funds.

WHAT IS THE REQUIRED MATCH?

A minimum 1:1 match is required for the project.

WHAT IS THE GRANT TIMELINE?

- **Grant period:** July 1 – June 30
- **Mid-Project Check-in:** October-April
- **Final Report:** May 15

WHAT STEPS SHOULD YOUR DISTRICT TAKE AFTER BEING AWARDED?

If your district is awarded an Advancement Grant, you must complete the following steps to finalize a grant agreement with the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture.

- Designate a project lead to manage the work and serve as the main contact.
- Submit a Grant Acceptance Form.
- Obtain a Los Angeles County Vendor Number.
- Sign a grant agreement with the Department of Arts and Culture.

HOW ARE FUNDS DISTRIBUTED?

Grant funds can be paid in three installments:

1. **25%** after project planning and participation in a grantee convening or network event
2. **50%** after a mid-project check-in with Arts and Culture staff
3. **25%** after completing the project and submitting a final report (including data, budget, outcomes, and a work sample)

HOW WILL APPLICATIONS BE REVIEWED?

Applications are scored based on five criteria:

1. **Strategic Direction (35 pts)**
Clear goals aligned with district plans and the Arts Ed Blueprint, with a strong rationale and focus on equity.
2. **Quality of Project Plan (30 pts)**
Realistic, well-designed activities that support historically excluded students in culturally relevant ways.
3. **Project Evaluation (10 pts)**
Measurable goals and a plan to assess impact using both data and stories.
4. **Personnel Capacity (15 pts)**
Qualified staff and partners, with support from district leadership.
5. **Fiscal Capacity (10 pts)**
Clear, accurate budget with committed matching funds.

Full guidelines and sample grant agreement should be reviewed [here](#).