

### ***Program Description***

To encourage ongoing arts engagement for Nebraskans despite constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the *Virtual Artists in Schools/Communities (AiS/C) Grant* program provides funds to hire artists from the Nebraska Arts Council's Teaching Artist Roster to lead sessions conducted online. During the sessions, artists share expertise with participants through creative and educational demonstrations, performances, or guided arts activities in a variety of disciplines. Sponsors may hire an artist for **AiS/C Visits** consisting of three virtual sessions or an **AiS/C Residency** consisting of ten or more virtual sessions.

### ***Eligibility***

Nonprofit organizations incorporated in Nebraska that are federally tax-exempt, public agencies and sub-divisions of governmental agencies, including PreK-12 accredited schools. Colleges and universities may apply only when significant public participation is planned, with substantial evidence of service beyond the campus community.

### ***Restrictions of the Category***

Applicants may apply more than once during the NAC fiscal year (June 1 – July 30), but may not apply to hire the same artist for more than one **AiS/C Residency**. NAC reserves the right to limit funding for virtual AiS/C programs.

### ***Deadline***

Grant applications are due at least six weeks before the virtual AiS/C program start date and are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants are encouraged to apply as far in advance as possible. Virtual AiS/C programs must take place within the current NAC fiscal year, or by June 30, 2021.

### ***Grant Amounts***

Applicants may request between \$200 - \$1,100. There is no cash match required.

*Important:* NAC issues grants to the sponsoring school or organization, not to the artist. The applicant is responsible for paying the artist.

### ***Budget***

Grants apply only to contractual artist fees. Use this [budget worksheet \(Budget worksheet in Word\)](#) to calculate the Artist Fee(s). This worksheet will need to be uploaded in the online grant application.

*Note:* Additional expenses for materials and supplies, when needed, are the responsibility of the sponsoring school or organization.

### ***Process to hire an artist and apply for a NAC grant:***

**Step 1:** Select an artist from the [NAC Teaching Artist Roster](#). Only those artists with (Virtual) next to their name are available for virtual AiS/C programs.

**Step 2:** Contact artists directly before applying for a grant, and involve them in all aspects of planning the online sessions, including design of activities, setting learning objectives, and scheduling. To start the conversation, inform the artist if you are interested in the **AiS/C Visits** program (3 sessions) or a longer **AiS/C Residency** (10+ sessions). Keep in mind these [virtual AiS/C program requirements](#) while planning:

## **VIRTUAL Artists in Schools/Communities Grant**

- **TECHNOLOGY:** Technological implementation of the artist visit is the responsibility of the sponsoring school or organization and must be discussed with the artist in advance. Contingency back-up plans should also be considered, and a tech rehearsal is recommended.
- **SCHEDULING SESSIONS:** The artist and sponsor are responsible for developing a detailed schedule of activities prior to the start date. Daily artist-led activities must be limited to no more than five sessions; each session must not exceed one hour in length. The teacher or organization staff person must host the session and remain present at all times.
- **CORE GROUPS:** Core Groups are not required for the **AiS/C Visits**. If planning an **AiS/C Residency**, you are encouraged to identify a Core Group (classroom or small group) that will meet at least twice with the artist, but this is not required.
- **MATERIALS:** If materials are needed, the sponsor is responsible for ensuring participants have the necessary materials before each online session begins.

**Step 3:** Once arrangements have been made with the artist, obtain a signed contract, using NAC's artist [agreement form \(artist agreement form in PDF\)](#). It must be signed by both parties and uploaded in the online grant application. Terms in this agreement are subject to grant approval by NAC.

**Step 4:** Apply in NAC's online grant system: [www.artsCouncil.nebraska.gov/grants/](http://www.artsCouncil.nebraska.gov/grants/).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, NAC staff are primarily working remotely and can most efficiently be reached via email. For assistance in creating an account in the NAC grants system, please email [nac.grants@nebraska.gov](mailto:nac.grants@nebraska.gov) or call 402-595-2124.

### ***AiS/C Artist Background Check Policy***

Individuals who are approved for the Artist Roster have been vetted regarding their artistic expertise and suitability as teaching artists. **The Nebraska Arts Council does not conduct criminal background checks as part of this process. When contracting with artists, each school or community group should apply its own policy.**

Prior to being added to the Artist Roster, the NAC conducts an extensive review process for individuals who apply for it. Applicants are required to submit credentials, references and letters of recommendation for review. In addition, applicants are interviewed by a panel of arts and education professionals who assess the individual's suitability for working with groups, in particular children. The Nebraska Arts Council also monitors Sponsor Evaluations of AiS/C residencies in order to ensure that Roster Artists meet high professional standards.