



April Arts Education Newsletter

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Arts Education Connections, April 2025

ODE Arts Education Connections



In This Edition of Arts Ed Connections:

- Arts Education Updates: Free Arts Integration Learning Opportunities!
- Environmental Education and the Arts Resources
- Arts Ed News & Research
- Educator Opportunities
- Youth Opportunities
- Artist, Arts Organization, and Partner Opportunities
- Upcoming Events and Training Opportunities

Photo by [Tamanna Rumea](#) on [Unsplash](#)

ODE Arts Education Updates

Free Arts Integration Learning Opportunities!

Oregon is leading the way in arts-integrated education with the launch of the **Arts, Care & Connection (ACC) initiative**, a **free resource** providing K-5 educators with high-quality, artist-led learning modules.

Developed by Arts for Learning Northwest in collaboration with ODE, arts partners, and teaching artists across Oregon, the ACC project will culminate in **96 stand-alone, one-hour learning modules**, each including a detailed



lesson plan, instructional videos, and a slide deck. **Modules are currently available [online](#)**, with additional lessons added throughout 2025.

Excited to learn more about integrating new forms of the arts into your classroom, or looking to promote arts integration across your school curriculum with colleagues? Arts for Learning Northwest is hosting an artistic practices series of [free, virtual professional development sessions](#) this April! Earn PDUs and have fun learning about arts integration!

- [Introducing Creative Movement Strategies in the Elementary Classroom](#) - April 8 @ 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
- [Introducing Visual Arts Strategies in the Elementary Classroom](#) - April 15 @ 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
- [Introducing Music Strategies in the Elementary Classroom](#) - April 22 @ 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
- [Introducing Theater Strategies in the Elementary Classroom](#) - April 29 @ 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Already using these lessons? For the 2024-25 school year, educators implementing Arts, Care & Connection lessons can receive **free classroom art materials** for providing feedback from students and families through the Well-Rounded Courses Access Grant funds. Our [feedback guide](#) explains the process to gather feedback and **request your free art materials!** Please take the time to complete the few easy steps, so we can share our gratitude for your participation!

If you are teaching these lessons with elementary students and are interested in participating in a focus group, please respond to this [short survey](#). The purpose of the survey is to learn more about where and what you teach so we can include diverse perspectives in the focus groups. The survey will take fewer than 5 minutes to complete, and the focus group members if chosen, will be compensated for their time at \$75/hour.

For more information or to schedule a site visit, contact us at ODE.WRCoursesGrant@ode.oregon.gov.

Arts Ed News, Research, and Resources

Teaching high quality, inclusive, and culturally relevant content through the arts is essential to increase equitable access to arts education for all students.

Please see below for related news and resources that may be relevant to your practice.

News and Research

- [Sisters artists showcase work](#) The Nugget Newspaper 3/11/25
- [Students Are Unmotivated to Learn. Would Consulting Them For Curriculum Help?](#) EdSurge 3/12/25
- [Douglas County celebrates 'National Music in Our Schools Month' with courthouse concert](#) NBC16 KTMR 3/25/25
- [You belong somewhere you feel free: Music in Our Schools month promotes music education and personal development](#) Oregon ArtsWatch 3/13/25
- [Ashland Middle School theater students: The show must go on — but will it?](#) Ashland.News 3/19/25
- [Clackamas Cavalettes aiming for third state dance title in four years](#) Fox 12 Oregon 3/20/25
- [Oregon Children's Theatre to Pause All Programming Starting in September](#) Willamette Week 3/25/25
- [MECCA used art supply store in Eugene encourages creativity through recycling](#) Oregon ArtsWatch 3/30/25

Arts Ed for the Earth

Promote learning about our Earth through the arts this April! Check out these resources integrating the arts with environmental education:



- [Earth Day.org](#) provides resources for students of all ages to learn about the [environment through the arts](#)
- The 14th annual [Ocean Awareness Contest](#) is a platform for young people to learn about environmental issues through art-making and creative communication, explore

their relationship to a changing world, and become advocates for positive change. Students ages 11-18 from around the world are invited to participate.

- The [Smithsonian Learning Lab](#) has a collection dedicated to [Environmental Advocacy through the Arts](#) and a student activity of [Music as an Environmental Advocacy Approach](#) to inspire your students' work and learning!
- With the [Indigenous STEAM curriculum](#), you can explore your relations with water, food, and plant and bird relatives through storytelling and listening, drawing, and more, right outside your door!

Photo By: [Kaboompics.com](#)

Note: Unless hosted, facilitated, or published by The Oregon Department of Education (ODE), these resources have not been endorsed by ODE, but are being shared as relevant opportunities for arts education professionals to consider.

Educator Opportunities

Oregon Arts Education Collective Open to New Members!



The [Oregon Arts Education Collective](#) connects and nourishes arts education practitioners and advocates, using our collective power to cultivate thriving arts ecosystems across the state.

The Collective will relaunch in June and is currently seeking new members. There are a few ways to join the Collective-- you can join as a full participant and attend monthly virtual meetings. If you are interested in this role, you can also apply for a stipend of \$1200 to support your participation for the year. Alternatively, you can choose to join for only the quarterly learning sessions.

You can learn more about the Collective [here](#).

If you are interested in joining as a monthly participant (and applying for a stipend) or for quarterly learning sessions, you can [fill out this form here](#).

There is an info session on April 7th at noon PT on zoom. The recording will be sent to anyone who registers. [Register here](#).

Spring 2025 Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Town Hall Events

Aloha!

The Oregon Department of Education's [Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Student Success Plan Program](#) will host several **Town Hall meetings** across Oregon this Spring.

These events will share information and gather community input to enhance the current [student success plan](#).

They are also open to all age groups (children welcome) and we kindly ask that you register using the link below or the QR code on the flyer to assist with event planning.

[Town Hall Registration Form](#)

- Bend-La Pine School District Building, **April 11 from 5-6:30p**
- Portland State University's PIAAA Student Center, **April 17 from 3:30-4:30p**
- Pacific University's Multi Purpose Room, **April 24 from 11:30-12:50p**
- Oregon State University, TBD, **April 25 from 5-6:30p**
- Southern Oregon University, TBD, **May 2 from 12-2p**
- Online on Zoom, **May 13 from 12-1p**
- Online on Zoom, **May 13 from 5-6p**, (For both online sessions) Meeting ID: 160 624 3523, Password: NHPI2025

Your participation is valuable, and we appreciate your help in sharing this information widely.

For any questions, please contact Carol K. Matsuzaki, Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander Student Success Coordinator at ode.nhpi@ode.oregon.gov.

Reminder: National Coalition for Arts Standards (NCAS) Announces Review of National Arts Standards



Eleven years after the release of the [National Arts Standards in 2014](#), the [National Coalition for Arts Standards \(NCAS\)](#) will launch a thorough survey to collect data on the [National Standards](#) for dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts.

The [National Arts Standards](#) have played and continue to play an integral role in improving and supporting arts education for America's students. With [nearly all states having revised the state's arts education standards since 2014](#), this review process will help us gather the latest knowledge, research, and best practices while addressing the evolving needs of the nation's students and ensure that the arts remain central to a well-rounded education.

To best inform decision-making and to ensure transparency in the review, all arts educators, thought partners, education and arts organizations, and stakeholders with interests in arts education are asked to provide critical feedback to guide the process.

Your participation is vital to shaping the future of arts education. **Please complete the [public input survey](#) by May 16, 2025.** Additional information and ways to be involved will be shared in the coming months.

If you have any questions, please email contact@nationalartsstandards.org.

Youth Opportunities

The Doug Watson Scholarship for Performing Arts

The Tower Theatre Foundation established the Doug Watson Scholarship for Performing Arts in memory and honor of our longtime friend, member, sponsor, volunteer and board chair. Doug was a true believer in the performing arts, especially in the power of arts in education. He supported the Tower's LessonPLAN programs and seemed to revel in being surrounded by an audience of enthusiastic kids!

To continue his legacy and extend the impact of our region's performing arts, the Doug Watson Scholarship will empower students across Central Oregon to actively pursue their creative passions. We encourage graduating seniors who will be moving forward with their college education with an art focus to apply. **Applications open March 5th** and are **due to the Tower Theatre by April 11**. The committee, who consists of Tower staff, board, and community volunteers, will review applications, with recipients being notified on announced on May 9.

[Learn more and apply here.](#)

Oregon Department of Education Youth Advisory Council Opportunities

Oregon students, we want your input!

Get paid to shape education in your state! Work with the Oregon Department of Education to provide youth voice and input in policy making through the Youth Advisory Council. Connect with other youth and student leaders from across the state to lead the development of current youth leadership and engagement programs.

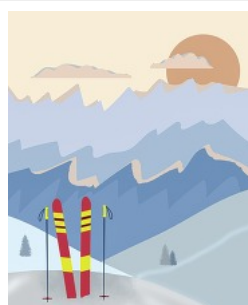
Details:

- Young People Ages 14-18 are eligible
- Meetings are monthly, virtual, and in the evenings
- Term of service is 1 year

[Visit our website to learn more and Apply by May 9th!](#)

ODE Youth Advisory Council Questions? Contact Amy Hodge, Youth Advisory Council Coordinator amy.hodge@ode.oregon.gov Cell: (503) 385-6182

The poster features the text 'We want YOU' in large, bold letters. It lists details: 'Young People Ages 14-18', 'Attend virtual, monthly meetings in the evenings', and '1 year term of service'. It also includes a QR code and contact information for Amy Hodge, Youth Advisory Council Coordinator, at amy.hodge@ode.oregon.gov and (503) 385-6182. The Oregon Department of Education logo is at the bottom right.



7th Annual Arts Olympiad Seeking Entries

The Arts Olympiad is a free global art program sponsored by the International Child Art Foundation for students aged 8-12 that blends creativity with physical activity. Schools, studios, and homeschoolers can **participate before December 16, 2025**. Winning artists will be invited to the **7th World Children's Festival in June 2026** in Washington, D.C.

[See site for details and entry form.](#)

Image by [Bianca Van Dijk](#) on [Pixabay](#).

Artist, Arts Organization and Partner Opportunities

Dear Education Partners,

We are excited to announce that applications are now open for the **Immigrant/Refugee Student Success Advisory Group!** The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is seeking passionate individuals—including students, educators, and community members—to serve on this advisory group. Members will help guide the implementation of the **Immigrant/Refugee Student Success Plan**, ensuring that policies, programs, and investments effectively support immigrant and refugee students across Oregon.



Who Should Apply?

According to [ORS 329.849](#), the advisory group must include:

- individuals who identify as immigrant/refugees
- students who identify as immigrant/refugees
- representatives of community-based organizations serving immigrant/refugee communities
- education partners, including representatives from the Department of Early Learning and Care, Youth Development Oregon, and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission

We encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds, roles, and lived experiences.

Commitment & Meeting Schedule

- **Virtual monthly meetings** (third Thursday of each month, 1:00–3:00 PM PST)
- **First meetings:** May 22 & June 19, 2025. then will resume in September.
- **Annual in-person retreat** (between school years)
- **Term length:** Two or three years

How to Apply

Applications open February 26, 2025, and must be submitted by Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 5:00 PM (PST).

[Submit your application here](#)

If you prefer to apply via phone, video call, written letter, or need translation services or accommodations, please contact us at ODE.ImmigrantRefugee.Success@ode.oregon.gov. For any questions, feel free to reach out. We appreciate your support in sharing this opportunity with your networks!

Sitka Center Jordan Schnitzer Printmaking Residency Opportunity

The annual **Jordan Schnitzer Printmaking Residency** was established in 2002 to provide working artists with little or no printmaking experience the opportunity to explore a new creative medium with guidance, instruction and technical assistance from a professional etching printer, Julia D'Amario.

This program takes place for a **one to two week period between October 7th and November 14th 2025**. There is no flexibility in timing; please do not apply if you are not available during these dates.

Residency includes:

- One-on-one instruction with Master Printmaker Julia D'Amario
- Opportunity to live among a small group of resident visual artists, musicians, ecologists, writers and interdisciplinary creatives
- A private residence and workspace in a tranquil setting on the Oregon coast, adjacent to the Cascade Head Scenic Research Area, the Salmon River Estuary and the Cascade Head Experimental Forest
- \$500/week stipend plus up to \$500 travel reimbursement

- 10 editions per piece. Artist keeps possession of editions 1 - 5, edition 6 is added to Sitka's permanent collection, editions 7 & 8 are framed and placed for sale at the Sitka Art Invitational or Portland Fine Print Fair, edition 9 is placed in the Portland Museum of Art's permanent collection, and edition 10 is placed in Jordan Schnitzer's permanent collection

Application Deadline: May 7, 2025. [See website for details and application form.](#)



Art/Sci Awarded Residencies are funded opportunities available through an application process and awarded to artists and scientists actively working to promote dialogue and positive environmental change. Residents are awarded a residency in a cohort made up of 6-10 artists and scientists spanning many disciplines. Residents stay in 1- or 2-bedroom cabins free of charge, and are responsible for their own travel costs and food while they are in residence. Surrounded by the richness of both the Fremont National Forest and BLM public lands, PLAYA's programs provide ample space for study, exploration and inspiration within the high desert's living laboratory.

Application Deadline: Saturday, May 31, 2025 by 11:59pm Pacific time. [See site for details and application.](#)

Upcoming Events, Training & Conference Opportunities

All trainings are listed in Pacific Time zone unless otherwise noted.

ODE Professional Learning Opportunities for the 2024-25 School Year:

[ODE Professional Learning Opportunities Page](#)

Relevant educator opportunities:

- Southern Oregon University | [SOU Music Student Recitals - Free and open to the public!](#) | Thursday, January 30 - Thursday, May 22 2025 | In person and Online | [See site for details](#)
- The California Arts Project and Fresno State University | [AI Artists Series: Chris Johnson](#) | April 9, 2025 | 4:30 - 6 pm | Virtual | Free | [See site for details](#)
- Oregon ASK | [Oregon Ask Spring Conference: Fostering Growth & Connection](#) | April 26th, 2025 | 8am to 5pm | Canby Grove Resort, 7501 S. Knights Bridge Rd, Canby, OR 97013 | [See site for registration details](#)
- The California Arts Project and Fresno State University | [AI Artists Series: Suzanne Lacy](#) | April 30, 2025 | 4:30 - 6 pm | Virtual | Free | [See site for details](#)
- Umpqua Community College | [STEAM Extravaganza!](#) | Saturday, May 18 | Umpqua Community College, 1140 Umpqua College Rd, Roseburg, OR 97470 | 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Free, and no registration required! [See website for more information](#)
- Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) | [Theatre Education Conference: Join the Ensemble](#) | June 22-24 | Indiana University, Bloomington, IN | [See site for registration details](#)

Unless hosted or facilitated by The Oregon Department of Education (ODE), these events and training opportunities have not been endorsed by ODE, but are being shared as relevant opportunities for arts education professionals to consider.

Questions? Connections?

We welcome your submissions to [ODE's Arts Education Newsletter!](#) If you have information about events or opportunities for arts educators or students, please contact [Shannon Johnson, Arts Education Specialist](#).

In an effort to streamline the communication process, newsletters will be sent out once a month. To ensure that we can equitably share announcements from everyone, please submit your Newsletter posts no later than the 1st of each month.

Did someone forward you this newsletter? Want to stay connected with arts education at the Oregon Department of Education? [Subscribe to the ODE Arts Education Newsletter today!](#)

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