



## May Arts Education Newsletter

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Arts Education Connections, May 2025

### ODE Arts Education Connections



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- Arts Ed News & Research
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### ODE Arts Education Updates

#### Happy Belated Teacher Appreciation Week!

Happy [teacher appreciation week](#) arts educators!

The creative opportunities you craft and generously share with your students, communities, and the world are truly invaluable. **Through your teaching, you open doors to self-expression, imagination, and critical thinking—empowering students to discover their voices, connect deeply with others, and navigate this complex, beautiful, and often challenging world.** Your work not only enriches individual lives, but also uplifts entire communities and strengthens the very fabric of our education system.

With heartfelt admiration and deep gratitude for all that you do—thank you for inspiring, leading, and shaping the future through teaching the arts!

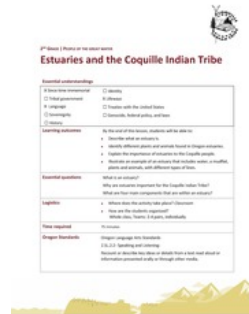
Photo by [Yan Krukau](#)



## Native Arts Update: Coquille Indian Tribe Arts Lessons Available!

We're excited to announce the newest addition to the *Native Arts Lessons* collection—[arts-aligned educational resources](#) developed by the [Coquille Indian Tribe](#) are now available!

These lessons are part of a broader Native Arts initiative designed to support educators and students in deepening their understanding of the rich cultural and artistic traditions of Tribes in Oregon. Rooted in collaboration, respect, and authenticity, this work highlights both historical and contemporary practices of local Indigenous communities.



The Native Arts project aims to:

- Ensure arts educators and their students gain greater awareness and understanding of the cultural and artistic practices of local Tribes, and how to honor and respect these traditions when making art.
- Promote the use of culturally responsive teaching practices and facilitate deeper, more specific knowledge sharing around Indigenous arts and cultural practices across Oregon.
- Support representation of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students in educational content, aligning with the [AI/AN Student Success Plan](#).
- Honor Tribal cultural practices and foster awareness of their diversity and depth by incorporating the [9 Essential Understandings](#) of Native Americans in Oregon and [Oregon Arts Standards](#) into the curriculum.

**These lessons do not replace, but rather supplement, the required [Tribal History/Shared History lessons](#) for schools,** and offer powerful opportunities for educators to bring culturally rich, respectful, and meaningful learning into their classrooms, while helping students of all backgrounds connect with and learn from Indigenous creative and artistic traditions.

## 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
- [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
- [Oregon Department of Education Launches New Virtual Arts Education Program](#)  
Oregon ArtsWatch 5/6/25
- [Astoria Visual Arts Celebrates Student Creativity](#) Discover Our Coast 5/8/25

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## Arts Resources for Mental Health Awareness Month



- [OK YOU](#) is a nonprofit that offers free creative resources for navigating big emotions and staying connected to our OK selves through the arts. Check out their [OK Kits](#) for great project ideas with your students!
- Check out [Stitching the Threads Together: A Cross-Disciplinary Literature Review on Youth Arts Engagement and Well-Being](#), a Wallace Foundation–sponsored review connecting youth arts engagement with well-being—what we know, what we’re missing, and why it matters.
- The [K-5 Arts, Care & Connection Lessons](#) developed in partnership with [Arts for Learning Northwest](#) offer flexible, low or no-cost opportunities to explore social emotional learning through dance, music, theatre, and visual arts!
- ODE’s [Non-Evaluative Arts Experiences: Creativity, Care, and Connection for Mental Health](#), part of the [Arts Access Toolkit](#), provides recommendations for guiding an arts learning experience with students to promote relationship-building, cultural identity development, and mental health and well-being.

Photo by [Nikita Nikitin](#)

*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.*

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## Educator Opportunities

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### National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation Music Research Grants

NAMM awards research grants that improve practices for music education, support music makers, and enhance workforce development. These grants also seek to increase public and private resources and focus on unique, non-duplicative research topics. Grant awards range from \$5,000-\$25,000.

**The application period for Round 1 opens on April 1 and closes on June 6, 2025.**

[See site for details.](#)

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## Summer Learning 2025 Allocations and Application Webinar

Dear Education Leaders,

We are excited to share the next steps in Oregon’s Summer Learning landscape under [House Bill 2007](#), a significant investment in Oregon’s students and communities statewide. We are deeply grateful to the legislature and the Governor for her leadership in securing this **\$35 million investment for summer 2025**, and establishing a Summer Learning Grant Program for the 2025–2027 biennium.

This represents a major milestone in Oregon’s ongoing commitment to summer learning, literacy, and builds upon the foundation laid by HB 4082 (2024).

### Who Is Eligible?

Entities identified as *Eligible to Apply* or on the *Waiting List* in the [2025 State Summer Learning Grant Allocations](#) are invited to apply for the grant.

Eligibility was determined per HB 2007, which directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to prioritize funding for students not yet meeting grade-level standards in English Language Arts, aligning with the state’s broader literacy and equity goals. For more information on how the funding formula was applied to determine eligibility and prioritization, [please see this FAQ](#).

### Summer Learning 2025 Application Webinar

**Who Should Attend:** *Eligible to Apply* and *Waiting List* Entities

**Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025

**Time:** 2:00 - 3:30 PM ([Registration Link](#))

**What to Expect:** An overview of the State Summer Learning Grant, a walkthrough of the application process, and key dates, requirements, and timelines.

*This webinar will be recorded and posted on the [State Summer Learning Grant Webpage](#) for those who are unable to attend.*

### Questions?

Please contact the Summer Learning Team at [ODE.SummerLearning@ode.oregon.gov](mailto:ODE.SummerLearning@ode.oregon.gov).

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## Youth Opportunities

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### Hold On Campaign Hosts “Create Resilience Youth Art Contest” for Suicide Prevention

Oregon youth ages 13 - 21 are invited to share their ideas on why and how we can improve youth mental health. Original submissions can be: an essay, poem, story, play, song, artwork, photograph, dance, and more.

Be creative! Do not submit any AI Generated work.

One entry per person. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges.

**Entries accepted May 1st - August 1st, 2025.** [See site for details and submission link.](#)

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## Artist, Arts Organization and Partner Opportunities

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### 2025 National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC) Fund for the Arts: National Arts Partners

The 2025 NALAC Fund for the Arts (NFA) will focus on NALAC's collaboration with and support from the Wallace Foundation's Advancing Well-Being in the Arts Initiative, which seeks to fund small arts organizations, each with an annual budget of less than \$500,000, that were founded by, for, and with communities of color. NALAC expects to grant a total of \$525,000 across the United States and Puerto Rico through 21 unrestricted, non-matching organizational grants of \$25,000 each.



**Applications close Friday, May 30, 2025, at 11:59 PM CT.** [See site for details.](#)

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## Upcoming Events, Training & Conference Opportunities

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

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### 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](#)
- 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](#)

- Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation | [First Saturdays at The Schnitzer Collection](#) | June 7, July 5, and August 2 2025 | The Schnitzer Collection, 3033 Northwest Yeon Avenue Portland, OR 97210 | Free and open to the public
- The Institute for Arts Integration and STEAM | [2025 National Arts Integration and STEAM Conference](#) | July 8-9, 2025 | Baltimore, Maryland | [See site for details and registration](#)
- Smithsonian | [Smithsonian National Education Summit 2025](#) | July 15-17, 2025 | In Person and Virtual Options | Free with registration | [See site for details](#)
- National Dance Education Organization | [The Power of Movement: Dance Education Traditions and Innovations](#) | October 4-6, 2025 | Detroit, MI | [See site for details and registration](#)

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## 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.

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