



Native Arts Courses

Increasing access to culturally responsive lesson content and professional learning around the arts and cultural traditions of Tribes and Indigenous peoples.

Overview

The Well-Rounded Access Program aims to boost access to accurate, Tribal-specific arts content for Native and non-Native students through development partnerships with [federally recognized Tribes](#), Southern Oregon ESD, and the [Jim Pepper Native Arts Council](#). They will develop lessons and professional development sessions integrating local Tribal cultural practices and the work of contemporary Native artists, incorporating the [Oregon Arts Standards](#) and the [9 Essential Understandings](#) (developed for the [Tribal History/Shared History \(TH/SH\) project](#)). These courses do not replace the lessons mandated under Senate Bill 13 and Tribal History/Shared History, but rather, provide supplemental lessons to reinforce these important concepts.

These supplemental courses and professional learning resources are intended to serve both American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students who attend schools across Oregon, as well as non-Native students, at multiple grade levels from K-12th grade. The lessons and professional learning will be designed for use by multiple educator audiences, including arts specialists, Tribal educators, and classroom teachers to supplement their curriculum. Additionally, the courses will increase awareness of contemporary Native artists in Oregon communities and raise awareness of specific cultural practices and traditions across diverse Tribal nations. The courses aim to provide schools with resources, developed by Tribes and indigenous educators, to educators and their students in all grades.

Main Objectives:

- To increase the use of culturally responsive teaching practices and deeper, more specific knowledge sharing around the arts and cultural practices of Tribes and Indigenous peoples across the state
- To ensure that AI/AN students are represented in the content that they engage with in all subjects in school, in alignment with the [AI/AN Student Success Plan](#)
- To honor the cultural practices of local Tribes and increase awareness around the diversity and depth of Tribal cultural practices through education around the 9 Essential Understandings and Oregon Arts Standards



Key Principles

This project aims to ensure that:

Arts educators and their students will have greater awareness and understanding of the historical and contemporary cultural and artistic practices of local Tribes, including how to honor and respect these traditions in the process of making art.

Arts educators in K-12 settings will understand how to teach content around these arts and culture practices respectfully, increasing awareness around appropriation and misrepresentation that AI/AN individuals and communities experience and reducing these incidents in the future.

The artistic and cultural practices of area Tribes and indigenous artists that are appropriate to share with both Native and non-Native audiences will be celebrated and honored by educators and students. This can lead to opportunities for Native students to learn more about their identity and culture within the context of school, increase support across all student populations for the recognition and preservation of Tribal practices, and promote the respectful integration of these traditions into contemporary works and practices of current and future Native artists and culture keepers.

To learn more about these courses, please email the Well-Rounded Access Program team at ODE.WRCoursesGrant@ode.state.or.us.

Access Lessons and Sign Up for Future Opportunities

As part of this partnership, lesson materials and professional development will be freely available to educators, and many of the professional learning opportunities will pay educators for their time. For more information about professional development or to sign up for available trainings, visit the [Arts Education Resources website](#) from the Oregon Department of Education.

Background and Funding:

In October 2020, Oregon received a five year, \$9.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to expand access to well rounded education courses.

In January 2022, ODE published a [Needs Assessment](#) that highlighted the importance of and current inequitable access to high quality, well rounded courses. This Needs Assessment, along with a [year long engagement process](#), was the basis for ODE's decision to expand access to these courses, allotting close to \$2 Million (approximately 20% of the total funding) for these efforts. This partnership is projected to continue through June 30, 2025.

More information about this program and to learn about other projects sponsored by this program, visit ODE's [Expanding Access to Well Rounded Education webpage](#).

The content of this curriculum and professional development does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Education, and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. government.