

SPACE AND EQUIPMENT NEEDS FOR ARTS PROGRAMS



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SPACE AND EQUIPMENT NEEDS FOR ARTS PROGRAMS

This resource provides program, school, and district leaders:

- an overview of the ideal spaces and equipment for successful programs in different arts disciplines

Each arts program has different space and equipment needs. These investments ensure safe and healthy learning environments for students in arts programs. In addition to these recommendations, arts educators and teaching artists can also provide guidance for needed resources and equipment for specific programs.

General Arts Program Space and Equipment Needs

Suggestions follow for specific program needs, but in general, these structures will help ensure support and safety for students and educators in your program:

- Ensure that any **arts dedicated spaces meet ADA requirements** for equal access for all students.
- Put an **annual inspection and maintenance plan** in place for all equipment that students and educators interact with in the program.
- Establish an **annual budget** for material purchases and equipment depreciation and replacement that meets program needs.

The [National Opportunity-To-Learn Program Standards](#) provide detailed space and material specifications to ensure safety and the best learning outcomes for your students - please reference them for more detailed recommendations.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE SPACES

- Formal production stage, including an orchestra pit, stage lighting, drapes, rigging system, and sound system
- Lighting and tech board with a dedicated room for operating stage lighting and sound
- Box office, lobby, and accessible audience seating
- Ticketing system or service
- Dressing room(s) and make-up room with mirrors and lighting
- Scenery construction and production storage space
- Equipment, lighting, and costume storage space
- Concession stand
- Green room
- Office space
- Laundry facilities
- *For age and content specific recommendations, see the [National Opportunity-To-Learn Program Standards](#)*

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DANCE

- Large, well-lit, open space with uncarpeted floors - preferably sprung floors for ease of movement on joints
 - Linoleum floors can be dangerous due to slipping; concrete floors can be hard on joints
- Ballet bars and mirrors
- Props and costumes as needed
- Mats and manipulatives as needed
- Musical accompaniments that meet copyright restrictions
- Sound system
- Lighting options and projector for practice space
- Performance Space (see [General Performance Spaces](#))

MEDIA ARTS

- Up-to-date computers with a 1:1 student ratio for each course.
 - Consider looking at area universities¹ for computer requirements in related courses for a guide to computer specifications.
- Accessible outlets
- Up to-date design software for disciplines offered
- Strong wireless signal for tablets and devices; hard wired ethernet connections for desktop computing
- Audio equipment and projector
- Digital cameras, video cameras, tablets, 2D color and 3D printers, recording equipment, lighting equipment, wireless microphones, and/or additional technology purchases may be necessary depending on program offerings
- Consider a Learning Management System (LMS) structure for media arts courses as much of the work will be done digitally
- Separate space to install and display media artworks
- Funding for yearly software updates, upgrades, and subscription services

¹ [University of Oregon, Student Computer Purchasing Guide](#)



*Photo by Allison Shelley/
The Verbatim Agency for
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MUSIC

- Separate band and choir spaces that meet program needs
- Individual sound proofed practice rooms
- Temperature controlled instrument storage with secure lockers
- Carpeted floors or rugs and double doors to ensure safe entry and exit
- Sheet music that meets copyright law and music stand for each student
- Instruments for loan suited to choice of program area (e.g. orchestra, jazz, marching band) and essential instrument parts (reeds, etc.)
- Cleaning and maintenance tools for instruments; established contractor for instrument repair
- Uniforms appropriate for performances in chosen program
- Acoustic paneling
- Quality sound system, audio equipment and projector
- Risers, if applicable
- Sound proofed recording studio
- Tuned piano or keyboard
- Sequencing and notation software, sound editing and mixing software
- Ventilation system that supports a safe air exchange rate
- Funding for yearly sheet music, software and curriculum purchases
- Performance Space (see [General Performance Spaces](#))

THEATRE

- Clear and open practice spaces that provide enough room for movement; e.g. black box space
- Flexible seating options
- Theatrical texts and scripts that meet copyright law
- Props and costumes
- Sound system, flexible lighting, and projector for practice space
- Separate space for set building and maintenance for technical theatre
- Funding for yearly script, set and costume purchases
- Performance Space (see [General Performance Spaces](#))



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This work was funded by the Expanding Access to Well-Rounded Courses Grant, a 5-year, \$9.8 million Federal grant that ODE received from the US Department of Education in 2020. The Arts Access Toolkit is a portion of the work of the [Well-Rounded Access Program](#), along with developing and expanding Arts and STEAM courses. If districts or schools have additional arts program resources, examples or success stories to contribute, please email them to ODE.Arts@ode.oregon.gov.



VISUAL ARTS

- General Studio
 - Spacious, well-lit work area
 - Several sinks to accommodate wet media
 - Accessible outlets
 - Sturdy tables and stools
 - Uncarpeted floors that are easy to clean
 - Flat storage files
 - Ample storage space to accommodate both 2D and 3D art materials and student project storage
 - Drying racks
 - Display boards
 - Projector and screen
 - Easels - floor or table
 - Office space
 - Separate space to install and display artwork
 - Yearly budget to support materials purchases
- Ceramics Studios
 - Kiln in a separate kiln room
 - Pottery wheels
 - Air filtration system and proper ventilation, including a kiln hood
 - Sturdy tables
 - Clay and sculpting tools
 - Canvas board, tables, or tablecloths for handbuilding with clay
 - Large, deep sink(s) plumbed with a clay capture system
- Sculpture Studios
 - Shop space with equipment appropriate to the 3D program; e.g. woodworking tools, metalsmithing tools
 - Safety equipment including masks, goggles, and gloves
 - Proper ventilation system
 - Equipment and spaces listed in General Studio section