



February Arts Education Newsletter

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Arts Education Connections, February 2025

ODE Arts Education Connections



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ODE Arts Education Updates

Arts, Care & Connection Official Launch!

Looking for something fun to try with your students to prepare for Youth Art Month and Music in our Schools Month this March? Consider an [Arts, Care & Connection lesson!](#)

The Arts, Care & Connection (ACC) initiative is a free resource providing K-5 educators with high-quality, artist-led learning modules. This initiative is part of the Oregon Department of Education's Well-Rounded Access Program, funded by a five-year, \$9.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.



The [ACC lessons](#) are designed to be flexible, requiring no specialized materials while allowing educators to co-teach with virtual teaching artists. Modules are currently available online, with additional lessons added throughout 2025!

Educators are encouraged to explore the ACC lessons and share their feedback. Participants who provide feedback can receive classroom supplies to support their implementation.

Additionally, the Well-Rounded Access Program Team is seeking teachers for focus groups to discuss experiences in arts education. Interested educators will receive a stipend for their time and contributions to the project.

For more information, access to lessons, or to join the ACC mailing list, visit <https://www.artsforlearningnw.org/programs/arts-care-and-connection/>.

Educators interested in participating in focus groups or scheduling a site visit can contact ODE.WRCoursesGrant@ode.oregon.gov.

Planning to use the [Arts, Care & Connection](#) lessons this year? 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!

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

- [Who's Teaching Who? Sisters Folk Fest's video sessions document impactful experiences for instructors and students at last year's Americana Song Academy](#) Source Weekly 1/1/25
- [Small-town Skagit 'theatre school' supports big imaginations](#) Cascadia Daily News 1/1/25
- [Teens explore their creative side through these free classes in Pendleton](#) Here is Oregon 1/21/25
- [SFF Presents invests thousands in education](#) The Nugget Newspaper 1/21/25
- [Art Saved My Life When I Was a Student. Now, It's Helping My Multilingual Learners.](#) EdSurge 1/22/25
- [Lincoln County School District music programs gifted \\$24,000](#) Lincoln County Leader 1/26/25
- [Save the Music Foundation looks to expand its school education support by going independent](#) 1/29/25 KOIN6
- [DDA hosts 4-H pop up art show at Willamette Valley Fiber](#) Polk County Itemizer-Observer 2/4/25
- [Art Center East in La Grande: Bringing art opportunities and access to Eastern Oregon](#) 2/7/25
- [7 changes the Class of 2025's teachers want to see in education](#) OPB 2/8/25

February Arts Education Resources: Celebrating the Contributions of Black and African American Artists

Celebrate Black History Month by exploring powerful arts education resources that highlight African American creativity, resilience, and influence. The [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#) offers engaging stories that dive into important Black arts figures and movements such as:

- [Ann Lowe](#), a tribute to the groundbreaking fashion designer
- [A New African American Identity: The Harlem Renaissance](#), an exploration of this cultural movement's impact
- [Strongmen: Jacob Lawrence and Lou Stovall](#), showcasing two visionary artists
- [Fashioning Power and Gender in Hip-Hop](#), which examines style as a form of cultural expression in music

The [1619 Project Lesson Resources](#) provide thought-provoking activities all of which encourage students to critically engage with African American history. Some of these lessons include close connections to the arts:

- [Reconstructing American History: Creating Altered Books](#)
- [Picturing the Unseen: Illuminating Overlooked Narratives in African American History](#)
- [A Children's History](#)

These resources offer inspiring ways to honor Black history in the classroom and beyond, all year round!

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

Attention Media Arts Educators! Free E-Textiles and Computer Science Professional Development Opportunities



Exploring
Computer
Science

The Well-Rounded Computer Science project and CS for Oregon intersects closely with the [Computer Science Education Statewide Implementation Plan](#), and is focused on bringing equitable computer science education K-12 to Oregon students. **Save the date** for the [CS Summer Equity Summit July 28 - August 1, 2025](#) in Bend, Oregon! Here, you can [let us know](#) if you're interested in the following opportunities, including a daily participant stipend:

- **Exploring Computer Science Professional Development:**

(July 28 - Aug 1) Five-day residential cohort program for Oregon high school teachers interested in teaching a foundational CS (computer science) course. No prior CS experience necessary!

- **E-Textiles Teacher Professional Development:**

(July 28 - July 31) Make fabric-based crafts with conductive thread, microcontrollers, lights, sensors, and other electronic components. Prerequisite: 1 year or more of ECS teaching experience, or **art teacher colleague of an ECS teacher**.

- **Computational Thinking in Elementary Workshop:**

(July 29 & 30) Teachers will learn the fundamentals of computational thinking (CT) and discover its applications across core subjects. They will learn how to integrate CT concepts into their curriculum, enhancing student understanding and critical thinking skills.

Youth Opportunities

The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art invites submissions for the 17th Annual NewArt Northwest Kids Exhibition: Harmony in Art

We invite K-12 students to participate in a unique art project that explores the intersection of visual arts and music. This project aims to inspire young artists to create visual works that are influenced by musical compositions. Students will engage their artistic vision through a harmonious blend of visual and auditory stimuli. A selection of submissions will go on view at the JSMA.

Submissions are due by Friday, February 21, 2025. [See site for submission guidelines, prompts and details!](#)

Calling All Young Artists: Fair Housing Council of Oregon Opens its 27th Annual Fair Housing Poster Contest



The Fair Housing Council of Oregon presents its yearly Fair Housing Poster Contest, asking young artists from throughout our state to design a poster highlighting this year's theme: "Together We Build a Neighborhood."

Oregon students from first through eighth grades are encouraged to design and submit their poster, exhibiting the importance of The Fair Housing Act and featuring diverse communities are strongly encouraged.

All entries must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 3rd, 2024. [See site for details.](#)

2025 Minoru Yasui Student Art Contest: Human Rights Activism that Inspires!

Prompt: In the legacy and spirit of Minoru Yasui's lifelong fight for justice and equality, what is an example of human rights activism that inspires you? Is there an individual, collective, organization, and/or community that has acted bravely and courageously? What human rights problem did they speak out about, or situation did they correct? And in doing so, how did they bring about positive change or give voice to their community?



Awards:

Senior Division, 9th - 12th grade 1st place: \$1000 2nd place: \$500

Junior Division, 5th - 8th grade. 1st place: \$500 2nd place: \$250

Educator Engagement Award, \$500

[Theme Book with Curriculum Resources!](#)

Contact: studentcontest@minoruyasuilegacy.org Entry Deadline: Mar. 1, 2025



Call for Artwork: Showcase of LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Work

The Oregon Queer History Collective is requesting submissions for all schools, all grade levels, and individual or group-based work to be shared on social media (with credit). Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis, so feel free to submit in 2025 as well! First names, pronouns, and student grade level are optional information to provide; school names will not be posted to protect student safety and privacy. Credit will always be given to scholar(s)/ author(s).

Submit through the [LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Work Submission Form](#).



**GAMES FOR CHANGE
STUDENT CHALLENGE**

Games for Change (G4C) Student Challenge 2025: Competition Now Open!

G4C Learn's flagship program, the G4C Student Challenge, is a game design competition that invites youth to create digital games inspired by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The program uses youth interest in video games to develop coding and digital design skills, as well as problem solving, collaboration, creativity, and other critical STEAM skills. The Challenge is also a platform for amplifying student voices, empowering young people to imagine creative solutions to social problems, and to see themselves as engaged citizens and changemakers.

[See site for competition rules, free curriculum, and submission details!](#)

Artist, Arts Organization and Partner Opportunities

Artist Residency Opportunity:



Wildfire + Water: Artists and Scientists Adapting to Change

PLAYA is proud to announce the call for applications for the second installment of our Wildfire + Water Themed Residency, this year titled [Wildfire + Water: Artists and Scientists Adapting to Change](#). This year-long immersive residency provides participants with an intimate understanding of some of the most critical environmental topics to Lake County, Oregon: wildfire and water.

Deadline for Applications: February 28, 2025. [Learn More and Apply Here](#)

Native Arts and Cultures Foundation LIFT Program Applications Open

The LIFT program lifts emerging artists with one-time awards of \$15,000 to support new projects, facilitate professional development, and positively impact Native communities. Recipients of this award also receive project management support, career advancement training, and increased visibility to elevate the impact of their projects.

Applications for LIFT are open now! Learn more and apply today:
nativeartsandcultures.org/programs/lift.

Application Deadline: Sunday, April 8, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific time.

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 Willamette Light Brigade | [Portland Winter Light Festival](#) | Friday, February 7 - Saturday, Feb 15, 2025 | Various Locations | Free | [See Site for Details](#)
 - Mass General Brigham McLean | [The Intersection of Mental Health & the Arts](#) | Tuesday, February 18 | 8 AM | Online | Free with Registration
 - The Kennedy Center | [Breathe, Relate, and Create! Utilizing Experimental Art to Rebuild Trust in the Classroom](#) | Session 1: Tue., Feb. 18, 4:30-6pm ET, Session 2: Tue., Feb. 25, 4:30-6pm ET | Online | \$20 | [See Site for Registration](#)
 - The Kennedy Center | [The Joy of Math through Modern Art](#) | Session 1: Tue., Mar. 4, 4:30-6pm ET, Session 2: Tue., Mar. 11, 4:30-6pm ET | Online | \$20 | [See Site for Registration](#)
 - The Kennedy Center | [Collaborate to Create: Supporting Youth with Disabilities in Developing Collaboration, Problem-Solving, & Art Skills by Simulating the Music Album Production Process](#) | Wed., Mar. 26, 2025 | 3:00-4:00 p.m. ET | Online | \$10 | [See Site for Registration](#)
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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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