



## SFCA Artists in the Schools Program FY2025

State arts agency announces school application period for 2025 Artists in the Schools program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2025

HONOLULU—The Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) applications for the Artists in the Schools program are open through March 30, 2025. This program provides quality arts experiences for Hawai'i's pre-K through 12 public and charter school students.

### About the Artists in the Schools (AITS) Program

AITS arts residency grants provide engaging, creative, and fun learning experiences based on the Fine Arts standards for all grade levels, through residencies with qualified, trained teaching artists from the Artistic Teaching Partners (ATP) Roster. Many of these teaching artists integrate their art form with other core curriculum areas, such as language arts, math, social studies, and science, meeting both Fine Arts and other core standards.

### Testimonials

**“The AITS program is a testament to the importance of arts education in developing well-rounded, resilient students who are prepared to succeed in all areas of life.”** - Komarey Moss, Moanalua Middle School, Principal

In a letter to state lawmakers, Moanalua Middle School Principal Komarey Moss said “Moanalua Middle School has been selected as a recipient of the Artists in the Schools (AITS) Grant for the 2024-2025/26 school year. This grant will allow us to collaborate with The Drama Crew and Michael Cowell on a project titled “Finding Your Bravery Through the Ensemble.” The project aims to empower our students by fostering creativity, confidence, and collaboration through the performing arts. The AITS program is a testament to the importance of arts education in developing well-rounded, resilient students who are prepared to succeed in all areas of life. We are immensely grateful for this opportunity and believe it will have a lasting impact on our students and the broader community. I want to take this moment to thank you for your ongoing dedication to education and the arts. The support of our state representatives is crucial in ensuring that programs like AITS continue to thrive, providing essential resources that enrich our students' learning experiences.”

**“Given our location and access, many South Kona students do not have extended learning and experiential opportunities, whether it is to attend camps, classes, or have consistent, meaningful interactions with our incredible community artists. This grant continues to afford our students those extended opportunities.”** - Momilani Kaehuaea, then-Konawaena High School, Vice Principal (Kaehuaea is currently Po’okumu at Ke Kula ‘O ‘Ehunuikaimalino School).

In a letter to state lawmakers, then-Konawaena High School Vice Principal Momilani Kaehuaea wrote “Given our location and access, many South Kona students do not have extended learning and experiential opportunities, whether it is to attend camps, classes, or have consistent, meaningful interactions with our incredible community artists. This grant continues to afford our students those extended opportunities. In addition to providing instruction on fine arts standards, it also provides/provided classroom teachers with a hands-on mentor to better teach the arts in their curriculum and definitely supports student emotional well-being.” (Kaehuaea is currently Po’okumu at Ke Kula ‘O ‘Ehunuikaimalino School).

**“The AITS residency was a transformative experience for the participating classroom teacher, offering both professional growth and a renewed passion for teaching.”** - Alston Albarado, Jefferson Elementary School, Enrichment Teacher

In the final report for Artists in the Schools 2023-2024/5, Jefferson Elementary School Enrichment Teacher Alston Albarado responded to a question about the most worthwhile aspect of the AITS residency for the participating classroom teachers: “The AITS residency was a transformative experience for the participating classroom teacher, offering both professional growth and a renewed passion for teaching. The most worthwhile aspect of the residency was witnessing the students’ exceptional artistic abilities and their genuine enthusiasm for creating art. This journey of discovery extended beyond the students, leaving a lasting impact on the teacher.”

## Program Scope

A residency consists of a minimum of 5 secondary or 8 elementary sessions by the teaching artist with the same core group of students. The learning experiences must support the Fine Arts Standards from the Department of Education Hawai’i Content and Performance Standards III. Teaching artists on the Artistic Teaching Partners Roster bring dance, drama/theatre, literary arts, mime, music, puppetry, and visual arts to the classroom in their arts residency.

## How to Apply

Applications for Artists in the Schools school years 2025-2026 and 2025-2027 are now open on [HawaiiGoSmart.org](https://hawaii.gov/smart). The deadline to apply is March 30, 2025. Applications are open to State of Hawai’i Department of Education (DOE) public and charter schools. Schools must apply with a teaching artist from the [SFCA Artistic Teaching Partners roster](#).

## Office Hours

Online video chat information sessions for school year 2025-2026/7:

- January 15, 1:00 p.m.
- February 11, 10:00 a.m.
- March 17, 2:00 p.m.

These information sessions are for Hawai’i public and charter schools interested in applying.

## Contact

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## About the SFCA

The Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) is Hawai‘i’s state government arts agency. Established in 1965 by the Hawai‘i State Legislature, through the vision and effort of Hawai‘i leaders, the creation of a state arts agency made Hawai‘i eligible to receive federal grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), newly established on September 29, 1965. The SFCA is administratively attached to the [Department of Accounting and General Services](#) and funded by the State of Hawai‘i and the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).

## About State Arts Agencies

State arts agencies were created by legislatures and governors to promote the arts and reduce barriers to cultural participation. Every state and U.S. jurisdiction has a designated arts agency, providing grants, services, and leadership that make the arts accessible to everyone. State arts agencies are funded through appropriations from state legislatures. State arts agencies also receive 40% of the federal grant dollars Congress provides to the National Endowment for the Arts.

Learn more about state arts agencies and regional arts agencies nationwide on the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies website: [NASAA-Arts.org/state-arts-agencies](http://NASAA-Arts.org/state-arts-agencies).