

Wednesday, July 2



Have you read [Introducing the Customized Arts Learning Toolkit](#), the latest post on ArtsEd Amplified? The post shares about the [Customized Arts Learning \(CAL\) toolkit](#) from the [State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education](#) (SEADAE). This new toolkit supports personalized learning in arts education. It also helps arts educators plan and implement strength-based instructional practices into their classrooms. The toolkit walks users through three steps: preparation, experience and conclusion. [Read more](#) to learn more about how you can adopt these steps into your classroom!

AI Pilot Programs in K-12 Settings

Education Commission of the States recently published [AI Pilot Programs in K-12 Settings](#). In the blogpost, guest author, Sam Comai, summarizes how states are engaging with artificial intelligence in education guidance. On top of the state-level information shared in the post, it also discusses challenges and disparities that can exist with AI in education:

"An [analysis](#) of data from the 2018 American Community Survey conducted for All4Ed highlights that 16.9 million children lack access to high-speed internet and connected devices at home. Low-income, historically

marginalized and rural students are more likely than others to face these barriers to access."

News From Our Partners and Affiliates

Grants for Arts Projects

The National Endowment for the Arts opened its **Grants for Arts Projects (GAP)** application process. GAP provides funding for public engagement with the arts and arts education. These grants integrate the arts by promoting the health and well-being of people and communities, and improving the overall capacity and capabilities within the arts sector. GAP welcomes applications from first-time and returning applicants; from organizations serving rural, urban, suburban and tribal communities of all sizes; and from organizations with small, medium or large operating budgets.

Part One **Grants.gov** submission deadline is **July 17**.

National Guild for Community Arts Education Advocacy Briefing

Join the **National Guild for Community Arts Education** on **July 10** for a special webinar. The 90-minute workshop is designed to demystify the process of creating a dedicated tax for arts and culture and support participants in beginning to design a campaign that meets their community's needs and political context. In the workshop, participants will:

- Learn about different types of public taxes that can fund arts and culture
- Examine real-life examples from cities that have implemented such taxes
- Understand the policy and organizing steps needed to launch a tax initiative
- Begin drafting their own campaign roadmap tailored to their local context
- Explore how these efforts can be leveraged for racial and economic justice in the cultural sector

News From the Field

SXSW EDU Applications Are Open

Session applications are currently open for the **2026 SXSW EDU Conference and Festival!** Are you looking to share your work in arts education? This year's focus areas are:

- Early Learning
- K-12 Education
- Higher Education
- Continuing Education
- Convergence

This year includes a **Performance session format** for sharing your experience and information. This can be a musical, theatrical, storytelling, dance, poetry or other performance that helps reflect on the value of the performing arts as a vehicle for deeper learning and offer takeaways for the audience.

Applications are due **July 27**.

Grantmakers for Education Benchmarking Report

Grantmakers for Education released its **Trends in Education Philanthropy: Benchmarking 2025**. This report provides a snapshot of how funders are responding to a rapidly changing sociopolitical and technological landscape. The report uplifts several trends, including:

- A growing commitment to early learning, literacy and holistic learner supports
- Increased funding for policy advocacy and narrative change work
- An increasingly positive perspective on the potential of artificial intelligence in education



Check out these ArtsEd Amplified posts to learn more about what our community is working on!

- **Introducing the Customized Arts Learning Toolkit** by SEADAE
- **Educating Ourselves About Childhood Arts Experiences** by Sunil Iyengar
- **An Easy Way to Bring Art & SEL Outcomes to Your Students** by Bethany Logan

Are you eager to share your work with others? **Submit your idea** for ArtsEd Amplified!

Events

- **National Forum on Education Policy** | Education Commission of the States, July 9-11, Salt Lake City, UT
 - **2025 AATE National Conference** | American Alliance for Theatre & Education, July 23-26, Cleveland, OH
 - **NDEO 2025 National Conference** | National Dance Education Organization, Detroit, MI, Oct. 4-6
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Career Opportunities

FYI: to support and encourage **sustainable hiring practices**, AEP only includes career opportunities that include a salary/compensation in the job posting.

Northeast

- **Executive Director** | Project STEP, Boston, MA
- **Chief of Arts and Culture** | City of Boston Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, Boston, MA
- **Director of Learning and Community Engagement** | Manhattan Theatre Club, New York City, NY
- **Manager – NDI Collaborative for Teaching & Learning** | National Dance Institute, New York City, NY

- **Executive Director** | Squeaky Wheel Media Arts Center, Buffalo, NY
- **Executive Director** | Theatre for a New Audience, New York City, NY

South

- **Director of Learning and Education Programs** | Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C.
- **Executive Director** | National Art Education Association, Alexandria, VA
- **Managing Director** | GableStage Theatre, Coral Gables, FL

West

- **Museum Educator** | Sun Valley Museum of Art, Ketchum, ID
- **Executive Director** | Spokane Symphony, Spokane, WA
- **Director of Education and Community Engagement** | Tucson Symphony Orchestra, Tucson, AZ
- **Arts and Culture Director** | City of Mesa, Mesa, AZ
- **Native Arts and Cultures Foundation** | Vice President of Community Impact, Portland, OR



#ArtsEdSearch | Did you know? This 2005 case study found the arts helped to make schools more student-centered and more effective in supporting students' academic, social and personal development. The study also found that arts education develops teachers' abilities to understand and relate to their students and teach more effectively. Read more about the study at <https://ow.ly/G0er50Wh0Uz>

Have news to share?

Please submit a 100-word summary via **email**.

The Arts Education Partnership is a national coalition of more than 200 education, arts, cultural, government, business and philanthropic organizations. AEP has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Department of Education since 1995 and is administered by Education Commission of the States.

AEP's efforts to build leadership capacity across the arts education field are also supported by The Hewlett Foundation and The Wallace Foundation.



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