



Investing in Leadership, Innovation & Learning

National Art Education Foundation

GRANT PROGRAM INFORMATION AND APPLICATION MATERIALS

For Project Year: July 1, 2027–June 30, 2028

NAEF Mission: The National Art Education Foundation (NAEF) invests in innovative initiatives to support instructional practice, research, and leadership in visual arts education.

Grant Applications will open August 15th, 2026. Submission deadline is October 1st, 2026

The applicants (whether funded and non-funded) will receive notification by provided email regarding their proposal by June 1, 2027.

About NAEF Grant Program

The National Art Education Foundation (NAEF) is an independent, philanthropic organization that supports a broad range of initiatives to advance visual arts education. These include funding for professional development, curriculum integration, innovative instructional models, teaching strategies, classroom resources, and research in the field.

Since its founding in 1985, NAEF has funded over 375 projects. It operates as a sister organization to the National Art Education Association (NAEA). NAEF shares NAEA's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion and encourages the submission of grant applications by all eligible NAEA members, especially those who are members of and/or teach in settings of historically marginalized groups.

Unsure which grant opportunities would fit your project? Let the following questions help navigate you.

Do you need professional development that will support your learning goals?

The Ruth Halvorsen Professional Development Grant awards up to \$3,000 to art educators whose proposals focus on the understanding and implementation of the National Visual Arts Standards*, aiming to improve the teaching of art. Applicants may apply for either a Halvorsen or Teacher Incentive Grant, not both.

Do you have a new curriculum project that will improve your teaching?

The Mary McMullan Grant provides up to \$3,000 for projects that promote art education, curriculum development, and enhance instruction at all educational levels in the U.S. Classroom based action research funding, areas include:

1. Curriculum Models
2. Pilot Projects
3. Policy Models

Are you seeking art equipment or instructional resources?

The SHIP Grant awards up to \$1,000 for proposals that request art equipment or instructional materials to improve teaching and support student learning, particularly in connection to the National Visual Arts Standards*. Equipment is defined as long term, non consumable. e.g. Art Display Panels, Pottery Wheel

Are you conducting classroom-based, action research?

The Teacher Incentive Grant awards up to \$3,000 to support research in areas such as instructional processes, curriculum development, student learning, assessment, classroom management, and other practices related to art education. Applicants may apply for either a Halvorsen or Teacher Incentive Grant, not both.

Are you engaged in scholarly research?

The NAEF Research Grant provides up to \$10,500 for in-depth research that advances knowledge in art education and demonstrates the impact of arts education on student learning through measurable outcomes. While projects are expected to be substantially completed within a year, additional funding may be considered to complete longer-term research. NAEA/NAEF retains the first right to publish and disseminate research findings.

*The NAEA National Visual Art Standards can be found [here](#).

NAEF Grant Application Guidelines

Eligibility

Applicants and Co-Applicants must:

- Be a current NAEA member for at least one year. For this grant cycle, be a member as of **October 1, 2025**, and maintain continuous membership through **October 1, 2026**.
- Have a valid **NAEA Member ID**.
- For group submissions, **each applicant must have an individual NAEA membership** for at least one year prior to applying.
- Belong to one of the following:
 - Individual NAEA membership (including students and retirees)
 - NAEA state/province associations
 - Recognized NAEA special issues groups

Note: Membership in a state/province association alone does not qualify.

Ineligibility

- Individuals whose NAEA membership lapsed between **October 1, 2025**, and **October 1, 2026**.
 - Non-members, nonprofit organizations, schools, after-school programs, universities, or institutions. *(NAEA members may apply as individuals, but not on behalf of an organization)*
 - Applicants submitting on behalf of their employer or organization.
 - Applicants related to current NAEF Board of Trustees members.
 - Individuals who have previously received an NAEF grant must wait three years before submitting a new application for the same grant category. (This means that once a person receives a grant from NAEF, they have to wait three years to apply for the same grant category again. However, they can still apply for another grant in a different category).
 - Any previous grant recipient who did not provide a final report is not eligible to apply for future NAEF grants until the reporting obligation is fulfilled.
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NAEF Does Not Fund

- Attendance to the NAEA National Conference, NAEA State Associations conferences or other Association conferences.
- Equipment not submitted under the SHIP grant category.

- Digital devices (e.g., tablets, cameras) over \$1,000 or used outside an artistic context.
- Computers (not eligible in any category)
- Professional development programs offered by NAEA. Contact NAEA for scholarships to the annual conference and other learning opportunities [here](#).
- Overhead or indirect costs.
- Conference hosting or publication production.
- Projects that begin before the grant award period (no retroactive funding).
- Funding is not provided for the pursuit of undergraduate or graduate degree programs.

Note: Applicants may apply for **either a Halvorsen or Teacher Incentive Grant**, even if for different projects. Submitting the same or overlapping proposal in multiple categories will disqualify all related applications.

Application Process

All applications are submitted via Google Forms. Paper submissions and other formats are not accepted.

- Please follow the instructions provided in the Google Form carefully to ensure your application is considered.
 - A link will be made available on the NAEF webpage when applications are open.
 - Carefully review all the different grant category-specific guidelines.
 - Missing information not submitted by the deadline will disqualify your application.
 - **Grant Applications will open August 15th, 2026. Submission deadline is October 1st, 2026**
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General Proposal Requirements and Information

- A **1–2 sentence project description** (used for promotional purposes if project is funded)
- A **clear, itemized budget** that:
 - Does not exceed grant limits
 - Breaks down major expenses
 - Rounds totals (e.g., \$2,400, not \$2,402.89)
 - Specifies how NAEF funds will be used (The fund request can cover the entire cost of the project as long as it doesn't exceed the maximum grant award amount)
 - Limits travel/materials to a minor portion
 - Includes matching funds if applicable (*not required but viewed favorably*) Proof of matching funds is required.
- A **project timeline** with clear dates and benchmarks.
- **Three professional references** (NAEF Trustees may not be used)
- If a **previous awardee**, include award year, category, amount, and project title at the top of your resume.

- For **research involving human subjects**, IRB approval and consent forms must be submitted before funds are released.
 - **Professional Goals**- How this grant will **help you** with your teaching, research or professional development.
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Application Information

When applying for a grant from NAEF, the following information is required for all grant applications regardless of which grant you apply for:

- Name
 - Address
 - City
 - State
 - Zip
 - Email
 - Phone Number
 - NAEA Membership Number
 - Amount Requested
 - Project Title
 - Project Description
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In addition to the above required information, each grant proposal will have specific criteria that will need to be answered. Please see each grant below to review specific criteria.

Ruth Halvorsen Professional Development Grant

Purpose: Supports individual art educators in pursuing professional development aligned with the National Visual Arts Standards.

Amount: Up to \$3,000

What's Funded: Tuition, travel, lodging, and materials for your own professional development.

Note: Cannot be used for attendance at NAEA National or State Association conventions or fund programs that provide professional development to others.

Ruth Halverson application will ask for the following information:

- Name of the organization, school or other entity providing the program/class/workshop/seminar.
- Dates, location, and name of program/class/workshop/seminar.
- Why this specific program/class/workshop/seminar.
- Your professional development goals.
- How will attending the program/class/workshop/seminar improve your teaching?
- How does the program support the National Visual Arts Standards?

- Budget explanation if applicable.

Required Materials to upload:

- Resume (3-page max; include previous NAEF grants)
- Program brochure
- Support letter from an administrator (on official letterhead with signature)
- Itemized budget

The Ruth Halvorsen Professional Development Grant will be reviewed on the following:

1. How clearly and effectively does the proposed professional development activity meet the purpose of the Ruth Halvorsen Professional Development Fund?
 2. Please rate the quality of the professional development program that the recipient would attend through this grant if funded.
 3. To what extent does it appear the proposed activity is appropriate for the background of the applicant?
 4. How appropriate and reasonable is the budget for the project?
 5. To what extent does it appear that the proposed professional development activity will enhance the art teaching of the applicant, i.e. How clear is the connection between the proposed professional development activity, the educator's work in the classroom, and the stated educator's goals to improve their teaching of art?
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Mary McMullan Grants

Purpose: Funds classroom-based or action research projects to improve art instruction in educational settings.

Amount: Up to \$3,000

What is Funded:

- Curriculum development (global, student-centered, pilot projects)
- Teacher training models
- Policy advocacy in art education

Notes: Example: Develop and pilot an integrated model with faculty from various disciplines, enhancing personal art methods teaching in general education and laying the groundwork for a new arts-integrated curriculum for elementary school teachers.

Mary McMullan application will ask for the following information:

- Problem/need statement
- Description of population served
- Professional development goals

- Teaching improvement goals
- Activities aligned to each goal
- Project timeline
- Anticipated benefits of project
- Budget explanation

Required Materials for upload:

- Resumes of key personnel (3-page limit)
- Support letter from an administrator (on official letterhead with signature)
- Itemized budget

Mary McMullan Grant will be reviewed on the following:

1. How effectively does the proposal describe the problem or need for the model or pilot program and indicate the way the proposal meets the purpose of the Mary McMullan Grant program?
2. How clearly articulated are the objectives of the proposed project as related to the program description and the goals of the McMullan Grant program?
3. How well does the timeline and sequence of the proposed activities relate to the purpose and objectives of the proposed model or pilot program?
4. How realistic is the budget that has been submitted for the proposed activity?
5. How qualified and prepared are both the educator applicant and the site (as evidenced by the resume and support letter) to plan and implement the proposed project?
6. To what extent does it appear this activity will have a positive impact on the curriculum and learning in the art form(s) by the student population to be served by this new model or pilot program?
7. To what extent does it appear that the proposed model or pilot program will be sustainable following the period of the grant so that it becomes an ongoing program?

* Action research is systematic reflective inquiry that is done by art educators working individually, or in collaboration with others, in schools, museums, community arts centers and those other locations in which art education occurs. Action research emphasizes discovering possible responses to problems and questions emerging within the setting in which the researcher is working. For more information go to *Action Research* by Eileen Ferrance at www.lab.brown.edu/pubs/themes_ed/act_research.pdf

NAEF Research Grants

Purpose: For research in art education that advances knowledge and explores scholarly topics, themes, issues, and trends in the field. Proposals may focus on the impact of arts education on student learning and should provide hard data to support the findings.

In prior years, applications would need to align with the NAEA Research Agenda. However, the NAEA Research Commission is creating a new Research Agenda which has yet to be fully launched. While awaiting the new Research

Agenda, NAEF is asking research grant applicants to identify the research topics or themes their proposal will address. To identify topics or themes, applicants' proposed research can draw upon references in literature or other scholarly sources which support the need to address these topics or themes. Additionally, applicants are asked to identify "key words" so that NAEF can support the compilation of a list of topics and themes in current research.

Amount: Maximum grant amount: **\$10,500.**

What is Funded: Research proposals addressing scholarly topics in art education. Proposals may focus on understanding the importance of arts education, identifying best practices, or collecting quantitative data.

Research Priorities:

- **Communities of Learners:** Proposals that create a community of both researchers and practitioners (arts educators working with learners in preK-12 settings). The proposal must include a methodology that blends research and practical applications.
 - *Researcher:* An arts educator conducting research without direct involvement.
 - *Practitioner:* An arts educator actively working in a preK-12 classroom, museum, or community setting.
- **Best Practices in Arts Education:** Proposals that identify best practices or explore the impact of arts education on student learning, particularly through quantitative data.

Notes: NAEF cannot fund a program. NAEF Research Grants fund the research only. It can be research about a program but NAEF cannot fund the program itself. *Example:* You want to create a Saturday program or other workshop and then you want to conduct "research" or an "evaluation". NAEF cannot fund anything about the program and the program timeline or budget should not be part of the Research Grant Proposal.

- Collaborative projects involving multiple researchers (2–3 NAEA members) are allowed, provided a lead researcher is identified. Applicants should specify the research topics or themes they will address and list keywords to help NAEF compile current research topics.
- Research priorities don't exclude other relevant proposals.
- NAEA/NAEF retains the rights to publish and disseminate research results.
- Matching funds from other sources are allowed but must be disclosed to NAEF. Proof of matching funds is required before release of NAEF funds.
- NAEF funds cannot be matched against other NAEF grants.
- A final accounting of NAEF fund usage is required upon project completion, typically within one year.
- The budget cannot include overhead costs. Payment to researchers or support personnel working directly on the project is allowed.

Research Grant application will ask for the following information:

- Nature of the Problem
- Connection to Scholarly Topics, themes and issues in the Visual Arts Education and Art Education Research
- Keywords to tag research

- Researcher(s)' Qualifications
- Research Hypothesis, Design, Methodology (no identifying information)
- Relationship to Existing Research (no identifying information)
- Data to be Collected (no identifying information)
- Data Analysis and Reporting (no identifying information)
- Timeline of Project
- Budget Explanation-Outline the requested funds and their intended use, including other funding sources (if applicable). The budget cannot include overhead costs. Payment to researchers or support personnel working directly on the project is allowed.
- References that will attest to the primary applicant's research qualifications. Will need to include name, job title and contact info. Do not use current NAEF Trustees.
- **IRB Status:** For research involving human subjects, provide the Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval and consent form prior to fund distribution. If approval is pending, submit as soon as received.

Required Materials for upload:

- Resumes of applicant (3-page max, including previous NAEF grants at the top)
- Resumes of key personnel
- Copies of previous research (published or unpublished)

Proposal Restrictions:

- Proposals for dissertations must align with NAEF's Research Agenda.
- Equipment purchases, conferences, indirect costs, or publication production will not be funded.
- Travel and materials costs are limited and must directly relate to the research.
- After-school programs or summer institutes for children or educators are not considered research; costs related to these activities cannot be included.
- Funding for non applicant personnel, such as research assistants and graduate students, should not exceed 50% of the total grant. If requesting funds for more than 50% of the total grant budget, justification must be provided.

The Research Grant will be reviewed on the following:

1. The extent to which the project addresses scholarly themes and issues in visual arts education and arts education research, and the purpose of the NAEF Research Grant program.
2. **Four parts:**
 - **How clear is the proposal relative to the nature of the problem to be investigated?**
 - **Does the proposal have a clearly identified research hypothesis?**
 - **How clear is the relationship between the proposed research to existing research in the field?**

- **To what degree and in what ways might this research proposal advance knowledge in the field of art education? (How valuable would this study be to the field of arts education?)**
- 3. How appropriate is the research design, methodology, data collection, data analysis, and reporting based on the nature of the problem to be investigated?
- 4. How well does the timeline provide for a systematic and efficient work schedule for the project?
- 5. To what extent is the proposed budget/resources appropriate and justified to support the project, including the availability of any additional matching funds?
- 6. How qualified and prepared are the key personnel (as evidenced by the resumes and previous research) to plan and implement the proposed project

SHIP GRANTS

Purpose: Supports the purchase of durable art equipment tied to student learning and the National Visual Arts Standards.

Amount: Up to \$1,000

What is Funded: Funding is for long-lasting equipment only, not consumables.

Notes: Examples: pottery wheel, art display panels

SHIP Grant application will ask for the following information:

- Problem/need statement
- Description of population served
- Professional development goals
- Project objectives
- Benefits to teaching and student learning
- Budget explanation

Required Materials for upload:

- Resume (3-page max; include previous NAEF grants)
- Key personnel resumes
- Support letter from an administrator (on official letterhead with signature)
- Detailed budget for equipment
- Equipment information/specs

The SHIP Grant will be reviewed on the following:

1. To what extent does the proposal indicate the ways it meets the purpose of the SHIP funding program?

2. How clear is the statement of need and the proposed project objectives?
 3. How realistic is the budget that has been submitted for the proposed activity?
 4. How qualified and prepared are both the educator applicant and the site (as evidenced by the resume and support letter) to plan and implement the proposed project designed to use the equipment or other resources that are proposed for purchase?
 5. To what extent does it appear this activity will have a positive impact on the curriculum and learning in the art form(s) by the student population to be served by this project?
 6. To what extent does it appear that the use of the equipment or other materials purchased will continue to be used by students beyond the grant period, i.e. is the equipment or resources to be acquired by the educator for personal use or provided to their school or other institution?
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Teacher Incentive Grants

Purpose: Supports classroom-based action research that enhances visual art instruction through improved practices.

Amount: Up to \$3,000

Note: May not be used for professional development institutes or conferences. You may not apply for both this and the Ruth Halvorsen Grant in the same cycle.

Teacher Incentive Grant application will ask for the following information:

- Problem/need statement
- Description of population served
- Professional development goals
- Teaching improvement goals
- Specific activities for each goal
- Project timeline
- Anticipated benefits
- Budget explanation

Required Materials for upload:

- Resume (3-page max; include previous NAEF grants)
- Key personnel resumes
- Support letter from an administrator (on official letterhead with signature)
- Itemized project budget

The Teacher Incentive Grant will be review on the following:

1. How effectively does the proposal describe the problem or need for the project and meets the purpose of the Teacher Incentive Grant program?
2. How clearly articulated are the objectives of the proposed project?
3. How well does the timeline and sequence of the proposed activities relate to the purpose and objectives of the proposed project? How realistic is the budget that has been submitted for the proposed activity?
4. How qualified and prepared are both the educator applicant and the site (as evidenced by the resume and support letter) to plan and implement the proposed project?
5. To what extent does it appear this activity will have a positive impact on the curriculum and learning in the art form(s) by the student population to be served by this new model or pilot program?
6. To what extent does it appear that the proposed project will enhance the art teaching of the applicant, i.e. how clear is the connection between the proposed project and the educators' work in the classroom?

GRANTS PROGRAM CALENDAR

Annual Guidelines Posted on NAEA website	On or before August 15
Application deadline	October 1 (11:59 pm ET)
Application review process by NAEF Trustees	October – March
NAEF Trustees Annual Meeting - recommendations regarding grant applications	March or April during NAEA Convention
Notification Regarding Awards (funded and not funded)	June 1
Project Begin/End	July 1 – June 30
Funding Released	Upon request on or after July 1 after meeting requirements for release of funds provided in award letter
Final Report Due	Within 30 days of project completion



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National Art Education Foundation Contact Information:

naef@naea.arteducators.org