



IDAHO COMMISSION ON THE ARTS STRATEGIC PLAN, FY 2025-2029 *FY 2025 Update*

MISSION

The Idaho Commission on the Arts (Arts Idaho) works to ensure that all Idahoans have access to the arts, arts education, and their cultural and artistic heritage. Established as a state agency by the Legislature in 1966, Arts Idaho is charged by state law to “stimulate and encourage throughout the state the study and presentation of the performing and fine arts and public interest and participation therein...” The agency must also “encourage and assist freedom of artistic expression essential to the well-being of the arts.”

Funded primarily by the state of Idaho and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency), Arts Idaho is both a service organization with a professional staff offering technical assistance and training, and a funding organization providing grants.

VISION

Arts Idaho envisions an Idaho:

- alive with creativity;
- where the arts are a basic part of every child’s formal education;
- where the arts are central to the lives of children and adults on a daily basis;
- that values its traditions and reveres its tradition-bearers; and
- that values its artists and the role they play in the quality of life of every community.

The agency is committed to:

- a system of grants, awards, programs and services that balances accountability with efficiency;
- a system of support for the arts that builds on and acts as a catalyst for private support; and
- providing Arts employees with the knowledge, skills, and resources to fulfill our mission of serving the state equitably and responsively.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

In FY 2025, Arts Idaho is conducting Strategic Plan Listening Sessions and surveys with constituents, working to understand opportunities and obstacles currently impacting the arts in every part of Idaho. The information collected from constituents will inform the agency’s next Strategic Plan, which will be launched in FY 2026. Arts Idaho anticipates that new priorities may emerge during the strategic planning process because the agency’s last strategic plan was launched in 2020, simultaneous with the emergence of COVID-19. While Idaho’s arts sector is recovering from the financial impact of the COVID-19, many artists and arts organizations have shifted their priorities and programming. Arts Idaho is eager to create a fresh strategic plan that responds to the new arts landscape in the state.

This current update of the Strategic Plan covers FY 2025– FY 2028, focusing on three goals:

- Expand resources for Idaho artists and arts organizations
- Expand the role of arts education in schools and communities
- Enhance the vitality of communities through public access to the arts

GOAL 1

EXPAND RESOURCES FOR IDAHO ARTISTS AND ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Arts Idaho grants support cultural enrichment, serving as catalysts for support of public programs and projects in the arts. Arts Idaho supports the Governor’s emphasis on rural prosperity, paying close attention to reaching underrepresented and underserved communities with reduced access to arts philanthropy.

OBJECTIVE 1.1

Streamline grant programs to provide clarity and ease for constituents

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 1.1.1: Reduce and coordinate application and reporting requirements, and panel review processes in the Public Programs in the Arts (PPA)/Entry Track (ET) grant programs.
- 1.1.2: Transition eligible college-based programs from Entry Track into Public Programs in the Arts (PPA), reducing their administrative burden to receive grants that support public programs in the arts.
- 1.1.3: Simplify project grants in the former Quick Funds grant program (now Quarterly Grants) by reducing the categories to two: Quick Projects for Organizations and Quick Projects for Individuals.
- 1.1.4: Separate Professional Development and Technical Assistance application categories in the former Quick Funds grant program (now Quarterly Grants) to establish a separate grant category for Professional Development and Consulting
- 1.1.5: Strengthen constituent connections to agency grant resources via communications channels.

OBJECTIVE 1.2

Identify, communicate, and facilitate outside funding opportunities

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 1.2.1: Identify and facilitate connections to other public sources of revenue.
- 1.2.2: Identify and facilitate connections to private sources of revenue.
- 1.2.3: Strengthen constituent connections to funding opportunities via communications channels.

OBJECTIVE 1.3

Increase the resiliency of artists and arts organizations to sustain efforts to create and deliver programs and services

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 1.3.1: Deliver organizational development services for arts organization leaders.
- 1.3.2: Deliver artist professional services to enhance artists' business skills and viability.
- 1.3.3: Convene practitioners in traditional trades and occupations to sustain their professions.
- 1.3.4: Deliver emergency preparedness-and-response information for arts administrators and artists.
- 1.3.5: Assist arts organizations to stabilize their cash flow.
- 1.3.6: Support organizations in their efforts to meet and exceed ADA/Section 504 compliance.

Benchmarks

- *Conduct review of grants processes and procedures with goal of streamlining and refining (each fiscal year)*
- *Develop a scoring rubric for management criteria. (refine in FY 2025)*
- *Simplify Quarterly Grants into two categories—Projects for Individuals and Projects for Organizations. (achieved)*
- *Identify and communicate external funding opportunities (ongoing)*
- *The agency and the Utah Division of Arts & Museums will identify further online multi-state convenings. (ongoing)*
- *The agency provides annual Master-to-Master convenings of practitioners in traditional trades and occupations. (annual)*
- *The agency will continue to review grant applications and reports for ADA/504 compliance and assist organizations with compliance-related issues. (each grant cycle)*

GOAL 2

EXPAND THE ROLE OF ARTS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES

Expand access to high-quality arts education opportunities for Idaho K-12 students, seniors, and special populations in school and community settings. Build the pedagogical portfolio of teaching artists and educators, to teach arts and other academic curricula through the creative process.

OBJECTIVE 2.1

Prepare Idaho teaching artists to engage in teacher-artist partnerships that employ the creative process in instruction that supports the K-12 curriculum

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 2.1.1: Convene teaching artists to determine their training requirements.
- 2.1.2: Identify and coordinate potential partners for whom teaching artist training assists the achievement of shared institutional goals.

OBJECTIVE 2.2

Deliver pre-service and in-service training opportunities to teachers to promote the use of the creative process in K-12 classroom instruction

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 2.2.1: Convene educators to determine their pre-service and in-service needs.
- 2.2.2: Identify and coordinate with partners for whom this training assists the achievement of shared institutional goals.

OBJECTIVE 2.3

Offer grants to support arts learning in schools and community settings

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 2.3.1: Review the Arts Education Project grant guidelines for effectiveness in achieving program goals. Adjust guidelines as necessary for future implementation.
- 2.3.2: Establish arts-in-education teaching artist residency support for Idaho schools, with administrative processes that are responsive to the unique fiscal and planning requirements of school-based applicants.

Benchmarks

- *Convene Idaho teaching artists to determine training needs, to implement in coordination with peer institutions. (FY26)*
- *convene the Arts Education Collective and survey the training needs of rostered Idaho teaching artists and new Idaho teaching artists. (FY26)*
- *meet with national peers to identify resources for teaching artist training. Coordinate with Idaho educational institutions and professional organizations of arts educators. Collaborate with the Idaho State Department of Education (ISDE) to develop a teaching artist training course (FY26)*
- *support teacher in-service training at the Idaho Art Educators Association and Idaho Music Educators Association annual conferences. (annual)*

GOAL 3

ENHANCE COMMUNITY VITALITY THROUGH PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE ARTS

Coordinate with cities and counties to cultivate place-based economic development and community revitalization through the identification, advancement, and retention of arts and culture assets. Provide technical assistance and resources to encourage and integrate asset-based cultural plans into city and county comprehensive plans.

OBJECTIVE 3.1

Facilitate community cultural planning for Idaho cities and counties

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 3.1.1: Identify the statutory planning requirements for cities and counties and the ways in which cultural planning may aid them to accomplish their planning goals.
- 3.1.2: Identify the appropriate roles for the agency to effectively facilitate cities' and counties' planning efforts.
- 3.1.3: Identify and promote incentives for city and county cultural planning.
- 3.1.4: Coordinate planning services with related partners.

OBJECTIVE 3.2

Expand arts opportunities for underrepresented, underserved communities

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 3.2.1: Emphasize funding and services in underrepresented and underserved communities.
- 3.2.2: Engage underrepresented and underserved communities through exploratory fieldwork, consultations with community leaders and experts, and intensive listening, all in support of the communities' creative traditions and cultural values.
- 3.2.3: Coordinate rural efforts with partners to enhance access to agency services.

OBJECTIVE 3.3

Promote the creative arts in human service and health and wellness settings

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 3.3.1: Identify and coordinate the creative arts therapy practitioners and arts professionals working at the intersection of arts and medicine in Idaho.
- 3.3.2: Identify the opportunities and barriers for the delivery of services by creative arts therapy practitioners and arts professionals working at the intersection of arts and medicine.
- 3.3.3: Identify and coordinate institutional health and human service opportunities to deliver creative arts therapies.

Benchmarks

- *Meet again with Idaho Department of Commerce leadership to further explore incentives for cultural planning in the grant review criteria for Community Development Block Grants. (FY26)*
- *With the new community development program director in place, reestablish the coordination between the agency and the Idaho Rural Partnership. (FY26)*
- *With full staffing, identify specific barriers to payment of creative arts therapy services with medical insurance and the therapeutic settings in which creative arts therapies may prove efficacious. (FY26)*