



ARTSSMARTS YOUTH CREATIVITY CHALLENGE FUND 2013-2014 PROJECT PROPOSALS APPLICATION GUIDELINES

About ArtsSmarts

ArtsSmarts is a national arts education charity that demonstrates the impact of the arts as a way of engaging K to 12 students in learning.

ArtsSmarts focuses on the development of six core competencies of successful arts-infused project-based learning: Creativity, Collaboration, Inclusiveness, Inquisitiveness, Expressiveness & Engagement.

From constructing a large multi-media visual arts installation piece after an inquiry about waste its impact on the environment to designing and painting sets for a play about bullying and then touring it to local schools, we're seeing hundreds of arts-based projects that matter to these students – they are successfully using the arts as a means to developing new and exciting knowledge.

We're changing the way that students learn and how teachers teach by unleashing creativity and accelerating the power of learning, resulting in increased student engagement and success in the classroom.

ArtsSmarts is a registered charity, number 80421 3551 RR0001

About the Youth Creativity Challenge Fund

With a contribution from the Department of Canadian Heritage's Youth Take Charge Program, the third round of this fund supports and celebrates a national series of youth-led ArtsSmarts projects that enable K to 12 students to explore any themes and or issues around their Heritage and Culture.

Applications will be accepted from all Canadian private and public schools and families who are home-schooling. If you are home schooling, we suggest that you collaborate with at least one other family in your community who is home-schooling.

The Youth Creativity Challenge fund will provide cash support of \$1,000 to \$5,000 per project.

Youth Creativity Challenge projects must engage at least one class and include at least one arts discipline and one curriculum subject matter. Youth Creativity Challenge projects can include multiple grades or the entire school.

ArtsSmarts Youth Creativity Challenge Fund Assessment Process

1. Applicants are expected to use the ArtsSmarts approach to teaching and learning to implement Youth Creativity Challenge Projects, whereby in this youth-led initiative, teachers, artists and students will work together in collaboration with students through a project-based method to engage in creative inquiry, focusing on the Big Question or Big Idea that may span many different subject areas of the curriculum, and where evaluation, assessment and documentation are an inherent part of the process.

Artists and Teachers new to ArtsSmarts and its approach will find it helpful to read the *ArtsSmarts Toolkit Module 2: For Teachers and Artists – Designing Your ArtsSmarts Project*. To order your *Toolkit*, contact ArtsSmarts at info@artssmarts.ca

2. Youth Creativity Challenge proposals are adjudicated by ArtsSmarts' Youth Committee, a Board directed volunteer group of grade 9 to 12 Canadian students who represent all regions across Canada.
3. This Committee is guided through its decision making by adult allies who represent Canada's education and creative community, and also ArtsSmarts' Youth Creativity Challenge Fund Coordinator.
4. The Youth Committee bases its assessment on the following criteria:
 - a. The degree to which the project explores issues of Culture and Heritage.
 - b. The strength of the youth voice throughout the proposal.
 - c. The strength of the inquiry question, the Big Question or Big Idea.
 - d. The success with which the project infuses the arts across a range of curricular areas – projects must include at least one arts discipline and one curriculum subject matter.
 - e. The success to which the project adheres to the ArtsSmarts approach to teaching and learning.
5. The funding decisions made by the Youth Committee are final and there is no appeal process.
6. The Youth Committee will not retroactively fund projects that are currently in progress or have been completed.
7. Successful projects will be notified and ArtsSmarts will issue a funding agreement that must be signed by the school Principal, the Lead Teacher and Lead Artist.
8. 70% of the funding is released upon ArtsSmarts receiving the original signed funding agreement by mail only (no faxes), with the balance of 30% released upon ArtsSmarts receiving an approved Youth Creativity Challenge Project Report.

ArtsSmarts Youth Creativity Challenge Fund Application Process

1. Interested schools must appoint a Lead Teacher, Lead Artist and Lead Student who will collaborate on the Youth Creativity Challenge project proposal. Please note that Elders and non-Elders who practice a traditional arts and/or crafts are considered artists.

2. Your project must include at least one whole grade, at least one artistic/traditional art discipline, and at least one curricular subject connection.
3. The Lead Teacher should then contact the ArtsSmarts' Youth Creativity Challenge Fund Coordinator Ava Markus at (416) 848-1882 x 116 or by email at amarkus@artssmarts.ca to express interest in the fund.
4. You will then be scheduled for a group information session which will be completed by teleconference at ArtsSmarts' expense. This information session will ensure that your application is strong and includes the themes stated in the assessment criteria – see *ArtsSmarts Youth Creativity Challenge Fund Assessment Process*.
5. Your Youth Creativity Challenge Fund Application must be submitted by the deadline – incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered – see the Youth Creativity Challenge Fund Deadlines below.
6. One copy of your completed Youth Creativity Challenge Fund Application, sections 1 to 6, must be sent by email to amarkus@artssmarts.ca no later than the application deadline – signatures not needed.
7. Another copy of your Youth Creativity Challenge Fund Application One, sections 1 to 6, must be sent by regular post, to be received no later than the application deadline, with the attachments in this list and the Declaration signed to:
Ava Markus
Project Coordinator
ArtsSmarts
340 Gerard Street East, Second Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5A 2G7
8. On your ArtsSmarts 2013-2014 Youth Creativity Challenge Fund project proposal, you will be asked to sign a Declaration that states that you understand that by submitting your proposal, all statements made in your application are true, and you are responsible for and understand the following:
 - The completed application form, sections 1 to 4 (incomplete Youth Creativity Challenge Fund proposals are not accepted).
 - The funding decisions made by the Youth Committee are final and there is no appeal process.
 - That ArtsSmarts does not retroactively fund projects that are currently in progress or have already been completed.
 - You will spend the entire amount you are granted.
 - As ArtsSmarts is accountable to its funder, the Department of Canadian Heritage's Youth Take Charge Program, if your actual Youth Creativity Challenge project expenses are less than your approved budget, you will need to account for the variance between the approved budget and our final budget.
 - As part of your final report, you will keep financial records and prove your expenses by providing original official receipts and/or invoices.

- Should you cancel the project after you have received the grant, you will immediately notify ArtsSmarts in writing and return the grant money in its entirety no later than 4 weeks after notification of cancellation.
- You will manage the Youth Creativity Challenge project within your school environment.
- You will ensure that project documentation is undertaken.
- You will complete the research component and ensure that, as per the Youth Creativity Challenge funder, the Department of Canadian Heritage's Youth Take Charge Program, all participating students, 13 or older, complete an on-line survey.
- You will adhere to all ArtsSmarts 2013-2014 Youth Creativity Challenge Fund deadlines.
- You will recognize ArtsSmarts, the Department of Canadian Heritage's Youth Take Charge Program, and other funders as required on all project material – details will be released should your application be successful.

9. Your project proposal must include the following original signatures:

- a. School Principal
- b. Lead Teacher
- c. Lead Artist
- d. Lead Student

2013-2014 YOUTH CREATIVITY CHALLENGE DEADLINES

Item	Deadlines
Accepting Applications	September 10 – November 15
YCC Information Sessions with ArtsSmarts	September 10 – November 1
Application Deadline	November 15
Signed copies of the YCC Contribution Agreement	December 13
Youth Creativity Challenge Projects Begin	January 6
Youth Creativity Challenge Projects Complete	March 21
Showcase the YCC project on ArtsSmarts Open, both during its progress and upon completion, and provide ArtsSmarts with the log-in and password information. Documentation includes written, photo, audio and/or video elements in addition to testimonials from Artists, Teachers, Students and, where possible, the Community.	January 6 – March 21
Final Project Reports Due: ArtsSmarts will provide you will all report forms and web site links upon receipt of this signed agreement.	April 4
2013-2014 Department of Canadian Heritage Youth Take Charge Program Post-Project Online Survey: To be completed by all students participating in your 2013-2014 YCC Project after it is completed.	April 4
YCC Project Awards for Best Realized YCC Project	May 1

For more information, contact
Ava Markus
Youth Creativity Challenge Fund Coordinator
416-848-1882 X 116
amarkus@artssmarts.ca