

Call for Participant School Districts

Arts-Based Creative Teaching Strategies Professional Development for Special Education Teachers

Application Deadline: March 20, 2019

*A Jean Kennedy Smith Arts and Disability Program
The Office of VSA and Accessibility at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts*

The Kennedy Center Office of VSA and Accessibility is seeking school districts from around the country to participate in a unique and new professional development program to train all special education teachers from a school district in Arts-Based Creative Teaching Strategies under the direction of MINDPOP from Austin, Texas.

Creative Teaching is an arts-based instructional approach to education. Teachers will learn instructional strategies—instructional frameworks—that can be used across grade level, curricula, and lesson cycle throughout the school year. These strategies ultimately give opportunities for students with disabilities to interact with their curricula through four arts disciplines. The goal for each strategy is to deepen critical and creative thinking, as evidenced by the research-basis behind each strategy.

- Learn how, when, and why to use the Arts-Based Creative Teaching Strategies.
- Discuss and determine how best to use accommodations embedded in the strategies to effectively support students receiving special education services.
- Generate strategy reflection questions to help students with disabilities process the cognitive, academic, and socio-emotional learning during the strategy.

Each participating school district will identify a team of two educators (special educator and master teaching artist/art specialist/arts leader) to become facilitators. These teams will be trained by MINDPOP to facilitate four modules of arts-based creative teaching strategies: music (A), drama (B), dance (C), and visual arts (D). Each module details the content of a three-hour workshop that the facilitation teams will deliver to special education teachers in their home school districts.

Sample Calendar for Participating School Districts

May 2019	Facilitator training (Modules A & B)	Austin, TX
May–June	Practice strategies with students	Home community
Aug–Sept	Teacher PD workshop (Module A)	Home community
September	Facilitator coaching session	Conference call
October	Facilitator tune-up	VSA Intersections Conference, Irvine, CA
November	Facilitator coaching session	Conference call
January 2020	Facilitator coaching session	Conference call
Jan–Feb	Teacher PD workshop (Module B)	Home community
February	Facilitator coaching session	Conference call
March	Facilitator training (Modules C & D)	Austin, TX
May–June	Practice strategies with students	Home Community

Aug-Sept	Teacher PD workshop (Module C)	Home Community
September	Facilitator coaching session	Conference call
October	Facilitator tune-up	VSA Intersections Conference
November	Facilitator coaching session	Conference call
January 2021	Facilitator coaching session	Conference call
Jan-Feb	Teacher PD workshop (Module D)	Home Community

Requirements

1. Commit to a two-year long cycle of training and implementation from May 2019 to February 2021.
2. Identify a two-person facilitation team consisting of 1 (one) master teaching artist, or arts specialist, or arts leader with experience delivering teacher professional development; and 1 (one) special education teacher who will collaborate during the entire two-year period.
3. Send the facilitation team to be trained by MINDPOP as facilitators of the Arts-Based Creative Teaching Strategies modules. This is a 12-hour training over two days in Austin, Texas in May 2019 and another in March 2020.
4. Send the facilitation team to tune-up meetings as part of the VSA Intersections: Arts and Special Education Conference in Irvine, California in October 2019 and the next conference in October 2020.
5. Allow facilitators to practice implementing strategies with students after each facilitation training and actively participate in bi-monthly coaching conference calls.
6. Organize and deliver a three-hour teacher professional development workshop led by the facilitation team for each of the four Arts-Based Creative Teaching Strategies module to all special education teachers in the school district.
7. Take part in reporting on participant data, program activities, outcomes, and impact at the end of each year of participation in the program.
8. School districts will acknowledge their participation in the program by using the required credit line and logo on all program-related materials and webpages.

Travel Award

Selected school districts will be awarded \$10,000 (\$5,000 per year of successful participation) to defray travel expenses to send the required two-person team to attend the facilitator trainings in Austin, Texas (May 2019, March 2020) and the facilitator tune-up meetings at the VSA Intersections Conferences (October 2019, October 2020). Payments will be made in two parts each year: after successful participation in the Austin training, and at the successful completion of the teacher training (including required reporting). Up to 10 awards are available.

Eligibility

1. Applicant must be a school district. Individual schools and individual teachers are not eligible to apply.
2. Interest in improving teaching practices in how to use the arts in the classroom for students with disabilities.

3. Committed to serving students with disabilities through the arts.
4. Are physically and programmatically accessible to individuals with disabilities, or are conducted in such that requests for accommodation, effective communication, or physical access shall be fulfilled.

How to Submit an Application

1. Applications must be submitted online at <https://thekennedycenter.smapply.io/prog/2019VSACreativeTeachingPD> by the submission deadline. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. The Kennedy Center is not responsible for any delays in transmission of applications via the Internet.
2. Information and materials submitted in connection with the proposal process will not be returned, will be treated confidentially, and will not be shared.
3. Application Submission Deadline: March 20, 2019, at 11:59 PM EDT.
4. Notification: Selected recipients will be notified by April 10, 2019.

Questions

Please direct questions about this opportunity to:

Stephanie Litvak
Office of VSA and Accessibility, The Kennedy Center
Tel: 202-416-8847, Email: sslitvak@kennedy-center.org

Review Criteria

- Quality and clarity of the application.
- Capacity to manage and execute the professional development of special education teachers in the home community.
- Qualifications of personnel involved.
- Additionally, the Kennedy Center will take into consideration the geographic range of applicants in order to support its objective of national breadth and education programming.

Application Form

1. General Information
 - a. Name of school district
 - b. Mailing address
 - c. Physical address (if different from above)
 - d. Website
2. Primary Contact for Application
 - a. Name
 - b. Title
 - c. Telephone
 - d. Email

3. Alternate Contact for Application
 - a. Name
 - b. Title
 - c. Telephone
 - d. Email
4. Number of special education teachers in school district
5. Number of special education students in school district
6. Why does your school district want to be selected for this professional development opportunity? What do you hope your school district will gain by participating in this opportunity? (200 words maximum)
7. Does your school district currently provide training of any kind to teachers on instructional techniques drawn from the arts?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. If yes, please describe briefly what you provide and to whom (200 words maximum)
8. Do special education teachers in your school district currently collaborate with master teaching artists, or arts specialists, or arts leaders to develop arts-based content for the classroom?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. If yes, please describe briefly (200 words maximum)
9. How will you deliver the Arts-Based Creative Teaching Strategies to special education teachers across your school district? What structures and processes will you use? (200 words maximum)
10. What are the proposed dates and locations of the school district-wide special education teacher professional development workshops? (200 words maximum)
11. Provide short biographies of the proposed facilitation team and key personnel who will administer or coordinate aspects of the professional development during the two-year period. (100 words per person maximum)
12. How did you hear about this opportunity
 - a. Outreach from the Kennedy Center
 - b. Outreach from MINDPOP
 - c. Word of mouth
 - d. VSA Network
 - e. Referral
 - f. Other (please specify): _____