Wyoming Arts Council
Strategic Planning Focus Group Agenda
Arts Education Focus Group
Date: September 14, 2026
Time: 4pm-5:30pm
Google Meet link: https://meet.google.com/zxj-kgom-ppr

Purpose

- Reflect on the Arts Council's role in nurturing and supporting the arts across the state.
- Highlight preliminary ideas from (earlier) stakeholder surveys and interviews. Consider and discuss the characteristics, feasibility, and likely impacts of implementing these ideas to guide future decisions.
- Strengthen positive working relationships across the arts sector.

Agenda

- Welcome and Grounding
    - Introduction of Arts Council staff/facilitator
    - Review of meeting norms (listed below)
- Brief overview of initial findings from Public Engagement Survey
    - Uneven access to arts education opportunities across the state, particularly in rural communities.
    - Interest in stronger connections between young people and artists through mentorship, residencies, internships, and exposure to creative careers.
    - A desire for stronger connections between the WAC, schools, educators, and existing arts education networks.
- Drilling Down
    - Topics for discussion
        - Continuing successful efforts like YAC, continuing to promote these and make them accessible to many.
        - Expanding partnerships with educators and institutions including:
            - Connecting artists with K–12 districts/classrooms, and teachers + colleges and universities.
            - Expanding artist residencies in schools

        - Working with student council advisors and art educators
        - Supporting mentorship between older and younger artists
        - Increasing arts education opportunities for youth during school and during the summer.
    - Advocacy and state-level coordination
        - Collaborating with the Wyoming Department of Education and Wyoming Education Association
        - Advocating for stronger arts education in school curricula.
    - Expanding mentorship and career development (artistic and business skills to make a career in the arts).
- Questions to consider
    - What does WAC need to better understand about that challenge/need?
    - What might doing better look like?
    - What challenges might we see with that? How might we navigate those?
    - What difference might it make if we were able to do that thing well? Who/what would likely change if we did this?
    - What level of impact could we reasonably expect in 1-5 years?

- Discussion of next steps in the Arts Council's planning process
    - Are there any immediate action items?
- Closing remarks

Norms



Listen to learn. Assume that everyone has valuable information to contribute. Approach differences with curiosity.



Balance participation. To benefit from the group's collective wisdom, work to ensure you're hearing from everyone.



Do the work in the room. The group will do its best work with all voices and ideas actively engaged. If something needs to be said, say it!



Use a helicopter view. Often, the small details AND the big picture are equally important in finding a path forward. Try to move fluidly, like a helicopter, to get the benefit of both.



Manage your technology. Consider how you can best limit your distractions to be most fully present and engaged.



Be hard on the problems but easy on the people. Everyone is working extremely hard and bringing their best selves to the work.