Wyoming Arts Council
Strategic Planning Focus Group Agenda
Grants Focus Group
Date: September 16, 2026
Time: Noon- 1:30pm
Google Meet link: meet.google.com/tph-pqre-ono

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
    - Expand direct funding for Individual artists.
    - Increase public awareness of funding opportunities.
    - Additional support to help artists and organizations successfully pursue funding.
- Drilling Down
    - Topics for discussion
        - Difficulties with finding, completing, and reporting grants and a request for technical assistance with these challenges.
        - Burdensome reporting obligations associated with some grants.
        - A hope to strengthen and support local arts organizations through a granting lens.
    - 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.