

### 3.4 Provide an Arts and Culture Program for Youth

15 Points

20 Points

#### Action Updates

This action has been revised for the **current certification cycle**. A version of this action from the prior program year is [available for comparison](#). Edits are highlighted in yellow. (Last update 2020)

#### Objective

Through collaboration between community partners and the municipality, plan for and implement new arts and culture programs for youth.

#### What to Do

If you collaborate with other municipalities or other stakeholders to implement this Action, please describe the partnership in the “partners” box of your submission. Please also consult this [guidance document](#) to help your municipality earn points for actions pursued in partnership. Regional collaboration and other forms of partnership are highly encouraged.

#### 1. Provide an arts and culture program for youth. (15 points)

*All elements must be completed to receive credit.*

**a.** Inventory what is currently offered in the school system and after school, and what has been done historically (go as far back as is appropriate for your community).

**Submit:** Completed inventory.

**b.** Convene a diverse selection of community representatives for a round table discussion about connecting to the town’s youth (aged K-12, may select any particular age group within this range). (Might include Boy and Girl Scouts, boys/girls clubs, service organizations such as Lions and Rotary, PTO/PTAs, religious communities, after school programs, sports programs, local librarians, and arts services providers. Take care to ensure that contributors do not have exclusionary practices). Include youth voices, artists, and culture bearers in the conversation. Develop a list of recommended steps.

**Submit:** Date of the stakeholder meeting, and the list of recommended steps developed.

**c.** Using the inventory, create an education program that includes the recommended steps developed in the stakeholder meeting. Identify which entity will implement each recommended step.

**Submit:** Description of the educational program, including how the inventory and recommended steps developed during the stakeholder meeting were incorporated.

**d.** Establish an implementation plan, including a timetable. Describe the budget and funding source to implement the program.

**Submit:** Copy of the plan, timetable, budget and proof of funding source.

**e. Optional:** If the arts and culture program is undertaken, have at least one staff person from the lead organization attend a professional development session prior to implementing the program. The training may be identified by the entity, and may be a webinar or in-person event. The training must relate to arts and youth **(5 points)**.

**Submit:** Name of lead organization, description and date of training session, including a description of why it was relevant.

## Credit for Past Action

For spring certification, count back from February 1st of the current year. For fall certification, count back from August 1st of the current year. For further clarification on determining if your prior work is eligible to earn points, [click here](#).

- The arts program must have been completed within the past year.

## Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Staff from the following municipal departments could be helpful in implementing this action: parks and recreation, library, and Board of Education.

In addition, the following committees, community groups or agencies could help implement this action: individuals interested in arts and culture, PTO/PTA members, curriculum leaders, arts and non-arts teachers, parents, students, community organizations, faith leaders, local librarians, etc.

## Funding

Below are potential funding sources specific to this Action. For a complete listing of potential funding opportunities to assist with implementing Sustainable CT Actions, please visit the [Sustainable CT Grants Portal](#), which is searchable by Action. Please also visit the [Sustainable CT Resources for Certification](#) page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

- [Urban Act Grant Program](#)
- [Municipal Grant Program \(MGP\)](#)
- [2020 Sustainable CT Community Match Fund](#)
- [Supporting Arts Grant Program](#)
- CT Department of Community and Economic Development, [Arts Learning Grants \(pending\)](#)

## Resources

### *Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents, General Information*

- [YouthARTS](#)
- National Guild for Community Arts Education, ["Engaging Adolescents Building Youth Participation in the Arts"](#)
- Americans for the Arts, ["Training and Professional Development"](#)

### *Organizations and Relevant Programs*

- CT Department of Economic and Community Development, [Office of the Arts](#)
- [Higher Order Thinking Schools Program](#)
- [National Guild for Community Arts Education](#)
- [Americans for the Arts](#)
- [Designated Regional Service Organizations](#)

## Benefits

Celebrating arts and culture is essential to educating the 'whole child.' By finding the middle ground between cultural groups in a friendly and supportive setting, you support understanding that can alleviate community stress. Arts and heritage celebrations foster a sense of community and personal pride, and are often a meeting ground between generations. The conversations that arise in these events often support other partnerships between the school and the community.

According to the CT Department of Economic and Community Development's Office of the Arts, the arts are integral to building and unifying our communities, "63% believe the arts lift them up beyond everyday experiences; 73% believe the arts are a positive experience in a troubled world; 62% believe that the arts help them understand other cultures better; and 67% believe the arts unify their communities regardless of age, race, and ethnicity."

### **CT Success Stories**

- Hartford, CT: ["Out-of-School Art Programs"](#)