## 4.4 Provide an Arts and Culture Program for Youth

20 Points 25 Points

### Action Updates

This action was last updated in 2024. The previous version of this action is available for comparison. Edits are highlighted in yellow.

### Objective

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

### What to Do

1. Provide an arts and culture program for youth. **(20 points)** If this process was completed more than three years ago, please include in your submission a brief description of how it is still relevant and used by your municipality.

   *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:** Your completed inventory.

   **b.** Convene a diverse selection of community representatives for a round table discussion about connecting to the town's youth to create an arts and culture program for youth (aged K-12, may select any particular age group within this range). Stakeholders might include 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 needed to establish an arts and culture program for youth.

   **Submit:** The 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:** A 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:** A copy of the plan, timetable, budget and proof of funding source.

2. **Optional:** If sub-action 4.4.1 is successfully 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. The training must have taken place in the last three years. **(5 points)**

**Submit:** The name of lead organization, description and date of training session, including a description of why it was relevant. ***Note:*** Submission materials for steps a-d of 4.4.1 must also be submitted.

## Engaging Partners

Sustainable CT encourages regional collaboration and other forms of partnership. For every action, please complete the "Partners" box in your submission, indicating the name(s) of any municipalities and/or organizations you partnered with (if any) and a brief description of your municipality's role. If you collaborate with other municipalities, each community will receive points. For additional information, please see the "Partners Guidance Document".

## 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

If available, 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 Support for Your Town page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

- Urban Act Grant Program
- Sustainable CT Community Match Fund
- State Funding Readiness Project

- CT Department of Community and Economic Development, Arts Funding Opportunities

## 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
- 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

- Lyme - May 2022 Certification
- Vernon - May 2025 Certification