

III. Federal Funds

B. 2025 ICfL Employee Engagement Survey Results



2025 Summary Report

14 libraries **20 teaching artists** **178 students**
324 community members



Watercolor students at Ada Community Library in Star, ID

In 2025, the Idaho Commission for Libraries officially launched the [Creative Aging Grant](#) to support arts-based programs in Idaho libraries and enhance the mental and physical health of older adults. Thanks to strong partnerships, the grant expanded from three libraries in its pilot year (2024) to 14 libraries in 2025.

Libraries received \$2,000 to run either two 4-week workshops or one 6- to 8-week workshop. Workshops took place between March and October.

14 Awardee Libraries

- Ada Community Library
- Coeur d'Alene Public Library
- Donnelly Public Library
- Elk River Free Library District
- Garden City Public Library
- Garden Valley Free District Library
- Gooding Public Library
- Hagerman Public Library
- Idaho Falls Public Library
- Lewiston City Library
- Mackay Library District
- McCall Public Library
- Nampa Public Library
- Oneida County Library

**Supported
programming
for 178 older
adults**

Workshops

- Watercolor
- Color Pencil
- Pastels
- Pottery
- Wood carving
- Printmaking
- Decoupage
- Piano
- Edible Art
- Drawing
- 3D design
- Painting

**Forged collaborative
connections between
14 libraries and
20 teachings artists**

Professional Development

Each library participated in six hours of professional development with Lifetime Arts, a nationally renowned partner. Lifetime Arts provided the training for free, a value of \$11,200, allowing more funds to support programming in libraries. The training, based on research and practical tools, was completed by:

- 16 library staff, 100% agreed or strongly agreed that the training was helpful and 85% strongly agreed that what they learned will improve library services
- Six state agency staff across four agencies
- Six teaching artists



"It's Never Too Late Recital" at Idaho Falls Public Library

67% of students strongly agreeing they are more aware of library services and resources

Partnerships



This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, LS-259172-OLS-25.



The Idaho Commission on the Arts (Arts Idaho) contributed \$8,000 of the total \$28,000 awarded and assisted libraries in connecting with teaching artists.

20% increase in students strongly agreeing with statement "I feel connected to my community"

38% increase in students strongly agreeing with statement "I have confidence in my art-making skills"

Supporting Idaho's Economy and Workforce

The Creative Aging grant created opportunities to support a variety of workers in Idaho through purchasing supplies from local retailers and hiring local teaching artists. Here is how libraries used the grant funding:

	Total Expenditures For All Libraries	Example
Supplies/Materials	\$11,453.37	Art supplies (painting, printmaking, carving tools, etc.), many of which can be reused for future programs
Consultant/ Teaching-Artist Fees	\$16,470.65	20 teaching artists provided 199 hours of instruction to 178 older adults
Professional Services	\$1,420	Hiring a professional piano tuner
Marketing/Promotion	\$530	Paying for a targeted ad on Facebook

Stories of Creative Aging in Idaho

"I liked the Senior Center partnership idea, and they were very eager, supportive and generous with their space. I would like to partner with them again in the future, and this was a good bridge-building experience with them."

"This group would often recommend books to one another and having the library at my fingertips I would have their recommendations ready for them the following week. The books being recommended were about thinking artistically, watercolor basics, and color theory."

"One participant has made plans to set up a printmaking studio in her home with the other participants so that everyone can continue their work in printmaking."

From a story about a student undergoing cancer treatment: "Her fellow students rallied together to finish her pottery pieces, ensuring her work could still be displayed alongside theirs ... they also made plans to deliver the finished pieces to her so she could feel included in the (culminating) celebration. This act of kindness demonstrated the deep bonds that had formed within the group, showing how these workshops go beyond art instruction; they build community and create lasting connections."

Future Plans:

- The ICfL will offer the grant again in 2026.
- A Creative Aging Directory of teaching artists and sites will launch in early 2026.

- Arts Idaho is investigating supply discounts for teaching artists.
- Arts Idaho is developing alternative learning opportunities for teaching artists.