



Advancing Creative Aging in the Western States

SEEKING HOST LIBRARIES FOR ART WORKSHOPS FOR OLDER ADULTS

The Idaho Commission on the Arts (Arts Idaho), in partnership with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, is seeking five host libraries for hands-on, artist-led workshops geared toward serving older adults.

Arts Idaho will connect partner libraries with funding and teaching artists to provide hands-on classes in your community. Library partners will promote the classes and provide the space and a staff member to help facilitate.

How will these workshops be funded?

Costs for these workshops are fully funded by Lifetime Arts, a national nonprofit leader in creative aging, as part of the Advancing Creative Aging in Western States Initiative.

What is the timeline for this project? What would our library be responsible for?

Planning and coaching will take place in fall of 2023 (Sept.-Nov.), with workshops underway in winter and spring of 2024 (Dec.-May). Your library would be responsible for choosing an artistic focus, scheduling workshops, handling registration, and engaging in at least 3 hours of remote coaching.

What artistic disciplines are available?

Creative workshops can take many forms. You might choose to offer literary arts including poetry, memoir, or storytelling; music such as choir or percussion; visual arts such as watercolor or photography; or performing arts like dance or theater. Arts Idaho staff can help match your organization with a teaching artist who can launch a new workshop series or enhance a program that already exists in your library.

What is a teaching artist?

A teaching artist is both a professional artist and an arts educator. Teaching artists are paid a living wage commensurate with their expertise for curriculum planning and teaching work. Teaching artists can provide engaging and hands-on artistic experiences tailored to the needs and goals of your patrons. Arts Idaho will help libraries find the right teaching artist.

The arts are good for you!

With his 2006 landmark publication "The Creativity and Aging Study: The Impact of Professionally Conducted Cultural Programs on Older Adults," Gene D. Cohen, M.D., Ph.D., demonstrated that participation in activities that foster creative engagement and skills mastery in a social environment has positive psychological, physical and emotional health benefits for older adults. Artist-led learning can make a positive impact on the older adults you already serve.*

Interested? Contact Laura.Roghaar@Arts.Idaho.Gov

We welcome a chance to explore whether hosting a workshop in your library. Please contact Arts Learning Services Director Laura Roghaar at laura.roghaar@arts.idaho.gov to start the conversation.

*Source: [Lifetime Arts](#)