



Summer 2023 Call for Proposals

Lymes Creative Arts is offering mini-grants of up to \$1000 plus materials to instructors providing hands-on arts opportunities to Lyme and Old Lyme teens this summer

Proposals due April 3, 2023

Programming must occur between June 20 and August 20, 2023

Background

Lymes Creative Arts is a collaborative effort of Lymes Youth Service Bureau, Sustainable Lyme, and Sustainable Old Lyme offering affordable and accessible creative arts programming for middle school and high school residents of the two towns.

The initiative, now in its third season, is designed to reduce barriers to participation such as access to program options, time availability, and financial hardship. Past programming has included an outdoor arts studio and workshops such as a Caricature, Paint Pouring, and Learning the Ukulele. Summer 2022 programs can be found at <https://lysb.org/TeenArts>. Lymes Creative Arts has also partnered with organizations in the two towns to present or promote additional programs, including Lyme-Old Lyme Public Schools, the towns' public libraries, Music Now Foundation, Lyme Art Association, Lyme Academy of Fine Arts, and Lyme Parks & Recreation.

The teen arts initiative began in 2021 with a survey of middle and high school students in the two towns to learn what arts and music programming interested them, what they currently participated in, and why they may not participate in programs of potential interest. Forty percent of respondents replied they didn't know how to find arts programming they would be interested in, 33% felt they were not talented enough to pursue the creative arts they were interested in, and 15% felt their family could not afford outside-of-school arts programming. The initiative also convened a youth advisory forum to further design the program.

Program Goals

Based on the survey and forum input, the LCA developed the following goals

- Low or no-cost programming so middle and high school students of all socio-economic backgrounds can participate
- Programs provide students transformative ways to manage stress through artistic expression
- A selection of programs in a variety of media
- Offered at a variety of times and weeks during the summer
- Low-stress offerings among the mix
- Individual artistic expression is celebrated and not compared to others' progress
- Programs offered by young adults when possible
- Beginners embraced and offered opportunities to feel confident
- Programs marketed to students directly as well as to parents

Funding

Programming for 2023 and 2024 is supported by a grant from the Town of Old Lyme's American Rescue Plan distributions and the Town of Lyme, ensuring Lymes' Creative Arts can continue to support young adults as they address a changing world following the pandemic.

New Programming Proposals

Lymes Creative Arts is accepting Summer 2023 programming proposals that help young adults consider hands-on art-making as a way to enrich their lives and find fulfillment in artistic expression.

Priority programs include:

- Visual Arts: Such as drawing, painting, sculpture, photography
- Craft making: Such as pottery, textile art, woodworking
- Literary Arts: Such as creative writing, journaling, poetry
- Performing Arts: Such as music, dance, songwriting, theater

With funding from the American Rescue Plan, programming must be affordable (either free of charge to the student or a small nominal fee), easy to participate in (materials provided, all skill levels), and take place in Old Lyme and Lyme so that transportation is not an issue. Instructors are paid a stipend and materials for student participation are considered separately. Lymes Creative Arts is prepared to help instructors find a suitable location for workshops and classes in Lyme/Old Lyme if needed. The review panel is comprised of the three sponsoring organizations.

Important Dates

- Proposals Due: April 3, 2023
- Panel Review: April 4-April 17, 2023
- Programming Announced: April 17, 2023
- Program Window: June 20-August 20
- Evaluation Period: August-September 2023

Submit Proposals by email to:

Mary Seidner, Executive Director
Lymes' Youth Service Bureau
Email: mseidner@lysb.org