



## Summer 2024 Call for Proposals

**Lymes Creative Arts is offering mini-grants of up to \$1,000 plus materials to instructors providing hands-on arts opportunities to Lyme and Old Lyme teens this summer**

*Proposals due February 16, 2024*

*Programming must occur between June 20 and August 20, 2024*

*Application available at [www.lysb.org/teenarts](http://www.lysb.org/teenarts)*

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

The initiative, now in its fourth season, is designed to reduce barriers to participation in arts programs such as access, time availability, and financial hardship. Past programming has included an outdoor art studio and workshops such as a Caricature, Paint Pouring, and Learning the Ukulele. 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. Summer 2023 programs can be found at <https://lysb.org/TeenArts>.

### **New Programming Proposals**

Lymes Creative Arts is accepting Summer 2024 programming proposals that help young adults consider hands-on artmaking 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

Projects will be funded with instructor stipends of up to \$1,000 for multi-session programs, and up to \$500 for single-day programs. LCA reserves the right to award stipends based on program length / number of students served.

### **Background**

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. Many indicated that they

didn't know how to find arts programming, they were not talented enough to pursue the creative arts they were interested in, or their family could not afford outside-of-school arts programming. Lymes Creative Arts convened a youth advisor group and worked with them to design the program.

### **Program Goals**

Based on the survey and forum input, 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 with transformative ways to manage stress through artistic expression
- A selection of programs in a variety of media
- Programs 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.

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 based on the number of sessions and number of students served. Workshop materials are considered separately. Lymes Creative Arts will help instructors find a suitable location if needed. Applications will be reviewed by a panel comprised of the three sponsoring organizations.

### **Important Dates**

- Proposals Due: February 16, 2024
- Panel Review: February 17-March 10, 2024
- Artists Notified, Letter of Agreement Provided: March 15, 2024
- Letter of Agreements Due: March 22, 2024
- Participant Registration opens: April 1, 2024
- Program Window: June 20-August 20
- Evaluation Period: August-September 2024

**To Submit Proposals: Complete the application posted at [www.lysb.org/teenarts](http://www.lysb.org/teenarts):**

**Return the application by email to:**

Mary Seidner, Executive Director

Lymes' Youth Service Bureau

Email: [mseidner@lysb.org](mailto:mseidner@lysb.org)