



Arts + Tech

WMCAT Daytime Studios Mini-Grant

Overview + Application Guidelines

Overview

The WMCAT Daytime Studios Mini-Grant is a partnership between the West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology (WMCAT) and the Grand Rapids Public School District (GRPS). The Mini-Grant is a competitive grant program for middle school educators seeking to enhance their classroom curriculum with experiences in WMCAT's Arts + Tech studios. Studio experiences include: graphic design, video production, fashion design, music production, video game design, photography and ceramics. Grants will provide 6 - 8 middle school classrooms (max 30 students per class) with a customized, two-day experience in two WMCAT studios led by professional teaching artists. Each day will last 3 hours, providing total contact time of 6 hours per student. The experiences are created to help educators meet academic content standards.

About WMCAT

Arts + Tech at the West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology (WMCAT) includes the [nationally-recognized](#) Teen Arts + Tech program, a creative, tuition-free afterschool experience that engages high school students from GRPS, Daytime Studios available to any school in the region, and programmatic art opportunities for adults aged 55 or better through Creative Aging. WMCAT's mission is to provide a culture of opportunity for people to make social and economic progress in their lives and communities. WMCAT fulfills its mission through visual arts and tech engagement, workforce development and social enterprises. Learn more about WMCAT at wmcats.org.

Below is one educator's experience with WMCAT's Daytime Studios program:

"The experience that students had at WMCAT was incredible. Students were able to explore the concept of thermal and solar energy through their interests with hands-on activities. WMCAT provided opportunities for students to dive deeper into solar energy and truly have a better understanding of solar energy. I am astonished about how much students gained from this program through knowledge learned and skills acquired. Students were able to learn graphic design skills, music production skills, video production skills, etc."

"WMCAT provided my students with opportunities that they wouldn't be able to experience in a traditional school setting. Students really enjoyed the experience and had very positive feedback about the program. After participating in this program, students were able to express themselves through more creative outlets, as well as gained confidence in their learning. Students were proud of themselves and proud of their work. I was impressed with WMCAT staff as they went above and beyond to make this experience memorable and meaningful for students. They made sure the lessons were fun and engaging, yet covered the concepts that we requested."

Studio Experiences

All options for Arts + Tech studios through the Mini-Grant can be found on the “WMCAT Daytime Studios” document that lists the studio experiences as a part of this packet. It can also be found digitally at bit.ly/wmcatstudiosmenu. This menu shares the opportunities available to each educator and their class.

Eligibility

1. Faculty and staff working with 6th- 8th graders in the GRPS district.
2. Daytime studios (two days) must happen between February 2020 – May 2020. They do not need to be consecutive days.
3. The proposed activities at WMCAT are connected to content area objectives.
4. Class size must not exceed 30 students.
5. Transportation must be provided by each school.

Deadline

Submit the Google Form Application by **11:59pm EST, December 6, 2019**.

WMCAT Daytime Studios Mini-Grant Application: bit.ly/wmcatgrant

Criteria

The criteria below contributes to a competitive application:

- Alignment between proposed academic content objectives and WMCAT’s capacity/availability (based on the options available at bit.ly/wmcatstudiosmenu or the printed version) to meet the proposed objectives - **25 points**
- How would your students uniquely benefit from an experience at WMCAT? - **15 points**

TOTAL – 40 points

WMCAT staff and professional teaching artists will review applications for criteria in all areas listed above and will score based on the completeness of the application.

Geographic location of the school will also be considered to ensure equal access to the Mini-Grant for all GRPS students and educators. Grantees will be chosen within a region of the district (not per school). The regions are as follows within the district: NE, NW, SE, SW.

Submit an application on -time. *The deadline for proposals is 11:59pm EST, December 6, 2019.* Applicants will be notified by December 20, 2019 of their award status.

Grantee Responsibilities and Requirements

1. The grantee educator will be required to meet with WMCAT staff and/or teaching artists prior to the two-day experience. The one-hour meeting will prep both sides and discuss alignment between curriculum while in WMCAT’s Arts + Tech studios. All projects will meet GRPS program standards.
2. Following the initial WMCAT/grantee educator meeting, the grantee educator will need to host WMCAT staff and/or teaching artists in their classroom for a half hour “meet and greet” with

students prior to the two-day experience. This time will be spent preparing students together for their experience at WMCAT.

3. Each grantee educator (or their school) will need to coordinate and pay for transportation to and from WMCAT for both days. WMCAT is located on Grand Rapids' Westside at 614 First St. NW, Suite 300, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

Contact WMCAT

General Questions

Please direct all questions to Mike Saunders at WMCAT, 616-454-7004 or email mike@wmcats.org.

Studio Experiences

If you are seeking an experience that exceeds the two-day timeframe, please contact Mike Saunders at mike@wmcats.org to discuss options.