



2026 *How Are You Creative?* Ambassadors Program Call for Applications

Program Overview

How Are You Creative? (HAYC?) supports collective approaches to teaching and learning in and through arts and cultures in Alaska with the intention of weaving networks, aligning policies and increasing involvement in Alaska arts and cultures. HAYC? focuses on the following:

- developing outlets to share the value of, and potential for, how creative experiences bring people together;
- discovering ways that teaching and learning in and through the arts and cultures in Alaska support individual, community, and statewide efforts to grow healthy, innovative, and resilient communities.

The *How Are You Creative?* Ambassador Cohort will consist of educators, artists, culture bearers, early career teachers, and community leaders working across rural and urban Alaska. Cohort members will serve as ambassadors for creativity in their communities and contribute to a growing network of professionals committed to integrating the arts and culture into public education. This statewide ambassador program supports the following goals:

- **Individual**

Through participation in arts and cultural experiences, Alaskans will feel more connected, respected, seen, and heard. This results in a greater sense of well-being and community.

People actively seek out arts learning opportunities, and feel comfortable participating regardless of skill or experience.

- **Community**

Creativity is a sought after community asset. Artists are valued and serve unique advisory and leadership roles in the inclusion of arts and cultures in community development.

Education standards and practices that fully integrate arts and culturally relevant materials are implemented at the local level and reflect place. Teachers and students have support and growing capacity to teach and learn in and through the arts and cultures in their classrooms.

- **State**

Alaska's governing entities recognize, value, actively research, and invest in the ongoing development of Alaska's complex creative industries.

Alaska's education sector actively integrates community-based experiential teaching and learning in and through the arts and cultures as essential to a well-rounded education for Alaskan students.

NOTE: Applicants are offered the opportunity to submit the required application information and prompts via video or audio recording (max 5 minutes) sent to gloria@howareyoucreative.org, or if a file is too big to email or upload, contact us for assistance.

Applicant Eligibility

The Alaska State Council on the Arts review committee invites Alaska-based artists, culture bearers, educators, and community leaders who are actively practicing, teaching, and/or inspiring others through arts and cultural traditions across rural and urban Alaska to apply for the 2026 HAYC? Cohort. A circle of six creative ambassadors will each receive \$5,000 in support of their artistic, cultural, and community-based work. This program will support two separate cohorts of six ambassadors each through June 2026.

Ambassadors will explore storytelling, network-building, and cultural learning across sectors such as education, community development, and Indigenous knowledge systems. Ambassadors will also help develop a resource directory of statewide arts and cultural outlets, as well as share stories, ideas and opportunities through <https://howareyoucreative.org>.

We seek individuals who:

- Are rooted in their community and active in arts and/or cultural practices
- Are passionate about creativity, cultural knowledge, and relationship-building
- Want to connect with others to explore how arts and culture shape education, belonging, and future visions
- Are interested in contributing to statewide storytelling, sharing promising practices and place-based knowledge

Yes	No	Minimum Eligibility Checklist - Please check yes or no for each question—contact the program coordinator for assistance, if your response to any of the following is “No”:
		Are you currently a resident of Alaska?
		Do you intend to remain a resident of Alaska for at least the next 12 months?
		Can you provide a W-9 and Social Security Number (SSN) should you be awarded a grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts?
		Can you commit to full participation in the program between January - August 2026?
		Are you at least 18 years of age?

This opportunity is open to artists of all disciplines, educators (formal and informal), cultural leaders, and emerging creatives. You do not have to identify as a professional artist or full-time teacher to apply.

Timeline & Commitment

1. Application and nomination period: September 15th - October 20, 2025
2. Award notification: November 21, 2025
3. Program participation: Cohort 1: January - July 2026, Cohort 2 March - September 2026
 - a. Ambassadors will participate in three cohort meetings during this time, dates TBD
 - b. Ambassadors will be invited to participate in an optional in-person gathering at the Alaska State Council on the Arts Conference in Anchorage, between April 14–17, 2026
4. Final reflection and resource sharing documentation due to ASCA: August 30, 2026

HAYC 2026 Cohort Application

Deadline to Apply: October 20, 2025

Grant Award Amount: \$5,000 per participant

How to apply:

- Applicants may complete the online form available [by clicking here](#). If you are making a nomination, the form is available online by [clicking here](#).
- You can also complete this as a paper application or nomination form and send to the Alaska State Council on the Arts - 161 Klevin Street, Suite 102, Anchorage, AK, 99508.
- Applicants are offered the opportunity to submit the required information in a video (max 5 minutes) sent to gloria@howareyoucreative.org.
- Contact us at gloria@howareyoucreative.org or call the Alaska State Council on the Arts at (907) 269-6610 with questions, concerns or for technical assistance; in particular, please contact us right away if the application materials and requested submission process present a barrier to access for an eligible applicant.

Contact and Basic Information

Please fill each item in the second column below.	(Required information is marked with an * next to the labels in the first column.)
Full Name*:	
Mailing Address*:	
E-mail Address*:	
Phone Number*:	
Cultural Affiliation(s):	
Preferred Language(s):	
Website or Social Media handles (if applicable):	
How did you hear about this opportunity*?	

I would like to participate in the following cohort:	(Please check the box in the first column next to your preference. Upon selection we will review your preference and do our best to accommodate your request.):
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cohort 1 January - July 2026
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cohort 2 March - September 2026
<input type="checkbox"/>	Either work for me.

Short Answer Questions

Please respond to the following narrative questions. You may type or print by hand your answers on a separate piece of paper in response to the questions below (1–2 paragraphs each) or submit a voice recording or video if preferred. If you submit your answer via video, please email to gloria@howareyoucreative.org and enter "submitting via email" under each short answer question for which you made a recording. If a file is too big to email, contact us for assistance.

1. **Tell us about who you are.**

Please include ways you engage in creative, cultural, or community and arts-based practices. If applicable, please share about any classroom experience you may have, including what, where and when (please limit any classroom experience to three examples):

2. **How do you see your work contributing to your community or to the larger conversations about creativity, arts, culture, and education in Alaska?**

Please share how you might see your work aligning with the How are you creative? Goals identified in the program overview.

3. **What kind of support do you need to grow in your creative, artistic or cultural leadership?** *This might include mentorship, space, collaboration, time, or other resources.*

4. **Would you be interested and available to attend the State Arts & Culture Conference in April 15-17, 2026 in Anchorage, Alaska?**

If so, what would make that possible for you (e.g. childcare, travel support, interpretation, etc.)?

5. **Is there anything else you'd like us to know?**

Feel free to share a story, a photo, a past project, or something that gives us a better sense of you, your participation in the community, or your practice.

Attachments

You are welcome to include optional attachments. If a file is too big to email or upload, contact us for assistance.

- One short video that includes an introduction and shared information addressing all of the short answer prompts (5 minutes max),
- Samples of your creative or cultural work (images, writing, links, etc.)
- A letter of support from someone in your community

Selection Criteria

We are looking for a group of 6 individuals who represent:

- Diverse regions and communities across Alaska
- A range of creative, cultural, and educational practices
- Commitment to community connection and curiosity
- Willingness to share stories of teaching and learning in and through arts and culture, and grow alongside others

We especially encourage applications from rural communities, Indigenous artists and educators, emerging creatives, and those who may not have applied for opportunities like this before.

Application materials, questions and requests for support can be submitted to gloria@howareyoucreative.org. You can also contact the Alaska State Council on the Arts at (907) 269-6610.