
Music Therapists as Teaching Artists: Project Design, Grant Applications, & Collaborations

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Learning Objectives

- ❖ Understand the role of a music therapist in a teaching artist position
 - ❖ Understand how to design a successful project as a Teaching Artist
 - ❖ Understand how and who to collaborate with
 - ❖ Understand grant funding and successful applications
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What is a Teaching Artist

“ **Teaching artists** are a crucial resource for the future of arts education, the arts in general, and the overall process of learning. The role of the **teaching artist** is an integral part of the overarching arts education constellation, which includes: short and long-term school and after-school residencies.”

- Association of Teaching Artists

Music Therapists as Teaching Artists

- ❖ MTs possess clinical skills that make arts experiences successful no matter the ability level of the participants
 - ❖ Don't get caught up on the label
 - ❖ Music therapists can do it better!
 - ❖ Opportunities for training other teaching artists with our expertise
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Collaborations

- ❖ Schools
 - ❖ Support Groups for specific dx
 - ❖ Assisted living & Skilled Nursing Facilities
 - ❖ After school programs
 - ❖ Summer camps
 - ❖ Religious Organizations
 - ❖ Friendship Clubs
 - ❖ Other arts organizations or NPOs
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Project Design

- ❖ Can't call it "therapy" because of funding issues specific to therapies
 - ❖ Can focus on the goals of the project (e.g. Learning Through Music, Tonerocks)
 - ❖ Address arts and academic goals in collaboration with teachers or social workers
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Project Design

- ❖ Understand how and who to collaborate with
- ❖ Read, read, and re-read the grant guidelines carefully
- ❖ Make sure the project design fits within the parameters set by the grant application
- ❖ May also include workshops for professional development and training of collaborators

Grant Applications

- ❖ Keep it simple
 - Bullet points, timelines, and easy to read boxes
- ❖ Over explain
- ❖ Know your audience
- ❖ Edit & Have non-arts and non-education friends read the application
- ❖ Prevail if the first one fails!

Funding Sources

- ❖ Federal
 - [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- ❖ State
 - State Arts Boards
- ❖ Regional
 - Regional Arts Boards or Councils
- ❖ City
 - NPOs or Businesses that "give to the community"

Funding Sources

- ❖ School Districts
 - Some have arts organizations within
 - Schools can apply for grants in place of a NPO
- ❖ Corporations
 - Check with major corporations and send letters of inquiries for arts grants
- ❖ Foundations
 - Send letters of inquiry with your project idea

Matching Funds

- ❖ Crowd sourced
 - donorschoose.org
- ❖ PTO/PTAs
 - Many PTO/PTAs are happy to fund projects for children with special needs or that are under-served
- ❖

501(c)(3)

- ❖ Fiscal Sponsors
- ❖ Nonprofit vs For Profit
 - Bylaws
 - Articles
 - Board members
- ❖ [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov)

Contact us!

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