2026

Pathways: A Native Space Initiative

Program Overview & Application Guide

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A NATIVE SPACE INITIATIVE

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Artspace Projects, Inc.
528 Hennepin Ave Ste 700
Minneapolis, MN 55403-1814

artspace.org/pathways

About the Program

What is Pathways: A Native Space Initiative?

Pathways: A Native Space Initiative is:

- **a year-long,**

- **virtual,**

- **cohort-based,**

- **capacity-building program**

- **designed to support Native arts and cultural organizations** in accessing, expanding, and developing arts and cultural space in their communities.

The goal of Pathways is to utilize Artspace's decades of expertise as a real estate developer for the creative sector to assist Native American arts and cultural organizations in developing and implementing strategies that leverage their existing cultural and creative assets and support the development and sustainability of new arts and cultural spaces.

Pathways examines key areas of the development process including space planning, cost analysis, communications, project funding, and aligned financial stewardship, all with the recognition of how the cultural values of Indigenous communities might inform these topics.

The program is designed to be most beneficial to those Native arts and cultural organizations that are either emergent as organizations or emergent in their pursuit of physical space to meet their programming needs.

What does the virtual program entail?

Participants meet virtually each month over the course of the year.

Participants commit to attending two-hour sessions each month (24 hours total) and up to another 6 hours throughout the year of one-on-one training depending on the topics they have selected. The two-hour monthly sessions include curriculum workshops; presentations and discussions featuring industry experts and other Native organizations that have completed space-related projects; and cross-cohort learning interactions. One-on-one sessions include individualized technical assistance from Artspace staff and consultants. Pathways is conducted over Zoom and Howspace, an online learning and engagement platform.

What will participants gain from this program?
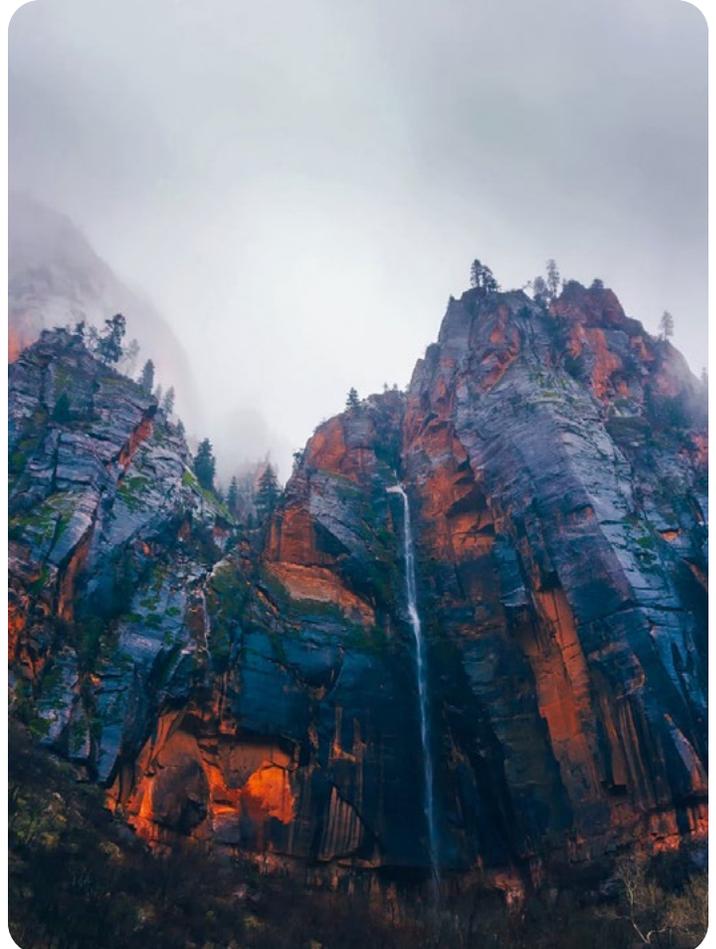
Pathways participants will receive:

- **Knowledge Building**: Gain a deeper understanding of the space planning process and key insights needed to make informed decisions about the next steps for their space project.

- **Relationship-Building**: Develop a supportive network of community peers to share experiences and resources with during and beyond the program.

- **Toolkit Assembly**: Gain access to various tools and templates that will help plan and advance their space project.

- **One-on-One Coaching and Technical Assistance**: Based upon the areas of focus they choose within Pathways, participants will receive tailored attention on their greatest areas of challenge and greatest areas of opportunity.

- **$25,000.00 for their space related projects:** In addition to the 12-month curriculum, one-on-one meetings, and guest speaker presentations all related to the support of participants' space initiatives, the Pathways program includes a $25,000.00 subgrant for those organizations who successfully complete the program to be used to further support the planning of their space initiatives.

What is not included in this program?

Pathways **does NOT include** the following:

- A secured and operational physical space. This program focuses on planning and preparation, not implementation.

- Artspace's participation in external-facing activities. This program does not include Artspace's involvement in funding applications, fundraising efforts, location scouting, lease/purchase negotiations, architectural team selection, or direct stakeholder communication.

What takes place during a typical session?

Monthly meetings include both curriculum-based workshops and guest speaker presentations and discussions.
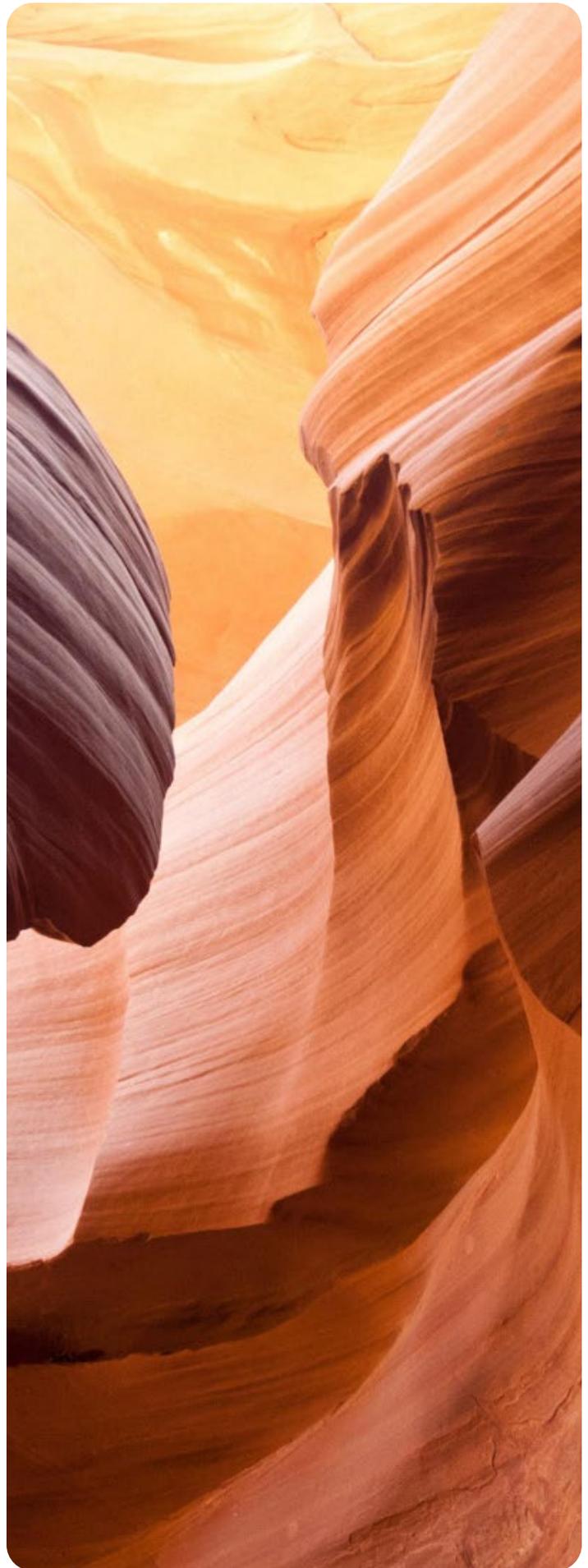
All meetings begin with culturally relevant and intentional grounding exercises. Curriculum-based workshops feature a mixture of both content delivery and group activities, which can include smaller group discussions, worksheet completion, writing prompts, etc.

Guest speaker sessions usually feature one or two presenters and have additional time for direct questions and group discussions.

What can you expect as a participant? What do you need to participate?

- Each organization will be asked to have **two or three participants from the organization**, i.e. the Executive Director, key staff members, board members, culture bearers, volunteers, or other organizational stakeholders.

- Participants must have **access to the internet** so as to participate fully in this completely virtual, cohort-based program. Applicants do not need to be proficient in Microsoft Teams or Howspace as technical training sessions will be available.

- Participants (at least one of the organization's three members) are to **attend all monthly sessions** (a 2-hour monthly time commitment, 24 hours total for the entire program).

- Participants are to **attend one-on-one sessions** (up to 6 total hours throughout the program's duration).

- Because this is a cohort-based program, **full attendance and participation** are highly encouraged. are highly encouraged.

How to Apply

Who is eligible to apply?

Native American arts and cultural organizations that meet the following three criteria are eligible to apply:

- The organization is within one of the following locations: **Alaska, Arizona, British Columbia, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Southern California, South Dakota, Washington, or Wisconsin**;

- The organization must have programming and a dedicated budget to support Native arts and culture; and

- The organization has been providing arts and cultural programming for at least three years.

What is the application process?

The application process is twofold.

The first step is to complete an online application, available at www.artspace.org/pathways. As part of this process, applicants will be required to submit their organization's current budget information. Additional information about the application process and the program can be found at www.artspace.org/pathways as well. Applicants must apply through the online application system; emailed applications will not be accepted. After completing the online application and successfully meeting all criteria, selected applicants will be invited for an interview.

Please note that our review process does not prioritize proper phrasing, language, or exact details. Our priority is to provide organizations with the support they need. Character limits are to keep proposals simple and concise.

Applications will open **Wednesday April 1, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. (CT) and will close on Friday May 8, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. (CT).** Those applicants chosen to advance to the interview round will be notified shortly thereafter. **All applicants will be made aware of their program status by Wednesday, May 27, 2026.**

Important Application Dates

- **April 1, 2026**: Application Opens (9:00 A.M. central)

- **April 22, 2026**: Information Session (1:00 P.M. central)

- **May 8, 2026**: Application Closes (5:00 P.M. central)

- **May 11, 2026**: Interviews Begin

- **May 27, 2026**: Acceptance Announced

- **June 2026**: Program Begins

Is there a cost to participate in the program?

No, there is no cost to participate in the Pathways program.

Any other questions?

Please feel free to email!

Jessi Fett,
Program Manager

jessi.fett@artspace.org