



**WACO ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
COVER SHEET – PART II
Application for Grant:
2026-2027 Funding Cycle**

Assigned Grant Proposal #: _____

Project Title: _____

Grade Level(s): _____ # of Students DIRECTLY involved: _____

Subject Area(s): _____

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Grant Focus Area(s): In order to be considered, Waco Education Foundation Innovation Grant proposals must fall under one or more of the E4 focus areas: early childhood development, enhanced programming for advanced students, extended education for staff, and emphasis on student performance. NOTE: In addition to meeting one of the E4 focus areas above, grant readers are especially interested in creative and innovative grant requests that target fine arts, STEM, literacy, or enrichment.

(check all that apply)

Early Childhood Development

Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students

Fine Arts

Literacy

Extended Education for Staff

Emphasis on Student Performance

STEM

Enrichment

#50

“Throwing for the Future: A Wheel-y Great Art Initiative”

Project Description:

"Throwing for the future" allows students to use pottery wheels and professional tools like many other high schools. While our classroom has a kiln, we lack the equipment to turn clay into functional art. This grant will provide pottery wheels, a slab roller for making flat pieces, and extruders for adding creative hands and textures. By introducing these tools, we can move beyond basic hand-building to advance 3D techniques. This project serves over 500 students, helping them build technical skills and learn how to handle artistic setbacks.

1. Rationale

The ceramic curriculum is currently very limited due to insufficient equipment. At this time, students only participate in a brief two-week project, making a small sculpture by hand. While there is a high level of students' interest and many requests to work with clay, our classroom does not have the infrastructure for a full program. Specifically, the lack of a pottery wheel and a slab roller in the art classes prevents students from advancing beyond basic introductory work.

This project is necessary to help students move from just trying a material to mastering it. This initiative is a vital part of college readiness because it introduces students to a multi-step process that requires spatial reasoning and fine motor skills not found in other subjects. By using professional tools, this project improves students' engagement through hands-on learning. This aligns with campus and District improvement plans by providing new instructional strategies to keep students invested in their education. Ceramics offers a unique 3D experience that helps students develop the technical skills and resilience they could not usually see until after high school.

2. Goals

The main goal for Throwing for the Future is to give students a full understanding of ceramics while helping them build emotional strength through art. Students will learn the technical aspects of clay by working through the multi-step process of greenware, bisque, and final glaze firing. They will start with basic hand-building and move towards advanced wheel-throwing as they look at artists who have expanded what can be done with the medium.

A big part of this project is teaching them not to get too attached to their work early on because clay can break or change in the kiln. Students need to learn how to handle mistakes and keep going when things do not go as planned. This is especially important for AP Art students and those who wish to pursue ceramics as part of their degree in college. Through this project,

students will develop the advanced fine motor skills and spatial reasoning needed to succeed in post-secondary art programs. We want students to move past just making simple functional items and start creating more complex sculptures that challenge their skills. By providing access to the studio during the Art Club, students will have the freedom to experiment and practice these techniques even more than they can during regular class time.

3. Plan of Operation

This project creates a complete ceramic program that works for Art 1 through Art 4 and AP Art classes. Our strategy is to give introductory students a strong start with hand-building while offering more advanced challenges like wheel-throwing to advanced and AP students. By using professional equipment, we are creating a real studio environment that prepares students for more than just a class grade.

These tools will be especially important for students entering local and state competitions. Having high-quality equipment enables our students to create competitive pieces for the District Art Show, VASE (Visual Art Scholastic Event), the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, and the Waco Cultured Art Festival. Our curriculum will also include projects that celebrate Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month to allow students to express their culture through clay. The Art Club will serve as an open studio space where students can practice their skills and work on competition pieces or specialized events like Comic Fest outside their regular class periods. This gives them more time to experience and push their creative limits.

4. Communication & Dissemination

To ensure the Waco Education Foundation sees the impact of this grant, we have several plans to include them in our progress updates. We will take high-quality photos and videos of students during the studio phase to capture the hands-on process of working with clay. These images will be shared on school social media, in the yearbook, and through ParentSquare to give the community a look at what the students are creating. We will also send special invitations to foundation members to our District Art Show so they can see the original glazed products in person.

Sharing the success of this project with the rest of the district is also a priority. We will use social media and ParentSquare to update others on our results regularly. Additionally, I will lead a session during a fine arts staff development meeting to share our curriculum and technical tips for running a ceramic studio with other art teachers in the district.

5. Evaluation

To measure the success, we will use a combination of technical growth, student portfolios, and personal reflections. For technical skills, we will evaluate how well students can

finish projects from the early stages of wet clay through the final glazing and firing. This includes checking that students in all levels can successfully use the new tools to create work that survives the entire firing process without structural failure.

6. Long-Term Implications

Throwing for the Future is intended to be a permanent part of the fine arts department. Since the focus of this grant is on long-term equipment, such as professional pottery wheels and a slab roller, these items will be a lasting investment for our campus. While the grant covers the heavy equipment needed to start the program, the school will take over the cost of supplies such as clay and glazes in subsequent years. The durability of these tools ensures the program is sustainable, as we will only need to provide raw materials after the first year.

This project also builds a clear path for students to grow as artists over several years. Students who start with hand building in Art 1 will have the chance to move on to wheel throwing in Art 3, 4, and AP Art. This consistent access allows them to reach a high level of skill that can help them earn college scholarships or start careers in the arts. Since awarded grants stay at the original school, this equipment will help hundreds of future students beyond the first group. It establishes our campus as a leader in three-dimensional design and will be a point of pride for the district for a long time.

7. Key Personnel

The art teacher acts as the project coordinator and is a certified fine arts educator. The teachers will have the technical knowledge and hands-on experience in ceramics needed for this project. This includes expertise in hand-building, wheel-throwing, and kiln operations, which enables them to safely manage a pottery studio and teach the advanced skills required for AP art portfolios. The art teacher handles the grant's daily tasks, such as ordering equipment and supplies from approved vendors.

8. Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification

The funds for this project will be used to purchase long-term equipment and the consumable supplies needed to serve over 500 students at all art levels. The pottery wheels and slab roller are the most important investments, as they allow students to move past basic hand-building to master professional 3d techniques that are up to par with other programs. We have a large number of students involved in this project. Bulk clay, tool kits, and glazes are necessary so that every student can experience the full multi-step process from raw material to a finished, fired piece. These items create a permanent studio environment that will benefit students for years to come, with the school taking over the cost of raw materials in the future.

**Waco Education Foundation
Grant Budget Form**

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Assigned Proposal # | 50 |
| Project Title: | Throwing for the Future: A Wheel-y Great Art Initiative |
| Number of Students Served by Grant: | 525 |

| Qty | Budget Item | Verify Vendor (Y or N) | \$ Requested from the WISD Foundation | Other Secured Source | \$ from Other Source (if applicable) | Total Amount |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| Consumable Supplies | | | | | | |
| 1 | Clay (800lbs) | Y | \$ 440.00 | | | \$ 440.00 |
| 6 | Underglazes (16oz) | Y | \$ 180.00 | | | \$ 180.00 |
| 2 | Kiln Wash (4lbs) | Y | \$ 70.00 | | | \$ 70.00 |
| 2 | Cones 04 (Box od 25) | Y | \$ 40.00 | | | \$ 40.00 |
| | | | | | | \$ - |
| total Consumable Supplies | | | \$ 730.00 | | \$ - | \$ 730.00 |
| Technology | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | \$ - |
| total Technology | | | \$ - | | \$ - | \$ - |
| Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year) | | | | | | |
| 3 | Pottery Wheels | Y | \$ 5,500.00 | | | \$ 5,500.00 |
| 1 | Slab Roller | Y | \$ 1,350.00 | | | \$ 1,350.00 |
| 4 | Clay modeling Tool Set | Y | \$ 265.00 | | | \$ 265.00 |
| 12 | Oval Spongest | Y | \$ 30.00 | | | \$ 30.00 |
| 3 | Class Pack Ribbon | Y | \$ 100.00 | | | \$ 100.00 |
| 4 | Hand Extruder | Y | \$ 330.00 | | | \$ 330.00 |
| 3 | Nails Kiln Stilts (XL with 61 Pi | Y | \$ 90.00 | | | \$ 90.00 |
| 6 | Buckets of 5 Gallons | Y | \$ 25.00 | | | \$ 25.00 |
| 24 | Bucket of 2 Gallons | Y | \$ 80.00 | | | \$ 80.00 |
| | | | | | | \$ - |
| total Long-Term Supplies | | | \$ 7,770.00 | | \$ - | \$ 7,770.00 |
| Contracted Services | | | | | | |

**Waco Education Foundation
Grant Budget Form**

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Assigned Proposal # | 50 |
| Project Title: | Throwing for the Future: A Wheel-y Great Art Initiative |
| Number of Students Served by Grant: | 525 |

| Qty | Budget Item | Verify Vendor (Y or N) | \$ Requested from the WISD Foundation | Other Secured Source | \$ from Other Source (if applicable) | Total Amount |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|--|----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | \$ - |
| | | | | | | \$ - |
| | total Contracted Services | | \$ - | | \$ - | \$ - |
| Personnel | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | \$ - |
| | | | | | | \$ - |
| | total Personnel | | \$ - | | \$ - | \$ - |
| Travel / Other | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | \$ - |
| | | | | | | \$ - |
| | | | | | | \$ - |
| | | | | | | \$ - |
| | total Other | | \$ - | | \$ - | \$ - |
| Totals | | | Total Requested from the WISD Foundation | Foundation Cost Per Student | Total from Other Sources | Total Cost of Project |
| | | | \$ 8,500.00 | 16.19047619 | \$ - | \$ 8,500.00 |