

Cultivate the Creative - Elevate Creativity Program Youth Participant Application

Are you ready to explore your creativity, connect with new people, and discover more about yourself? This fall, [**Cultivate the Creative**](#) is inviting high school students (grades 9-12) to join **Elevate Creativity**—a **9-week creative arts program** designed to give you space to try new art modalities, strengthen your creative practice, connect with a community of like-minded creatives, build confidence, and share your unique story.

Each week, we'll dive into a new way of expressing yourself—from movement and storytelling to art, nutrition, relationships, and even money management. You'll get tools you can carry into everyday life, especially beyond high school, and you'll also get to connect with other students across Pinellas County who are on their own creative journeys. Not only will you learn how to leverage your creative practice to tell your story by the end the 9 weeks but **you will have a portfolio of your creative practice** and certification of completion.

We'll meet on **a weekday evening, starting the week of March 23rd through the week of May 18, 2026**, in different spots around town. Every session will be hands-on, creative, and fun—and by the end, you'll have the chance to share your voice with friends, family, and community.

Here's what the journey looks like:

- **March 21st** – Elevate Creativity Kickoff (a parent/guardian is required to attend)
- **Week of March 23rd** – From the Inside Out: Expressive Movement
- **Week of March 30th** – Food 4 Fuel: Nutrition
- **Week of April 6th** – I Feel, Therefore I Am: Mindfulness
- **Week of April 13th** – Interpersonal Communication: Softness as Strength
- **Week of April 20th** – Conflict Engagement and Resolution: Navigating Life's Challenges
- **Week of April 27th** – Plan Your Future: Financial Planning
- **Week of May 4th** – Find Your Voice!
- **Week of May 11th** – Share Your Voice and Story (internal showcase)
- **Week of May 18th** – Celebrate Your Voice! (final celebration with friends & family)

Important Dates:

- **Info Session (students + parents/guardians):** Date & Time TBD
- **Applications Due:** February 1st
- **Notifications Sent:** February 27th

How to Apply

This application helps us get to know you. There are no right or wrong answers—we just want to hear your voice and your experiences. Here's what to keep in mind:

- **Be yourself.** Share who you are and what excites you.
- **Be honest.** If you're still figuring things out, that's okay. This program is about exploring and learning.
- **Be creative.** Tell us how you like to express yourself—whether that's drawing, music, writing, dancing, gaming, photography, content creation, or anything else.

Take your time answering the questions. Don't stress about writing perfectly—we're interested in what's real for you. Once you finish, double-check your contact info so we can reach you.

If you have questions about the program or filling out the application, email us at connect@cultivatethecreative.org—we're here to help!

This year, priority will be given to youth who live in zip codes 33705, 33711, and 33712, as well as youth who are in the foster care system. If this applies to you, please share that in your application. If it doesn't, don't worry—we still encourage you to apply and we'd love to hear your story.

We can't wait to learn more about you and the story only you can tell. This is only the beginning to join us on our mission today by cultivating the creative within.

* Indicates required question

Watch the video below for more information about the program!



<http://youtube.com/watch?v=Foj5SQcrvsl>

1. Full Name: *

2. Preferred Name/Nickname (if any):

3. Pronouns

Mark only one oval.

 she/her he/him they/them prefer not to answer Other: _____

4. Date of Birth *

Example: January 7, 2019

5. Grade Level (Spring 2026): *

Mark only one oval.

 9th Grade 10th Grade 11th Grade 12th Grade Other: _____

6. Do you identify as any of the following? (select all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latinx
- White
- Asian
- Native American/Indigenous
- Pacific Islander
- Prefer not to answer
- Other: _____

7. Are you currently in foster care or have experience in the child welfare system? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer
- Other: _____

8. School Name:

9. Email Address: *

10. Phone Number: *

11. Address Zip Code, if available

12. Parent/Guardian Name: (CTC will contact parents/guardians for consent and approval) *

13. Parent/Guardian Contact Phone Number *

14. Parent/Guardian Email Address *

15. Emergency Contact (Name & Relationship): *

16. Emergency Contact Phone Number: *

17. We know that you likely are balancing a lot of commitments between extra curricular activities and homework. Select the best day/s for you to meet on a weekday evening. If more than one works, check all the boxes that will work for you. We will lock in our weekly meetups based on what works best collectively across applicants

Check all that apply.

- Tuesdays
- Wednesdays
- Thursdays
- No Preference

18. We know that you likely are balancing a lot of commitments between extra curricular activities and homework. Select the best time slots for you to meet on a weekday evening. If more than one works for you, please select all of the boxes that will work. We will lock in our weekly meetups based on what works best collectively across applicants *

Check all that apply.

- 3 - 4:30pm
- 4 - 5:30pm
- 5 - 6:30pm
- 6 - 7:30pm
- 7 - 8:30pm

19. T-Shirt Size: *

Mark only one oval.

- XS
- S
- M
- L
- XL
- XXL
- Other: _____

Application Questions

Tell Us More About What Makes **You (U)nique**

The next set of questions is all about **your creativity, experiences, and what you're hoping to get out of the program**. We want to hear about the ways you already express yourself, how you handle challenges, and what excites you about joining Elevate Creativity.

Don't worry about giving "perfect" answers—just be honest and share what feels true for you. This is your chance to let us know how you see yourself, what you enjoy, and what you'd like to explore over the 9 weeks.

If you do not want to submit written responses, you may email video responses to connect@cultivatethecreative.org. If you email video responses, please write "Email sent" in the response box.

20. Why are you interested in the Elevate Creativity program? *

21. What does creativity mean to you? How do you currently express yourself creatively? *

22. What is your favorite form/s of creativity? Ex: painting, sculpting, writing, music, dancing, content creation, drawing, photography, etc.) *

23. What is your favorite or most recent creative project that you've completed or were * a part of? Please describe what you enjoyed about the creative process.

24. Describe a time you collaborated with others on a creative project or activity. What * role did you play?

25. How do you typically handle stress and difficult emotions? *

26. What do you hope to learn or discover about yourself during this program? *

27. Are you willing and able to commit to attending all 9 weekly sessions? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

28. If you answered no, or are unsure of how to answer the question above, please elaborate below:

29. Do you need any accommodations to participate in this program (transportation, accessibility, language support, etc.)? If yes, please describe below. *

30. What barriers, if any, might make it difficult for you to participate fully?

31. Do you have access to a mobile device, computer, or iPad/tablet that you can use through the program to communicate with others and develop your online portfolio? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

• Yes

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No, I will need one from Cultivate the Creative

32. Is there anything else that you would like us to know about you?

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