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Maine Launches Creative Aging Maine Certification Program to Expand Arts Opportunities for Older Adults Statewide

New partnership between the Maine Arts Commission, Maine Council on Aging, and Lifetime Arts will strengthen Maine's creative aging workforce and increase access to arts programming for older adults

AUGUSTA, Maine — The Maine Arts Commission, in partnership with the Maine Council on Aging (MCOA) and Lifetime Arts, a national leader in creative aging advocacy, training, and capacity building, is launching Creative Aging Maine, a statewide certification program designed to expand access to meaningful arts experiences for older adults throughout Maine's 16 counties.

"Lifetime Arts is proud to partner with Creative Aging Maine, an example of how collaboration among state-level leaders in the arts and aging sectors can build lasting capacity for creative aging, said Julie Kline, Program Director at Lifetime Arts. This initiative expands and sustains creative opportunities proven to improve older adults' health, increase social connectedness, and strengthen livable communities. Working in a state with deep roots in creative aging practice and the highest percentage of older adult residents in the nation aligns closely with our mission to weave this work into the fabric of communities."

The Creative Aging Maine certification program is funded in part by a two-year, \$77,500 grant from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) and E.A. Michelson Philanthropy. The initiative will increase access to high-quality arts programming for older adults while addressing ageism and helping combat the effects of isolation and loneliness through meaningful creative engagement.

Creative Aging Maine will provide free professional training opportunities for teaching artists and community partners during 2026 and 2027.

“The initiative will strengthen Maine's growing workforce development in the arts and health sector by developing a statewide network of certified teaching artists equipped to create arts experiences that foster connection, purpose, inclusion, and lifelong creativity,” said Khristina Kurasz, Program

Participants who complete the certification will be eligible to apply for Creative Aging Maine grant opportunities opening in December 2026 and November 2027 to support creative aging programs in communities across the state.

Two Complementary Trainings, One Statewide Certification

Registration is now open for the inaugural Creative Aging Maine certification cohort.

To become a Certified Creative Aging Maine Teaching Artist, participants complete two complementary trainings that together provide both a nationally recognized foundation in Creative Aging practice and a Maine-centered understanding of how to serve older adults in communities across the state.

The certification pathway begins with Lifetime Arts' Creative Aging Foundations for Teaching Artists, followed by the Maine Council on Aging's Creative Aging Maine Training, which builds upon that foundation through a Maine-specific lens.

Teaching artists who have already completed Lifetime Arts' Foundations training do not need to repeat that course, but must complete the Maine Council on Aging training to receive Creative Aging Maine certification.

Participants who are new to Creative Aging are encouraged to register for both trainings. Additional training opportunities will be offered in fall 2027 for those unable to participate in the first cohort.

Lifetime Arts Creative Aging Foundations Training for Teaching Artists

Delivery: Six hours | Virtual (three, two-hour sessions)

Dates: Tuesdays, October 6, 13, and 20, 2026 | 3:00–5:00 p.m.

Limited to 25 participants

Creative Aging Foundations for Teaching Artists is Lifetime Arts' signature training course that equips teaching artists to design, develop, and implement effective, inclusive and evidence-based creative aging programs in diverse settings. Participants gain best practices in adult learning, anti-ageist program design, and strategies for fostering age-friendly and socially

connected environments. Training integrates specific case stories, facilitates small group dialogue, and includes a live demo class with a Lifetime Arts expert trainer.

You'll receive a certificate of completion plus a free one-year membership to the Creative Aging Collaborative for continued learning and peer connection.

Training, coaching, consulting, and resources for Creative Aging Maine have been provided by Lifetime Arts, a national leader in creative aging programs and services. Learn more at LifetimeArts.org.

[REGISTER HERE FOR LIFETIME ARTS CREATIVE AGING FOUNDATIONS](#)

Maine Council on Aging Creative Aging Maine Training

Delivery: Six hours | Virtual via Zoom or In-Person

In-Person Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2026 | 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Chase Community Forum, Waterville, ME.

Online Date: Wednesday, November 10 & November 17, 2026 | 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. | Virtual via Zoom.

Capacity: Limited to 25 participants

Building upon the Lifetime Arts Foundations curriculum, the Maine Council on Aging's Creative Aging Maine Training focuses on applying Creative Aging principles within Maine communities.

Participants will explore Maine's aging population, age-positive practices, and community-based approaches that help older adults experience greater belonging, purpose, visibility, and connection through the arts.

Designed for teaching artists and Creative Aging community host sites, the training emphasizes local partnerships, practical implementation, and strategies for creating welcoming arts experiences that reflect Maine's unique communities.

Participants will learn to:

- Understand the impact of ageism and the value of age-positive practices
- Design creative programs that support connection, purpose, and belonging
- Integrate meaningful discussion and reflection into creative experiences
- Create environments where older adults feel valued, included, and empowered
- Connect arts programming with Maine community resources and healthy aging initiatives

[REGISTER HERE FOR MCOA CREATIVE AGING MAINE TRAINING](#)

Building a Creative Future for Older Adults in Maine

Creative Aging Maine represents a statewide commitment to ensuring that older adults have greater access to arts experiences that support health, connection, purpose, and lifelong learning.

By combining Lifetime Arts' nationally recognized expertise with the Maine Council on Aging's leadership in advancing age-positive communities, Creative Aging Maine equips teaching artists with both the foundational knowledge and the local understanding needed to serve older adults throughout Maine.

Through collaboration among the Maine Arts Commission, Maine Council on Aging, Lifetime Arts, teaching artists, and community partners, the initiative is building a stronger statewide Creative Aging network that will expand opportunities for older adults in every county while strengthening Maine's growing Arts & Health ecosystem.

For more information about the certification program, training opportunities, and future grants, visit: <http://www.creativeaging.me/>

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