

Alabama

*Alabama State Council on the Arts
Diana F. Green, Arts in Education Program Manager*

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

The mission of the Alabama State Council on the Arts is to enhance the quality of life in Alabama culturally, economically and educationally by supporting the state's diverse and rich artistic resources.

Arts Education Mission Statement

The goal of the Arts in Education Program is to provide opportunities for Alabama students to learn in, through and about the arts; to ensure the arts as an integral and essential component of education in the state of Alabama; to provide professional development opportunities for Alabama artists, educators and administrators in arts curriculum development; and to support partnerships between schools, artists and arts organizations that foster excellence in arts education.

Arts Education Program Overview

The Alabama State Council on the Arts includes arts education as a priority in programming and strives to implement the arts as an essential element in the educational experience of all Alabamians. As a granting agency, the Council provides funding for artist residencies, in-school performances and exhibitions, arts related field trips, teacher training in the arts, teaching artist training, and many school based projects that enhance arts learning. Through its programs and partnership with the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education, the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts and the State Department of Education, the Council implements additional programs and initiatives that are far reaching, diverse, and celebratory of Alabama's living cultural heritage.

The Council provides scholarships and exhibition experience for middle and high school students in the visual arts through its Visual Arts Achievement Program. Partnering with the Mobile Museum of Art; Troy University; the University of Montevallo; the University of Alabama, Birmingham; Tuscaloosa Council of Humanities and Arts; and the Huntsville Museum of Art, the Council collects student artwork to be adjudicated for exhibition, and for high school senior scholarships. An award ceremony was held in Montgomery at the state capitol in April 2008 for 79 middle and high schools students and five scholarship winners. The Council also gave Kelly Garza the Teacher of the Year Award and Montgomery Public Schools the School System Award. The guest speaker was sculpture and animatronics artist Bruce Larsen from Fairhope.

The Rural School Touring Program provides opportunities for Alabama Artists to perform in rural schools throughout the state. In 2008, touring artists were The Children's Dance Foundation performing Math in Motion; actor and storyteller Clinton Cockrell, dancer and

storyteller Deborah Ferguson; jazz recording artist Eric Essix; storyteller Wanda Johnson; and the Umdabu Dance Company. These six performing artists and groups traveled their productions to 36 rural schools in 16 counties.

Through these comprehensive arts education programs and initiatives and the other partnerships described in this profile, the Alabama State Council on the Arts continues to enhance arts education programming throughout the state.

Grant Programs

Types of Arts Education Grant Programs

- residency program
- in-school arts education
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations
- quick funds/minigrants
- presenting grants
- partnership grants
- rural school touring grants
- Arts 4 Excellence Grants (Whole School Initiative)
- Arts in Schools (Black Belt Arts Initiative, available to 15 targeted school systems in high-risk communities)

Groups Eligible for Grant Programs

- pre-K centers
- public schools
- private/nonparochial schools
- private/parochial schools
- home school groups
- regional/local arts agencies
- arts organizations
- non-arts organizations
- arts education alliance or similar statewide organization

Total Number of Arts Education Grants Awarded in Most Recent Fiscal Year

105 grants

Total Dollar Value of Arts Education Grants Awarded in Most Recent Fiscal Year

\$ 534,402

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

Arts 4 Excellence (Whole School Initiative)

Arts 4 Excellence, the Council's arts education pilot initiative, completed its fourth year in 2009. Five Montgomery elementary schools were provided with funding to establish arts advisory teams, to plan and implement strategic arts programming, to train teachers in arts integration, and to bring in teaching artists to collaborate with classroom teachers on arts integration units. Newest to the program is a principal's consortium, which provides a space for school administrators to share successes and address challenges.

Statewide Arts Education Summit

The Council was pleased to partner with the Alliance in the design of a statewide Arts Education Summit in 2008 and 2009. This three-day summit gathered diverse stakeholders to explore partnerships that may impact arts education programming in local communities and statewide.

Black Belt Initiative

The Council's Black Belt Arts Initiative, Arts in Schools, provides funding for all 15 school districts within the governor's designated Black Belt region. In 2009, each district was offered \$8,100 to use toward arts education. School systems used these funds to provide professional development for their teachers, artist residencies for their schools, arts related field trips for their students, and special projects that included children's theatre, arts festivals and performances in the schools.

Poetry Out Loud

The Council administered Poetry Out Loud, a national initiative sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. High school students competed in poetry recitation, much like the national model spelling bee. Alabama adds a creative element to the program by providing a state competition for the recitation of original poetry to coincide with the national program. From the state competition, a senior at Taylor Road Academy in Montgomery, placed first and traveled to Washington, D.C., in April, competing with 50 other champions across the United States and the Virgin Islands. In 2009 the program included four regional competitions to allow statewide participation.

Funding for Arts Education Program from Sources Other Than NEA and State General Fund

The Council's state funding is from the Education Trust Fund, not the State General Fund.

Artist Residency Program

Artist residency program is administered by the state arts agency office.

- Mandatory orientation is provided for artists.
- Optional training is provided for artists.
- Entities other than schools may not apply to sponsor a residency.

Fee Structure for Teaching Artists

- \$600 per week
- There can be additional compensation outside of the fee structure. Schools may apply for artist residencies within the school based project grants and may request additional funds if artists charge more or need housing and per diems. The Council is in the process of raising the artist fee to \$1,000 per week for artists who are trained in integrated curriculum design and can collaborate with teachers and administrators in the design of lessons and units.

Teaching Artist Roster Program

Teaching Artist Roster Basics:

- Out-of-state artists may apply for artist roster.
- A panel is used to select roster artists.
- The Council reviews artist applications as they come in.
- To retain eligibility, artists must reapply every three years. Artists do not have to reapply if they maintain their status through required updated references (every three years), professional development (12 hours minimum every two years), and site visits (at least one every three years). The committee must reapprove each artist after the site visit, but the artist does not have to reapply unless they lose a place on the roster.

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

Representatives from each collaborating agency selects the Alabama School Artist Roster. The roster is published by all four organizations. The organizations are the Alabama State Council on the Arts (administers the program), the Alabama State Department of Education, the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education and the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts.

Professional Development Services

Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes

- For classroom teachers, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. The Council's Arts in Education Program manager presents regularly at workshops provided by the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education and the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts. The Council funds most of these programs, and the Arts in Education Program manager collaborates in the design of programs offered by the Alliance.
- For arts specialists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization.
- For teaching artists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization.
- For school administrators, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. The Arts in Education Program manager led an Administrators Institute, and will be involved in working with superintendents statewide at their required fall meeting this year, as a direct result of the National Endowment for the Arts Education Leadership Institute.

Additional Comments on Professional Development Services

Through its partnerships, the Alabama State Council on the Arts has one of the most comprehensive training programs for teachers, administrators, and artists. It has begun to add arts organizations to this list and is envisioning a roster of arts organizations that are prepared to partner with preK-12 schools.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- in-house with arts education staff
- partner organizations: Alabama Alliance for Arts Education, University of South Alabama, Huntingdon College, The Arts Council of Tuscaloosa and the University of Alabama Huntsville

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 25
- number of regional semifinals: 4

Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities

- classroom teacher training
- original poetry component
- workshops in conjunction with regional activities before regional competition

Additional Prizes and Awards

- Books, trophies and plaques are awarded. Some regions offer scholarships and cash prizes. The Council will offer cash awards for its original poetry competition this year through partnerships with other agencies.
- Additional prizes were purchased and donated.

Partners, Funders or In-kind Donors That Support the Poetry Out Loud Program

Huntsville Literary Society donated cash awards; University of Alabama Huntsville donated scholarships. The Alabama Writer's Forum will donate cash awards for the original poetry competition.

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

The Arts in Education Program is included in the Council's annual report and has contributed to a statewide arts education plan published by the state Department of Education.

Evaluation & Assessment

Assessment of Student Learning in the Arts

- Assessment Training: The Council began this in November 2009 in partnership with the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education.
- The Arts in Education Program manager leads workshops in this area for the Arts 4 Excellence Schools, as well as workshops in short- and long-term planning.

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- Evaluation tools and frameworks are provided for grantees. A survey is used after an artist residency, primarily in the Arts 4 Excellence schools. The arts in education program manager helps grantees to develop their own tools.
- Grantees are required to explain their evaluation process in their application. They are also required to report on their results in their final reports. Participation in this activity is uneven.

Methods of Self-Evaluation of State Arts Agency's Arts Education Program

- performance measurements
- surveys and feedback forms
- other: The NASAA Professional Development Self-Evaluation for Arts Education Managers is extremely valuable in measuring program progress.

Utilization of Evaluation

Evaluation methods are informal, but are used to plan and create new programs. The Arts in Education Program manager (who is a one-person department) relies heavily on partners, with whom she meets often to evaluate programs and decide on next steps.

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

Martha Lockett

State Alliance for Arts Education

Alabama Alliance for Arts Education. The Arts in Education Program manager serves on the board as an ex officio member, working closely with the executive director in the design of programs. The two organizations collaborate on Visual Arts Achievement, Poetry Out Loud, the Arts Education Summit, integrated curriculum training for classroom teachers and artist training. The Council funds the facilities and the position of executive director for the Alliance.

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

Diana F. Green, Arts in Education Program Manager, 1.0

Staff Biography

Diana F. Green received her B.A. and M.F.A. in dance from the University of California at Irvine. She began her career in the arts, administrating and teaching for a preprofessional ballet school in Silver Spring, Maryland. As chair of the dance program at Huntingdon College, in Montgomery, Alabama, Green designed and implemented the first preK-12 certification program in the field of dance for the state of Alabama. She initiated a partnership between the Huntingdon College dance program and Floyd Elementary School, training teachers to work in the schools with integrated arts curriculum. Green has held the position of arts in education program manager at the Alabama State Council on the Arts since 2005. She advises grantees on funding opportunities for arts education, and runs numerous programs that enhance learning in, through and about the arts. She presents regularly on integrated curriculum design, strategic planning for learning in the arts, developing arts partnerships and grant writing.