

Arkansas

*Arkansas Arts Council
Cynthia Haas, Arts in Education Program Manager*

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

Mission Statement: The Arkansas Arts Council (AAC) will advance and empower the arts for the benefit of all Arkansans. Vision: The Arkansas Arts Council, in collaboration with its constituents and strategic partners, will increase awareness of and appreciation for the quality of arts produced and presented in Arkansas. Goals:

- Encourage artistic excellence, diversity, and innovation.
- Promote equitable access to the arts for all Arkansans.
- Develop arts in education for lifelong learning.
- Enhance community cultural and economic development.
- Build and sustain the capacity of the Arkansas Arts Council to fulfill its mission.

Arts Education Program Overview

The Arts in Education (AIE) Program has been one of the AAC's programs since the 1970s. As part of its continuing commitment to arts education, AAC lists the ongoing development of arts in education for lifelong learning in its current strategic plan. Among its objectives is the continuation of grant programs for in-school, after school, and curriculum projects that emphasize exposure to the creative process through direct contact with professional artists and consultants. Over the past five years, the AAC's AIE grant program has awarded an average of \$279,000 annually to schools, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies and institutions that have provided arts education programming to more than 123,000 preK-12 students statewide:

- In-School Residency Grants to Arkansas schools place professional artists in residencies during the school day.
- After School/Summer Residency Grants to community organizations or local government agencies place professional Arkansas artists in residencies out of school.
- Arts in Education Curriculum Project Grants are for projects that help to integrate the arts into the basic school curriculum serving preK-12 students, teachers, or special constituencies.
- Arts in Education Mini Residency Grants are for short-term AIE programs and teacher workshops for schools and communities using artists from the AIE artist roster.
- An Arts in Education Artist Roster provides a public listing of panel-reviewed teaching artists eligible to present AIE residencies. As one of its main objectives, AAC will continue to expand the number and diversity of disciplines and participating artists offered through the AIE roster.

Other primary objectives of the Arkansas Arts Council's Arts in Education program include:

- Providing information on opportunities and best practices to improve arts education;
- Advocating for state and local public policies that integrate the arts into the education of Arkansas students;
- Providing professional development instruction and assistance to teachers, teaching artists, and community arts educators; and
- Developing and sustaining strategic partnerships with the Arkansas Department of Education and professional associations of arts educators and classroom teachers to implement AAC Arts in Education objectives.

Grant Programs

Types of Arts Education Grant Programs

- residency program
- in-school arts education
- out-of-school-time arts education
- early childhood learning in the arts
- general operating support for arts education organizations
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations
- quick funds/minigrants

Groups Eligible for Grant Programs

- pre-K centers
- public schools
- private/nonparochial schools
- private/parochial schools
- charter 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

87 grants

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

\$ 390,441

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

Creativity in the Natural State – a partnership with the Arkansas Arts Council, the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority, and the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges – completed a three-year study on Arkansas' Creative Economy that identified among the most important findings, the ArtsSmart program in Texarkana. Funded in part by AIE grant money, ArtsSmart serves as a national model to partner roster artists with teachers to integrate the arts into curriculum. While this is a basic premise of the Arkansas AIE program, Texarkana's program is one of the largest, impacting over 18,000 students and more than 2,000 teachers included in three Arkansas school districts.

Their final report, *Unveiling the Creative Economy in Arkansas – Strategies to Increase Creative Capacity and Competitive Advantage*, indicated that Arkansas is already a step ahead of most of

the country in emphasizing arts in the schools, and must continue to develop and showcase Pre-K-12 arts education in order to become a benchmark state.

Objectives to be accomplished:

- establish internships in the state cultural resources such as the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, AR and other statewide major arts organizations to introduce youth to careers in the arts
- establish a program of artist residencies in community colleges

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

private foundations

Artist Residency Program

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

- Optional orientation is provided for artists.
- Optional orientation is provided for sponsors.
- Optional training is provided for artists.
- Optional training is provided for sponsors.
- Entities other than schools may apply to sponsor a residency.

Fee Structure for Teaching Artists

- \$43.75 per hour
- There can be additional compensation outside of the fee structure. The organization or school may contribute more as a part of the match.

Teaching Artist Roster Program

Teaching Artist Roster Basics:

- Out-of-state artists may apply for artist roster.
- Roster artists are required for residency program.
- A panel is used to select roster artists.
- Applications for roster are reviewed twice per year
- To retain eligibility, artists must reapply every year.

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

Roster artists must complete an update form each year to maintain eligibility.

Annual Events

Artlinks

annual statewide arts conference

Professional Development Services

Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes

- For classroom teachers, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. AAC works with the educational service cooperatives and has a grant category that helps to provide and deliver professional development to teachers.
- For arts specialists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization.
- For school administrators, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- in-house with other state arts agency staff

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 300
- Home-schooled students participate.
- Schools specifically for students with disabilities participate.
- Schools specifically for at-risk students participate.
- number of regional semifinals: 1

Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities

- documentation
- classroom teacher training
- workshops in conjunction with state finals

Additional Prizes and Awards

- cash, books, free passes to the Clinton Presidential Library, free passes to Magic Springs/Crystal Falls theme park
- Additional prizes were purchased and donated.

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

The Arkansas Literary Festival, The Arkansas Department of Education, the EAST Initiative, Pulaski Technical College, Laman Public Library, Clinton Presidential Library

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

- arts education planning guide
- social networking, e.g., Twitter or Facebook

Evaluation & Assessment

Assessment of Student Learning in the Arts

- Sample assessment tools are provided. AAC provides a packet of information to new artists and sponsors.

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- Evaluation tools and frameworks are provided for grantees. AAC provides a packet of information to new sponsors.

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

- formal external evaluation
- quantitative and qualitative grants data
- participation data
- financial data
- surveys and feedback forms
- interviews
- focus groups and town hall meetings
- direct observations

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

Brenda Turner, recently retired

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

- Cynthia Haas, AIE program manager, 1.0

Arts Education Coordinator's Split Responsibilities

- other areas of work: liaison for folk life
- percent of time dedicated to arts education program: 98%

Staff Biography

Cynthia Haas has served twice on the state arts agency Arts Education Advisory Group. She has graduate and undergraduate degrees from the University of Oklahoma, and is a former elementary teacher. Haas authored the book *Ghost Signs of Arkansas*.