

Florida

Florida Division of Cultural Affairs
Laura L. Blischke, Arts in Education Manager

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

The Division of Cultural Affairs promotes the arts and culture as essential to quality of life for all Floridians.

Arts Education Program Overview

Arts in Education promotes arts and culture in education. Arts in Education project grants are designed to cultivate learning and artistic development for all students and teachers by promoting, encouraging and supporting arts and culture as an integral part of education and lifelong learning for residents and visitors. This includes the learning and artistic development of preK -12 students and teachers, and initiatives and proposals that help applicants to work as individuals or partners to carry out community programs and school reform through the arts. The Division supports the view that the arts build cultural understanding, mutual respect and strong communities. Arts in Education projects accomplish this by bringing artists and cultural experiences directly into schools, hospitals, nursing and eldercare facilities, senior centers, correctional facilities, community spaces, cultural facilities and other organizations in Florida.

There are two funding categories for Arts in Education projects: Artist Residency and Arts Partnerships. Residencies place professional Florida artists in a variety of education and community settings that allow them to teach all aspects of their art form, create or perform works of art so that participants may observe and be a part of the creative process, and relate their art form to other curriculum areas or disciplines. All residencies must relate to core curriculum or Sunshine State/Florida Comprehensive Assessment Testing Standards (for residencies targeted to pre-K through grade 12) or community needs and goals (for residencies targeted toward colleges, after-school programs and cultural and social/community service programs).

The Arts Partnership category is designed to support projects that will advance arts education and the development of long-term partnerships through effective collaboration among community, arts and cultural organizations, social service agencies, and educational entities. These projects must clearly define the partners and their responsibilities and resources (financial and otherwise); identify key personnel and/or consultants; identify the project goals and outcomes, and demonstrate that evaluation instruments are developed and data collection systems are in place. Audiences to consider when planning these can include preK -12 students, adults, persons with disabilities, economically disadvantaged persons, underserved and/or at risk populations, multicultural populations and nontraditional students.

Grant Programs

Types of Arts in Education Grant Programs

- Arts in Education is no longer a grant program; this category is designated as projects within the Specific Cultural Projects program and includes Arts Partnership and Artist Residency.

Groups Eligible for Grant Programs

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

78 grants

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

\$ 411,799

Additional Comments on Arts Education Grant Programs

The Florida Division of Cultural Affairs has completed its grant consolidation. There is no longer a line item appropriated for Arts in Education.

Artist Residency Category

Comments on residency grants

The artist residency grants are within the Arts in Education category of the Specific Cultural Projects program.

Arts Partnership Category

Comments on partnership grants

The arts partnership grants are within the Arts in Education category of the Specific Cultural Projects program.

Annual Events

Arts Day

This event provides information to the field regarding the state of the arts, and allows opportunity for the secretary of state and other officials to address the constituency. Sometimes awards or honors are made during this event at the state capitol.

Heritage Awards

The Florida Artist Hall of Fame awards are presented at this event as are the Florida Book awards, the Great Floridian Award and others. Attended by the governor and secretary of state as well as other officials, this is an evening when the state's highest cultural honor is given.

Professional Development Services

Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes

- For classroom teachers, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. Professional development is typically administered through the Florida Alliance for Arts Education. It coordinates with the Division to provide opportunities to implement its strategic vision for the arts around the state. Teaching artists have been addressed, and arts integration will be the next topic.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- in-house with arts education staff
- in-house with other state arts agency staff
- partner organizations: State Library of Florida, Florida Department of Education, Florida State University, Florida A&M University, Tallahassee Community College, Museum of Florida History

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 50
- Home-schooled students participate.
- Schools specifically for at-risk students participate.

Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities

- evaluation
- documentation
- classroom teacher training
- workshops in conjunction with state finals
- Participating students meet with judges and staff at a reception following state finals.

Additional Prizes and Awards

- award ribbons, award medallions, plaques, framed certificates, messenger bags with many items including pads, pencils, pens, mouse pads, CDs, poetry books, tee-shirts, refrigerator magnets, etc.
- Additional prizes were purchased and donated.

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

The citizen support organization, community writers' groups/associations, some theatre groups, and some parent-teacher associations are supporters.

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

- cultural resources directory including arts education

- statewide data/research on arts education in schools
- social networking, e.g., Twitter or Facebook
- e-mail blasts related to arts education areas as needed
- Division director sends regular updates.
- Webinars are provided on a consistent basis to the field.

Evaluation & Assessment

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- Evaluation tools and frameworks are provided for grantees. Grantees are given suggestions for program evaluation in their guidelines as well as the opportunity to access high-scoring applications that excel in all areas.
- Grantees must submit a final report that includes audiences served (participation numbers including youth, school and non-school based events, elders, artists, etc.), evaluation of proposal and actual budgets. It is expected that the final report will have information about activities specifically addressed in the original application as well as a state expenditure log tracking the use of all state funds during the grant period.

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

- quantitative and qualitative grants data
- participation data
- financial data
- performance measurements
- surveys and feedback forms
- interviews
- direct observations

Utilization of Evaluation

The Division's greatest source for evaluation is data from grantees regarding demographic areas, participation numbers and how the proposal directly relates to Florida Comprehensive Assessment Testing or Sunshine State standards, which provide guidelines that each school grade level must meet. The Division can determine areas, especially in rural counties, where outreach is needed based on existing projects or programs. Often, Florida Alliance for Arts Education summits provide vital information for specific areas of need, whether it be arts integration training or artist/teacher development.

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

Dr. Linda Lovins

State Alliance for Arts Education

Florida Alliance for Arts Education. The Department of State formed this alliance many years ago with the State Department of Education. The Alliance provides support to the Division through ongoing activities that promote the state's strategic plan for arts and culture in Florida.

Florida Cultural Alliance

The Florida Cultural Alliance works to develop local, state, and national partnerships. These unique partnerships work together to initiate, coordinate, and strengthen advocacy, communications, research, culturally friendly policies, and educational efforts to advance arts and cultural resources throughout the state.

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title

- Laura L. Blischke
Arts in Education Manager, Specific Cultural Projects, Division's Accessibility Coordinator and Arts in Medicine/Healthcare Coordinator

Arts Education Coordinator's Split Responsibilities

- other areas of work: oversees Underserved Cultural Community Development projects, Culture Builds Florida projects, and Multidisciplinary projects as well as specific projects funded through the NEA geared toward arts education initiatives. Currently serves as the Division's accessibility coordinator, arts in medicine/healthcare manager and handles all issues for the Division's rural economic development initiative.
- percent of time dedicated to arts education: 85%

Staff Biography

Laura Blischke joined the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs staff in 2006. Passionate about the arts, she enjoyed a 10-year career with the Walt Disney Company. Blischke worked as a professional dancer performing stage shows at the Magic Kingdom and EPCOT Center, and later as a staging specialist teaching on-property shows at the Magic Kingdom. She assisted on many Disney special events and choreographed for seasonal parades. Laura holds a bachelor of arts in dance with an emphasis on teaching from Virginia Intermont College. She has choreographed for United States Figure Skating Association figure skaters, with former students competing at the local, regional and national level.