



Illinois Arts Council
Tatiana Gant, Director, Arts-in-Education Programs

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

Building a strong, creative, and connected Illinois through the engagement of all Illinoisans in the pursuit of, participation in and enjoyment of the arts.

Arts Education Program Overview

The Illinois Arts Council (IAC) supports arts education with grant programs that support:

- hands-on learning with professional artists;
- professional development for teaching artists;
- professional development for teachers by professional artists;
- not-for-profit organizations that provide arts education for K-12 students (excluding public and private schools);
- high school-age students to intern in a not-for-profit organizations' arts activities;
- technical assistance for individuals and organizations.

Additionally, the Illinois Arts Council provides the following resources to support arts education:

- the Arts-in-Education (AIE) Artist Roster of teaching artists for residencies and workshops;
- the Artstour Roster of performing artists for presentations and performances;
- the Illinois Artist Showcase of teaching and performing artists;
- professional development workshops for teaching artists, arts specialists and classroom teachers.

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
- lifelong learning in the arts
- general operating support for arts education organizations
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations
- quick funds/minigrants
- Youth Employment in the Arts provides stipend for paid internships for high school students in the arts programming of not-for-profit organizations.

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
455 grants

Total Dollar Value of Arts Education Grants Awarded in Most Recent Fiscal Year
\$ 7,401,875

Additional Comments on Arts Education Grant Programs

In fiscal year 2009, IAC awarded 1,443 grants totaling \$14,501,645. Arts-in-Education grants accounted for 31% of the number of grants and 51% of the dollars awarded. Any not-for-profit registered with the Illinois secretary of state is eligible to apply for funding.

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

Illinois Creates

Illinois Creates, a statewide initiative led by the Illinois Arts Alliance, advocates for greater inclusion of the arts in education. The Illinois Creates coalition, comprised of 250 education, business, and arts organizations and hundreds of Illinois citizens, believes all Illinois children deserve a comprehensive education that provides a solid foundation for success. This must include the arts as part of the core curriculum. Arts instruction, like other core subjects, must be standards based, sequential, equitable, and sustainable. Illinois Creates was launched in 2004 by the Illinois Arts Alliance, an organization with a 26-year history of arts advocacy in Illinois, and The Chicago Community Trust, which has served the charitable needs of greater Chicago since 1915 and has a long history of supporting the arts and arts education.

Chicago Arts Education Collaborative

The Chicago Arts Education Collaborative is a civic collaborative to achieve high quality arts education for every child in Chicago Public Schools. It is composed of representatives from the Chicago philanthropic community.

Education Leaders Institute

The Education Leaders Institute (ELI) supports the design of K-12 education with arts at the core through pioneering thinking and intensive dialogue with national leaders. Established by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and presented in cooperation with the Illinois Arts Council, ELI brings together school leaders, legislators, policy makers, educators, consultants, and scholars to envision a healthy national education environment founded on powerful arts education programs. This project enables states to share their challenges on specific topics and receive feedback and insight from one another, while drawing on national experts from fields beyond arts education. By striving to make powerful, sustainable, and thriving arts education systems throughout the nation, participating states strengthen general education for all children.

Chicago Arts Learning Initiative

The Chicago Arts Learning Initiative (CALI) is a community-wide, collaborative effort to ensure equitable and sustainable access to arts learning for all Chicago Public School (CPS) students. This effort was initiated by the Chicago Arts Education Collaborative, an ongoing effort of Chicago philanthropic leaders that aims to work with the CPS and the arts education community to establish comprehensive, coordinated and equitable arts programming in all schools throughout the district. By maximizing and leveraging existing community assets and collaboratively approaching emergent activity, CALI seeks to build and sustain a more innovative, better aligned and more comprehensive arts education delivery system to enhance learning for every student in CPS.

Arts and Foreign Language Program

The Arts and Foreign Language Education Grant Program, a partnership between the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Arts Council, will assist districts with engaging in a planning process to develop new or strengthen existing arts and foreign language curricula, to be followed by a three-year implementation process. Grant monies are awarded to school districts and other eligible applicants for the purpose of supporting arts and foreign language education in schools, with an emphasis on ensuring that these areas become part of the school's core curriculum.

Additional Comments on Initiatives and Partnerships

The Illinois Arts Council partners with regional arts organizations for events and projects such as the Illinois Artist Showcase, regional showcase events, professional development workshops and Poetry Out Loud.

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.
- Entities other than schools may apply to sponsor a residency.

Fee Structure for Teaching Artists

- \$40 per hour
- There can be additional compensation outside of the fee structure. Although \$40/hour is the minimum rate, artists may negotiate a higher fee; the average rate is \$60/hour. The highest rate approved for funding is \$125/hour.

Additional Comments on Residency Program

Artists must be selected from the AIE Roster for long-term residencies (up to six months); short-term residencies (up to six weeks) are available with any professional artist from Illinois.

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 the roster are reviewed every two years.
- To retain eligibility, artists must reapply. (Check with the agency for details.)

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

Application includes work sample and lesson plan. Artists are evaluated based on their professional career and appropriateness of lesson plan submitted. Artists accepted in the roster are listed in a searchable database available at the IAC Web site. Roster artists are eligible to participate in free professional development workshops and showcase opportunities at little or no cost to them.

Annual Events

Illinois Artist Showcase

Artists from the teaching and performing rosters participate with information booths and presentations.

Artist Training

Topics and frequency vary.

Professional Development Services

Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes

- For classroom teachers, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. IAC provides general operating support to service organizations whose mission is to provide professional development for classroom teachers.
- For arts specialists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. IAC provides general operating support to service organizations whose mission is to provide professional development for arts specialists.
- For teaching artists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. IAC provides general operating support to service organizations whose mission is to provide professional development for teaching artists.

Additional Comments on Professional Development Services

IAC provides funding for facilitators to develop and implement the content of the workshops as special projects. Funds are also made available to regional partners to assist the facilitating organization with marketing and logistics. Many of these special projects are open to classroom teachers, arts specialists, teaching artists and arts administrators.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- in-house with other state arts agency staff
- with partner organizations: Literature for All of Us, Springfield Area Arts Council, Rockford Area Arts Council, Quad City Arts, Carbondale Community Arts, 40 North/88 West, Jacoby Arts Center

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 27
- number of regional semifinals: 8

Additional Prizes and Awards

- At the state finals students could select poetry books donated by the local bookstore. Prizes at school or regional contest are not known. IAC provides no prizes nor does it allow partner organizations to use IAC funds for prizes.
- Additional prizes were donated.

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

- statewide data/research on arts education in schools
- other: AIE residency orientation book
- AIE Artist Roster
- Artstour Roster (performing artists)

Evaluation & Assessment

Assessment of Student Learning in the Arts

- Assessment training is provided.

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

- quantitative and qualitative grant data
- participation data
- financial data
- surveys and feedback forms

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Alliance for Arts Education

Illinois Alliance for Arts Education. Organization is minimally active. The majority of advocacy for arts education is done by the Arts Alliance of Illinois.

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

Tatiana Gant, Director, Arts-in-Education Programs, 1.0

Staff Biography

Tatiana Gant is responsible for administering a variety of grant programs that support arts education in Illinois. Under her direction, IAC curates and maintains a roster of teaching artists which received biennial professional development and annual promotional assistance. She is part of the planning team for the Education Leaders Institute, implemented in cooperation with the Illinois Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. Prior to IAC, Gant worked as a teaching artist in school and community settings. She founded and developed a community clay studio that offered classes for children, teens, adults, and families as well as a job training initiative for youth. She has designed and implemented arts integrated curricula and participated in a number of residencies in public and parochial schools. She has also held administration positions in a community based arts education organization. She holds visual arts degrees from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Adams State College.