

Maryland

Maryland State Arts Council

Christine Stewart, Program Director, Arts in Education, Children's Events, Literary Arts

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

The mission of the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) is to encourage and invest in the advancement of the arts for the people of Maryland.

Arts Education Mission Statement

The Maryland State Arts Council's Arts in Education (AiE) Program is designed to promote, strengthen, and enhance the arts and arts education in Maryland's elementary and secondary schools and other community settings.

Arts Education Program Overview

The two components of the Maryland State Arts Council's Arts in Education program are the Artist-in-Residence Program and the Visiting Performer Program.

The AiE Artists-in-Residence Program provides opportunities for hands-on intensive workshops involving a small, core group of students and teachers over a number of days or weeks. Artists and companies selected by an advisory panel to participate in the Artists-in-Residence Program are listed on the Artists-in-Residence Roster of Artists. Artists are selected for inclusion in the Artists-in-Residence Program on the basis of their artistic achievement and their ability to work with students and faculty in a school environment. Residencies are available in performing arts, playwriting, poetry and visual arts.

The Visiting Performer Program assists schools and other educational institutions in obtaining quality performances and workshops in dance, multidiscipline, music, puppetry and theater. AiE grants to the performers and companies listed on the Visiting Performers Program Roster of Artists make it possible for schools to obtain a limited number of performances at reduced fees. Up to one-third of the total cost of a given service (performer's fee + travel) may be covered by AiE funds. Up to three different productions per school year can be obtained by the school/site in this way.

Grant Programs

Types of Arts Education Grant Programs

- residency program
- in-school arts education
- out-of-school-time arts education
- general operating support for arts education organizations
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations
- Visiting Performer Program, in which performers offer an assembly and two workshops to a school at a rate reduced by up to one-third of the cost of the performance. MSAC pays the performer from a block grant distributed at the start of the school year.

Groups Eligible for Grant Programs

- pre-K centers
- public schools
- private/nonparochial schools
- private/parochial schools
- charter schools
- non-arts organizations

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

254 grants

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

\$ 253,573

Additional Comments on Arts Education Grant Programs

Grants to schools pay for half of the residency, and the school pays the other half. The total above is half of the cost of the 176 residencies, plus the \$97,000 granted to 78 visiting performers. The total cost of residencies, including the school's half, is \$313,146. Schools pay MSAC their half; MSAC adds the other half of the grant and pays the artist the full amount.

MSAC's grant to support the Maryland Artist Teacher Institute allows 100 teachers at approximately 25-30 schools to attend arts integrated training with master teaching artists. Grants to support the Teaching Artist Institute allow approximately 40 teaching artists to attend this training.

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

Maryland Artist Teacher Institute

The Maryland Artist Teacher Institute (MATI) is a program created through a partnership between the Maryland State Department of Education, the Maryland State Arts Council, and the Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS) Alliance. It is an intensive program of professional development for elementary and middle school teachers and administrators, conducted by master teachers, artists and artist-educators. Through hands-on workshops, lectures, seminars and performance, educators are provided opportunities to enhance their knowledge of the relationships among content areas and of ways that the arts can be used to integrate curriculum, content, processes and skills. MATI was established to explore the arts as a force in a child's development and enable teachers to become more knowledgeable, creative and skillful in using the arts to engage children.

Teaching Artist Institute

The Teaching Artist Institute is a program created through a partnership between the Maryland State Arts Council, the AEMS Alliance, and the Maryland chapter of Young Audiences/Arts for Learning. It is a unique professional development program for teaching artists, designed to build their capacity to contribute to student learning in and through the arts, providing them with innovative tools, knowledge and experiences to address the diverse needs of schools and communities.

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

- \$60 per hour
- There can be additional compensation outside of the fee structure. Travel (such as hotel, mileage and parking) and per diem for overnight stays are added to the cost of the residency beyond the session fee.

Teaching Artist Roster Program

Teaching Artist Roster Basics:

- Roster artists are required for residency program.
- A panel is used to select roster artists.
- Applications for roster are reviewed every two years
- To retain eligibility, artists must reapply every three years.

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

MSAC artists are required to carry \$1 million in liability insurance. Arts Every Day, a local arts education nonprofit in Baltimore, sponsors an insurance policy for artists that enable them to obtain this coverage at a significant discount.

Annual Events

Teacher/Artist Selection Conference

Teachers, administrators, and MSAC roster teaching artists gather each year at this conference. It is an opportunity for teachers and administrators to meet MSAC roster teaching artists and to discuss and schedule residencies for the upcoming school year.

Cultural Café

Cultural Café is a mix of workshops, awards ceremony and arts education summit where teachers, administrators, parents and teaching artists gather to celebrate the past year of arts integrated learning. This event is created and sponsored by the AEMS Alliance. MSAC teaching artists share information and the MSAC arts education program director leads or coleads a workshop on arts education grants for teachers.

Maryland Poetry Out Loud

MSAC's annual Poetry Out Loud competition allows members of the arts community, teachers, parents and students to participate in this celebration of poetry in the schools.

Professional Development Services

Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes

- For classroom teachers, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. At the Maryland Artist Teacher Institute, held each summer in College Park, the arts education program director gives an arts education grant orientation session to teachers.
- For arts specialists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization, the Maryland Artist Teacher Institute.
- For teaching artists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. At the Teaching Artist Institute, MSAC provides an arts education grant orientation for the teaching artists, some of whom are not on the roster.
- For school administrators, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. Schools send teams of participants, which can be comprised of teachers, arts specialists and administrators, to the Maryland Artist Teacher Institute.

Additional Comments on Professional Development Services

A mastery level is in the planning stage for MSAC's Artist-in-Residence Roster for teaching artists who are certified after having completed several Teaching Artist Institute sessions. The distinction will be decided by a panel.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- in-house with arts education staff
- in-house with other state arts agency staff
- in-house with contracted staff
- with partner organizations: Local arts organizations host county competitions, representatives act as judges.

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 27
- Home-schooled students participate.
- Schools specifically for students with disabilities participate.
- Schools specifically for at-risk students participate.

Additional Prizes and Awards

- gift cards and poetry books
- Additional prizes were purchased and donated.

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

Allegany County Arts Council, Anne Arundel County Council on the Arts, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, Arts Council of Calvert County Arts, Center Stage, CityLit Project, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Southeast Anchor Library, Goucher College, Maryland Poetry and Literary Society, Smartish Pace poetry magazine, St. Mary's College, The Writer's Center, Worcester County Arts Council

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

- arts education handbook
- arts education planning guide
- arts education annual report
- arts education advocacy toolkit
- statewide data/research on arts education in schools
- social networking, e.g., Twitter or Facebook

The Artist-in-Residence application includes a detailed set of guidelines for teachers, instructing them how to best design an artist residency. A handbook for MSAC residency artists and visiting performers helps them design the best residency or program possible.

The Maryland State Arts Council has a Facebook page and a Twitter page that provide information for all artists, including teaching artists.

MSAC's Web page is dedicated to opportunities for artists, listing information beneficial to teaching artists. MSAC lists opportunities for school teachers as well.

The arts education program director sends regular e-mails to teaching artists updating them on new internal policy information as it relates to the program, deadlines, and funding and artistic opportunities.

Information about the previous fiscal year's arts education program is printed in the Maryland State Arts Council's annual report, offered in print and on-line to the public.

Evaluation & Assessment

Assessment of Student Learning in the Arts

- Assessment training is provided. This is offered through the Maryland Artist Teacher Institute and the Teaching Artist Institute.
- Sample assessment tools are provided. This is offered through the Maryland Artist Teacher Institute and the Teaching Artist Institute.
- MSAC funds the AEMS Alliance, which acts as an arts education advocate on behalf of MSAC.

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- Evaluation tools and frameworks are provided for grantees. MSAC provides a form with a rubric and questions for grantees to fill out and return.
- The orientation checklist at the start of a residency and the meeting evaluation form at the end allow MSAC to track how many students participated in the core group sessions with the artists, how many benefited through a performance or assembly at the beginning or end of a residency, and how many students and teachers were involved. Artists, teachers, and staff are asked to rate the residency on a scale of 1-5 using several measures.
- This same method is used to evaluate the visiting performer's visit and to capture the number of students who participated. Information on the cost of the residency and the number of sessions, as well as the rating of the residency, help MSAC determine what shifts took place in budget between the application process and the evaluation process, and where changes need to be implemented in fees, budget and guidelines. The totals, policy changes and updates go into MSAC's annual report, as do pictures of the artwork and residency process that artists document.

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

- participation data
- financial data
- performance measurements
- surveys and feedback forms
- focus groups and town hall meetings
- direct observations

Utilization of Evaluation

MSAC adjusts its guidelines and policies annually based on the feedback of teachers and teaching artists through evaluation forms. The arts education program director regularly checks in with the teaching artists via e-mail, phone, and in person, when possible, and asks for direct feedback in the orientation sessions with teachers. Should a residency or visiting performer visit require individual attention, the arts education program director speaks directly with the artist(s) and teacher(s) involved. Teaching artists send pictures of the artwork and the process and poets send in student poems, which are collected into an anthology every few years.

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

James L. Tucker, Jr., Coordinator of Fine Arts

State Alliance for Arts Education

Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance. MSAC is their major funder. AEMS acts as arts education advocate on behalf of the Maryland State Arts Council. MSAC partners with AEMS to provide the Maryland Artist Teacher Institute and the Teaching Artist Institute. The arts education program director for MSAC serves on the AEMS Alliance Steering Committee and the Cultural Café Planning Committee.

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

Christine Stewart, Program Director, 1.0

Arts Education Coordinator's Split Responsibilities

- other areas of work: Grants for Organizations Program for those organizations that provide children's events and literary arts programming; director of Maryland Poetry Out Loud program; and liaison to Maryland Poet Laureate
- percent of time dedicated to arts education program: 70%

Staff Biography

Christine Stewart is a former artist in residence with Creative Alliance in Baltimore and is the founding director of the successful Write Here, Write Now workshops. She has a M.A. and an M.F.A. in creative writing and poetry, is the recipient of a Ruth Lilly Fellowship and is a Pushcart Prize nominee, and has been published in literary magazines such as *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *Blackbird*, and *The Courtland Review*. Stewart has taught at Carver Center for Arts and Technology, the Baltimore Museum of Art, and in the Odyssey Program at Johns Hopkins University. Her work with nonprofits such as My Sister's Circle, CityLit Project, Venice Arts, and WriteGirl focused on mentoring and leading workshops for children and teens ranging from age 6 to 18, in which writing was mixed with photography, painting, collage, music and movement.