

# New Hampshire

*New Hampshire State Council on the Arts*

*Catherine O'Brian, Coordinator, Arts Education and Arts in Health Care Grants and Programs*

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## General Information

### *Organization Mission Statement*

The mission of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts (NHSCA) is to ensure that the role of the arts in the life of New Hampshire communities will continue to grow and play an ever more significant part in the welfare and educational experience of citizens (from RSA 19-A, Incorporating New Hampshire legislation.) Restated in NHSCA Strategic Plan, 2005-2010, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts promotes the arts to protect and enrich New Hampshire's unique quality of life.

### *Arts Education Mission Statement*

The NHSCA Arts Education Program works with partners to bring quality arts education experiences and sequential learning to youth, preK-12 teachers and citizens of New Hampshire.

### *Arts Education Program Overview*

NHSCA's overall goals (in its 2005-2010 Strategic Plan) emphasize education. Education is one of the first goals stated. They are: 1) expand opportunities to learn in and through the arts; 2) strengthen New Hampshire's artists and arts organizations; and 3) engage the arts to benefit people and communities throughout New Hampshire. Core values include the following: the arts are basic to a complete education and everyone in New Hampshire should have access to the arts regardless of age, income, ethnicity, disability, geographic isolation or other potential barriers to arts participation. Education is woven throughout each grant category as part of review and criteria guidelines. Arts education grants and programs include the following:

- A menu of Arts in Education (AIE) Grants that includes Artist Residencies in Schools (AIR); ArtLinks for in and out of school projects with partners; minigrants (smaller grants, easier to write for short-term arts projects/residencies); Arts Education Leadership Projects; and AIE Special Partnership Initiatives.
- An annual statewide Arts Education Partnership Conference that is open to teachers, parents, teaching artists, community leaders and school administrators. The conference includes outreach residencies and presentations in schools near the conference site.

Ongoing work with a roster of juried AIE teaching artists includes recruitment, application process and jurying as well as orientation and professional development through workshops in New Hampshire combined with conferences and programs with the New England Consortium of Artist-Educator Professionals (NECAP). Each new AIE roster artist is required to do two one-day apprenticeship observations with experienced

teaching artists at a school. New artists are paid \$100 per day for these training days. NHSCA is always looking for teaching artists who can bring diversity and a variety of cultural backgrounds to schools and students.

Professional development workshops and seminars are offered in coordination with partners and schools. In 2009, the Council offered a day-long seminar, Follow the Passion, with MacArthur Foundation Fellows David Macaulay (author and illustrator) and David Carroll (naturalist, author and artist) at Bow High School (in Bow). The seminar included more than 100 high school students and 150 teachers and teaching artists.

Special strategic partnership initiatives include Measuring Up: The New Hampshire Arts Education Database Project, with the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) as a primary partner. This project began three years ago with a \$7,000 start-up grant from NHSCA that leveraged large amounts of in-kind support from NHDOE. The potential outcomes are varied and significant. The database, which is housed within NHDOE, may become embedded in the NHDOE's school data longitudinal system with common competencies integrated into the Performance Pathways system. A new NHDOE Commissioner is very supportive of the arts, and NHDOE is now planning to incorporate the arts into the state's Race to the Top application. A special presentation with Bob Morrison and Marcia McCaffrey with the preliminary first report was made at the fall 2009 Arts Education Conference. Other partnership efforts include NECAP and ongoing work with the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire (AANNH) to reach underserved North Country schools and communities.

NHSCA is engaged in the ongoing provision of resources, information and referrals to artists, teachers, parents and the public on all aspects of arts education at the local, regional, state, national and sometimes international levels.

The Council makes a special effort to promote dance and dance education. This has included more than two years of committee work with NHDOE, resulting in formal approval of a New Hampshire Dance Education Certification program. Extending the Dance Map, a special tristate northern New England dance initiative funded in part by the Dana Foundation, was initiated in New Hampshire with AANNH. A convening for New England dancers and dance educators in New Hampshire brought dancer/choreographer Ron Brown of Evidence Dance Company. NHSCA continues to give extra points to AIR grant projects that focus on dance.

NHSCA has developed an extensive database and distribution list of arts educators over the past two years, working in partnership with AANNH. This list includes all past conference and workshop attendees plus other discipline based and community arts education contacts.

Outreach and advocacy efforts include speaking, sharing articles and resources, research, advocacy talks, and presentations at the New Hampshire State Parent-Teacher Association Convention and other venues when appropriate. New Hampshire's speaker of the House gave opening remarks and awards at the state finals for Poetry Out Loud.

NHSCA's award-winning traditional arts Web site has a strong education focus that has been supplemented by a series of workshops for teachers with traditional artists and the traditional arts coordinator. The traditional arts coordinator has an education background and highly values education for all ages.

As of July 1, 2009, the AIE coordinator will start coordinating Arts in Health Care Grants and programs in addition to arts education work, due to a combination of staff layoffs, retirements and budget cuts.

# Grant Programs

## ***Types of Arts Education Grant Programs***

- residency program
- in-school arts education
- out-of-school time arts education
- lifelong learning in the arts
- general operating support for arts education organizations
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations
- quick funds/mini grants
- other: NHSCA funds Arts Education Leadership Project Grants and Special Partnership Initiative Grants in support of projects such as Measuring Up: The New Hampshire Arts Education Data Base Project, a partnership effort with NHDOE and AANNH; Extending the Dance Map, a northern New England dance initiative; and NECAP.

## ***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 state-level organization
- other: Special Arts in Education Partnership Initiatives on strategic projects

## ***Multiyear Grants***

Multiyear grants are available for three years.

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

40 grants

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

\$143,930

## ***Additional Comments on Arts Education Grant Programs***

NHSCA provides free grants workshops in the fall and offers coaching plus personal support to AIE and AIR grant applicants as they write grant applications. It offers a review of application drafts if submitted one day prior to the grant deadline. It sends a condensed list of panelist comments with strengths, weaknesses and recommendations. The Council Web site includes a basic artist residency guideline plus grant-writing tips. AIR grants require submission of a three-year arts plan for each school. ArtLinks grants require that at least one partner be part of the application and project. All grants are reviewed by panels of peers and professionals in the field of arts education.

# Major Initiatives & Partnerships

### ***Measuring Up: New Hampshire Arts Education Database Project***

In partnership with NHDOE, AANNH, and other education leaders, the New Hampshire Arts Education Database Project is a comprehensive statewide effort to gather, analyze, evaluate and disseminate data regarding students' access to arts education (in and out of school) in the public school system. The project goal includes creation of a vision for New Hampshire arts education and future use of the data for grass-roots advocacy.

### ***Extending the Dance Map: A Northern New England Rural Dance Project***

Extending the Dance Map is a program of AANNH in partnership with NHSCA, the Vermont Arts Council and the Maine Arts Commission and is in consultation with the New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont Departments of Education. The program is funded by the Dana Foundation's Arts Education Rural Initiative, state arts councils and the National Endowment for the Arts. The program seeks to identify and train dancers in the North Country region, create a network of dance educators and resources for dance, and address quality and availability of dance based learning in rural northern New England.

### ***New England Consortium of Artist-Educator Professionals***

The New England Consortium of Artist-Educator Professionals (NECAP) is a New England-wide consortium dedicated to the support and development of teaching artists. NECAP works to advance the field of the artist-educator, create a regional network, and provide quality professional development. Consortium members include the New England state arts agencies, AANNH, Lesley University and teaching artists from each New England state. More information is available at [www.artisteducators.org](http://www.artisteducators.org).

### ***Picturing America Professional Development for New Hampshire Teaching Artists and Humanities Scholars***

NHSCA and the New Hampshire Humanities Council partnered to present an opportunity for education and professional development about the National Humanities Council's Picturing America project. Education coordinators from both agencies worked together to promote the program at the NHSCA conference, and provide a daylong seminar on Picturing America with follow-up for teaching artists and scholars. Artists and humanities scholars were encouraged to team up and work together.

### ***New Hampshire Statewide Annual Arts in Education Partnership Conference***

NHSCA coordinates this conference each year and has partnered with AANNH as an administrative codesigner for past 10 years. Each year the conference includes other partners, depending on the theme, location and speakers. The 2009 conference partners included NHDOE, White Mountains Regional School District, Red River Theatres, the North Country Regional Education Services, and the New Hampshire Humanities Council. For the past five years, the conference's overarching theme has been arts and the environment.

### ***New England Foundation for the Arts***

The New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) works with NHSCA in a variety of ways. The New England-wide MatchBook program lists performing arts and literary artists, venues, and cultural arts organizations in a comprehensive database that helps to market artists and make links. Schools and other arts education applicants can apply to NEFA's smaller grants programs to bring artists from other New England states for work.

### ***Children's Librarians of New Hampshire***

The Arts in Education coordinator works closely with the New Hampshire State Library's youth services coordinator and network of Children's Librarians (CHILIS). CHILIS shares with artists news and information appropriate for libraries and shorter presentations/projects. Partner agencies promote opportunities together, and have served on each other's roster reviews. This is a long-term partnership.

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

NHSCA has received grants and funds in support of specific programs and partnership initiatives: New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (for Poetry Out Loud); Dana Foundation (for Extending the Dance Map); Bow High School (for professional development conference, Follow the Passion); New Hampshire Humanities Council (for a seminar on The Singing Revolution for teachers and the public). Grant applications recently were submitted to New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Lincoln Financial and NHDOE to support the New Hampshire Arts Education Database Project. Contributions to Poetry Out Loud programs have come from local book stores, restaurants and colleges.

### ***Additional Comments on Initiatives and Partnerships***

Partnership efforts are a very important part of the arts education work in New Hampshire. The Council's arts education program generally focuses on two or three partnership efforts over several years. NHSCA has benefited from a long and fruitful partnership with NHDOE, where Arts Consultant Marcia McCaffrey has worked for 10 years; NHSCA AIE Coordinator Catherine O'Brian has been in place for more than 15 years. The continuity of professionals working together has resulted in various collaborations, from the New Hampshire Curriculum Frameworks for the Arts to work on arts assessments to work and completion of New Hampshire's first Dance Education Certification for teachers. The largest partnership effort with NHDOE is Measuring Up: the New Hampshire Arts Education Database Project. The AIE coordinator also has partnered informally with numerous arts and non-arts organizations in publicizing arts opportunities and in working on multidisciplinary projects. These more informal partnerships have included the New Hampshire Principals' Association, the New Hampshire Parent-Teacher Association, the New Hampshire School Administrators' Association, New Hampshire's Early Childhood Network, and the Children and Nature Leadership Collaborative.

## **Artist Residency Program**

### ***Artist Residency Program is administered by the state arts agency office.***

- Mandatory 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 for the residency program.

### ***Fee Structure for Teaching Artists***

- \$300 per day
- There can be additional compensation outside of the fee structure. Some artists may receive additional compensation for payment of ensemble groups at special events, use of musical instruments (depreciation) or additional outreach related to the residency.

### ***Additional Comments on Residency Program***

All AIR school applications are required to include a three-year arts plan. Schools must work with at least one juried AIE roster artist (usually the lead artist) but may include other nonroster artists with appropriate backgrounds (resumes and work samples are required). Each AIR grant requires a cash match and usually substantial in-kind contributions.

# Teaching Artist Roster Program

## ***Teaching Artist Roster Basics:***

- Out-of-state artists may apply.
- Roster artists are required for residency program.
- A panel is used to select roster artists.
- Applications for roster are reviewed once per year.
- To retain eligibility, artists must reapply. (Check with the agency for details.)

## ***Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster***

The arts education program works closely with the traditional arts (folklife) program to identify, recruit and support new teaching artists from diverse cultural backgrounds. The Council is delighted to have added during the past two years artists from West Ghana, Nigeria and China, plus a Taiko master drummer (a U.S. citizen who lived in Japan for many years). The arts education program is planning to do a thorough review of all artist roster programs during the next two years. The AIE coordinator served as a panelist for both the Massachusetts and Vermont review of roster artists this past year. Each year an artist from the traditional arts roster is invited to present at the annual Arts Education Conference and work in residence at a nearby school.

# Annual Events

## ***New Hampshire Arts Education Partnership Conference***

NHSCA coordinates a three-day conference in partnership with other school districts, arts organizations, and NHDOE. The conference is open to educators, teaching artists, and community leaders. The conference offers keynote speakers, workshops, seminars, outreach presentations and residencies at schools, and moves to different regions of the state every three or four years. The conference has taken place in the North Country's White Mountains for the past two years. The overarching theme for past five years has been arts and the environment. Over the three-day period, 150-200 persons attend. More than 200 students are involved.

## ***AIE Artist Orientation***

NHSCA offers and requires all new AIE artists to attend a one-day orientation that includes basic information, a handbook and presentations from experienced teaching artists and AIR coordinators. The orientation is free to artists. Other roster artists are encouraged to attend.

## ***Free Grants Workshop***

Grants workshops are open to all teachers, teaching artists and the general public. Typically, workshops have included an overview of all NHSCA grants programs followed by a breakout session specifically on AIR/AIE grants opportunities.

## ***Governors' Arts Awards***

Up until fiscal year 2010, the New Hampshire Governors' Arts Awards were held biannually. These awards included a highly coveted award for arts education. The awards ceremony has been suspended due to budget cuts.

## ***Follow the Passion Professional Development***

Each year, NHSCA brings two exemplary artists/writers and educators to present and provide workshops in a unique format at a high school. The program includes 100 high school students and is open to all educators and teaching artists. Last year, Follow the

Passion featured MacArthur Award Fellows David Macaulay and David Carroll. This was a partnership with Bow High School and a fundraiser for NHSCA's fall conference.

### ***Widening the Circle Professional Development for Teaching Artists***

Widening the Circle is a partnership effort with NECAP. Each year the conference takes place in a New England state and has a specific theme. The 2009 conference convened in New Hampshire and was cohosted with Vermont. Themes have included early childhood education and the arts, arts and technology, and a New England town hall.

### ***Poetry Out Loud Finals Competition***

Finals competition for Poetry Out Loud in New Hampshire usually takes place at a college. The first year this took place in the state house, Representatives Hall, under the "Golden Dome and Eagle."

## **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 AIE coordinator works with many other professional arts and non-arts organizations to bring high-quality artists, teaching artists and arts presentations to professional development settings. AIR grants require a workshop for teachers and parents at their schools. Some grants fund professional development activities.
- For arts specialists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. The AIE coordinator is involved in a variety of ways, sometimes very directly and sometimes as a behind-the-scenes partner. She often serves on committees, planning professional development for arts specialists. For example, NHSCA provided a small grant to the New Hampshire Art Educators Association, which allowed them to pay AIE teaching artists to present at their annual conference.
- For teaching artists, professional development is administered by the state arts agency office. Each year the Council offers new AIE roster artists an orientation plus honorariums for two days of apprenticeship with experienced teaching artists. It also has offered a workshop for New Hampshire teaching artists that was later opened on space-available basis to all New England teaching artists. Last year it brought Alison Marshall, master level dancer/educator, for a workshop. NHSCA also works with NECAP to provide additional workshops and an annual conference.
- For school administrators, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. The AIE coordinator has worked with the New Hampshire Principals' Association and New Hampshire School Administrators' Association (NHSAA), making suggestions on quality arts education leaders. NHSAA has worked with Elliot Eisner. Last year NHSAA and Principals' Association members read *A Whole New Mind* for professional development. For the past eight years, NHSCA has partnered with NHSAA in a small grant that funded a master-level artist to present and open the NHSAA conference.

# Poetry Out Loud

## ***Poetry Out Loud Administration***

- in-house with contracted staff
- Monadnock Writers Group is the fiscal agent for New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud.

## ***Poetry Out Loud Participation***

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 32
- number of regional semifinals: 3
- Home-schooled students participate.

## ***Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities***

- evaluation
- documentation
- residency model
- classroom teacher training
- original poetry component
- workshops in conjunction with state finals
- NHCSA holds a required orientation for Poetry Out Loud school coordinators and teachers. It also holds a required orientation/training for Poetry Out Loud judges and scorers. A high school student created a Capstone Project relating to bringing culture of poetry to his high school. He wrote a small grant to bring a published poet to do poetry writing workshops with students and teachers and created a Poetry Slam open to his school community. NHSCA encourages schools to invite poets for additional residency work in their schools.

## ***Additional Prizes and Awards***

- gift certificates from local independent book stores, college scholarships, books of poetry from Cavan Kerry Press, student membership gift certificates from New Hampshire Writers Project, literary journals from the Worcester County Poetry Association, poetry journals/literature magazines from The Poetry Society of New Hampshire, and scholarships for teachers to attend Frost Place Seminars for Teachers
- Additional prizes were donated.

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

Southern New Hampshire University Office of Admissions; Southern New Hampshire University School of Arts and Humanities; Southern New Hampshire University School of Hospitality; Badger Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation; Toadstool Bookstores; The New Hampshire Writers Project; The Poetry Society of New Hampshire; The Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire; Cavan Kerry Press; the Frost Place (Franconia, New Hampshire); Monadnock Writers Group (fiscal agent/administrative partner); The Worcester County Poetry Association; Keene State College School of Arts and Humanities; New England College; Plymouth State College

# Resources & Publications

## ***Publications and Media Resources Provided:***

- arts education planning guide
- arts education annual report
- cultural resources directory including arts education
- statewide data/research on arts education in schools
- video or audio CD



- streaming video or audio

NHSCA developed a DVD that documents three models of artist residence projects (interdisciplinary, with arts integration and innovative programs). Its newsletter highlights arts education projects, Web resources, the basics of planning an artist residency and tips on grant writing.

## **Evaluation & Assessment**

### ***Assessment of Student Learning in the Arts***

- Assessment training is provided. NHSCA partnered with NECAP and Lesley University at the New England Teaching Artists Institute on a project that focused on documentation and assessment. The Council provides links to NECAP and NHDOE from its Web site.
- The arts consultant at NHDOE is very knowledgeable in this field. She has coordinated a Vermont/New Hampshire Arts Assessment Institute to which NHSCA provided scholarships for several teaching artists. In 2010, the Arts Assessment Institute will take place in at Plymouth State University, and the Council hopes to assist in promoting the event and providing some scholarships. New Hampshire teaching artists were encouraged to attend the New England Teaching Artists Institute, which focused on documentation and assessment. The AIE coordinator attended as part of her own professional development. She also attended the first Vermont/New Hampshire Arts Assessment Institute.

### ***Program Evaluation for Grantees***

- Program evaluation tools are provided. NHSCA provides a variety of evaluation tools at grants workshops. It often offers workshops on evaluation at the statewide arts education conference.
- All AIR/AIE grant applicants are required to include samples of assessment strategies and a plan for evaluation of the program or project funded. AIR grants are evaluated by both the teaching artist and AIR coordinators. All grantees are required to submit final reports with a variety of project documentation.

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

- quantitative and qualitative grants data
- participation data
- financial data
- surveys and feedback forms
- interviews
- focus groups and town hall meetings
- direct observations
- video and film documentation

### ***Utilization of Evaluation***

All NHSCA conferences, seminars and workshops are debriefed by program staff and evaluated by participants through surveys and other on-line tools. The Arts Education Program has not been formally evaluated by outside consultants for several years. Programs are part of a review and evaluation feedback loop, and public forums are part of the Council's strategic planning process. All grantees and recipients of AIE program services are asked to give feedback on a regular basis on all aspects of the program. A focus group looking specifically at the arts education program was part of the last strategic planning process. NHSCA worked with Craig Dreeszen on the process, evaluation and plan.

# Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

**State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist**  
Marcia McCaffrey

## **State Alliance for Arts Education**

New Hampshire Citizens for the Arts is the statewide advocacy organization. During the past year, the NHSCA AIE coordinator served as a poet and citizen on their board and represented New Hampshire at the Advocacy Day/training in Washington, D.C. New Hampshire currently does not have a functioning New Hampshire Alliance for Arts Education.

## **Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE**

Catherine O'Brian, Coordinator, Arts Education Grants and Programs, 1.0

## **Arts Education Coordinator's Split Responsibilities**

- other areas of work: Arts in Health Care, Poetry Out Loud
- percent of time dedicated to arts education program: **70%**

## **Staff Biography**

Catherine O'Brian has worked in NHSCA arts education programs since 1993. Her previous employment was at the University of New Hampshire at Manchester in Continuing Education, where she initiated and coordinated a poetry reading and the Jazz in the Mills concerts series. She was program director and teen director for Girls Clubs in New Hampshire's two largest cities, designing creative arts programs for low-income youth. While there, she won a national award for building a community playground with community youth and neighbors.

O'Brian holds a B.A. in philosophy and Spanish from Alma College, is a published poet, and holds an M.A. in writing/poetry from the University of New Hampshire, where she worked with poets Charles Simic and Mekeel McBride. She recently completed several professional development programs, including: Amherst (Massachusetts) Writers and Artists Certificate Program in Teaching Creative Writing to Underserved Populations; the Creative Center's week-long training in New York City for artists working in hospitals and health care settings for cancer patients; leadership training for facilitating collaborative work with the Interaction Institute for Social Change; and artist residencies at the Vermont Studio Center and Ragdale Artists Colony.

O'Brian has led poetry workshops for youth, worked with the New Hampshire Humanities Council's Connections Literacy Program as a teacher, and is adjunct faculty for Plymouth State University. She serves on the New Hampshire Children in Nature Collaborative Leadership Steering Committee and the Oversight Board of the Capital Region Community Prevention Coalition. O'Brian frequently serves on grant and artist review panels for the other New England states, and she has been a grant reviewer for New Hampshire's 21st Century after-school programs.

# Concluding Thoughts and Additional Comments

NHSCA is going through some major transitions, having undergone drastic budget cuts and staff reductions. Its partnerships are strong, and the work continues to be challenging, exciting and filled with opportunities for improvement, evaluation and learning. This is an incredibly rich and

interesting time for arts education in the state and the nation. The arts education coordinator was fortunate to attend the most recent Arts Education Partnership Forum, where she was inspired by many of the presenters and the ongoing research.