

North Dakota

*North Dakota Council on the Arts
Linda Ehreth, Arts Education Director*

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

It is the mission of the North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA) to promote, preserve and perpetuate the arts in North Dakota.

Arts Education Mission Statement

The intent of the Arts in Education Program is to enrich and support arts education throughout North Dakota. With the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act, the arts are acknowledged as a core academic subject. In addition to being a part of the core curriculum, the arts also can be used as a tool to teach other core subjects, such as reading, math, science and social studies. A team of North Dakota educators and artists worked together to develop the North Dakota Arts Content and Achievement Standards. Schools are encouraged to develop curriculum in accordance with state standards.

The Arts in Education Program values the arts as essential to lifelong learning and strives to achieve the following: promote the arts as basic to the education of all North Dakota youth; seek partnerships with educational and arts institutions to support comprehensive arts education; develop collaborative relationships with artists, schools, teachers, parents, administrators and community organizations; and provide resources that support the importance of lifelong learning in the arts.

Arts Education Program Overview

NDCA's Arts in Education program provides funding and technical support for four grant programs:

- The Artist in Residence Program provides matching funds for schools and other nonprofit organizations to bring artists into North Dakota schools and communities to conduct residencies of three days or longer. This program is designed to provide students, teachers and community members with hands-on experiences and personal interactions with working artists. Residencies give students an understanding of quality art and appreciation for cultural traditions.
- The Teacher Incentive Grant Program is a means of providing financial assistance to teachers who wish to explore new and creative ways of incorporating the arts into the non-arts curriculum of a classroom. Projects may involve the visual arts, poetry or fiction writing, performing arts, architecture, folk arts or any combination of artistic disciplines.

- The Schools and Artists as Learning Teams (SALT) is a professional development grant program for preK-12 schools and an arts partner. This grant uses backward planning and reflection to support and strengthen partnerships between North Dakota schools, artists and community arts organizations. Schools and arts partners can renew this grant for three years to develop long-term partnerships that build the capacity of the school and the arts partners to provide meaningful learning experiences in and through the arts to improve student achievement.
- The Professional Development Grants offers financial aid for arts organizations, individual artists, arts educators and educational institutions that want to take advantage of informational, educational and training opportunities relating to the arts and arts development.

Grant Programs

Types of Arts Education Grant Programs

- residency program
- early childhood learning in the arts
- general operating support for arts education organizations
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations

Groups Eligible for Grant Programs

- pre-K centers
- public schools
- private/nonparochial schools
- private/parochial schools
- regional/local arts agencies
- arts organizations
- non-arts organizations

Multiyear Grants

Multiyear grants are available for three years

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

115 grants

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

\$ 155,645

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

Artist to Artist

NDCA partners with the Perpich Center for Arts Education (Golden Valley, Minnesota) to provide professional development and program resources to artists, educators and arts organizations through the Artist to Artist Program. As a professional development program, Artist to Artist uses the power of collaborative inquiry to examine the work that artists and teachers do. This allows program participants to develop deeper understandings of planning, instruction, and reflection strategies.

North Dakota Teacher Coalition

The North Dakota Teacher Coalition is a group of partners committed to bringing culture and history resources to the K-12 classroom. The primary goal of the Coalition is to provide professional development opportunities that enable educators to expand their content knowledge and provide resources for curriculum planning and development. The Coalition partners gather and coordinate activities and curriculum resources that provide enriched educational experiences for K-12 teachers and students across North Dakota. The collection that evolves consists of quality, up-to-date resources and materials based on historical and cultural aspects of North Dakota. Implementation of this project consists of face-to-face and on-line professional development opportunities for teachers across the state and development of a growing resource collection. Partners in this project are those organizations and agencies that can provide valuable cultural and historical data and current information strategic to planning and maintaining this collection: EduTech, North Dakota Forest Service, North Dakota Council on the Arts, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, State Historical Society of North Dakota and North Dakota Geographic Alliance.

International Artist in Schools Exchange

The International Artist in Schools Exchange is a program between North Dakota and Iceland and is currently in its seventh year. This program is a partnership between NDCA, Icelandic Communities Association, Cavalier public schools (North Dakota) and Laugalandsskoli School (Iceland). This exchange program involves artists from North Dakota conducting a week-long residency in an Icelandic school, and artists from Iceland conducting a week-long residency in a North Dakota school. Schools participating in the artist exchange program are Laugalandsskoli, a rural school in southwestern Iceland (most students live on farms and are bused to the school from six different communities), and from Cavalier and Edinburg public schools in northeastern North Dakota (an area with a substantial Icelandic-American population). Two important goals of this exchange program are to encourage the integration of art into the lives and experiences of students, teachers and communities; and to provide a format for artists to demonstrate their art forms and to share ideas and talents with site partners.

Read North Dakota

NDCA partners with the State Historical Society of North Dakota, North Dakota Library Association, Prairie Public Broadcasting, and the North Dakota Humanities Council in the Read North Dakota Program. This program is dedicated to celebrating and promoting literature created in an about North Dakota. The program encourages readers, writers and educators to enjoy good literature by identifying relevant book titles and authors on a Web site, in printed materials and through public events and discussion groups. Teachers have been encouraged to participate in two specific ways: to engage students in learning about the authors and literature of North Dakota by promoting the www.readnd.org Web site, developing local activities, and/or incorporating the featured author and book in literature studies; and to participate in a statewide "Visit with the Author" videoconference project.

Arts Resources for Teaching Standards (ARTS) Trunks

Arts Resources for Teaching Standards (ARTS) Trunks is an outreach program that consists of eight thematic trunks that include touchable art materials, videos, CDs and resource books. Learning activities incorporating the North Dakota Arts Standards are an integral component of the program. Each trunk explores one art discipline (dance, drama, visual arts, music) in the following themed curriculum: cultural encounters with Lewis and Clark, and games and storytelling. The ARTS Trunk program is a partnership between NDCA and the North Dakota Art Gallery Association.

Artist Residency Program

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

- 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

- \$1,000 per week
- There can be additional compensation outside of the fee structure: reimbursement for mileage, lodging, and residency materials and supplies.

Additional Comments on Residency Program

The fee structure is not mandated by the state arts agency; the amount provided is a suggested fee schedule. The fee is negotiated between the artist and the sponsoring organization. Another residency program, Schools and Artists as Learning Teams, is a professional development grant program that supports and strengthens partnerships between schools, community arts organizations and artists. Through thoughtful collaboration, teachers and artists create opportunities for success so that all students achieve to high standards. The grant can be renewed for up to three years, dependent on legislative funding, which allows the opportunity to stretch and explore what it means to work collaboratively in a classroom setting.

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 every two years.
- To retain eligibility, artists must reapply every two years.

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

Artists represented on the Artist-in-Residence Roster have successfully undergone a peer panel review process that evaluates their artistic and instructional abilities as they relate to artists working in a school residency program. The roster is a resource guide for communities searching for qualified professionals to conduct residencies in schools and other educational settings. The information on the roster is provided by the artist and provides basic information about the residency offered.

The artists on the North Dakota Council on the Arts roster represent the following disciplines: dance, folk, literature, media, music, theatre and visual arts. Artists provide students the environment to develop critical thinking skills, help build confidence, share their ideas with others and be involved in the creative process. To remain on the roster, artists must be contracted for a minimum of one residency during a two-year period. The North Dakota Council on the Arts reserves the right to remove any artist from the roster. An artist who is removed from the roster is free to reapply as a “new” artist for a subsequent residency.

Annual Events

North Dakota Teacher Resource Summer Institute

Teachers and artists come together for professional development opportunities that enable them to expand their content knowledge and provide resources for curriculum planning and development in the arts and non-arts.

Artist to Artist Workshop

Artists, teachers, and arts administrators gather to investigate how authentic learning in the arts leads to meaningful learning through the arts. Goals for the annual workshop include: participants experience learning in the arts and make connections to their own work; participants leave with ideas for how to meaningfully connect learning in the arts to non-arts subject areas; participants leave the workshop with a clearer understanding of how intentional reflection impacts collaboration and learning—their own and students'; participants experience what it means to be part of a culture of inquiry.

Teaching and Learning through the Arts Summer Institute

Participants gain an understanding about how the arts can elevate teaching and learning through the use of artful strategies. Workshop participants explore creativity as a process for learning and personal expression, experience as learners authentic connections between arts and non-arts curricula, and learn how to effectively use reflection in professional practice.

Professional Development Services

Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes

- For classroom teachers, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. In partnership with the Plains Art Museum and Trollwood Performing Arts School, NDCA works with higher education to offer continuing education credits for teachers to attend a workshop that introduces them to how the arts can elevate teaching and learning through the use of artful strategies.
- For arts specialists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. Summer institutes and Artist to Artist workshops are offered to all educators, including arts specialists. NDCA does not offer specialized training for arts specialists.
- For teaching artists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. Artist to Artist is a professional development model that utilizes facilitated protocols to implement planning and reflections strategies that enable artists (and teachers) to improve practice and move work forward.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- in-house with arts education staff
- in-house with contracted staff

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 20
- Home-schooled students participate.

Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities

- original poetry component
- One-day poetry workshops led by associate poet laureates are held throughout the state.
- The state poet laureate serves as emcee and provides a recitation at the state finals competition.
- High school music groups are selected to provide musical performances.

Additional Prizes and Awards

- All students participating in the semifinals and finals rounds receive a certificate, an engraved bookmark and a gift card to a local book store. First-, second- and third-place winners receive a trophy and a medallion.
- Additional prizes were purchased.

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

The State Historical Society of North Dakota is a partner and an in-kind donor. The North Dakota Humanities Council, Prairie Public Radio, and University of Mary are also partners in the Poetry Out Loud program.

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

- arts education planning guide
- video or audio CD

International Artist in Schools Exchange video: Prairie Public Broadcasting completed a video documentary that provides an overview of the International Artist in Schools Exchange. This program is an artist exchange between North Dakota and Iceland. In alternating years artists from North Dakota provide a one-week residency in Iceland and artists from Iceland provide a one-week residency in North Dakota.

Arts education public service announcements: The North Dakota Council on the Arts sponsored an arts education awareness campaign stressing the benefits and importance of arts education for North Dakota's youth. NDCA worked with KAT Productions to produce 30-second television and radio public service announcements that demonstrates how the arts have affected the lives of several individuals. This awareness campaign is directed to parents of elementary, middle and high school students and is the culmination of the work of the Arts Education Task Force. NDCA convened this task force, comprised of educators, school administrators, policymakers, parents, artists, arts organizations and community leaders in the state, to identify, support and expand the quality of learning in and through the arts. The ads focus on four aspects of the arts: create, feel, discover and learn.

Evaluation & Assessment

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- Evaluation tools and frameworks are provided for grantees. Schools and organizations that receive funding for Artist in Residence or Teacher Incentive grants from the Council are required to complete a program evaluation prior to receiving their funding. The evaluation form is available on-line. The evaluations provide feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the program; information about skills or insights students and teachers learned as a result of the program; descriptions about specific aspects of the program; and statistics on the number of children, artists and audience served.
- Teams that receive funding for the Schools and Artist as Learning Teams grant program are provided a PowerPoint template with which to document their work during the year. At the end of the school year, SALT teams come together for reflection. Teams present their PowerPoints and receive feedback from other teams. The final PowerPoint is made available on the Council's Web site.
- When a school or organization is awarded a grant, they are provided access to an NDCA's on-line program evaluation. At the completion of the residency or project, the grantee submits a final report or program evaluation. Upon approval of the final report, the school or organization receives their funding.

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

Linda Ehreth, Arts Education Director, 1.0

Staff Biographies

Linda Ehreth manages grant programs that promote arts education opportunities in North Dakota schools and communities; coordinates professional development and training experiences for educators, artists and arts organizations; and develops and promotes resources that support the arts in North Dakota.

During her time at the Council, Ehreth developed an outreach trunk program entitled Arts Resources for Teaching Standards. This program offers educators eight theme based trunks focusing on arts disciplines and provides classroom enrichment in arts learning. In addition, she created a statewide arts education task force that met quarterly to identify, support and expand the quality of learning in and through the arts. Two major projects that resulted from the work of the task force were the Arts in North Dakota Documentation Project, which collected stories about individuals, community programs, school programs and regional programs, and a series of four arts education public service announcements created as part of a public awareness campaign stressing the benefits and importance of an arts education for North Dakota's youth. Ehreth holds a bachelor of science degree in education from the University of Mary in Bismarck and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from City University in Bellevue, Washington. She serves as a board member for Keep North Dakota Clean and the North Dakota Teacher Resource Coalition.