



**Ohio Arts Council**  
**Jeff Hooper, Director, Office of Arts Learning**

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## **General Information**

### ***Organization Mission Statement***

The Ohio Arts Council (OAC) is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically.

### ***Arts Education Mission Statement***

The Ohio Arts Council and the Office of Arts Learning (AL Office) believe that the development of the creative mind is essential for each of us to reach our full human potential. All individuals deserve to experience and learn about the arts, test their imaginations and tap their creative spirit throughout life. Cultivating creativity for all ages through the arts has important implications, including increased literacy and academic success, an inventive and skilled work force, improved health and well-being, enhanced social and cognitive development, and cultural understanding.

### ***Arts Education Program Overview***

The AL Office supports passionate and disciplined engagement in the arts for learners of all ages throughout their lives. Arts Learning programs encourage schools and communities to achieve their potential as creative places where citizens flourish because of deep involvement with the arts, and where they can give voice to their beliefs, values, ideas and dreams. Arts Learning programs encourage efforts that help to communicate the power of the arts in our lives as well as to understand the nature of teaching and learning in the arts.

OAC believes that learning in the arts is most effective as a sequential, in-depth process. Quality arts learning experiences should lead to an increased understanding of the role that the arts play in daily life, improvements in communication skills, a greater capacity for critical response and a new appreciation of why people value the arts. The AL Office is dedicated to strengthening arts learning through grants, quality programs and services, credible research, strong partnerships and vigorous advocacy efforts. The AL Office has three grant categories—Artist Express, Artist in Residence, and Arts Partnership—as well as an Arts Learning Artist Directory, that support passionate and disciplined engagement in the arts for learners of all ages.

<http://www.oac.state.oh.us/grantsprogs/guidelines/ArtsLearning.asp>.

The AL Office, as appropriate, creates partnerships to help meet its strategic goals. National and state partners have included the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education (OAAE), many of Ohio's colleges and universities, and arts, arts education, and education professional associations. Currently, the most significant partnership is with the Ohio Department of Education. OAC and ODE have worked closely for more than a decade. Recent work focused on professional development for school leaders. In 2004, the partners hosted the first NEA Summer Institute for School Leaders to promote local leadership development through the exploration of the promises and challenges of arts education and the integration of the arts with other disciplines. Twelve school districts and two educational service centers were invited and teams of leaders (superintendents, school board members, curriculum directors, and principals) participated in two and a half days of study and interaction. The work of the Institute continues as district leaders, principals, administrators and teachers apply for grants, host artist residences and get together to share strategies for making the arts basic to education. To learn more about the school leaders and their arts partners – and to access a wide range of learning resources in curriculum and evaluation—visit <http://www.oac.state.oh.us/GrantsProgs/NEAleadership/index.asp>.

## 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
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations
- quick funds/minigrants

### ***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
- Home school groups must operate as a nonprofit organization or have a nonprofit serve as a fiscal agent.

### ***Multiyear Grants***

Multiyear grants are available for two years.

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

106 grants

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

\$ 543,459

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

The total dollar amount above includes program grants for arts learning projects and artist in residence activities distributed through the AL Office. In addition, arts education activities were funded through the Sustainability (general operating support) and Access programs, which are not included in this total.

## Major Initiatives & Partnerships

### ***Ohio Arts Education Survey Project***

In partnership with the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education and the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Arts Education Census Project is a comprehensive effort to gather, evaluate and disseminate data regarding the accessibility and quality of arts education in public schools throughout Ohio.

### ***Mentorships for Teaching Artists***

Teaching artists joining the Arts Learning Artist Directory have the opportunity to work directly with experienced artists in their discipline in a residency setting.

## Artist Residency Program

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

- Mandatory orientation is provided for artists.
- Mandatory training is provided for artists.
- Entities other than schools may apply to sponsor a residency.

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

- \$1,200 per week

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

- The Artist in Residence program supports in-depth study with accomplished professional artists in a variety of educational and community settings. Artists engage participants of varying ages, cultures, experiences, and ability levels in making art within a mutually supportive and creative learning environment. Imaginative thinking, problem-solving, goal-setting and teamwork are part of the process.

## 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 once per year.
- To retain eligibility, artists must reapply every three years.

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

OAC maintains an Arts Learning Artist Directory, a listing of individuals and companies who are available for short- and long-term residencies. Residency artists must go through a rigorous screening and interview process to qualify for participation.

# Annual Events

## ***Fall Conference for Artist in Residence Sponsors and Teaching Artists***

The AL Office hosts an annual arts education conference promoting the interface of creativity, education and the arts. Organizational sponsors and artists from the Artist in Residence Program as well as members of the public gather to hear speakers, participate in workshops, and learn about resources. The first day offers artists professional development opportunities as well as time to renew and establish relationships with fellow teaching artists. A speaker with a national reputation is presented on Friday evening. On the second day, all residency sponsors are required to send a team to join with artists to learn more about the residency processes and expectations.

# Professional Development Services

## ***Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes***

- For classroom teachers, professional development is administered by the state arts agency office. The second day of the annual fall conference includes professional development events for classroom teachers.
- For arts specialists, professional development is administered by the state arts agency office. The second day of the annual fall conference includes professional development events for arts specialists.
- For teaching artists, professional development is administered by the state arts agency office. Two or three professional development opportunities are offered each year. The AL Office invites nationally recognized presenters to meet with roster artists, representatives from organizations receiving grants from OAC, and other arts education professionals from around the state to explore issues and develop new skills.
- For school administrators, professional development is administered by the state arts agency office. The second day of the annual fall conference includes professional development events for school administrators.

# Poetry Out Loud

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

- in-house with contracted staff

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

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 45
- Home-schooled students participate.

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

- classroom teacher training
- workshops in conjunction with state finals

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

- OAC provides additional cash awards for students and schools as well as a piece of artwork for the top three state finalists and a gift bag of poetry books for the top six finalists.
- Additional prizes were purchased.

**Partners, Funders or In-kind Donors That Support the Poetry Out Loud Program**  
Thurber House and the Ohioana Library

## Resources & Publications

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

- arts education handbook
- arts education planning guide
- arts education newsletter
- statewide data/research on arts education in schools
- social networking, e.g., Twitter or Facebook
- streaming video or audio

The AL Office is committed to the development of materials that expand knowledge in the field and serve artists, educators, and advocates such as parents and leaders of nonprofit organizations. Publications are available at:

<http://www.oac.state.oh.us/resources/ArtsLearningResources.asp>.

Highlights include:

- The Research based Communication Tool Kit, available at the NASAA Web site:  
[http://www.nasaa-arts.org/nasaanews/arts-and-learning/al\\_toolkit.htm](http://www.nasaa-arts.org/nasaanews/arts-and-learning/al_toolkit.htm)
- Focusing the Light: The Art and Practice of Planning, a seven-volume set of booklets that assist organizations in the planning, advocacy, and evaluation of arts programs: <http://www.oac.state.oh.us/FTL/>
- Links and Threads, an electronic newsletter for school leaders who value arts learning as an integral part of the core curriculum and want to take the greatest advantage of the arts for their schools and districts:  
<http://www.oac.state.oh.us/GrantsProgs/NEAleadership/LinksThreads.asp>
- The Arts Learning Artist Directory, which presents Arts Learning artists in a clear, accessible format and is a resource for Ohio's schools and communities:  
<http://www.oac.state.oh.us/Search/aie/ArtistsDirectory/default.asp>
- The Residency Handbook, organized to describe the process of conceiving, preparing for and conducting a residency:  
<http://www.oac.state.oh.us/search/AIE/ArtistsHandbook/>

## Evaluation & Assessment

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

- Assessment training is provided.
- Sample assessment tools are provided. A section of the OAC Web site is devoted to Learning Resources for School Leaders and their Arts Partners. Assessment materials available at the site include fact sheets on learner assessment, research and logic models.
- From 1996-2002, the AL Office, in partnership with ODE and OAAE, spearheaded the Ohio Arts Education Assessment Project, which resulted in a number of resources including The Power of Arts Assessment in Teaching and Learning:  
<http://www.oaae.net/projects.php?id=8>

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

- Evaluation tools and frameworks are provided for grantees. An extensive number of evaluation tools and materials are also available in the Learning Resources for School Leaders and Their Arts Partners section of the OAC Web site, including tip sheets on developing evaluation questionnaires, embedding evaluation guidelines and scaling.
- The OAC's AL Office seeks to achieve four outcomes: (1) Children, youth and adults demonstrate skills and deepen their knowledge and/or understanding of the arts; (2) Teachers, artists, and others demonstrate knowledge and skills necessary to engage participants in arts learning; (3) The nature of teaching and learning in the arts is better understood through credible research and scholarship; (4) State and local entities, along with the broader community, demonstrate a commitment to increasing access to the arts.
- Grantees are asked to select an outcome that is most appropriate to their work and to develop evaluation strategies and "public value" stories that align with the targeted outcome.

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

- formal external evaluation
- quantitative and qualitative grants data
- participation data
- financial data
- performance measurements
- surveys and feedback forms
- interviews
- focus groups and town hall meetings
- direct observations

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

Evaluation occurs at many levels and in a variety of ways across the Ohio Arts Council. Here are five examples:

- During the last two strategic planning processes, the agency has worked hard to focus on people and long-term results. To track progress, staff has identified immediate, intermediate and long-term success indicators for Council work. In addition to the agency's strategic plan, the Council submits an extensive budget rationale, which includes goals, strategies and measurement criteria, to the state's Office of Budget and Management.
- Periodically, the agency contracts with an outside reviewer for evaluation of its arts education program.
- Five percent of the total budget of all major initiatives is allocated to evaluation, including the professional fees of an outside evaluator.
- All arts learning grant programs place a strong emphasis on program evaluation. Related resources are available at <http://www.oac.state.oh.us/GrantsProgs/NEAleadership/EvaluationStudio.asp>.
- The AL Office has made an interactive iTool for logic model development available on the Web site. The tool allows the user to graphically depict how their program works from needs to outcomes: <http://www.oac.state.oh.us/FTL/>.

# Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

## ***State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist***

Nancy Pistone

## ***State Alliance for Arts Education***

The Ohio Alliance for Arts Education is a key partner in the development of programs and efforts to raise the awareness of the importance of arts education throughout Ohio. OAC and OAAE work together to provide workshops and promote initiatives; and two OAC staff members serve as representatives to the OAAE Board of Directors. OAC staff members also serve on OAAE committees.

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

- Jeff Hooper, Director of Arts Learning, 1.0
- Joanne Eubanks, Program Coordinator, 1.0

## ***Staff Biographies***

Prior to joining the Arts Learning Office staff in 2007, Jeff Hooper was the founder and producing director of Mad River Theater Works, Ohio's only rural professional theater company. During his tenure he led administrative, marketing and development efforts in addition to serving as principal playwright and teaching artist. Hooper oversaw touring production programming to major performing arts centers throughout the United States and Canada, reaching a combined audience of more than 45,000 students and teachers each year. He is the author of more than 30 plays that have been performed for more than 1.6 million students and teachers over the past 27 years. In addition, he owns and operates a 1,000-acre family farm in Champaign County. Hooper is on the board of WYSO-FM public radio station; is a teaching artist for the Ohio Arts Council's Artist in Residence Program; and is and a grant panelist for the Ohio Arts Council, Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts. He earned a bachelor of arts in theater from Antioch College in Yellow Springs.

Joanne Eubanks is completing her 18th year in the AL Office, with major responsibility for the Artist in Residence Program and the annual arts learning fall conference. Studying music performance (oboe) and dance education at The Ohio State University prepared her for varied performance and teaching opportunities. Besides working as a freelance oboist, Eubanks has taught classes in dance at area universities, coordinated the after-school dance program for Columbus public schools, and for 12 years taught modern dance at the Columbus College of Art and Design.