

Virginia

*Virginia Commission for the Arts
Elizabeth Cantile, Arts in Education Coordinator/Webmaster*

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

To support and stimulate excellence in all of the arts, in their full cultural and ethnic diversity, in order to enhance the quality of life, to stimulate economic development, to support educational advancement, and to make the arts accessible to all Virginians.

Arts Education Program Overview

The Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) is committed to strengthening arts education in the commonwealth. The arts are an essential component of communities, education and lives. Creative activity is a source of joy and wonder. It also nurtures the development of cognitive, social and personal skills that lead to improved academic performance in all subjects.

The study of the arts should be a part of the education of every young person, whether that student grows up to be a performer, a scientist or a basketball player. A complete curriculum in the arts includes training in both performance and the creation of artwork.

The Commission supports artist residencies in the schools, innovative projects that integrate the arts with non-arts curricula, and the educational programs of not-for-profit arts organizations. None of these educational resources, however, take the place of sequential, curriculum-based arts instruction delivered by certified arts teachers. These supplemental arts programs reinforce and expand upon the arts curricula. The Commission works in partnership with arts education associations, the Virginia Board of Education, the Virginia Department of Education, and arts organizations to promote arts education in all schools in Virginia.

VCA's arts education programming consists of two primary grants: Teacher Incentive Grants and the Artist in Residency Grant. In addition to those two primary categories, VCA also provides funding for a touring program bringing arts performances to schools across the state. Finally, the Commission facilitates the Poetry Out Loud program, which it has partnered with Theatre IV and Barksdale Theatre to organize for the 2009-2010 school year.

Grant Programs

Types of Arts Education Grant Programs

- residency program
- Teacher Incentive Grants: This grant category offers financial assistance to individual teachers to provide special arts resources or programming for the classroom project, to hire arts consultants or professional artists, or to purchase consumable supplies for the arts integration project described in the application. Projects may involve visual art, creative writing, music, theatre, dance or a combination of artistic disciplines.

Groups Eligible for Grant Programs

- pre-K centers
- public schools
- home school groups
- regional/local arts agencies
- arts organizations

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

22 grants

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

\$101,837

Additional Comments on Arts Education Grant Programs

Due to budget cuts this year, the Commission sent out a notice informing grant recipients that they would not be receiving the second payment of their grant money. In the case of the arts education grants, that amount was \$15,267.

Artist Residency Program

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

- Entities other than schools may apply for the residency program.

Teaching Artist Roster Program

Teaching Artist Roster Basics:

- Out-of-state artists may apply.
- A panel is used to select roster artists.
- Applications for roster are reviewed twice per year.
- To retain eligibility, artists must reapply every three years.

Annual Events

Art Works Conference

This is a gathering of arts organizations, teachers and artists during which the Virginia Arts Educators Association and the Music Educators Association have their annual workshop programming. There are several sessions during the course of this two-day conference that incorporate education and the arts.

Professional Development Services

Comments on Professional Development Services

Although the Commission's arts education program has no professional development services, the arts education coordinator attends conferences throughout the state at which she offers assistance and guidance to those attending the workshops/sessions. During the month of January, she travels around the state leading grant assistance workshops to help those applying for grants for the upcoming fiscal year.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- partner organizations: Poetry Out Loud is a joint effort between the Commission, Theatre IV, and Barksdale Theatre for the 2009-2010 school year.

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 42
- number of regional semifinals: 7

Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities

- documentation
- original poetry component
- workshops in conjunction with state finals

Additional Prizes and Awards

- The Commission is considering additional prizes and awards for the regional winners. However, the regional competitions are new to the state this year and the POL partners are still trying to confirm additional funding support.

Evaluation & Assessment

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- Program evaluation tools are provided. The Commission provides grantees with the evaluation sheets and point calculations used by the panelists when reviewing grant applications. It permits grantees to apply early, and applicants receive recommendations regarding weaknesses in their planning.

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

- participation data
- financial data
- surveys and feedback forms

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

Cherry Gardner

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

Elizabeth Cantile, Arts in Education Coordinator/Webmaster, 1.0

Arts Education Coordinator's Split Responsibilities

- other areas of work: Economic Stimulus, Touring Grant
- percent of time dedicated to arts education program: 50%

Staff Biography

Elizabeth Cantile attended Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, where she received her B.A. in art history. She then was awarded her MLitt in early European art from the University of Glasgow with an emphasis on ancient Egypt and ancient Sudanese art history. In Athens, Greece, she worked at the Athenian Agora for the American School of Classical Studies, then returned the United States. Cantile worked at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts within the development, education and curatorial departments. While there, she taught the program Young@Art and assisted with the museum's capital campaign for the expansion of the museum.