

# Washington

*Washington State Arts Commission  
Lisa Jaret, Arts in Education Program Manager*

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## **General Information**

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

The Washington State Arts Commission (WSAC) cultivates a thriving environment for creative expression and appreciation for the arts for the benefit of all.

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

The priorities in WSAC's strategic plan that relate to arts education are:

- to support high-quality and effective arts education programs for all K-12 students across the state through community based arts learning partnerships;
- to promote access to quality arts education for young children;
- to develop the arts teaching work force of classroom teachers and teaching artists.

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

The primary focus of the Arts in Education (AIE) Program at WSAC is to support arts education in K-12 public schools, achieved through community based partnerships among schools/districts, professional arts organizations and professional teaching artists, parent groups, and other community organizations and in alignment with the state's standards and learning goals in the arts. WSAC is interested in making significant and long-term investments designed to lead to sustainable, systemic change rather than supporting one-time experiences.

WSAC's primary financial investment in arts education is in the Community Consortium Grant Program. These grants may be up to a maximum of \$35,000/year, though some are much smaller. Consortium grants are now two-year grants. The First Step Grant is the smaller grant program, which has the same philosophical foundation as community partnerships geared toward long-term improvements in teaching and learning in the arts; these award funds are in the \$2,000-\$5,000 range. WSAC has begun to explore potential roles it might play in the early learning realm, and is in the midst of one pilot project; however with current funding cuts, WSAC does not expect to further that in the near future, and will focus on K-12 efforts.

WSAC has a fairly new Roster of Teaching Artists, which replaced a long-standing Artist Roster that became out of date when the artist-in-residence grant program was discontinued. The new Roster of Teaching Artists continues to place a strong emphasis on artist quality, but has raised the bar significantly on what is expected in terms of skills and expertise as educators, particularly experience in K-12 public schools, fluency in state standards, and ability to articulate and assess specific arts learning goals.

Other AIE projects and activities include managing the statewide Arts Education Research Initiative, leading Poetry Out Loud, working on legislative and policy related issues, serving on various committees and advisory boards, and presenting at local and regional arts and education conferences. The Commission continues to work on a transition to on-line grants. Staff cuts and transitions may change programs over the coming year.

## Grant Programs

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

- in-school arts education
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations
- other: Small Professional Development Support grants (maximum \$500) are available only to key partners on the AIE grants and/or the Roster of Teaching Artists.

### ***Groups Eligible for Grant Programs***

- public schools
- private/nonparochial schools
- regional/local arts agencies
- arts organizations
- non-arts organizations
- arts education alliance or similar statewide organization

### ***Multiyear Grants***

Multiyear grants are available for two years.

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

31 grants

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

\$ 635,000

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

The numbers above (grants and total dollars) do not include 11 small Professional Development Support grants totaling about \$3,500.

## Major Initiatives & Partnerships

### ***Arts Education Research Initiative (AERI)***

Statewide arts education research was first implemented in 2004-2005. A second round occurred in 2009, with publications scheduled to be completed by December 2009.

### ***Arts Education Month***

Arts Education Month, which began as Arts Education Week, is promoted in partnership with ArtsEd Washington (Washington's arts education alliance) and the state Department of Education. It is an opportunity to recognize, celebrate, promote and advocate for arts education. WSAC requests a proclamation from the governor and uses it as leverage to request proclamations from other cities, school boards and other entities.

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

WSAC received a one-time grant (\$10,000) from a private foundation to support the Arts Education Research Initiative.

## **Teaching Artist Roster Program**

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

- A panel is used to select roster artists.
- Applications for roster are reviewed once per year.
- To retain eligibility, artists must reapply every year.

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

Most out-of-state teaching artists may not apply for the Teaching Artist Roster, with the exception of those who live near the Washington state border in Idaho or Oregon and live within 60 miles of a Washington state public school.

## **Annual Events**

### ***Community Consortium Convening***

This is a one-day convening for the grantees in the larger AIE grant category. The convening usually includes some mix of information from the AIE office, peer networking and learning, participatory workshops, and outside presenters or trainers.

### ***Arts Education Month***

See Major Initiatives & Partnerships section.

## **Professional Development Services**

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

For teaching artists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. WSAC is working with a theatre organization to develop a teaching artist training lab.

## **Poetry Out Loud**

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

- in-house with arts education staff
- in-house with contracted staff
- with partner organizations: Regional partners around the state (who manage local participation) include a small nonprofit theatre, a local arts agency, a university press and an educational service district. WSAC partners with a university to present the state final, and with the state nonprofit television station to film the state final.

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

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 39
- number of regional semifinals: 5

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

- documentation
- classroom teacher training
- workshops in conjunction with state finals

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

- WSAC creates certificates and tries to publish poetry books.
- Additional prizes were purchased.

## **Resources & Publications**

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

- statewide data/research on arts education in schools
- other: WSAC provides on-line access to the Teaching Artist Journal for grantees and rostered teaching artists.

## **Evaluation & Assessment**

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

- Assessment training is provided. Very limited training is provided to grantees.
- WSAC is increasing expectations and requirements for grantees, particularly those who have been in the grant program for more than five years, and is looking at evidence that they are assessing learning in the arts. Although the Commission is unable to directly affect training or implementing assessments, it is attempting to “move the needle” by giving this area stronger focus in grant applications and final reporting requirements.
- WSAC is keeping close tabs on the new state Department of Education requirements around assessments, and the Classroom Based Performance Assessments (CBPAs) they have developed in all four fine arts disciplines. The Commission is encouraging but not requiring grantees to become familiar with the CBPAs and to assist classroom teachers with them as appropriate/applicable.

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

- Grant applications and final reports must address program evaluation. A related area of focus grantees must address is how they are planning for program sustainability.

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

- formal external evaluation
- quantitative and qualitative grants data
- participation data
- financial data
- surveys and feedback forms
- direct observations

# Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

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

AnnRene Joseph

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

ArtsEd Washington. WSAC's Arts in Education Program manager works closely with the executive director of ArtsEd Washington and serves as an ex officio member of its board. WSAC provides a small annual grant to ArtsEd Washington as a cooperative partner and relies on the alliance to lead the charge on arts education advocacy, and on growing to the point where it can build and support arts education networks around the state.

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

- Lisa Jaret, Arts in Education Program Manager, 1
- Christel Ratliff, Administrative Assistant, 0.4

## ***Staff Biographies***

Lisa Jaret joined the staff of the Washington State Arts Commission in 2005. Previously, she was the administrative director of education programs at Seattle Children's Theatre. Her background is in theatre and dance. She is an ex officio board member for ArtsEd Washington and a member of the Arts Education Advisory Group, and was previously on the board of Spectrum Dance Theater. Jaret holds a master's degree in not-for-profit leadership from Seattle University and a B.A. in humanities from the University of California, Berkeley.

Christel Ratliff has worked for WSAC since 1994 in administration, community arts development, folk arts, art in public places, grants to organizations and the Arts in Education Program, which completes her journey through all WSAC programs. She moved to the Northwest in 1992 from Florida. She grew up and went to school in Germany.