

Massachusetts

*Massachusetts Culture Council
Diane Daily, Education Programs Manager*

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

The Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) is a state agency that promotes excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and contribute to the economic vitality of Massachusetts communities.

Arts Education Mission Statement

The Massachusetts Cultural Council seeks to ensure that all children in the state's schools have access to high-quality, creative learning experiences. MCC's long-term goals include the following:

- The arts should be considered a core component of any recommended curriculum at the primary, elementary and secondary levels in Massachusetts.
- At least one hour of high-quality, sequential arts instruction should be provided weekly for each K-8 student.
- Every high school student should be proficient in at least one art form in order to graduate.
- Institutions of higher education should require proficiency in at least one art form for admission.
- After-school opportunities for sustained, sequential learning in the arts, humanities, and sciences should be available to every student.
- The transformative power of the arts and creative learning should be used to reclaim some of the state's most vulnerable young people.
- All Massachusetts teachers should have access to high-quality professional development in the arts.

Arts Education Program Overview

Historically, MCC's Arts Education Program has worked to address the complex challenges of strengthening and maintaining arts education through a number of initiatives. Since 2000, MCC has offered grants to schools to work with cultural partners—arts organizations and teaching artists—in the design and implement of curriculum, professional development and long-term residencies. Since 2005, MCC has funded professional development offered by cultural organizations to train educators in an “arts immersion” pedagogy designed use a single work of art to open doors to learning across the curriculum.

A regional teaching artist initiative lead by a consortium of New England state arts agency arts education managers, the New England Consortium of Artist Educator Professionals (NECAP) works to professionalize the teaching artist field through professional development opportunities. In addition, MCC has been working with Lesley University to offer a teaching artist certificate program, designed to offer progressive professional development for the field. MCC has worked with a number of school districts on arts education strategic planning using the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts audit for arts education as a guide. For the past three years, MCC has been working with the city of Springfield, under a U.S. Department of Education Model Dissemination Grant, on teacher professional development aimed at integrating Puerto Rican culture across the curriculum.

MCC provides grants to nonprofit cultural organizations that offer out-of-school time programs for youth at risk. Each year, programs are honored by the Coming Up Taller awards for excellence. MCC has served as cochair of the state Department of Education's Arts Education Advisory Council to the commissioner and the Board of Education. MCC also sits on the board of the state arts education alliance.

In fiscal year 2010, due to a 24% budget cut, MCC is stepping back to reassess its arts education programs and strategy toward the goal of using limited state dollars to achieve the widest possible impact. These discussions will be under way this fall.

Grant Programs

Types of Arts Education Grant Programs

- in-school arts education
- out-of-school-time arts education
- 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
- arts organizations
- non-arts organizations

Multiyear Grants

Multiyear grants are available for two years.

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

1567 grants

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

\$ 1,124,000

Additional Comments on Arts Education Grant Programs

Due to a 24% budget cut and resultant staffing reductions, MCC is reviewing its arts education initiatives to determine how best to serve constituents with limited education dollars. The agency will be redesigning its education programs in fiscal year 2010.

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

Creative Schools

Creative Schools provides grants and technical assistance for preK-12 schools to strengthen teaching and learning in the arts, sciences, and humanities through a partnership with a cultural organization or teaching artist. Grants support curriculum design, professional development and long-term residencies with a professional development component.

Creative Teaching Partners

Creative Teaching Partners is a listing of experienced teaching artists, scientists and humanists who are reviewed by a peer panel for expertise and excellence.

YouthReach

YouthReach promotes out-of-school arts, humanities and science opportunities through grants and technical assistance to cultural organizations and human service agency partners that nurture the spirit of creative inquiry in young people.

Massachusetts Arts Education Caucus

A consortium of the state's arts education leaders and advocates, the Massachusetts Arts Education Caucus is designed to provide an ongoing forum for discussion policy and advocacy in the field.

Big Yellow School Bus

This partnership with the Bank of America provides \$200 grants to 750 preK-12 schools to offset transportation costs of a student field trip to a cultural organization or event.

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

Bank of America

Teaching Artist Roster Program

Teaching Artist Roster Basics:

- A panel is used to select roster artists.
- Applications for roster are reviewed once per year.
- Artists are not required to reapply to retain eligibility.

Annual Events

Annual Regional NECAP Teaching Artists Conference

MCC, as a member of NECAP, works with its partner state arts agencies to present an annual convening of teaching artists designed to provide professional development and updates on research and pedagogy.

Professional Development Services

Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes

For teaching artists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. MCC, in partnership with Lesley University and NECAP, offers a year-long series of two-day professional development convenings focused on arts education pedagogy, research and model programs.

Additional Comments on Professional Development Services

MCC's Arts Immersion Teacher Institute Program, originally launched as a pilot program with the National Endowment for the Arts, provided week-long summer institutes offered by cultural organizations for classroom teachers, arts specialists, teaching artists and administrators. The institutes provided educators experience and training in an "immersion" pedagogy that focused teaching and learning across the curriculum through a single work of art. This "an inch wide and a mile deep" approach demonstrated the power of immersion to educators typically trained in survey pedagogies. Over the five years of the program, educators reported that this approach to teaching and learning proved to be highly effective and rejuvenating for both teachers and students.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- with partner organization: Huntington Theater

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 60
- Schools specifically for students with disabilities participate.
- Schools specifically for at-risk students participate.
- number of regional semifinals: 4

Additional Prizes and Awards

- MCC provides \$250 for each of the 20 state finalists.

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

- arts education newsletter
- statewide data/research on arts education in schools

MCC distributes a bimonthly e-newsletter, "Creative Minds," to school administrators, arts specialists, classroom teachers, cultural organizations and teaching artists/scientists. The newsletter covers MCC arts education initiatives and developments in state arts education policy.

Evaluation & Assessment

Assessment of Student Learning in the Arts

- MCC is a partner in the regional New England Arts Assessment Collaborative with the other New England state arts agencies and departments of education. This collaborative meets quarterly to share ongoing work, events, and development in arts assessment in order to provide collaboration and coordination among the state efforts.

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- As part of their grant proposal, applicants are asked to describe how they will evaluate their project on an ongoing basis; the efficacy of their plan is included in the application review. All grantees submit a final report at the end of each fiscal year asking them to reflect on the successes and challenges of their work during the year and to discuss how they will address challenges in the second year of their grant.

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

- quantitative and qualitative grants data
- direct observations
- other: The department convenes biweekly with agency senior staff to discuss program developments, goals and challenges, as well as site visit findings.

Utilization of Evaluation

MCC uses data gathered through site visits to grantee projects, feedback and discussion at semiannual regional grantee convenings, formal evaluations from Teaching Artist professional development, information reported on annual final reports from all grantees, and ongoing internal program and policy discussions to indicate successes and challenges in the Arts Education Program.

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

Dr. Lurline Munoz-Bennett

State Alliance for Arts Education

MCC sits on the leadership council of Arts Learning (formerly the Massachusetts Arts Education Collaborative under the National Arts Learning Collaborative) and works closely on cooperative projects in professional development, policy and advocacy.

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

Diane Daily, Education Programs Manager, 1.0

Arts Education Coordinator's Split Responsibilities

- other areas of work: Massachusetts Arts Stimulus Program
- percent of time dedicated to arts education program: 90%

Staff Biographies

Diane Daily has 30 years' experience in public service, including policy development and advocacy, program design and implementation, and public education. She started her career as concert coordinator for the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. Following VSO budget cuts, she worked in the field of energy conservation and renewables, serving as Massachusetts deputy commissioner for energy resources. Daily returned to the arts field in 2000 to work for change on a social issue even more fundamental to the health of the planet: developing the creative minds needed for the 21st century. She is a vocalist, percussionist, pianist, actor and dancer and has had worked as an assistant director of original children's operettas.

Concluding Thoughts & Additional Comments

Following a period of expansion and development of arts education initiatives, MCC will reassess and refocus its arts education work in response to fiscal year 2010 reductions in budget and staffing.