

Missouri

*Missouri Arts Council
Julie Hale, Program Specialist*

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

The Missouri Arts Council—as public leader, partner and catalyst—is dedicated to broadening the appreciation and availability of the arts in the state and fostering the diversity, vitality and excellence of Missouri’s communities, economy and cultural heritage.

Arts Education Program Overview

Missouri Arts Council (MAC) arts education grant and professional development programs are designed to strengthen the place of the arts as a core academic subject in the regular school curriculum, and to promote integrating the arts into non-arts classrooms and in out-of-school programs. MAC works with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure that these programs support student achievement.

All nonprofit organizations and schools, except for recipients of the MAC Established Institutions Grant, are eligible to apply for arts education grants. Organizations may apply for this grant in addition to other MAC grants, though two or more MAC grants may not be used to fund the same project.

Arts education grant categories are listed below.

- The Artist in Residence (AIR) Grant is designed to strengthen school fine arts curricula (dance, drama, creative writing, music and visual arts) or other curriculum (communication arts, social studies, math or science). A residency must include direct, hands-on experience between the artist and target and exposure groups within the school environment. Residencies integrating fine arts content into non-arts curricula should align studies in the fine arts with relevant themes taught in non-arts classrooms.
- The Out of School Grant supports quality arts education activities serving at-risk, urban and/or rural underserved children and youth. These activities take place outside of the normal classroom day, and could occur outside of the school building.
- The Professional Development Grant supports projects that present qualified speakers to teachers, school administrators, and teaching artists. Additionally, grants could pay fees for qualified facilitators to lead instruction for teaching the arts and for integrating the arts into non-arts curriculum. Adherence to the High-Quality Professional Development Standards, as defined by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, is a funding consideration.

- The School Touring Program Grant funds 60% of artistic fees for schools and organizations to present performing artists at assemblies with pre- or posteducational workshops or related activities. The intent of this program is to support artists touring to schools outside their home base. Performing artists must be selected from MAC's School Touring Roster. Programs of Missouri artists provided through the rosters of Kansas City and St. Louis chapters of Young Audiences are also eligible.

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
- Professional development projects present speakers to teachers, administrators, and teaching artists.
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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

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

81 grants

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

\$ 348,747

Additional Comments on Arts Education Grant Programs

The Missouri Arts Council accepts requests for as much as \$10,000 on an annual cycle. These applications are reviewed by a panel and approved by Council. Additionally, requests for as much as \$2,500 are accepted monthly. These applications are reviewed by staff and approved by the Executive Committee. The monthly grant cycle enables schools and organizations to secure funds with less advance planning; the program has been very well received.

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

Arts Education Collaborative

This statewide group meets three or four times each year to keep abreast of trends in the field and to coordinate professional development activities for teaching artists, fine arts specialists, classroom teachers and others. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) provides the meeting place, members of their staff attend, and DESE usually presents at the meeting.

Because most participants must travel a distance, MAC arranges for a complete day of activities, including presentations and discussion. Each member organization offers some variety of professional development activities in their community, and through the collaborative MAC is able to coordinate programs and share resources.

Member organizations include Missouri's three John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Partners in Education, Missouri's Kennedy Center Alliance, both Young Audiences chapters within the state (Kansas City and St. Louis), school district administrators, university professors, and other arts and arts education organizations. MAC seeks interested organizations and welcomes anyone who has interest.

Missouri Alliance for Arts Education

MAC appreciates the work of the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education (MAAE) and works closely with it on several programs including Fine Arts Education Day. On average about 1,000 students, teachers and parents perform in the capitol rotunda and visit with their legislatures for one day in March each year. The day is a culmination of the year's advocacy efforts, and it is also the time to introduce new items on the advocacy agenda.

Arts Education Research Project

Through MAAE, MAC is funding a statewide review of fine arts programs in all 540 school districts within the state. The two-year project should be completed in March 2010.

Goals of the study:

- To answer questions about the depth and breadth of arts education
- To answer questions about student access and to identify disparities
- To answer questions about the quality of arts education in the state
- To raise awareness of the importance of arts education
- To inform policy decisions
- To give direction to funding/resource decisions

Teaching Artist Project

Coordinated with MAAE, the Teaching Artist Project is an ongoing program that includes a series of workshops each fall. The workshops are offered in multiple communities within the state. The Fall 2009 TAP into the Arts provided information about developing arts-integrated lessons and study guides. These professional development seminars are for classroom teachers, fine arts teachers, school administrators and local and regional teaching artists. MAC Arts Education Program Specialist Julie Hale and MAAE Executive Director Deborah Fisher presented the free seminar in eight communities in fall 2009.

Interchange

Interchange is an arts education collaborative joining the St. Louis public schools with 35 local arts and cultural organizations and with 15 businesses, community groups and institutions of higher education. Interchange supports the arts-integrated curriculum of the St. Louis public schools by partnering these community resources with teachers in the schools. Its goal is to help the district with arts-integrated learning systemwide. The Missouri Arts Council supports Interchange financially and through involvement in committees. MAC's arts education program specialist serves on the executive board and chairs the professional development board. Interchange participates in the Arts Education Collaborative and serves effectively on the board of MAAE.

Through Interchange, St. Louis is one of nine sites in the country piloting arts integration in urban public school systems as part of the Ford Foundation's Integrating the Arts and Education Reform Initiative. Interchange is managed by the Center of Creative Arts, the fiscal agent for the Ford Foundation grant that led to the development of Interchange. Interchange supports arts-integrated learning through:

- Professional development of teachers, administrators and teaching artists. This is done through a summer institute and ongoing workshops.
- Programmatic and financial support of partnerships between arts and cultural organizations and classroom teachers. The most important work Interchange does is to facilitate the in-classroom work of St. Louis public school teachers in tandem with teaching artists.
- Documentation and evaluation of arts integration. Learning is happening in the classroom because it is built into the Interchange model.
- Advocating for arts education. Interchange partners with principals, teachers, parents, and community members to ensure arts education remains an integral part of each child's education in St. Louis public schools.

Folk Artists in Education Project

The Dana Foundation awarded a generous Arts Education Rural Initiative Grant (\$32,200) to the Missouri Folk Arts Program to train folk artists as teaching artists for K-12 schools. Folk arts and artists can provide curriculum enrichment as teachers strive to meet state and federal education standards. In fiscal year 2009 nine artists learned to work with educators and students to develop curriculum materials and to present school programs, including residencies. Work with these artists continues.

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

Dana Foundation

Additional Comments on Initiatives and Partnerships

Though the Missouri Arts Council does not receive grants directly, it actively assists other organizations with identifying and securing grants. For example, this is the second year the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education is to receive a \$30,000 grant from the Francis Family Foundation.

Annual Events

Fine Arts Education Day

The Missouri Arts Council appreciates the work of the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education and works closely with it on several programs including Fine Arts Education Day. On average, about 1,000 students, teachers and parents perform in the Capitol Rotunda and visit with their legislators for one day in March each year. The day is a culmination of the year's advocacy efforts, and it is also the time to introduce new items on the advocacy agenda.

Teaching Artist Project - TAP into the Arts Workshops

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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 cooperation with the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education, workshops are offered in multiple communities each fall. Though the topic changes, the purpose is to provide professional development for fine arts specialists, classroom teachers, and teaching artists.
- For arts specialists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization.
- For teaching artists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization.
- For school administrators, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization.

Additional Comments on Professional Development Services

Missouri Arts Council has a policy against funding the cost of substitute teachers, as well as stipends, for participants in any professional development activities. This includes programs organized by the Missouri Arts Council, programs provided through partnerships, and programs funded through MAC's Arts Education Professional Development grants. For this reason it is especially challenging to ensure participation. Over time, MAC's reputation for providing strong programs has grown and attendance has been strong.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

with partner organization: Missouri Association for Community Arts Agencies and Capital City Council on the Arts

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 74
- number of regional semifinals: 9

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

At the school level, both teachers and administrators contribute their time. Additionally, many of the schools are able to provide donated refreshments at the competitions and prizes for the classroom and school winners. Regional arts councils coordinate the regional competitions. They provide volunteers and many choose to solicit in-kind contributions such as refreshments and prizes. Additionally, many of the regional competitions are held in donated venues. At the state level, in Jefferson City, the Miller Performing Arts Center donates its facility for the competition. Capital City Council on the Arts provides many volunteers for the event.

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

The Missouri Alliance for Arts Education has developed a DVD, "How to Prepare an Arts Related Study Guide," and an advocacy toolkit. The Alliance also provides information resulting from the statewide research project. The state Department of Education has just produced a booklet for fine arts specialists on using the fine arts depth of knowledge.

Evaluation & Assessment

Assessment of Student Learning in the Arts

Assessment training is provided. This is always a significant part of the TAP into the Arts workshops.

Program Evaluation for Grantees

The Missouri Arts Council's grant applications require that the fine arts learning objectives be defined and that methods for both assessment of student learning and evaluation of the program be explained. Sample assessment tools are required as attachments to the application, and a summary of the outcomes is required with the final report. The summary of outcomes becomes an important attachment for future applications. The weighted evaluation criteria for Arts Education Grant applications include education benefits (20%) and evaluation/assessment (20%). This has elevated the importance of fine arts Grade Level Expectations and Depth of Knowledge assessment strategies for all MAC-funded arts education projects. MAC's program specialist for arts education provides much guidance and support in the planning of MAC-funded arts education projects, including assessment.

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

- quantitative and qualitative grants data
- participation data
- financial data
- performance measurements
- focus groups and town hall meetings
- direct observations

Utilization of Evaluation

Over time MAC's Arts Education Grant Program has changed considerably, for example, when the No Child Left Behind Act was introduced, the state fine arts assessment (which had been piloted for one year) was postponed indefinitely. The number of grant applications received dropped substantially, and it became clear that MAC needed to revise its grant program. Consultation with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education resulted in a complete revision of the program to include alignment with school improvement plans, grade level expectations and depth of knowledge strategies.

Subsequently, the monthly application deadline was introduced to create a more flexible time line for school projects. Shortly thereafter, the Arts Education Panel recommended changes to the evaluation criteria, which were revised to include education benefits and evaluation/assessment.

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

Steve Williams

State Alliance for Arts Education

Missouri Alliance for Arts Education: MAC works closely with this organization in many capacities, including Fine Arts Education Day, TAP into the Arts Workshops, Arts Education Research Project and Arts Education Collaborative.

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

Julie Hale, Program Specialist for Arts Education, 0.9

Arts Education Coordinator's Split Responsibilities

- other areas of work: American Reinvestment and Recovery Act grant program.
- percent of time dedicated to arts education program: 90%

Staff Biography

During her 10 years in this position, Julie Hale has worked statewide to elevate the importance of arts education for Missouri's children. She works closely with the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education as well as its committee for professional development, the Arts Education Collaborative. Previous responsibilities included work with arts councils in Missouri's smaller communities. Hale has built upon these relationships to connect with Missouri's rural school districts.