

South Carolina

South Carolina Arts Commission

Katie Fox, Program Director for Arts Education and the South Carolina Artists' Ventures Initiative

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

The mission of the South Carolina Arts Commission (SCAC) is to build a thriving arts environment for the benefit of all South Carolinians.

Arts Education Mission Statement

The mission of SCAC's arts education program is to ensure a quality, sequential, standards based arts education for all South Carolina students.

Arts Education Program Overview

Recognizing that the Arts Commission serves a large and varied constituency, the Arts in Education (AIE) Program has been designed to address the needs of as much of this diverse population as possible. While striving to advance comprehensive arts education reform in South Carolina at the legislative level, the Commission will continue to help underserved communities and schools to establish effective arts education programs. This work is accomplished through grant making, advocacy and partnerships with other key arts education organizations in the state, including the Arts in Basic Curriculum Project, the South Carolina Department of Education, the South Carolina Center for Dance Education, the South Carolina Alliance for Arts Education, the state's five John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Partnerships, the South Carolina Council of Arts Education Presidents and the South Carolina Arts Alliance.

Grant Programs

Types of Arts Education Grant Programs

- residency program
- in-school arts education
- out-of-school-time arts education
- general operating support for arts education organizations
- other: SCAC provides grants that institute new full- or part-time district arts coordinator positions and grants that support the creation of a strategic plan for including a standards based education in dance, music, theatre, visual arts and creative writing in a school or district's daily curriculum.

Groups Eligible for Grant Programs

- public schools
- private/nonparochial schools
- private/parochial schools
- charter 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

96 grants

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

\$ 390,966

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

The Arts in Basic Curriculum Project

The mission of the Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) Project is to provide leadership to achieve quality, comprehensive arts education (dance, music, theatre, visual arts and creative writing) for all students in South Carolina. The Project is a 20-year partnership between SCAC, the South Carolina Department of Education and Winthrop University. More information may be found at www.winthrop.edu/abc.

SCAC/South Carolina Alliance for Arts Education Partnership

SCAC and the South Carolina Alliance for Arts Education (SCAAE) partner to provide professional development opportunities for teachers and teaching artists, to complete arts education research and publication of best practices, and to fulfill projects focused on arts integration.

SCAC/South Carolina Arts Alliance Partnership

The South Carolina Arts Alliance (SCAA) serves as an advocate for all arts education initiatives of SCAC. SCAA's executive director, Betty Plumb, is an award-winning and much respected advocate and leader in the nation.

SCAC/Clemson Youth Learning Institute Partnership

SCAC partners with Clemson's Youth Learning Institute to offer arts in the Clemson Youth Learning Institute's nontraditional education settings. These settings include programs for incarcerated youth and teen parents.

SCAC/Department of Social Services Partnership

SCAC and the Department of Social Services partner to provide arts based professional development for day-care providers.

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

SCAC programs receive support from the sale of the "Driven by the Arts" license plate and, in some circumstances, from the South Carolina Arts Foundation, which raises private funds to support the work of SCAC.

Additional Comments on Initiatives and Partnerships

The strong partnerships among arts education service organizations in South Carolina are central to SCAC's success. Common goals and collegial respect permeate the work of SCAC, the South Carolina Department of Education, the ABC Project, SCAAE, SCAA and other partners.

Artist Residency Program

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

- Optional orientation is provided for artists.
- Optional orientation is provided for sponsors.
- Optional training is provided for artists.
- Entities other than schools may not apply to sponsor a residency.

Fee Structure for Teaching Artists

- Fees are arranged by the teaching artist and the site. SCAC does not fund residencies for which an artist is paid less than \$750 for 22 hours of work.

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.

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

SCAC's teaching artists serve life terms.

Annual Events

Arts in Education Booking Conference

This event brings together teaching artists and those looking to hire them. It is an exhibition hall only; there is no performance showcase. This year the event has been combined with SCAAE's Arts Integration Conference.

Professional Development Services

Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes

- For classroom teachers, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. Approximately 20 professional development institutes for arts and non-arts teachers are provided each summer by the Arts in Basic Curriculum Project. SCAC is a key partner in the ABC Project and serves teachers through the partnership.
- For arts specialists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. Approximately 20 professional development institutes for arts and non-arts teachers are provided each summer by the ABC Project. SCAC is a key partner in the Project and serves teachers through the partnership.
- For teaching artists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. Each year, SCAC offers training for teaching artists at SCAAE's Arts Integration Conference.
- For school administrators, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. Each summer, the ABC Project administers the Arts Education Leadership Institute, which helps school administrators and their faculty prepare strategic plans to incorporate the arts into their school's daily curriculum.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- in-house with other state arts agency staff
- Although the staff member who coordinates Poetry Out Loud is housed in the SCAC's office, she is an employee of the Literary Arts Partnership, which is a joint effort of SCAC, the South Carolina State Library and the South Carolina Humanities Council.

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 39
- Home-schooled students participate.
- Schools specifically for students with disabilities participate.
- number of regional semifinals: three

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

South Carolina Humanities Council, the South Carolina State Library, Lowcountry Initiative for the Literary Arts, Hub City Writers Project, Sumter County Cultural Commission, and the Columbia Museum of Art

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

- arts education planning guide
- arts education newsletter
- arts education advocacy toolkit
- statewide data/research on arts education in schools
- other: SCAC provides residency planning and assessment documents that the teaching artist and host teacher must complete together.

Evaluation & Assessment

Assessment of Student Learning in the Arts

- Assessment training is provided through the ABC Project, of which SCAC is a key partner.

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- Evaluation tools and frameworks are provided for grantees. Residency assessment documents are mandatory and may be assessed through the agency's Web site. Copies are also provided in grant packets.
- In final reports, grantees are required to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of each program or project, including what was learned on the part of all constituents involved.
- Additionally, SCAC encourages constituents to use Essential Elements for a Comprehensive Arts Education, Essential Elements for an Arts Integrated Education, and the Arts Infusion Continuum, published by the ABC Project, to gauge the effectiveness of their arts education programs.

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

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

Utilization of Evaluation

Programs are altered based on feedback from constituents and data collected through final reports. During fiscal year 2010, SCAC will undergo an evaluation of arts education programs. The evaluation will include a review of grant data and a series of town hall meetings to assess program effectiveness and accept ideas for changes and improvements.

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

R. Scot Hockman

State Alliance for Arts Education

SCAAE and SCAC share a very close relationship. SCAC's education director serves on the board of SCAAE, and the two organizations collaborate on numerous projects yearly.

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

- Katie Fox, Program Director, Arts Education and the South Carolina Artists' Ventures Initiative, 1.0
- Kim Hame, Assistant Coordinator, Arts Education and South Carolina Artists' Initiative, 0.75

Arts Education Coordinator's Split Responsibilities

- other areas of work: artist services
- percent of time dedicated to arts education program: 50%

Staff Biographies

Katie Fox manages programs that support the professional development of South Carolina artists and ensure a quality arts education for all South Carolina students. She is the creator of the New Audience Road Show program, which introduces young adults to the arts organizations in their community through in-depth learning experiences. Prior to her tenure at SCAC, Fox served as the executive director of the Children's Theatre of Mason (Ohio), as a public school theatre teacher, and as a theatre professional and teaching artist in Chicago, Kansas City, Seattle, and Cincinnati. She is a graduate of the Arts Administration and Business Administration graduate programs at the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music.