

# Wisconsin

*Wisconsin Arts Board*

*Anne Pryor, Folk and Traditional Arts Specialist*

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## General Information

### *Organization Mission Statement*

The Wisconsin Arts Board (WAB) is the state agency that nurtures creativity, cultivates expression, promotes the arts, supports the arts in education, stimulates community and economic development, and serves as a resource for people of every culture and heritage.

### *Arts Education Mission Statement*

The goals of the Arts Education program at WAB are to catalyze the statewide effort to establish the arts as core curriculum of grades preK-16 and as a tool to enhance education in other subjects; to assist and support artists working in arts education with grants and service; to provide information and resources to arts education advocates and decision makers; and to advocate for inclusion of a diversity of cultures in arts education curricula.

### *Arts Education Program Overview*

WAB includes arts education in all of its funding programs and priorities. There is an education component in the major granting program, Creation and Presentation, to which arts organizations apply for operational support. This includes both lifelong learning activities appropriate to the community that the applicant serves and K-12 in-school educational programming that meets the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's arts education standards in visual art and design, dance, literature (within the English language arts standards), music and/or theater.

WAB has a dedicated category for arts education in its project grants, the Creative Communities program. The arts education component provides funds to schools and/or community organizations that bring in professional or traditional artists to work with K-12 students. Examples include traditional residencies; short-term artist visits; assembly programs; teacher workshops; after-school or summer school projects; projects that encourage arts organizations and schools to work together to develop necessary and/or innovative programs that enhance the established curricula; and projects that emphasize creativity across the disciplines as elaborated in the Wisconsin Task Force on Arts and Creativity in Education Action Plan.

WAB partners with myriad organizations to support the arts and creativity in education, in schools and out of schools.

WAB is prioritizing outreach and continued activity on the Wisconsin Task Force on Arts and Creativity in Education findings and publications.

# Grant Programs

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

- in-school arts education
- out-of-school time arts education
- lifelong learning in the arts
- general operating support for arts education organizations
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations

## ***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 state-level organization

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

14 grants

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

\$122,475

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

WAB's Creation and Presentation program, for the state's arts organization's operational support, includes a criterion for arts education. The numbers above reflect only the project grants awards, not the full range of WAB funding for arts education.

# Major Initiatives & Partnerships

## ***Wisconsin Task Force for Arts and Creativity in Education***

Emerging from WAB's participation in the Education Leadership Institute, the state superintendent of public instruction partnered with Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton, WAB's board chair, to convene a Task Force on Arts and Creativity in Education. The Task Force conducted nine public forums and reviewed the status of arts education in Wisconsin and research done by experts in the field. Wisconsin received a Partnership for 21st Century Skills award for this work. See [www.creativewisconsin.gov](http://www.creativewisconsin.gov) for a report on this initiative.

## ***Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education***

The WAB executive director sits on the Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education (WAAE) board.

### ***Wisconsin Teachers of Local Culture***

This group provides unique inquiry based professional development to educators who are open to creativity across the curriculum. Anne Pryor, WAB's folk and traditional arts specialist, is a cofounder and a leader of Wisconsin Teachers of Local Culture.

### ***Wisconsin Folks***

This award-winning Web site provides in-depth K-12 content on traditional and ethnic artists.

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

Grants come from sources such as University of Wisconsin-Madison for projects, fees for service, and Dana foundation support for the Task Force's work.

## **Annual Events**

### ***Here at Home Cultural Tour***

This annual four- to nine-day tour of the local cultures of Wisconsin offers expeditionary learning for teachers, with the arts incorporated across the curriculum.

## **Professional Development Services**

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

- For classroom teachers, professional development is administered by the state arts agency office. Wisconsin Teachers of Local Culture provides an annual four- to nine-day tour of the local cultures of Wisconsin. This is expeditionary learning for teachers with the arts incorporated across the curriculum.
- For arts specialists, professional development is administered by the state arts agency office. Professional development services for arts specialists is included as part of service offerings for all teachers.

### ***Additional Comments on Professional Development Services***

WAB is in the process of partnering with WAAE to develop a teaching artist training.

## **Poetry Out Loud**

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

- in-house with contracted staff

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

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 42
- number of regional semifinals: 3
- Home-schooled students participate.

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

- lesson plans
- teaching artist training
- classroom teacher training
- workshops in conjunction with state finals

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

Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English, Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, Wisconsin Book Festival (run by the Wisconsin Humanities Council), Wisconsin High School Forensic Association, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

## **Resources & Publications**

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

- cultural resources directory including arts education
- statewide data/research on arts education in schools
- Wisconsin Task Force for Arts and Creativity in Education final report and executive summary
- curricula such as “Quilting Circles, Learning Communities” and “Kids’ Guide to Local Culture”
- website “Wisconsin Folks” [www.wisconsinfolks.org](http://www.wisconsinfolks.org)
- website “Creative Wisconsin” [www.creative.wisconsin.gov](http://www.creative.wisconsin.gov)

## **Evaluation & Assessment**

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

- Assessment training is provided. WAB offers half-day assessment training through partnership with Arts Extension Service, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and Maryo Gard Ewell.

***Program Evaluation for Grantees***

- Project narratives articulate how applicant projects will be evaluated. The processes are judged against the grant program's criteria.

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

- participation data
- surveys and feedback forms
- interviews
- focus groups and "town hall" meetings

## **Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts**

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

Mel Pontius

***State Alliance for Arts Education***

Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education: formal partnership through board membership, partnering on projects and trainings

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

- George Tzougros, Executive Director, 1.0
- Anne Pryor, Folk and Traditional Arts Specialist, 1.0

***Arts Education Coordinator’s Split Responsibilities***

- other areas of work: directing the agency (George Tzougros) and folk arts (Anne Pryor)
- percent of time dedicated to arts education program: 20% represents an average of each staff person's time devoted to arts education because it is infused across the agency.

### **Staff Biographies**

Anne Pryor has taught in diverse educational settings with learners of all ages and levels. She is project director for the award-winning educational Web site "Wisconsin Folks," cofounder of the statewide organization Wisconsin Teachers of Local Culture, coeditor of "Quilting Circles, Learning Communities," an associate editor for the *Journal of American Folklore*, a past convener of the Folklore and Education Section of the American Folklore Society, and the board president of Local Learning: The National Network for Folk Arts in Education. Pryor holds a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from the University of Wisconsin, an M.A. in cultural anthropology from Colorado State University, and a B.S. in elementary education from SUNY-Oneonta. Prior to her current position, she served as the folk arts education specialist at WAB.

George Tzougros is a member of the Governor's Council on Tourism, the Cultural Coalition of Wisconsin and the steering committee for the Wisconsin Task Force on Arts and Creativity in Education. He was a member of the Wisconsin team for the National Endowment for the Arts Education Leaders Institute. He is president of Wisconsin/Chiba Incorporated, an advisory board member of the Wisconsin Foundation for the Arts, and a board member of the Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education, the Robert E. Gard Wisconsin Idea Foundation and Film Wisconsin. Tzougros has served as executive director of the Arts Board since 1996; prior to that he was assistant director of the agency and was responsible for arts education, community development, and presenting and touring.