

Alaska

***Alaska State Council on the Arts
Ruth Glenn, Arts in Education Director***

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

The Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) is a state agency that fosters the development of the arts for all Alaskans through education, partnerships, grants and services.

Arts Education Mission Statement

The Arts in Education Program of the Alaska State Council of the arts works to ensure access to arts education for lifelong learning.

Arts Education Program Overview

The Arts in Education Program is comprised of two grant programs and one artist roster. The largest grant program is Artist in Schools Residencies. Most single school residencies are two to four weeks with some districtwide programs consisting of shorter residencies per school. Teaching artists usually are chosen from the artist roster but, if qualified, may be from outside the roster. Starting in 2009, a three-year initiative to explore ways to implement arts curriculum development districtwide in Alaskan K-12 schools is being undertaken with three selected districts. The program is meant to augment the arts curriculum of K-12 schools in performing, literary, and visual arts.

The other grant program is Rasmuson Cultural Collaborations, consisting of three grant categories. Project Grants go to schools or nonprofit youth organizations for long-term after-school or summer programs directly involving young people in the creative process. The grants can be for three years with decreasing amounts of funding per year. Access Grants are grants to schools or nonprofit youth organizations for residencies/activities shorter than two weeks during the school day in the school. Excursion Grants go to K-12 public or private nonprofit schools to support admission and transportation to qualified arts and/or cultural activities or facilities.

Although not part of the Arts in Education Program, Career Development Grants allow artists to further their education by applying to attend various workshops and the Teaching Artist Workshop, a six-week course helping artists become better teachers. K-12 teachers are eligible to apply for grants to attend the Arts Education Consortium Summer Institute, where they learn how to integrate the arts into their subject matter/classroom teaching.

Grant Programs

Types of Arts Education Grant Programs

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

Groups Eligible for Grant Programs

- 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

Multiyear Grants

Multiyear grants are available for three years.

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

91 grants

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

\$ 175,000

Additional Comments on Arts Education Grant Programs

Excursion Grants are for a maximum of \$600, so there are many.

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

Arts Education Consortium

In partnership with the Arts Education Consortium (AEC), the arts council is working to bring to the forefront the lack of arts curriculum in Alaskan K-12 schools.

Three Preselected School Districts

Starting this fall, ASCA will work with three school districts to develop three model programs using teaching artists to help integrate and develop the K-12 arts curriculum.

Arts Education Consortium

AEC has developed a K-12 Summer Arts Institute for teachers who wish to learn how to use the arts in their classroom. This year, AEC will work with ASCA to develop a teaching artist workshop to help artists learn how to be better teachers.

Rasmuson Foundation

The Rasmuson Foundation provides funds for Cultural Collaborations Grants, which fund Project Grants, an out-of-school-time program. The funds also provide money for arts field trips and short-term residencies (less than two weeks and usually one day).

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

The Rasmuson Foundation provides funds for both the Artist in Schools residency program and the Cultural Collaborations Grants. School districts must match up to 35% of all residencies.

Additional Comments on Initiatives and Partnerships

Cultural Collaborations Grants would not be possible without the Rasmuson Foundation support.

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.
- Optional training is provided for sponsors.
- Entities other than schools may apply to sponsor a residency.

Fee Structure for Teaching Artists

- \$1,000 per week
- There can be additional compensation outside of the fee structure. The schools provide per diem and additional supply allowances. If the school and artist agree, the compensation can be more.

Additional Comments on Residency Program

All of the training is currently optional, however starting this year, a Teaching Artist Workshop will be offered to all artists on the roster. In the next three years, all teaching artists will be required to take all or part of the six-week course. From 2012 forward any artist wishing to be considered for the roster will have to complete the course. The model school programs being initiated in fall 2009 will have a component for the teachers in the district to attend an arts institute/workshop. This component is envisioned to be a mandatory part of any residency after 2010, with a still to be determined number of teachers per district being required to attend.

Teaching Artist Roster Program

Teaching Artist Roster Basics:

- Out-of-state artists may apply for artist roster.
- A panel is used to select roster artists.
- Applications for roster are reviewed once per year.
- To retain eligibility, artists must reapply every three years.

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

This program is undergoing extensive revisions. The roster is currently closed. By 2012 all roster artists will be required to attend all or part of the Teaching Artist workshop, a six-week series of weekly classes designed to help artists understand the teaching process. By 2015, this workshop is planned to be expanded as a University of Alaska series of classes in which the teaching artists can acquire an “M” certificate that would allow them to teach in the schools without a formal teaching certificate. Currently this certificate is open to any Alaskan native who wishes to teach traditional native culture.

Another revision will be to eventually close the roster to non-Alaskan artists. It is felt that this will happen naturally with the above revisions concerning required attendance at the workshops. Schools may select a nonroster artist; however the amount they may request will be decreased.

Annual Events

Arts Education Summit

Biennial (every two years) gathering of teachers, artists, school administrators and arts administrators to review past progress and develop action plans for the future development of arts education.

Teaching Artist Workshops

A six-week course to help artists develop skills to help them in the schools. The workshops are held in the three main cities of Alaska: Juneau, Fairbanks and Anchorage. Work on offering the course on-line is under way, with at least one face-to-face class mandatory.

Summer Arts Institute

Yearly workshop held in Juneau for preK-12 teachers that helps them learn to integrate the arts into their regular classroom activities and teaching methods.

Professional Development Services

Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes

- For classroom teachers, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. The Summer Arts Institute is administered by the Arts Education Consortium with a grant from the State Arts Council.
- For teaching artists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. The Teaching Artist Workshops are administered by the local arts agencies with assistance from the Arts Education Consortium, with funding provided to the local agency and AEC by ASCA.
- Professional development training for arts specialists and school administrators will be part of the model residency program being developed over the 2009-2012 school years.

Additional Comments on Professional Development Services

Professional development institutes will be part of the model programs being developed in partnership with the three selected school districts.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- in-house with arts education staff
- with partner organizations: The Juneau Arts and Humanities Council hosts the statewide recitation and coordinated all but the Anchorage and Mat-Su school districts, which are done by the arts education staff.

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 15
- Home-schooled students participate.
- Schools specifically for at-risk students participate.

Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities

- documentation

Additional Prizes and Awards

- Regional finalists receive gift certificates to local bookstores at the regional level. All regional finalists who travel to the statewide final receive gift certificates from Juneau stores. The top two finalists receive gift certificates to an on-line bookstore.
- Additional prizes were purchased and donated.

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

Title Wave Bookstore, Barnes & Noble, Borders Books & Music, KTOO (Juneau public broadcasting)

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

- arts education handbook
- arts education planning guide
- arts education advocacy toolkit
- other: a monthly arts education article in the ASCA newsletter

The advocacy toolkit provides easy ways to keep legislators informed of the impact of arts education. Alaska is a large geographic area with a small population that allows its citizens easy access to face-to-face meetings with policymakers.

Evaluation & Assessment

Assessment of Student Learning in the Arts

- ASCA is beginning to establish assessment tools. This will be part of the model program being developed this year.

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- ASCA currently collects only statistical analysis with limited narrative comments. The new grant proposals have more meaningful questions about curriculum development, integration, and pre- and post-planning that will be the tools used to measure the impact of the program.

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
- interviews

Utilization of Evaluation

In the first formal external evaluation, it was discovered that 73% of the school districts that responded did not have a written arts curriculum as required by the State Department of Education. This data has been used to justify revising the 25-year-old residency program to better address the needs of the school districts in relationship to arts curriculum development and implementation.

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

Barbara Short is a 40 hr/yr consultant. The Department of Education is advertising for other 40 hr/yr specialists.

State Alliance for Arts Education

Arts Education Consortium. ASCA assists in funding the Summer Arts Institute for teachers and is an ad hoc member of the board.

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

Ruth Glenn, Arts in Education Director, 0.69

Staff Biography

Ruth Glenn was hired by ASCA in 2008. She graduated from the University of Utah with a B.F.A. in modern dance. In Fairbanks, Alaska, she was the managing director, choreographer, and dancer for a dance company and teacher/owner at a dance studio. She helped develop the first Independent Artist in School Program for the Fairbanks North Star Borough while working at the Fairbanks Arts Association. Glenn has an extensive background in nonprofit arts management in Alaska, having worked as a presenter in both Fairbanks and Anchorage. Under her direction, the Anchorage Concert Association was recognized by the state for programming excellence with a Governor's Award for Outstanding Arts Organization and by Musical America for outstanding contemporary music programming. As executive director of Alaska Dance Theatre, she raised more than \$3.5 million for the construction of a state-of-the-art, five-studio facility and performance space. Along with Artistic Director Alice Bassler Sullivan, Glenn developed a strong school and company program that was recognized by the state with a Governor's Award for Outstanding Arts Organization.

Glenn has been a board member of the Western Arts Alliance, a panelist for the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, and a Dance DownUnder Ambassador for the Australian government. In addition to her work with the Alaska State Council on the Arts, she assists with the United States Artists Residency Program, which brings artists who are United States Artists Fellows for month-long residencies in Alaska.

Concluding Thoughts & Additional Comments

The Alaska State Council on the Arts Arts in Education Program should look very different by 2012. The Artists in Schools residency program will augment the arts curriculum of the school districts across the state rather than being a one off artistic experience for the students and teachers. The Teaching Artist Roster will be a list of highly qualified arts instructors along the lines of the highly qualified native cultural specialists that is in place now. The Summer Arts Institute will be expanded to Anchorage and Fairbanks due to the demand from teachers interested in integrating the arts into their regular teaching. The Council has been working toward these revisions for the past several years. The Arts Education Consortium is growing in membership (schools and school districts) and influence; the University of Alaska-Anchorage is interested in developing programs that help keep Alaskans, including artists, in the state and working; the legislature is interested in anything that helps rural schools retain teachers and helps

in student graduation; and the Rasmuson Foundation is committed to continued funding for arts education even in this time of economic downturn for them.