

Arizona

Arizona Commission on the Arts
Mandy Buscas, Arts Learning Director

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

An Arizona where people broaden, deepen and diversify their engagement with the arts as creators, audiences and supporters, in ways that are satisfying and integral to their lives.

Arts Education Mission Statement

The Arizona Commission on the Arts (ACA) is committed to making the arts fundamental to education, particularly in programs that serve preK-12 students, classroom teachers, arts specialists, teaching artists, and administrators in school, after-school and summer/intersession programs.

Arts Education Program Overview

The Arts Commission supports learning in, through and about the arts and is committed to making the arts fundamental to education, in programs that serve preK-12 students, classroom teachers, teaching artists, arts specialists and administrators in school, out-of-school, and in summer/intersession programs.

The Arts Commission is steadfast in its support of lifelong learning in the arts for adults, and works to ensure that education is a component of all agency programs. Its programs and grants support arts organizations and schools in their efforts to provide access to quality arts learning experiences statewide. In addition, the Arts Commission provides a multitude of programs to enhance the skills of educators and teaching artists so they can develop strategies and tools for teaching with and about the arts.

The Arts Commission works in close partnership with statewide providers of arts education to ensure it is supporting and deepening the experiences, resources and tools they provide to the field. Its partnership with the Arizona Department of Education, the Arizona Alliance for Arts Education and Arizona Citizens for the Arts remains vital in creating a unified message of support for arts education and arts based learning.

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
- general operating support for arts education organizations
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations
- quick funds/minigrants
- other: The Arts Commission maintains a Consultant Service Roster and an accompanying grant program, which allows for a two-day consultancy at \$500 per day. It seeks consultants with specific expertise in arts learning.

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
- arts education alliance or similar statewide organization
- Any 501(c)(3) nonprofit or government agency is eligible for funding; excluded are for-profit charter schools.

Multiyear Grants

Multiyear grants are available for two years.

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

154 grants

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

\$ 533,122

Additional Comments on Arts Education Grant Programs

These numbers and dollars reflect: Partners in Arts Learning – 29 grants, \$194,915; Artist in Residence – 90 grants, \$211,590; Community Enrichment – 12 grants, \$29,750; General Operating Support Level I Education – 8 grants, \$37,867; General Operating Support Level II Education – 5 grants, \$8,000; Consultant Service Grants – 1 grant; \$1,500, Step into Arts Learning – 19 grants, \$19,500. These numbers do not reflect funding to Basic/Locals Aid, which is required to employ a full-time education director and provide an education plan.

Due to budget cuts, the Arts Commission has put on hold two granting programs: the Step into Arts Learning Grant Program, an introductory two- or four-week residency program at \$1,500 or \$2,500, to schools that had not engaged with ACA for more than three years (schools were required to “match” the grant through donations and completion of a systemic change action); and the Arts Learning Quick Turnaround Grant Program, which provided funds at a 25% match (maximum \$1,000) to allow schools and organizations to respond to sudden opportunities in the arts.

The Arts Commission provides project matching funds to support the supplies and fees/travel/per diem expenses for artist(s) providing arts learning programs focused on student learning, and may additionally provide professional development services to educators through Artist in Residence Grants (initiated by schools in in-school, after-school, out-of-school or in intersession programs); and Community Enrichment Grants (initiated by Boys and Girls Clubs, parks and recreation programs, neighborhood centers, libraries, social service and community organizations, and YMCAs).

The Partners in Arts Learning Grant was initiated by arts organizations creating partnerships with local school and/or community based organizations to deliver arts based learning programs for students, communities, staff, educators and/or teaching artists. Particular interest and support is given to projects that are sustainable, collaborative and provide direct participation and access to quality arts experiences for participants and the community at large. These projects also may focus on or contain elements of professional development for staff, educators and/or teaching artists. Partnership projects must contain a community based outreach experience for local schools, parents, community members or others.

As the Arts Commission continues to engage the entire arts community in delivering arts learning to both school-age students and lifelong learners, the largest arts organizations (with annual incomes of \$1 million+) must, as a condition of receiving general operating support, have dedicated education staff and an education plan that connects to Arizona arts standards. ACA arts learning staff continually reviews these plans, monitors their progress, and maintains contact with them, offering both networking and informational assistance. This allows ACA an even greater access to them and helps ensure they continue to present and maintain arts education staff and quality outreach programming.

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

Arizona Arts Education Census Project

In partnership with the state Department of Education, the Arts Education Research Institute, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the Arizona Department of Education, three state universities and the Arizona Community Foundation, this census will gather statewide information on the delivery of arts education in Arizona public schools.

Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence

The ACA arts learning director serves on the advisory board of Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence and works with them to ensure the out-of-school-time population has access and information about arts based learning opportunities. Additionally, it puts ACA at the table for all players that are engaged in policy for school-age children. ACA presents at their annual conference on arts based learning programs and services available in the field.

stART (Sharing Teaching Artist Resources Tour)

This statewide touring program is multifaceted in its delivery of professional development to teaching artists, professional development for educators, community development and partnership with local arts councils/agencies, and networking/showcasing opportunities for artists on ACA's Teaching Artist Roster.

Arizona Arts Education Research Institute

Arizona Arts Education Research Institute (AAERI) is a well-established partnership among the fine arts colleges at Arizona's three public universities, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and the Arizona Department of Education. Long a leader in research and teacher education in the arts, AAERI provides a unique forum for scholars and practitioners to work together to improve arts education.

ArtSource

In partnership with ACA, the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture, Arizona State Libraries and the Arizona Science and Education Network's ArtSource is an annual gathering of

Maricopa County based schools, after-school providers, libraries and cultural organizations showcasing best practices in arts based learning partnerships.

Arizona State Library Showcase

In partnership with the Arizona State Library system, this annual event showcases artists and librarians, connecting libraries to the services of artists and funding opportunities in the arts. This showcasing event has resulted in an increased number of applications to the Arts Commission to fund library programs engaging in arts based learning for children, youth and adult learners.

Arizona Alliance for Arts Education

The ACA arts learning director is an advisory board member and serves on various ad hoc committees to ensure the arts remain a part of a child's preK-12 education.

Arizona Citizens for the Arts

The arts learning director is an advisory board member and serves on various ad hoc committees to ensure the arts remain a part of a child's preK-12 education.

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

Arizona ArtShare Endowment: Principal stood at \$20 million and yielded interest of \$1 million; after state cuts, the endowment now stands at \$10 million and is not expected to yield more than \$300,000 in interest for grants to the field. Arizona Arts Trust Fund: Corporation filing fees yield \$1.2 million in grants to the field. Both funds are not limited to arts education, but play a part in the overall funding equation.

Artist Residency Program

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

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

Fee Structure for Teaching Artists

- \$50 per hour
- There can be additional compensation outside of the fee structure. Special presentations, performances, readings, final event performances and the like are all at rates set by the teaching artist.

Additional Comments on Residency Program

ACA's annual In-School Artist in Residence grants remain an effective tool in ensuring the arts are basic to the education of children and youth in grades preK-12. Through standards based instruction, students engage with teaching artists in making and learning through the arts.

The number of residency programs during in-school hours continues to decrease. This decrease is in part a result of the No Child Left Behind legislation, English-language-learner immersion programs and specific school site initiatives such as Reading First. ACA is reviewing the 50% matching requirement and considering a bump in match during these economically challenging times to ensure both interest and the presence of residency programs during in-school hours.

Teaching Artist Roster Program

Teaching Artist Roster Basics:

- A panel is used to select roster artists.
- Applications for roster are reviewed every two years
- To retain eligibility, artists must reapply every two years.

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

The Teaching Artist Roster identifies and promotes high quality artists who maintain active careers as teaching and professional artists, and have particular expertise in collaborating with communities and schools to engage individuals in learning experiences in, through, and about the arts.

The roster is a juried, panel-approved compendium of Arizona artists representing all artistic disciplines. ACA maintains two unique tracks within its roster: an education based track, which identifies artists available to provide arts learning programs to students and teachers in preK-12 settings, and a community based track, which identifies artists available to provide workshops, presentations, one-day events, performances, and lecture/demonstrations within the community.

Teaching artists juried onto the ACA roster may remain on the roster as long as they meet annual and biannual requirements. Those that do not meet those requirements must re-audition. Annual requirements are: one professional development action, completion of a self-assessment survey, and update of the roster Web page. Biannual requirements are one completed residency program.

ACA has launched a Teaching Artist Award of \$2,500 to recognize teaching artists who advance the arts learning and teaching artist field in Arizona through the use of innovation and best practices in their work in school and community settings.

Annual Events

stART (Sharing Teaching Artist Resources Tour)

Site visits designed to create opportunities for connection and networking between teaching artists and local educators, district arts coordinators, social service organizations, local arts organizations and presenters and to provide professional development opportunities for all these parties.

Teaching Artist Symposium

A biannual event, the Teaching Artist Symposium is a gathering of teaching artists dedicated to finding new ways to provide quality learning experiences in and through the arts.

Teaching Artist Workshop Series

Arts learning staff creates a minimum of three unique teaching artist workshops each year that address current trends in arts learning and sharing best practices.

Arts Education Conference (Mega Conference)

With the Arizona Department of Education as the provider, ACA partners in the creation of this annual professional development conference for arts specialists, teaching artists and educators interested in developing their arts based learning instruction.

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. ACA provides at least one workshop per year to classroom teachers. Additionally, ACA residency grant programs require a professional development workshop with classroom teachers, administrators and arts specialists at the school.
- For arts specialists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. Any of the arts specialists attend the Teaching Artist Workshop series. ACA additionally presents at the annual statewide conferences in music, visual arts and theatre and provides funding through ACA's annual grants, allowing them to bring in speakers and presenters for their annual conferences servicing arts specialists in the schools.
- For teaching artists, professional development is administered by the state arts agency office. ACA provides at least three professional development workshops a year for teaching artists. Topics are determined based partially on the collection of teaching artist self-assessment and cover a wide range of current topics in arts education, student assessment, program evaluation, state arts standards and community engagement. Additionally, the Arts Commission provides at least one workshop per year on business practices as a teaching artist, such as liability insurance, copyrights and generating contracts.

Additional Comments on Professional Development Services

ACA provides professional development grants that support travel for teaching artists, educators and arts administrators to attend conferences and workshops and to participate in mentorships. The Arts Commission provided funding in its annual Arts Learning Grants Program for organizations conducting workshops for teaching artists, educators and arts administrators.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- in-house with arts education staff
- in-house with other state arts agency staff
- with partner organizations: The Arizona Commission on the Arts will be partnering with Arizona State University's Young Writer's Program for the first time this year.

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 25
- Schools specifically for at-risk students participate.

Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities

- lesson plans
- evaluation
- documentation
- 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

Arizona State University's Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing
The University of Arizona Poetry Center

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
- social networking, e.g., Twitter or Face book
- streaming video or audio
- other: The Teaching Artist Roster offers each roster artist a Web page with video, audio, .pdf and calendar applications.

In line with its “high-tech, high-touch” service goal, ACA produces two e-newsletters. One is designed for teaching artists working with the preK-12 populations, and one is geared toward classroom teachers, arts specialists and educators. Each newsletter provides important information from the field of arts learning and helps support vital, substantive arts learning throughout the state. The Teaching Artist Roster provides each juried artist an interactive Web page with video, audio, .pdf, image and calendar applications. ACA publishes a “Building Public Value in the Arts” booklet that includes a section on arts education advocacy.

Evaluation & Assessment

Assessment of Student Learning in the Arts

- Assessment training is provided. Teaching artist workshops often focus on student assessment models and setting goals for participants’ understanding. These workshops are presented by Arts Commission staff or contracted presenters. Additional community workshops in the field include introductory sessions on setting student learning objectives and creating complimentary assessment pieces.
- Sample assessment tools are provided. The teaching artist self-assessment form, adapted with permission from the Young Audiences Rubric for Teaching Artists’ Residency Design and Implementation and the Crossing Paths Conference rubric of 2003:
<http://azarts.gov/teachingartistroster/annual%20requirement%20pdfs/Self%20Assessment%20Rubric.pdf>
- The Arts Commission is working in partnership with the Arizona Department of Education as it undertakes major assessment work through the state arts standards in addition to work with arts specialists, teaching artists and administrators throughout the state in creating assessment questions and benchmarks for each of the artistic disciplines.

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- Evaluation tools and frameworks provided for grantees. A collection of resources and tools has been compiled for constituents on the ACA Web site.
- As providers in the field, the Arts Commission regularly collects feedback and gathers constituents in listening sessions around arts learning work.
- Final reports for project grants are due 30 days after the completion of the project and June 30 to General Operating Support grantees. Through the electronic grant on-line resource, constituents apply for grants and complete grant reports. Final report forms are completed on-line and allow for response content from constituents’ applications to be placed as a reminder to final report questions.

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: listening tours throughout the state
- direct observations

Utilization of Evaluation

An annual survey to the field of arts administrators, educators, teaching artists, art specialists and arts based providers yields current trends and challenges in the field and responds to the usefulness and quality of programs, resources and funding programs. All workshops, conferences, and presenting and professional development opportunities presented by ACA are followed by a survey on the usefulness and quality of delivery and content. To strengthen its services, ACA administers a presurvey to determine participants' understanding prior to professional development delivery.

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

Lynn Tuttle

State Alliance for Arts Education

For many years, ACA funded the Arizona Alliance for Arts Education through General Operating Support Grants. This is the first year ACA has not funded the Alliance, as the Alliance's annual income has dropped well below General Operating Support Grant requirements. ACA has provided additional consultant grants to the organization. The Alliance is currently a volunteer based operation and, with help from ACA, is considering a merger with the thriving Arizona Citizens for the Arts Advocacy group.

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

- Mandy Buscas, Arts Learning Director, 1.0
- Alex Nelson, Arts Learning Coordinator, 1.0

Staff Biographies

Mandy Buscas joined the Arizona Commission on the Arts team in 2002. She manages the Arts Commission's Arts Learning grants, programs and Teaching Artist Roster. Buscas is an Arizona native and attended Arizona State University, where she received a B.A. in art history. She has served the community as an educator, youth theatre instructor, museum educator, registrar, historian and photographer. She serves on the board of the Mesa Historical Society and the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board for the city of Mesa.

Alex Nelson joined the Arizona Commission on the Arts staff in January 2009. She administers arts learning project grants and programs and is the Arizona State Poetry Out Loud coordinator. Originally from Michigan, Nelson migrated to Phoenix to attend Arizona State University where she received a B.A. in French and a B.F.A. in dance choreography. She is a dancer, choreographer, dance educator and theatre technician.