

Georgia

Georgia Council for the Arts
Susan S. Weiner, Executive Director

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

The mission of the Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) is to provide access to the arts for all Georgians, with focus on its prime responsibility, the nonprofit arts industry of the state.

Arts Education Mission Statement

Arts education is embraced as critical to a complete education and integral to the learning process itself.

Arts Education Program Overview

In response to major budget cuts by the state legislature in fiscal year 2010, the Georgia Council for the Arts eliminated three arts education grants and one community arts grant. Only Arts Curriculum Enhancement grants that were in continuation received an award.

Further, extensive cuts for FY2011 forced the termination of two complete program areas, Arts Education and Traditional Arts. The latter can be funded under the agency's Project Grant. Arts Education Grants will be awarded directly to nonprofit arts organizations for their after-school and summer-school programming. These separate applications are competitively adjudicated as part of an operating support grant.

Since FY2005, the arts education programming focused on building collaborative partnerships among schools, teaching artists and arts organizations, with awards going to innovative arts integration and artist residency programs.

Grant Programs

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

39 (FY2010)

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

\$140,250

Artist Residency Program

Comments on Artist Residency Program

These grants were eliminated for FY2010.

Teaching Artist Roster Program

Teaching Artist Roster Basics

- Roster artists must apply and be adjudicated by a peer review panel. Without an arts education panel for FY2010, new applicants are not being accepted, but current teaching artists may sustain their appointment through updates.

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

GCA's Teaching Artist Roster is a Web-based marketing effort. Annual reminders about these artists are forwarded to public schools across the state.

Professional Development Services

Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes

- For teaching artists, professional development is administered in partnership with two nonprofit organizations. Additional professional development has been offered for teaching artists and arts education consultants by GCA through half-day workshops facilitated by GCA staff and taught by members of the Teaching Artist Roster.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- partnership with Atlanta History Center

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 68 (the nation's second-largest number of student participants)
- number of regional semifinals: 4

Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities

- NEA documents
- video training for students introduced by Georgia's poet laureate, with samples of other published Georgia poets reading their own works

Additional Prizes and Awards

- Top three winners (students and schools) receive financial rewards.
- Student winners receive a year's subscription to *Georgia Review*.

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

Atlanta History Center's Literary Center at the Margaret Mitchell House, *Georgia Review*, Georgia Public Broadcasting, and the four high schools that served as semifinalist locations

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

- Arts Education Handbook
- Arts Education Planning Guide
- Getting Started with Program Evaluation white paper
- Teaching Artist Roster
- Arts Education Consultants Bank

Evaluation & Assessment

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- GCA commissioned a white paper on evaluation from NASAA, available on the GCA website, as a general guidance tool.
- Samples of evaluation instruments used by our clients were competitively adjudicated and purchased as a resource for other arts education providers. These are available on the GCA website.
- Applicants were required to submit definitive evidence of outcome-driven evaluation instruments in their applications, with results in their final reports.

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

- As part of GCA's annual strategic planning review, every program area is assessed for goal achievement and output measures. Annually, one of the agency's programs is the subject of an in-depth client survey for suggested improvements and other changes. These are discussed in an agency retreat, research into other states is conducted, and modifications are made for the next year's application guidelines.