



Iowa Arts Council

Dawn Martinez Oropeza, Arts Education/Community Programs Coordinator

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

The mission of the Iowa Arts Council is to enrich the quality of life for Iowans through support of the arts.

The vision of the Iowa Arts Council is that Iowans recognize the arts are essential to their quality of life.

Arts Education Program Overview

The Iowa Arts Council (IAC) supports arts education opportunities that expand or enhance existing programs in Iowa schools and communities. Since 1967, Artists in Schools/Communities residencies have brought professional artists and performing groups into Iowa schools and communities to conduct residencies of five days or longer. Arts in Education programming supports opportunities that: encourage schools and local civic or community organizations to work collaboratively in the development of educational art experiences; assist educators to implement innovative strategies in the arts curriculum; employ the arts as a tool to teach other core subjects, such as reading, writing, history, math, science and social studies; reflect the rich cultural diversity of the state; and encourage active participation by all Iowans in the creative process.

Grant Programs

Types of Arts Education Grant Programs

- residency program
- in-school arts education
- out-of-school-time arts education
- early childhood learning in the arts
- lifelong learning in the arts
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations
- quick funds/minigrants
- Big Yellow School Bus: up to \$200 to cover transportation costs to an arts event or experience

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 statewide organization
- Individual artists
- arts teachers for professional development

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

\$ 111,197

Additional Comments on Arts Education Grant Programs

Some arts education grants were in the Organization category and are not included in the total.

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

Poetry Out Loud Partnership

IAC is partnering with three arts organizations to promote poetry in Iowa: Arts on Grand, Spencer; Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, Cedar Falls; and Lamb Arts LTD, Sioux City. Each organization will provide professional development and workshop opportunities for teachers and students starting this fall. Each partner organization has appointed local professional poets to an IAC poet listing to be available for classroom and school residencies.

Creative Classrooms: Kennedy Center and Gallagher Bluedorn

The Iowa Arts Council and the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center at the University of Northern Iowa, which is a Kennedy Center Partner in Education site, support arts education opportunities that expand and enhance classroom learning for greater student achievement. Creative Classroom teaching artists have developed week-long residencies that infuse both art and core curricular standards and are tailored for specific grade levels (three-year program).

Des Moines Public Schools FAME Grant

The Fine Arts Model for Education (FAME) emerges from the growing body of research documenting the critical link between the arts and academic achievement, particularly for low-income students.

Alliance for Arts Education

Iowa core curriculum implementation and professional development

Art Educators of Iowa

Youth Art Month

After-School Alliance

Artist Residency Program

Artist residency program is administered in partnership with another organization.

- Mandatory orientation is provided for artists.

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

Fee Structure for Teaching Artists

- \$250 per day
- There can be additional compensation outside of the fee structure: travel, per diem and lodging .

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 twice per year.

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

The IAC arts education coordinator is in the process of making changes to the program and hopes to implement a yearly reporting system. Artists must have completed at least one residency in the state and one professional development opportunity each year.

Annual Events

Poetry Out Loud

state finals

Youth Art Month

Working with Art Educators of Iowa and the Scholastic Art Awards

Professional Development Services

Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes

- For classroom teachers, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. Working with the Department of Education and the Alliance for Arts Education. The IAC arts education coordinator presents at workshops and professional development for teachers.
- For arts specialists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. Invited to present and partner with many.
- For teaching artists, professional development is administered by the state arts agency office, offering one free opportunity per year.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- in-house with arts education staff
- with partner organizations to promote poetry in Iowa: Arts on Grand, Spencer; Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, Cedar Falls; and Lamb Arts LTD, Sioux City

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 20

Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities

- lesson plans
- documentation
- residency model
- teaching artist training
- classroom teacher training
- workshops in conjunction with state finals
- other: EZ 1.2.3 Poetry Out Loud Grant Program

Additional Prizes and Awards

- signed poetry books from Iowa poets
- Additional prizes were purchased.

Evaluation & Assessment

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

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

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title

Dawn Martinez Oropeza, Arts Education Community Programs Coordinator

Arts Education Coordinator's Split Responsibilities

- other areas of work: Community Arts Agencies, Small Operating Support grants
- percent of time dedicated to arts education program: 75%

Staff Biography

Dawn Martinez Oropeza received her bachelor of fine arts degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, with a focus in photography. She received her master of fine arts degree from the University of California, San Diego, where she focused on installation and Meso American Studies. She studied Zapotec weaving at the Oaxaca Institute for Cultural Studies in Oaxaca Mexico.

Oropeza has worked in several arts education positions as an educator and coordinator/manager throughout the country: Gallery 37 in Chicago, Children's Museum in San Diego and Los Angeles, and Sacramento Arts Commission. Oropeza was selected by the Chavez Family to preserve and conserve the private office of United Farm Workers leader Cesar E. Chavez.