

Kansas

Kansas Arts Commission

Margaret Weisbrod Morris, Program Manager, Arts in Education

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

The mission of the Kansas Arts Commission (KAC) is to provide opportunities for the people of Kansas to experience, celebrate and value the arts throughout their lives.

Arts Education Program Overview

KAC is committed to supporting outstanding programs in arts education that enable young people to explore and experience the arts in both broad and focused ways. While the Commission believes that every classroom educator should be able to teach about the arts, it recognizes the vital and powerful role artists have in education. KAC aims to nurture the integration of the arts in classrooms, community settings, preschools and institutions. Through its grants, KAC supports programs that are innovative and responsive to children, community and classroom needs and that use proven methods of learning and evaluation.

KAC acknowledges the value of arts standards and seeks to assist organizations in incorporating the arts into all areas of curricula. Those who propose to work with schools during the school day must connect the arts to classroom curricula and to Kansas educational standards. Those who propose to work in preschool, after-school or extracurricular settings should focus on the value of ongoing arts experiences to educate the whole child.

The Kansas Arts Commission offers three arts-in-education grant programs: Arts-in-Education grants for arts organizations, Arts-based Early Education grants, and Arts Education for Youth-at-Risk grants. These grants are competitive, and advisory panels determine funding. Although K-12 schools or school districts may not directly apply for Arts-in-Education grants, they are encouraged to work with qualified applicants. Qualified applicants will create partnerships with schools and arts educators and will create programs for young people.

Objectives:

- To support organizations in working in partnership with schools, school districts, other educational agencies and parents to integrate the arts into educational curricula, after-school programs and early childhood programs
- To develop model and innovative arts education programs that respond to the needs of children, the community, artists and arts organizations
- To bring artists into educational settings as teachers and mentors for students and educators
- To increase the capacity of organizations and schools to offer meaningful and ongoing arts education programs based on educational and learning theory

Grant Programs

Types of Arts Education Grant Programs

- out-of-school-time arts education
- early childhood learning in the arts
- 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

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

62 grants

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

\$ 278,000

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

Kansas State of Arts Education Survey

In partnership with the state Department of Education, and with support and assistance from the Kansas National Education Association, Kansas Arts Education Association, Music Teachers Association, Association for School Superintendents, Museum Education Association, Juvenile Justice Authority and the Kansas National Association of Social Workers, KAC is delivering a Web based needs assessment survey on arts education in the state. This survey will be followed up by focus groups held across the state, to focus understanding and implement changes in KAC's Arts in Education Program structure to better and more effectively support arts education in the state.

LiedArtTeach

KAC partners with the Lied Center of Kansas to offer artist and teacher training workshops sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Artists receive training from Kennedy Center teaching artists on workshop development, teacher training and developing artist residencies in schools.

Additional Comments on Initiatives and Partnerships

KAC is exploring the possibility of seeking partnerships with other agencies and organizations for funding areas that are being cut back or eliminated because of budget cuts.

Teaching Artist Roster Program

Teaching Artist Roster Basics:

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

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

The funding for artist workshops and teaching artists is part of the touring roster and is not part of the Arts in Education programs. The touring artist can submit school workshops and classes with their touring roster applications.

Annual Events

Framing Our Future: Arts in Kansas

The Kansas arts education conference was to be initiated this year, but had to be canceled because of budget cuts.

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 KAC Arts in Education program manager is invited as a speaker and workshop leader for teaching professionals through state professional associations and individual school districts. She speaks at annual school district teacher trainings on arts education, the use of arts in the classroom, current research and creative art therapy. KAC plans to directly deliver arts education information and arts infusion training opportunities to teachers and school administrators in the state.
- For arts specialists, professional development is administered by the state arts agency office. KAC offers a year-round schedule of workshops, seminars and trainings on a variety of topics for museum, nonprofit and arts professionals. The KAC Arts in Education Program manager gives workshops on logic models, program evaluation, writing curriculum guides, current research in arts education, basic grant writing and the use of art with special populations (creative arts therapies).

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: 25
- Home-schooled students participate.
- Schools specifically for students with disabilities participate.
- Schools specifically for at-risk students participate.
- number of regional semifinals: 6

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

- arts education planning guide
- arts education annual report
- statewide data/research on arts education in schools
- arts education blog

In 2009 KAC conducted the first statewide opinion and practice survey on arts education. It will publish the results to share with constituents, school officials and legislators. The Department of Education is partnering with KAC on this survey. Preliminary results have been presented to the Board of Education, with the final presentation scheduled for spring 2010.

This year KAC added a requirement in the final reporting process for all arts in education grants. Grantees are to submit an arts in education participation report, which is a one-page narrative of a program participant's activity in their program, along with a history of what happened and an explanation or quote about the impact the program had on the participant. The narrative will accompany a picture of the participant or of their artwork. These will be compiled, published, and given to constituents annually in a book format. Results will be published on-line. The intention is give an overview of the impact arts education funding has on the people in the state from an individual perspective, and to share the stories with constituents, school officials and legislators.

An arts education blog page is updated weekly with articles, resources, announcements, funding information and KAC Arts in Education Program information. The link to the page is sent out with KAC's weekly e-blast. Important publications and links are sent out monthly in an arts education e-blast to constituents, educators and school administrators.

Evaluation & Assessment

Assessment of Student Learning in the Arts

- KAC has not launched an initiative with this focus, but it is on the horizon.

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- Evaluation tools and frameworks provided for grantees. A comprehensive program planning and evaluation workshop on logic models is offered each year, explaining how program evaluations work within this structure and what tools to use when and for what kind of information. The workshop specifically outlines how these things relate to KAC Arts in Education Program requirements and guidelines. The material is available to download on the Web site as a PowerPoint and as a professional development booklet.
- The Arts in Education grants are panel grants. The program variance is extensive across the state, and panelists are to be evaluating the programs for their own unique purposes and goals. Panelists are given rubrics from which to score the grants applications. A component of the score is on the applicant's evaluation plan, and how it is/has been/will be used to inform program planning. For reporting purposes, KAC does not require grantees to report the results of their program evaluations. Instead, KAC requires them to submit a participant form that asks for the same type of information from all grantees to obtain a clear, concise, unified picture of the program's impact each year.

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

Joyce Huser

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

Margaret Weisbrod Morris, Program Manager, Arts in Education, 1.0

Arts Education Coordinator's Split Responsibilities

- other areas of work: The Governor's Arts Awards
- percent of time dedicated to arts education program: 98%

Staff Biography

Margaret Weisbrod Morris is a registered art therapist transplanted to Kansas from New York. There she created visual art and art therapy programs for nonprofit organizations in Brooklyn and Manhattan, and provided training for professionals on the use of art with people affected by psychiatric disabilities and HIV/AIDS and with survivors of domestic violence and violent crime. She established a successful outsider-artists studio program that included training, studio and retail gallery space in the East Village of lower Manhattan. In 2001 she became the education director for the Lawrence Arts Center in Lawrence, Kansas. She holds a bachelor of fine arts degree in painting and printmaking from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and studied with Edith Kramer, the founder of the field of art therapy, to get her master's degree from New York University.

Weisbrod Morris manages the funding, partnerships and program initiatives related to arts education for the state arts agency: arts education funding for community arts organizations, Youth at Risk, Arts Based Early Education, Poetry Out Loud and the Governor's Arts Awards. A passionate advocate for the arts in education, she serves on many local and regional committees to promote the use of art in all areas of education. As a mental health professional, she is dedicated to the integration of the arts into health care settings, using as a platform her role as the president of the board directors for the area agency serving survivors of sexual assault and violent crime.

Concluding Thoughts & Additional Comments

The Arts in Education Program manager spent the last year evaluating, surveying and gathering information on the program's structure, functions and processes and on the needs in the field. This information-gathering phase is concluding prior to implementation of many of the ideas and concepts that have come out of the process. One important result is that KAC has developed a close relationship with the Board of Education as well as the various school professional associations, and they are beginning to develop some cooperative projects.