

Kentucky

Kentucky Arts Council
Carrie A Nath, Arts Education Director

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

The mission of the Kentucky Arts Council (KAC) is to create opportunities for the people of Kentucky to value, participate in and benefit from the arts.

Arts Education Mission Statement

The Kentucky Arts Council proactively works to ensure that lifelong education in the arts is valued and accessible.

Arts Education Program Overview

The primary focus of the agency's work is on arts education in Kentucky schools. Special focus areas include artist and teacher training integrating the arts across the curriculum, artist residencies in the schools, and developing relationships with organizations and agencies that increase the awareness of the link between arts and academic achievement. In addition, unique programming is included to ensure that the importance of the arts in education is reinforced throughout the community.

The Teacher Initiated Program Grant assists teachers with bringing professional artists from all arts disciplines into Kentucky public and private schools with a range of one- to four-week residencies. The artists are chosen from the Arts Education Roster. Artists demonstrate their art forms, provide hands-on arts experiences for students and teachers, and develop innovative ways to integrate the arts across the curriculum.

In addition to school programming, the Arts Builds Communities (ABC) Program encourages partnerships that contribute to the cultural, social, educational, and economic growth of the community. The main goals of ABC are to increase participation in the arts; to broaden understanding of how the arts can benefit a community; to form alliances and partnerships that strengthen communities through an integration of the arts; and to develop artistically excellent arts opportunities and experiences for all members of a community.

One of the best ways that communities in Kentucky can come together to reach a national awareness is through Poetry Out Loud. In partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, high school students from schools all over the commonwealth engage in a program that develops young people's public speaking skills, self-confidence and knowledge of their literary heritage. Competing at a local and then state level, students have the opportunity to participate in a process that could lead to them competing in the nation's capitol. It is a rare opportunity to bring literary arts to a level of national awareness.

Grant Programs

Types of Arts Education Grant Programs

- residency program
- in-school arts education
- lifelong learning in the arts
- general operating support for arts education organizations
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations
- other: occasional small (\$1,000-5,000) interim grants for special arts education initiatives by Kentucky organizations

Groups Eligible for Grant Programs

- public schools
- private/nonparochial schools
- private/parochial schools
- regional/local arts agencies
- arts organizations
- arts education alliance or similar statewide organization

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

34 grants

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

\$ 46,440

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

The Kentucky Folklife Program

KAC supports the conservation of folk traditions and art forms through the Kentucky Folklife Program, an interagency program with the Kentucky Historical Society.

The Arts Advisory Group

KAC, working with Kentucky Educational Television, the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts and professional educators, has been an active participant in the working group that advises the Kentucky Department of Education on arts education issues.

ArtsReach Kentucky

ArtsReach Kentucky is a nationally recognized model placing the arts at the forefront in the development of healthy, self-assured and dynamic youth, families and adults with disabilities.

Southern Arts Federation

The Southern Arts Federation, a nonprofit regional arts organization founded in 1975, creates partnerships and collaborations; assists in the development of artists, art professionals and arts organizations; presents, promotes and produces southern arts and cultural programming; and advocates for the arts and arts education. The organization works in partnership with the state arts agencies of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. It is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, member states, foundations, businesses and individuals.

Kentucky Institute for Arts in Education

KAC supports this two-week professional development seminar for teachers conducted by the Kentucky Center for the Arts, which is designed to involve participants in hands-on drama, dance, music and visual arts. Kentucky Institute for Arts in Education participants develop an awareness of how to integrate the arts across the curriculum, explore their own creative potential in the arts, and create works of art in a variety of disciplines. In the past eight years, 1,600 teachers have participated in the summer arts academies and have been provided with instructional resources.

Arts Education Showcase Directory

KAC supports this Web site, produced by the Kentucky Center for the Arts, which contains information about educational programs offered by artists and cultural institutions in a wide variety of art forms. Showcase artists and organizations are selected through an adjudication process and their programs must be aligned with either Kentucky standards (programs of study) or the National Standards in the Arts.

Artist Residency Program

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

- Mandatory orientation is provided for artists.
- Optional orientation is provided for sponsors.
- Mandatory 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

- \$875 per week
- Sometimes residencies require mileage and housing. The school provides those monies.

Teaching Artist Roster Program

Teaching Artist Roster Basics:

- Roster artists are required for residency program.
- A panel is used to select roster artists.
- Applications for roster are reviewed once per year.

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

KAC has a Performing Artist Roster and a Visual and Craft Marketing Roster.

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 Kentucky Institute for Arts Education as described above.
- For teaching artists, professional development is administered by the state arts agency office. The Council offers an annual required professional development series for the Arts Education Roster Teaching Artists.

Additional Comments on Professional Development Services

KAC is in the process of creating a new series of professional development opportunities for educators, administrators, artists and teaching artists.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- in-house with other state arts agency staff

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 30

Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities

- evaluation
- documentation
- teaching artist training

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

- arts education newsletter
- arts education annual report
- statewide data/research on arts education in schools

Arts and Humanities Students Handbook for middle school and high school teaching artists and for teachers per their request and The Student Handbook High School Edition. Both the middle school and high school versions are hardbound books “designed to provide an overview of the elements contained in the (Kentucky) Core Content” (authors and publisher). Historical information and glossary items defining the periods addressed in the Kentucky Arts and Humanities curriculum time line are written in an interesting and fun style. Activities and suggested research links are interlaced throughout the book to address multiple learning styles.

Five Kentucky Poets Laureate: An Anthology is a collection of poetry and prose by a distinguished group of Kentucky writers. *Five Kentucky Poets Laureate* includes the writings of Richard Taylor (Kentucky poet laureate 1999-2000), James Baker Hall (2001-2002), Joe Survant (2003-2004), Sena Jeter Naslund (2005-2006), and Jane Gentry (2007-2008). The anthology was produced by the Kentucky Arts Council and is accompanied by an on-line curriculum guide.

Evaluation & Assessment

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- Evaluation tools and frameworks are provided for grantees. Guidelines and tools are accessible on the Web site.
- Applicants must indicate strategies for promoting awareness; gathering and responding to evidence; proof of attention to diversity and access. Final reporting process: impact/evidence (narrative of the impact with support materials included to indicate samples stated in narrative); credit (samples of materials giving credit to KAC); artist evaluation (rubric measuring the effectiveness of the artist).

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

- formal external evaluation
- quantitative and qualitative grants data
- participation data
- financial data
- performance measurements
- surveys and feedback forms

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

Robert Duncan

State Alliance for Arts Education

The Kentucky Alliance for Arts Education has just joined with the state arts advocacy organization, ArtsKY: The Kentucky Association of Arts Education.

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

Carrie A. Nath, Education Programs Director, 1.0

Staff Biography

Carrie A. Nath is a director, choreographer, playwright, and actor and has worked in arts education and arts in education for 24 years. She relocated to the Lexington, area from Baltimore, Maryland, where she was the full-time dance teacher for the Baltimore Lab School (a division of the Lab School of Washington), a full arts immersion curriculum for students with learning disabilities. In Kentucky, Nath has worked in the education departments of Actor's Theater of Louisville and Kentucky Shakespeare and has directed and taught at Walden Theater. She is on the drama faculty of the Governor's School for the Arts and served as adjunct faculty at the University of Kentucky in the Opera Theater Department. Her credits include master instructor at the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C., Washington National Opera, Baltimore Shakespeare, Seattle Repertory Theater, Seattle Children's Theater and Arts Impact of Washington State; specializing in arts integrated curriculum and artist education mentorship programming. Nath was education consultant for Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., associate director of education for the Seattle Opera, and the founding education director at Nebraska Shakespeare.

Concluding Thoughts & Additional Comments

After a hiatus of 16 months without an arts education program director, the Kentucky Arts Council is eager to work with educators, teaching artists and partners to develop arts education programming, initiatives and partnerships.