

Michigan

*Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs
Carolyn Damstra, Program Manager*

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) serves to encourage, develop, and facilitate an enriched environment of artistic, creative and cultural activity in Michigan. Goals: strengthen arts and culture; support arts education; recognize, reflect and celebrate cultural pluralism and broaden cultural understanding; establish and facilitate communications networks; increase visibility and awareness of the arts and culture; encourage new, creative and innovative works of art; and expand and develop funding resources.

Arts Education Program Overview

MCACA's main grant program includes a component designated as Project Support / Education that would fund quality arts education activities conducted by artists of high quality and ability in schools or communities as well as in arts education partnerships between schools and community based organizations. Funded activities may involve collaborations among artists, educators (arts and other disciplines), community arts resources, arts organizations with strong educational programming, arts organizations interested in developing strong educational programming, local businesses, parents, students and the general public.

Eligible projects involve the arts in education activities that take place outside of the general school curriculum. When Arts and Learning Program activity takes place in Michigan's K-12 school environment, it cannot be credit bearing and may not constitute ongoing instruction normally provided by certified educators.

Other recent support of arts education includes a grant program to provide bus funds for school field trips to arts organizations, and funding for the Michigan Humanities Council for their touring arts program/artist residencies and for their administration of Poetry Out Loud.

The council's budget has gone from \$26 million to \$2.2 million in the past eight years. However, strong partnerships still exist between the Michigan Department of Education's fine arts personnel, Artservice Michigan (an advocacy organization) and Michigan Youth Arts. These organizations are determined to keep and improve Michigan's art education environment despite ongoing economic challenges.

Grant Programs

Types of Arts Education Grant Programs

- out-of-school-time arts education
- early childhood learning in the arts
- project support for arts organizations and schools
- quick funds/minigrants

Groups Eligible for Grant Programs

- public schools
- private parochial and nonparochial schools
- charter schools
- arts organizations
- non-arts organizations
- municipalities

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

39 grants

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

\$ 294,100

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

Artserve Michigan, multiple projects

Assist in communication and networking, community building projects, arts advocacy day, arts education initiatives.

Michigan Department of Education, ELI

Participated in a 2008 Education Leadership Institute (ELI). Ongoing collaboration to spread awareness of grant opportunities and professional development for teachers.

Michigan Humanities Council

Provide input and funding for touring arts program and artists roster. Provide funds and input on administration of Poetry Out Loud program.

Michigan Youth Arts

Support the Michigan Youth Arts Festival and collaborate on policy and research initiatives. Recently published an arts education policy document with several key partners to work together on an implementation plan for the policy's goals.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- with partner organization: Michigan Humanities Council

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 30
- Home-schooled students participate.

Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities

- lesson plans
- teaching artist training
- workshops in conjunction with state finals

Evaluation & Assessment

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

- quantitative and qualitative grants data
- financial data
- direct observations

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

Ana Cardona

State Alliance for Arts Education

Michigan Art Education Association and Michigan Youth Arts. MCACA participates on committees and in partnerships on initiatives.

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

Carolyn Damstra, program manager, 1.0

Arts Education Coordinator's Split Responsibilities

- other areas of work: arts projects, migrant administration, capital improvement program, local art agencies program
- percent of time dedicated to arts education program: 25%

Staff Biographies

Carolyn Damstra holds a B.F.A. in painting and drawing and an M.A. in art history from Michigan State University. She has served as an adjunct instructor in art history and an editor/writer/illustrator for *Michigan History* magazine. She has been with MCACA for three years.