

Nevada

Nevada Arts Council
Maryjane Dorofachuk, Arts Education Coordinator

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

Mission: To enrich the cultural life of the state through leadership that preserves, supports, strengthens and makes excellence in the arts accessible to all Nevadans. Goals: increase public access, participation and investment in Nevada's arts and culture; incorporate the arts as an essential element in the educational experience of all Nevadans; strengthen the environment in which artists' work and contributions are valued and supported; encourage and support diverse organizations that produce, present and promote excellence in the arts.

Arts Education Mission Statement

The Nevada Arts Council (NAC) Arts Education (AE) Program promotes the arts as basic to the educational experience for preschool through college aged students and lifelong learning for adults. With the arts as core academic subjects and integrated across the curriculum, students of all ages may develop essential life skills and problem-solving abilities that prepare them to succeed in a global, technology based society. The Arts Education Program enriches and supports arts education by: (1) providing resources that introduce Nevadans to the importance of lifelong learning in the arts; (2) developing collaborative relationships with Nevada schools, teachers, parents, and administrators; (3) supporting and strengthening partnerships with local arts agencies and service organizations; and (4) promoting arts awareness throughout Nevada.

Arts Education Program Overview

AE Program services are designed to provide the impetus for education professionals, students, libraries, senior centers, hospitals and community or youth based organizations to embrace the arts as a central and permanent component of daily life. The Arts Education Program supports the goal of lifelong learning in the arts by promoting and expanding quality arts education opportunities for all Nevada citizens. To encourage participation in the creative process, the Arts Education Program provides grants for artist residencies and arts education projects in school and community settings, professional development opportunities, special initiatives, and resources available on the NAC Web site.

All education grants are project grants and include: (1) Better Education through the Arts (BETA), competitive quarterly grants to support small arts education projects designed and presented by organizations and individuals; (2) Arts Education Project, competitive annual grants supporting imaginative arts education projects and artist residencies; and (3) Arts Education Component, which supports the fundamental arts education programming of Nevada's nonprofit arts organizations receiving general operating support. To support career enhancement opportunities in the arts for teachers and teaching artists, noncompetitive Professional Development grants are available on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the year.

NAC is expanding its on-line resource capacity on a newly designed Web site, which includes a resource center with links to information and sites of importance to the field. The AE Program is developing a series of resource papers on topics that include the fine arts standards in project development, implementation of an artist in residence program, and the evaluation process. To promote direct, hands-on experiences with teaching artists in school and community settings, NAC's Artist in Residence Roster, Folk Arts Roster and Tumblewords Writers Roster are available on the Web site.

NAC provides a wealth of personal interaction with its clients through technical assistance in the form of site visits, workshops, meetings and conference calls. This provides equal access to staff for constituents throughout the state in support of program/project development and skills training, including grant writing. The "Rich in Art" license plate, created nearly 10 years ago through a collaboration between NAC and VSA arts, provides much needed funding for the arts education programs of both organizations.

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
- general operating support for arts education organizations
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations
- other: Professional Development Grants for teachers and teaching artists (noncompetitive funding available on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the year)

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
- other individuals: Arts educators may apply for Professional Development grants and small education project grants.
- border state organizations: Nonprofit organizations located in states that border Nevada may apply for an NAC grant if they are incorporated in Nevada.

Multiyear Grants

Arts Education Component grants for Partners in Excellence Tier II are available for two years.

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

78 grants

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

\$ 122,684

Additional Comments on Arts Education Grant Programs

The Arts Education Component was initiated in fiscal year 2010. Integrated within NAC's general operating grant categories (Project Development and Partners in Excellence grants), the Component encourages Nevada's 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organizations to formalize their arts education programs and integrate them into their overall planning and evaluation processes.

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

Arts License Plate

In partnership with VSA arts of Nevada and the Department of Motor Vehicles, a portion of the initial licensing fee and renewal fee supports arts education programs of the Nevada Arts Council and statewide activities of VSA arts of Nevada.

Artist Residency Program

Comments on residency program

The agency's Folklife Program formalized a Folk Artist Roster for its Folklife Education Initiative in 2009. The roster of folk and traditional artists includes masters from the Folklife Apprenticeship Program and is available on-line. Program staff worked closely with the Clark County School District's Office of Diversity and extensive training for educators and potential sponsors in Clark County (Las Vegas). Roster artists are provided one-on-one technical assistance through a newly created workshop (presented by the folklife coordinator).

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 every three years
- To retain eligibility, artists must reapply every three years.

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

The Arts Education Program still provides an Artist Roster to foster artist residencies in schools and communities; however, for the fiscal year 2010 grants cycle, the program streamlined the application process, combining the Artist in Residence application and the Arts Education Project application into a single application. This has made it easier for schools and nonprofit organizations to apply for arts education funding. A number of Nevada's rural local arts agencies continue to provide the impetus for their community's artist residencies, often times working in collaboration with the local school district.

Annual Events

Oasis Conference

Provides sessions related to arts education including presentation of model arts education programs, becoming a teaching artist, and teaching artist program design and implementation.

Grants Workshops

Held annually throughout the state in the fall, NAC grant workshops encourage applications for arts education programming by schools, government entities, libraries, arts organizations and non-arts organizations that employ arts education projects to further their mission and goals. After grants are awarded in the spring, NAC provides a series of mandatory grants management workshops to reinforce the requirements of good grantsmanship.

Professional Development Services

Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes

NAC regularly presented a teacher's institute in the arts in partnership with the Nevada Alliance for Arts Education (NAAE) and other cosponsors until the past several years. A restructuring of NAAE and a change-over in NAC arts education staff necessitated a suspension of these activities. NAC anticipates a focus on professional development for educators and teaching artists to reemerge in the next biennium in collaboration with other NAC programs and organizations throughout the state.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- in-house with arts education staff
- in-house with other state arts agency staff
- with partner organizations

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 33
- Home-schooled students participate.
- Schools specifically for at-risk students participate.
- number of regional semifinals: 14

Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities

- documentation

Additional Prizes and Awards

- State champion receives \$1,000 and school receives \$2,000 to support literary arts and the purchase of poetry books. First runner-up receives \$500 and school receives \$1,000; second runner-up receives \$500 and school receives \$1,000. Each district finalist receives a tote bag with assorted items, including an autographed book of poetry, a poetry journal, novels, a writing pen, a broadside (a limited edition, illustrated single- or multi-colored print created by a small press at the University of Nevada, Reno that features a poem from a local poet or member of the POL committee. The broadside is hand-printed, often with a colophon that commemorates the POL competition of that particular year) and snacks. He or she also receives a certificate of accomplishment from their district state legislator(s) and Senator Harry Reid.
- Additional prizes were purchased and donated.

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

Nevada Alliance for Arts Education, Nevada Department of Education, Smartbrand, Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, Siena Hotel Spa Casino, Digi Print

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

- Arts education resource guides are available on the Web site and include: The Fine Arts Standards and Bringing the Life to Arts/Bringing Life to the Arts (artist in residence). A guide to evaluations is forthcoming.

Evaluation & Assessment

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- Evaluation tools and frameworks are provided for grantees. The Arts Education Program is currently completing an evaluation resource paper for distribution and posting on the Web site. This resource paper is one of a series of publications created to assist grantees in understanding the components of designing, implementing and evaluating successful programming.
- Grantees are required to describe their evaluation process and provide a sample evaluation at the time the grant is submitted. Grantees also are required to complete a final evaluation at the end of their grant program or project.

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

- quantitative and qualitative grants data
- participation data
- financial data
- focus groups and town hall meetings
- direct observations

Utilization of Evaluation

The final reports completed and submitted by the grantees provide a good basis for explaining the scope of the projects they implemented. In particular they are requested to provide "one anecdotal piece of evidence of success, for example: describe how a student developed as a artist; describe how the culture/climate of an organization or school has changed; describe the social or professional growth of a student or teacher; describe the social or economic development that occurred in the community." The answers to this question have proved to be most insightful. Recording the anecdotes requires the grantee to reflect on his or her project. The anecdotes assist the arts education coordinator in assessing the project and offering ways to strengthen and support programs. They also provide the stories to support the value of public funding for arts education in a way that is understood by all.

NAC conducts town hall meetings and community conversations. In response to information gathered during the 2003 arts town meetings, a fourth critical issue and goal was added to the 2004-2007 NAC Strategic Plan: committing to advocacy, communication and equal access to arts education for all students. This year, NAC would like to create an arts education network, addressing the critical issue of communication across this largely rural state.

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Alliance for Arts Education

The Nevada Alliance for Arts Education works with NAC on advocacy issues related to arts education and has partnered with the Council on a number of activities over the years, including a summer arts education institute and an awareness campaign, "It's not an education without the Arts." Currently, NAAE is a cosponsor of the Nevada Poetry Out Loud state competition, and specifically implements the Washoe District Poetry Out Loud program and semifinals.

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

- Maryjane Dorofachuk, Arts Education Coordinator, 1.0
- Elizabeth Blau, Arts Education Program Assistant, 0.5

Staff Biographies

Maryjane Dorofachuk has been working in the field of arts and culture for more than 15 years, with experience in arts education, community arts development, cultural tourism, public art, exhibitions, grants and nonprofit administration. A graduate of the University of Arizona with a degree in art history and business administration, Dorofachuk came to Las Vegas in 2006 and began her work with the Nevada Arts Council as the community arts development associate. Prior to moving to Las Vegas, she worked as the community arts development manager for the Tucson Pima Arts Council in Tucson, Arizona, where she developed an artist in residence program for in-school, after-school, and summer community programs.

Elizabeth Blau joined the NAC staff in 2009. She is a studio artist and teaching artist. Blau's primary responsibilities are to assist in the coordination of the annual statewide Nevada Poetry Out Loud program and the Arts Education grants program. She also assists with general office duties in NAC's satellite office in Las Vegas.

Concluding Thoughts & Additional Comments

Over the past two years, the arts education coordinator has spent time assessing the programs in place as well as getting to know constituents. She moved the base of operations from Carson City to NAC's satellite office in Las Vegas, consolidated grant categories and implemented a new strategy to help strengthen the arts education components of Nevada arts organizations. She plans to develop a statewide arts education network, implement professional development opportunities for teaching artists and educators in arts integration, and broaden the scope of the Artist in Residence Roster to include more artists and programming.