

New Jersey

New Jersey State Council on the Arts
Robin Middleman, Senior Program Officer, Arts Education

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

The mission of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA) is to improve the quality of life of the state by helping the arts to flourish. Accordingly, the members and staff of the NJSCA are firmly committed to achieving the following goals:

- Establishing artistically, financially and operationally successful arts organizations, institutions and programs that are diverse and accessible to all New Jerseyans
- Supporting a respected and valued community of New Jersey artists encouraged to achieve their best and be broadly connected to community life in ways that make full use of their creativity and talents
- Promoting expanded public participation in and support for the arts
- Maintaining a network of people, businesses, organizations, institutions and communities working in partnership to advance the arts and the arts' contributions to New Jersey community life;
- Creating high-quality arts education for all New Jerseyans
- Building a state economy whose community and economic development strategies, plans and resource allocations at all jurisdictional levels feature the arts and culture

Arts Education Program Overview

The NJSCA's Arts Education Program is an expression of its strong ongoing commitment to the goal of quality arts education for all New Jerseyans and of its unshakeable belief that arts education is fundamental to a sound and complete education for all students.

The Council seeks to achieve its goals through three principal means:

- A battery of arts education cosponsored projects carried out in partnership with a growing array of organizations that place professional artists in the schools, and support teacher training, artist training, education reform, arts education advocacy and model schools
- Arts Basic to Education grants to arts education organizations to support operations and programs and Arts Education Special Initiative grants to discipline specific organizations to encourage greater involvement with and impact on New Jersey schools
- Funding policies and overall grant support that underwrite the vast array of arts education programs and services provided by the arts constituency

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
- general operating support for arts education organizations
- 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
- regional/local arts agencies
- arts organizations
- arts education alliance or similar statewide organization

Multiyear Grants

Multiyear grants are available for two and three years.

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

18 grants

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

\$ 1,100,733

Additional Comments on Arts Education Grant Programs

The total number of arts education grants and the total dollar amount represent grants that were awarded to organizations in three categories:

- Arts Basic to Education, providing general operating support for arts education organizations
- Cosponsored Arts Education grants, partnership grants to organizations with which NJSCA carries out its arts education programs: Artist/Teacher institute, Arts in Education (AIE) Residency Program, New Jersey Writers Project, Poetry Out Loud and the New Jersey Arts Education Partnership. The AIE Residency Program and New Jersey Writers Project regrant funds to schools for residencies, thus total grants to schools are not included in the number posted above
- Arts Education Special Initiative grants, project grants to cultural organizations to create new or expand existing arts education outreach programs

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

New Jersey Arts Education Census Project

The New Jersey Arts Education Census Project is a partnership between the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the New Jersey State Department of Education, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey, under the direction of Music for All. The project was created to gather, evaluate and disseminate qualitative and quantitative data regarding arts education in New Jersey. This project was inspired by the Mapping Project, carried out by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey from 1996-98. The New Jersey Arts Education Census Project was designed to document arts education in every school in the state through a statewide mandated survey, combine the survey findings with other information to create a 360-degree view of arts education, broadly disseminate the results of the survey, create a model that may be deployed in other states and develop an ongoing system to update, and maintain and distribute arts education information across the state.

New Jersey Arts Education Partnership

The New Jersey Arts Education Partnership (NJAEF) was established in 2007 with the mission to provide a unified voice for a diverse group of constituents who agree on the educational benefits and impact of the arts, specifically the contribution they make to student achievement and a civilized, sustainable society. NJAEF carries out this mission by providing a clearinghouse for information and best practices, providing opportunities for people to come together on topics of interest, and initiating advocacy opportunities to effect public information and policy on arts education issues.

New Jersey Arts Education Collective

New Jersey Arts Education Collective is a partnership of not-for-profit organizations whose mission is to provide the highest-quality professional development for members of the arts and education community.

Artist Residency Program

Artist residency program is administered in partnership with another organization.

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

Fee Structure for Teaching Artists

- \$325 per day
- There can be additional compensation outside of the fee structure. There is a travel fee beyond a certain mileage. For planning grants there is an additional fee provided to cover the additional preparation time required for those programs.

Additional Comments on Residency Program

After-school sites can apply for residencies. This new program was established through a pilot to develop and adapt the school day residency model to meet the needs and discrete parameters of after-school settings.

Teaching Artist Roster Program

Teaching Artist Roster Basics:

- Out-of-state artists may apply for artist roster.
- Roster artists are required for residency program.
- A panel is used to select roster artists.
- Applications for roster are reviewed once per year.
- To retain eligibility, artists must reapply every three years.

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

Out-of-state artists are eligible to apply and, while there are no restrictions, most commonly the artists come from bordering states of Pennsylvania, New York and Delaware.

Annual Events

Artist/Teacher Institute

Cosponsored by Arts Horizons since fiscal year 2001, the Artist/Teacher Institute (ATI) is a 34-year-old NJSCA program in which educators participate in hands-on, intensive creative experiences in order to grow artistically and refresh their own classroom practice. Teachers, school administrators, teaching artists and student teachers experience the process of learning that is conveyed through the arts. Daily discipline based workshops are enhanced by sessions on important educational issues related topics in arts education, working with students with special needs, and others. The Institute is a nonresidential experience where teachers, administrators, and artists work in two disciplines, one as a major and the other as a minor. ATI is held at William Paterson University in the north and at Rutgers Camden Center for the Arts in the south. In addition, fall and spring follow-up sessions are held at both sites. Participants attend for 10 days over two weeks from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. each day. ATI is closely linked to NJSCA's in-school residency program. Schools that receive residency grants must send at least one staff member to ATI as an opportunity to begin or continue deeper practice and planning for the upcoming year.

Arts Education Summits

NJSCA traditionally convenes arts education summits each year to bring together the field to discuss issues of importance, form collective understandings and forge consensus on ways to move forward in making the arts a basic part of education for students across the state, and support lifelong learning in the arts. These sessions bring together a multifaceted representation to begin a dialogue and to inventory existing efforts for alignment and/or create new models, partnerships and initiatives to collaboratively address the stated challenge or goal. A good example of such convenings resulting in collaborative action is the March 2004 Arts Education Summit Meeting, Creating a Strong Voice for Arts Education Advocacy in New Jersey, which provided a forum for a creative and collaborative dialogue among representatives of the arts and education, both public and private, at the national, state and local levels. Many of the same representatives, including the New Jersey Department of Education, Dodge Foundation and arts educator professional associations, continued to meet along with NJSCA, planned and then established a new arts education central resource, the New Jersey Arts Education Partnership.

Professional Development Services

Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes

- For classroom teachers, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization.
- For arts specialists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization.
- For teaching artists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization.
- For school administrators, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- in-house with arts education staff
- in-house with contracted staff
- with partner organizations: Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey, Discover Jersey Arts, Bergen County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs, Rutgers Camden Center for the Arts, New Jersey Network, Two River Theater Company

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 44
- Home-schooled students participate.
- Schools specifically for students with disabilities participate.
- Schools specifically for at-risk students participate.
- number of regional semifinals: three

Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities

- lesson plans
- evaluation
- documentation
- residency model
- teaching artist training
- classroom teacher training
- Web site
- Poetry Out Loud workshop was offered for the first time at NJSCA's Artist Teacher Institute, so teachers worked with two teaching artists (poet and performance artist) for 10 days over two weeks for in-depth training in the program and working with artists.

Additional Prizes and Awards

- Journals, poetry anthologies, messenger bags, gift cards to art events
- Additional prizes were purchased and donated.

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

The Karma Foundation, New Jersey Network Foundation

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

- arts education handbook
- arts education planning guide
- statewide data/research on arts education in schools
- social networking, e.g., Twitter or Facebook

The Artists in Education Residency Handbook is available as a Web site and as a .pdf at www.njaie.org. The New Jersey Arts Education Census Project data of the status of arts in every New Jersey public school is available at www.artsednj.org. The New Jersey Arts Education Partnership site is at the same address.

Evaluation & Assessment

Assessment of Student Learning in the Arts

- Assessment training is provided. Training in assessment is included as a part of NJSCA's annual multiday training for arts education teaching artists.

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- Evaluation tools and frameworks are provided for grantees. Each grantee submits an interim and final report, which is available on the NJSCA Web site and is part of NJSCA's e-grant system. Schools that receive residency grants are provided evaluative tools via a final report form that includes evaluation forms targeted to school administration, staff, students, community members and the teaching artist.

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

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

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

Dale Schmid

State Alliance for Arts Education

The New Jersey Arts Education Partnership is the state arts education resource. The governance board is made up of NJSCA, the New Jersey Department of Education, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and Arts Pride New Jersey Foundation. The NJSCA arts education senior program officer serves on the steering committee.

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

- Robin Middleman, Senior Program Officer, Arts Education, 1.0
- Shelley Benaroya, Arts in Education Administrator, 1.0

Staff Biographies

Robin Middleman is Senior Program Officer, Arts Education at the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. In that role she manages the Council's arts-in-education programs which are conducted in partnership with NJ arts and education organizations. Those programs include the AIE Residency Program, the NJ Writers Project, the Artist/Teacher Institute and Poetry Out Loud. Robin is the State Poetry Out Loud Coordinator for this national program. She also serves as Council liaison to the NJ Arts Education Partnership, the NJ Department of Education's Task Force for 21st Century Learning, the NJ After School Network, the NJ Graduation Campaign and the Newark Arts Education Roundtable Steering and Strategic Planning Committees. Robin served as the Mid-Atlantic Representative to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Arts Education Advisory Group (NASAA AEAG) from 2006-2009. She represents NASAA AEAG on the steering committee of the Arts Education Partnership, Washington, D.C. Robin has served as a reviewer of the Coming Up Taller Award, presented annually to model arts in after school programs by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. She graduated with a BA in Visual Arts and Cultural History from Rutgers College, Rutgers University. A practicing visual artist, her work has been featured in exhibitions in New York City and Philadelphia, New Jersey and Connecticut and in traveling exhibitions, including the Unity Canvas Project which was in response to 9/11. Prior to her work at the Council, she served as co-Executive Director of Artworks, the Visual Arts School; Assistant Director at the Arts Council of Princeton, and teacher of visual arts at the Princeton Adult School and in after school and other community settings.

As the Arts Education Administrator for the Arts In Education (AIE) Consortium, Shelley Benaroya helps oversee a cornerstone of the NJSCA's arts education programming. Through its annual matching grant program, AIE offers students and teachers the opportunity to engage in and learn about the creative process through long-term residencies taught by highly qualified professional artists. She comes to this position, having served as an AIE teaching artist and educator for more than 15 years. In addition to teaching, Ms. Benaroya has worked as a writer, editor, and public relations executive for such companies as CES Publishing, Simon & Shuster, Highgate Pictures, The Rowland Company, and NBC News. Her awards include poetry and teaching fellowships from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.