

Rhode Island

*Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
Sherilyn Brown, Education Director*

General Information

Arts Education Mission Statement

The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA) envisions a Rhode Island where all children and youth have access to rich and challenging arts learning opportunities in their homes, schools and communities, thus enabling them to become creative and critical thinkers, effective communicators, responsible citizens and knowledgeable adults.

Arts Education Program Overview

The driving forces of RISCA's work are partnerships and policy change and support, to accomplish the mission/vision above. The Council is involved in grant making to schools and community organizations, professional development for teachers and teaching artists, and statewide and regional networks that carry out advocacy and programming.

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
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations
- Arts Talk is a professional development program for teams of high school educators that involves arts integration and grants for follow-up classroom projects.

Groups Eligible for Grant Programs

- pre-K centers
- public schools
- private/nonparochial schools
- private/parochial schools
- charter schools
- regional/local arts agencies
- arts organizations
- non-arts organizations
- arts education alliance or similar statewide organization

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

65 grants

Additional Comments on Arts Education Grant Programs

Grants are sometimes the by-product of RISCA's programs. Arts Talk is a professional development program that supplements the work with grant funds. Rhode Island Comprehensive Arts Proficiency Planning supports the arts graduation requirement and the policy work of the Rhode Island Arts Learning Network.

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

Rhode Island Arts Learning Network

A policy change and support initiative with multiple partners working in a network structure to carry out goals.

New England Consortium of Artist Educator Professionals

The New England Consortium of Artist Educator Professionals (NECAP) is a regional association that supports the teaching artist as a profession with professional development, information services and advocacy.

Extended Learning Opportunities

Extended Learning Opportunities is a coalition working to measure out-of-school learning. This is a coalition that includes the Rhode Island Department of Education, the Rhode Island Arts Learning Network, Rib After School Plus Alliance and many others.

Rhode Island Comprehensive Arts Proficiency Planning

Rhode Island Comprehensive Arts Proficiency Planning supports schools, districts and regional education collaboratives with funds to support the arts graduation requirement, with work in assessment, electronic portfolios and other areas.

Funding for Arts Education Program from Sources Other Than NEA and State General Fund

As part of the Rhode Island Arts Learning Network, RISCA receives funds from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, nonprofit organizations, other state agencies, and private foundations. Funds are pooled as the organizations work toward the same statewide goals. Although funding may not come through the state arts agency program, it comes to the Network.

Additional Comments on Initiatives and Partnerships

See <http://www.riartslearning.net> for more on the Rhode Island Arts Learning Network.

Artist Residency Program

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

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

Fee Structure for Teaching Artists

- RISCA does not set the fee structure. This is not solely a residency program; it includes open-ended projects with artists and schools or community organizations.

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 year.

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

Preference for funding is given to roster artists, all other things being equal in the application.

Annual Events

Give Me Five

student film screening with critique by industry professionals and a focus on media literacy

Widening the Circle

regional teaching artist professional development event

Circle of Sharing

final session of Arts Talk when schools present their arts-integrated projects

Professional Development Services

Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes

- For classroom teachers, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. See all of the above.
- For arts specialists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. The Rhode Island Arts Learning Network is very involved in teacher professional development.
- For teaching artists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. See NECAP above.
- For school administrators, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization.

Additional Comments on Professional Development Services

Rhode Island Arts Learning Network coalitions and teams handle various types of professional development for RISCA constituents.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- with partner organization: VSA arts

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 15
- Home-schooled students participate.
- Schools specifically for students with disabilities participate.
- Schools specifically for at-risk students participate.

Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities

- residency model

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

- Performance space is donated in-kind.

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

- See www.riartslearning.net for RI Arts Map, RI Arts Passport and other resources.

Evaluation & Assessment

Assessment of Student Learning in the Arts

- Assessment training is provided.
- Sample assessment tools are provided.

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

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

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

Rosemary Burns (very part-time)

State Alliance for Arts Education

part of the state policy network

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

- Sherilyn Brown, Education Director, 1.0
- Dan Kahn, Education Assistant, 0.4

Staff Biographies

RISCA Arts Education Program staff members are multilingual and collectively have experience in theatre education, teaching, folk and traditional arts, program development, ethnomusicology, policy, professional development, and arts management.