

West Virginia

*West Virginia Division of Culture and History
Maya Nye, Arts in Education Coordinator*

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

The mission of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVCA) and the Arts Section of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH) is to foster a fertile environment for the artistic, cultural, educational and economic development of the state.

Arts Education Mission Statement

The mission of the Arts in Education (AIE) Program is to increase support and advocacy for arts education and for lifelong learning in the arts. The Arts in Education Program provides support for arts learning opportunities in schools and communities.

WVCA believes:

- all students K-12 should have an education in the arts;
- arts learning should be sequential, curriculum based learning and hands-on instruction taught by qualified teachers with adequate educational resources;
- arts education should be recognized as a core academic subject and not treated as an extracurricular activity. Academic progress should be measured through assessment;
- teachers, artists, and arts organizations in partnership create a climate in each community to make the arts part of the basic education of its children and promote lifelong learning in the arts.

Arts Education Program Overview

The purpose of the AIE Program is to encourage the development of comprehensive arts programs that affect the educational environment for all students and community members. Programs may include presentation of artists in a variety of projects including residencies, performances, workshops, and special projects designed to foster use of all available cultural resources, such as artists, museums, arts centers and organizations, to augment the comprehensive study of the arts for students K-12 and beyond.

Grant Programs

Types of Arts Education Grant Programs

- residency program
- in-school arts education
- out-of-school-time arts education
- lifelong learning in the arts
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations
- quick funds/minigrants
- other touring funds and Challenge America

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

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

21 grants

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

\$ 175,400

Major Initiatives & Partnerships

West Virginia Education Leadership Initiative

The West Virginia Education Leadership Initiative (WV-ELI) is a group of committed individuals representing different stakeholder groups invested in education. This group came together to help state policymakers, educators and advocates design sustainable education plans for West Virginia that successfully integrate the arts. WV-ELI vision statement: For the West Virginia community to survive and prosper, a culture of sustainability must be developed that includes an education system that focuses on content knowledge, creativity and innovation.

Arts Education Partnership

The Arts Education Partnership is an interagency and private-sector collaboration among the arts education coordinators of the West Virginia Department of Education and West Virginia Division of Culture and History/Commission on the Arts and the Appalachian Education Initiative, with the mission to expand and enhance the opportunities for arts education in the state of West Virginia.

State of Arts Education in West Virginia Public Schools

The State of Arts Education in West Virginia Public Schools is a survey developed and administered by the Appalachian Education Initiative (private sector) with input from the West Virginia Department of Education and West Virginia Division of Culture and History/Commission on the Arts. The purpose of this survey is to identify gaps in arts education in West Virginia public schools and to generate data for developing effective arts education advocacy initiatives.

Artist Residency Program

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

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

Fee Structure for Teaching Artists

- There is no set fee structure. Each artist establishes their own fee structure.

Additional Comments on Residency Program

Prior to this year, there has been little connection between WVCA's residency programs and its roster of nonvetted teaching artists. WVCA is moving into a vetting process for teaching artists as well as mandatory orientation and professional development training for teaching artists.

Teaching Artist Roster Program

Teaching Artist Roster Basics:

- 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

Prior to this year, the AIE program coordinator has selected teaching artists. WVCA is planning to streamline the application process for organizations and schools that apply to hire a vetted teaching artist listed on the roster. This should heighten the importance of the roster and the artists to whom the Commission is providing professional development. WVCA plans to work with arts organizations across the state to provide a more comprehensive statewide listing of vetted teaching artists. It is hoped that these organizations will serve in a more official role as regional resources for connecting teaching artists with schools and organizations in their area as well as conducting regional training.

Annual Events

Poetry Out Loud

This exciting contest encourages students to learn poetry through memorization and performance. High school winners are sent to Charleston, West Virginia, to compete in the West Virginia Poetry Out Loud Final. The WVDCH covers lodging costs and reimburses travel costs for all participants in the state final. The winner receives an award. The West Virginia state finalist wins an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete for \$50,000 in scholarships and school prizes.

Teaching Artist Workshop

This workshop is a mandatory professional development experience for all artists listed on the teaching artist roster. The content of the workshop is based on the individual needs as identified by the artists, the overarching needs of the state and the mandatory essentials of the Arts Commission.

Professional Development Services

Provision of Professional Development Trainings, Workshops and/or Institutes

- For arts specialists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. The state Department of Education arts curriculum specialist invites WVCA's AIE coordinator to trainings and workshops for arts teachers across the state. Generally, the coordinator provides information on funding opportunities and the teaching artist roster. The two organizations' mutual private-sector partner, the Appalachian Education Initiative, provides additional training and information on how to partner with teaching artists in the classroom.
- For teaching artists, professional development is administered in partnership with another organization. This past year, WVCA administered an introductory workshop on the requirements of being a teaching artist. In partnership with the Appalachian Education Initiative, the Commission will provide training for teaching artists selected to be on the roster as well as for those who need to build the skills it takes to be a rostered teaching artist.

Additional Comments on Professional Development Services

To date, WVCA's AIE coordinator provided the state Department of Education arts curriculum specialist with peripheral support regarding funding for teaching artists at training for arts teachers only. The AIE coordinator has been invited to be part of a training collaborative including school administrators, parents, teachers and arts organizations from each region in the state who choose to participate and be involved in arts teams.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- in-house with contracted staff
- with partner organizations: This is a new component this year; however, these organizations will be some of WVCA's mid- and major-sized organizations, many of which serve as regional arts councils.

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in Poetry Out Loud statewide: 13
- Home-schooled students participate.
- number of regional semifinals: two

Additional Prizes and Awards

- A traveling trophy made by West Virginia artists is provided for both the finalist and finalist's school.
- Additional prizes were purchased.

Resources & Publications

Publications and Media Resources Provided:

- arts education handbook
- statewide data/research on arts education in schools

The AIE coordinator contributes to the state arts agency quarterly publication and works with WVCA's private-sector partner on statewide data and research. In the coming year, she will be publishing a Roadmap for Residencies. The AIE coordinator is responsible for developing publications about AIE grants programs and a directory for teaching and demonstrating artists.

Evaluation & Assessment

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- Evaluation tools and frameworks are provided for grantees. A sample artist and program evaluation is part of the final report form.
- An overview of the program evaluation and impact on student learning is required in the narrative portion of the application. Also, sample or past evaluation tools and pre- and post-testing samples are required supplemental application materials. The final report requires a written program and artist evaluation.

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

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

Utilization of Evaluation

Evaluations provide documentation of trends, needs, strengths and weaknesses and can be used to adapt to the needs and wants of WVCA's statewide constituency. For instance, quantitative and qualitative grant data demonstrated to the Commission the need to amend the Minigrant Program, resulting in a pilot program that seems to work much better. Much documentation and evaluation is required in the pilot to show the Commission how the program is being received, which helps to determine whether the pilot should become an official program.

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

Julia Murin Lee

State Alliance for Arts Education

Appalachian Education Initiative (Kennedy Center Affiliate)

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

- Maya Nye, Arts in Education Coordinator, 1.0
- Stacy Kepple, Poetry Out Loud Coordinator (contract position), 0.5

Arts Education Coordinator's Split Responsibilities

- other areas of work: Minigrant Program, Challenge America Program
- percent of time dedicated to arts education program: 70%

Staff Biographies

Maya Nye administers the components of WVDCH's arts education plan that relate to funding and development of teaching artist residencies. Prior to this position, Nye served as the administrative and summer arts camp director for the Charleston Stage Company. In addition to her B.A. in theatre and environmental studies and extensive experience in alternative education, she is a musician, potter, knitter and writer.