

Artists-in-Residence Grant Program

DESCRIPTION

The goal of the Artists-in-Residence (AIR) Grant Program is to enhance creative expression and personal development through arts experiences for students with disabilities and their peers. Residencies are:

- scheduled according to available funding, location of requests and Teaching Artist (TA) availability;
- designed by Coordinating Staff and Teaching Artist with administrative support from VSA arts of Minnesota's Arts in Education Coordinator (AEC); and
- vary in length and time, dependent upon the needs of the students.

RESIDENCY SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY

Any public or private school (Kindergarten to Grade 12), or organizations serving as an alternative education site for Special Education students (Kindergarten to age 21) in the state of Minnesota with students who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan can apply. VSA arts of Minnesota awards funds in the range of \$500-\$1,500. Residencies must have:

- A minimum of **5 direct contact hours** with the TA;
- A minimum of **15 students** on an **IEP/504 Plan** ;
- **51% of the total participants** on an IEP/504 Plan; and
- Applicants **need to provide \$250** (minimum) to help support their residency.

RESTRICTIONS

This grant does not support residencies involving:

Educational settings who:

- have been awarded AIR Grants for two consecutive years (or more). They are not eligible to apply again for two years. (This is an effort to encourage new applicants to apply);
- have failed to submit the required final report documents on previous awarded AIR Grants; or
- are unable to commit to support funds of \$250.

Teaching Artists that are:

- not approved by VSA arts of Minnesota. Applicants are encouraged to make use of the VSA arts of Minnesota Teaching Artist Roster.

Projects that are:

- not designed to meet identified IEP goals developed by the residency committee.
- not designed to reinforce the Minnesota Department of Education Academic Standards in the Arts. To review standards visit:
www.education.state.mn.us/MDE/Academic_Excellence/Academic_Standards/Arts/index.html;

- primarily performance-based (bringing in an artist or group to perform a concert, play, or reading) or demonstration-based (having an artist paint a mural);
- extra-curricular (out-of-school time) activities; or
- not preceded or followed by an in-service session for participating staff.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Applicants are asked to complete and submit AIR **Request Form** prior to submitting the AIR **Grant Proposal**. All forms can be submitted online on VSA arts of Minnesota's website under Forms and Guidelines, or alternative formats can be downloaded (www.vsaartsmn.org/forms.html#edu02)
2. Upon receiving the request, the AEC will notify applicants if funding is available in their Congressional District for the current school year. As statewide organization, we work to distribute residencies throughout the state.
 - a. If funding is available: the AEC works to contact **VSA arts of Minnesota Roster Teaching Artists** to see who would be interested, available, and a good fit for the proposed site based on the request. Once a few artists have been identified, the AEC will contact Coordinating Staff (CS) and determine the TA they would like to work with to develop AIR **Grant Proposal**.
 - b. If funding is not available: the AEC documents the site's interest in developing a residency and places the request on the waiting list. Should funds become available the applicants will be contacted in the order in which the requests were received.
3. Once a TA has been identified the AEC will set up an introductory meeting with the CS. This meeting will provide the opportunity for everyone to meet, discuss the initial request including participating students, and review the application process.
4. The CS and TA need to take responsibility for developing and submitting an AIR **Grant Proposal**, since this allows the most freedom for custom programming.
5. Proposals need to be received a minimum **three weeks prior** to the proposed start date of the residency. This includes one complete set of items as follows:
 - a. Cover Page: contact information and other basic details;
 - b. Narrative: project, inclusion, planning and evaluation description;
 - c. Budget: TA time, mileage, material cost

RESOURCES --COMING SOON!

Applicants may find the following information useful:

- *VSA arts of Minnesota Teaching Artists Roster*, recommended for grant recipients.
- *Planning a Residency Guide*, suggests steps to creating successful residency.
- *Planning Meeting Worksheet*, a planning tool
- *Disabilities Awareness Guide* (www.vsaarts.org/x523.xml), informational tool for those who want to gain additional knowledge about disability and tips for social etiquette and positive interactions.

FUNDED RESIDENCY PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Residency Sponsors contractual obligations:

- Authorized approval of residency project
- Payment of \$250.00 support funds

Coordinating Staff and Teaching Artists contractual obligations:

- Develop a collaborative AIR **Grant Proposal**.
- Facilitate
 - initial **planning meeting**;
 - described **residency project**;
 - **culminating event** (presentation, performance and/or exhibition); and
 - an **in-service session** for participating staff.
- Complete and submit a **final evaluation** within 10 business days following the end of a residency project.

Coordinating Staff additional responsibilities:

- **Documentation:** through photos, when possible, and record comments made by staff, students, or parents.
- **Identify** VSA arts of Minnesota in any press release and /or media recognition or during culminating events (i.e. a demonstration, performance, and/or exhibit) as a funder of the residency project.

Teaching Artists additional responsibilities:

- Maintain an **activity log** that provides documentation on group activities and student responses, with respect to teaching observation of student growth, skill development, or other stated goals.
- Submit actual **expense/ reimbursement form** documenting all food, mileage and lodging expenses accompanied with all receipts.

VSA arts of Minnesota contractual obligations:

- Complete **payment** to the Teaching Artist for funded proposals will be made after the approved residency projects have been completed, and after appropriate documentation and support funds have been submitted to VSA arts of Minnesota.

Teaching Artist Roster

DESCRIPTION

VSA arts of Minnesota is implementing a new application procedure with the intention that it will grow and evolve over time to better serve students with disabilities and their peers within our state, as well as the teaching artists themselves. The approved listing of Minnesota artists (from all artistic disciplines) will have completed a thorough application, review, and interview with VSA arts of Minnesota. It will be online making it more efficient, accurate, and addresses the needs of educational settings utilizing teaching artists in their programming.

- The primary purpose is to identify and promote **high quality teaching artists who have particular expertise working with students with disabilities**. The roster is intended as a resource for recipients of AIR Grants, as well as any community groups seeking teaching artists to work with their special needs population. While VSA arts of Minnesota will promote the roster to grantees and others, there is no guarantee of work associated with this resource listing.
- The roster has a secondary purpose of **promoting and supporting professional development for teaching artists**. Teaching in and through the arts is a complex profession and a growing field – and more support and training is needed. With the new roster, VSA arts of Minnesota hopes to play a role in advancing the field of teaching artists, with the ultimate goal of supporting, strengthening, and expanding arts education for all Minnesota students.

BENEFITS

- **Promotion of your work as a teaching artist.** Each rostered artist will be listed and can refer to this web presence as a way to promote their work. Additionally, VSA arts of Minnesota will promote the new roster statewide, and encourage its use by all arts education partners.
- **Professional networking and resources.** The AEC will endeavor to support rostered artists by “keeping them in the loop” on a variety of arts education resources and opportunities, including national trends and research, local workshops and trainings, and various professional development opportunities. Information regarding VSA arts (National) Programming initiatives including calls for student art, writing, music, or resource guides. Plus discounts on registration fees and mileage reimbursement to attend relevant conferences or trainings, and online access to join the *Artists-in-Residence Blog* (<http://vsaartsmn.blogspot.com/>).
- **Increased connections with VSA arts of Minnesota AIR Grantees.** Recipients these grants will be strongly encouraged to collaborate with rostered teaching artists. When other requests or opportunities come to VSA arts of Minnesota related to needs for teaching artists, we will recommend rostered teaching artists.

ELIGIBILITY & COMMITMENT

Teaching Artist Roster applicants must be:

- 18 years of age or older;
- a resident of Minnesota;
- professional artists with expertise in one or more arts disciplines;
- have skills in working with children/ youth/teachers in educational settings; and
- have a commitment to become familiar with various disabilities and effective methods for adapting techniques and differentiating instruction to reach all learners.

Teaching artists assigned to residency projects:

- will remain on the roster indefinitely, contingent on the submission of an annual update which consists of a current resume and evidence of participation in one professional development activity; and
- are independent contractors for VSA arts of Minnesota and, as such, are responsible for his or her own taxes, and property and workers' compensation insurance.

Assignments for residency projects are determined by several factors, including, but not limited to:

- the teaching artist's level of experience;
- stated interests;
- time availability;
- location; or
- arts discipline requested.

While there is no set residency format, there are still general principles and goals:

- Collaborate with educators in residency project development and delivery
- Collaborate with arts education committees, community groups, etc.
- Work with both teachers (professional development) and students (hands-on, participatory lessons)
- Align residency activities with MN Academic Standards in the Arts and identified IEP goals developed by the residency committee
- Use effective teaching methods for adapting techniques and differentiating instruction to reach all learners
- Support efforts to integrate arts learning with other subject areas
- Support a school's ability to continue arts education programs in the absence of a teaching artist, by sharing skills, techniques, and curricula with staff

All rostered teaching artists should feel they are an integral part of the organization mission and are encouraged to provide input, ask questions, and offer suggestions regarding programs, procedures and/or policies.

Please contact the AEC to determine the current status of your application on file at VSA arts of Minnesota (see contact information on reverse).

GENERAL INFORMATION

When first organized, Very Special Arts Minnesota affiliated with the national Very Special Arts organization and incorporated in 1986. *VSA arts*, located in Washington, D.C., was founded in 1974 by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith and is an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Each year millions of people participate in *VSA arts* programs through a nationwide network of 40 state affiliates and in 60 countries around the world. In 1999, responding to local voices in the disability community and then encouraging the national organization along, the corporate name changed to *VSA arts* (we're not "special" anymore!). "VSA" now stand for Vision of an inclusive community, Strength in shared resources and the Access to the arts.

The mission of *VSA arts* of Minnesota is *to create a community where people with disabilities can learn through, participate in and access the arts*. During the past two decades, efforts focus in four service areas reaching people from all parts of the state:

- **Arts Programming** (including residencies, performances & presentations) for students and adults with disabilities in educational and community settings;
- **Professional Development** for teachers, teaching artists, artists with disabilities, and interpreters, audio describers and captioners who work in arts settings;
- **Accessibility Resources & Assistance** for Minnesota arts organizations and the general public;
- **Promoting Awareness** of activities by people with disabilities in the arts.

Although the office of *VSA arts* of Minnesota is located in Hennepin Center for the Arts in downtown Minneapolis its service community includes the entire state. The programs and services provided are designed to increase the involvement and participation by people with disabilities in artistic pursuits. Some of our activities directly effect this participation while others are more indirect in that they provide skills or resources to individuals who may or may not have disabilities that then teach, provide accessible accommodations or provide more effective arts programming to individuals who do have a disability. Finally, *VSA arts* of Minnesota works to raise the awareness of the general population of the abilities of people with disabilities in the arts

VSA arts of Minnesota

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