

## Artist in Residence—Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What can we expect when we have an artist in residence?

A professional artist creates an exciting and nurturing learning environment that encourages sponsors and participants to engage deeply in an art discipline. Artists share their professional experience, insights and unique artistic vision to reveal the role of the artist in society and community life. Through collaborative work with the artist, the creative process is illuminated and more easily integrated into teaching.

Through an artist residency, the sponsor and the participants will find:

- Pleasure and power in creative expression;
- Enjoyment in artistic processes;
- Understanding of the role the arts play in our everyday lives;
- Satisfaction in their unique artistic voice; and
- Commonalties with the artist through shared work and discussions of the arts role in daily and civic life.

### 2. What resources are available to help us understand the Artist in Residence program?

One important resource is the [Arts Learning Residency Handbook](#). This document details the residence experience from conceptualization to design and grant application development to conducting the residency through final reporting. The OAC also has many other arts learning resources to support your efforts at [Arts Learning—Resources](#).

### 3. Do we need to have an artist selected before we write our grant?

For newer residency sites, the answer is no. Feel free to use the [Arts Learning Artist Directory](#) as a source of inspiration and ideas. We will help you choose the right artist for your needs and situation after your grant is approved. For more experienced sites, you may develop a general plan for your residency with an artist prior to the design and submission of your grant. If a grant is awarded, your residency committee and artist will further develop their initial plans as a team.

### 4. What arts disciplines are represented in the Artist in Residence program?

We have professional artists who represent a wide range of artistic disciplines including: creative writing, dance, design, media, music, theatre, traditional arts and visual arts.

### 5. What concepts need to be stressed in the grant application?

The strongest applications show a collaborative effort on the part of a broad-based planning committee. The concepts to emphasize are:

1. An interest in exploring the creative process rather than the creation of a product;
2. The ability to plan a focused, in-depth experience for a targeted group of learners, rather than a brief encounter for many individuals; and
3. The value of working with a professional artist to your school's or community organization's mission and programming.

## **6. What are core and peripheral groups?**

Artists have four contact times each day with participants. The residency sponsors must select at least one group of learners that will work in-depth with the artist. This group is usually called a core group. For schools, the core group should meet daily throughout the residency. For community groups, two or three times per week may be sufficient. The core group is usually the size of an average class or smaller, depending on the residency plan, art discipline or characteristics (e.g., age, abilities, developmental factors, etc.). Other participants, sometimes referred to as peripheral groups, also meet with the artist. These sessions are less frequent and are scheduled in the remaining three contact times each day. Peripheral group activities relate to the residency focus and may include teacher, family or community workshops, as well as classes with students.

Please visit the [Arts Learning page](#) for more FAQs.