Today in class: Artists in Education

Good for you, too!
Introduction. The Artists in Education Program offers students a unique educational experience by placing professional artists in residencies in schools and community centers. Resident artists work closely with students, teachers, and administrators as they create works in visual arts, literature, music, theatre, dance, and other disciplines. They serve as valuable resources to supplement existing arts programs; in addition, they enhance the teaching of other subjects such as science, English, foreign languages, physical education, and social studies.

Residencies for individual artists last from two to thirty weeks; the schedule for ensembles is one to four weeks. The artists spend a third to a half of their time creating and sharing their art in a studio setting in order to involve students more fully in the creative process.

The program’s growth in recent years has been significant. In 1980-81, for example, the program reached 5,600 students in grades K-12 directly, and another 22,000 through demonstrations, performances, and exhibits. Nearly 200 teachers and administrators were involved as 72 artists participated in 36 residencies averaging over a month each. Local sites tripled their previous year’s contributions to support the increased activity.
Components:

**Visual Arts and Crafts** — photography, sculpture, painting, drawing, ceramics, and the graphic arts.

**Theatre** — storytelling, mime, puppetry and clowning, as well as ensemble residencies by classical, children’s, and feminist theatre companies. Directors, choreographers, and technical assistants are also available.

**Dance** — Rhode Island-based and national touring companies, as well as movement specialists.

**Film, Video** — live-action and animation, fictional and documentary.

**Music** — jazz, classical, folk, electronic; soloists or ensembles.

**Literature** — poets, fiction writers, playwrights.

**Architecture** — architects, landscape architects, planners, and designers.

**Folk Arts** — traditional and native art forms, including dance, music, crafts, and festivals.

**Interdisciplinary Residencies** — also available.

**Visiting Artist Component** — Each residency of four weeks or longer, or each ensemble residency, qualifies a sponsor to receive visiting artists. These are not restricted by residency guidelines, and may, for example, perform for a single day. Fifty percent of a visiting artist’s fee is paid by the Artists in Education Program.

What Sites Must Provide:

- Studio space for the artist or ensemble.
- Students’ supplies.
- An on-site coordinator to arrange scheduling and to assist with publicity.
- A cash match.
Sponsor Match. The Artists in Education Program pays fifty percent of the artist's salary for most residencies. Special funding, up to sixty-six percent, may be requested for long-term residencies. The remainder is paid by the school from school budgets or other sources of matching funds. The Council's staff can offer technical assistance to help find the necessary match.

Artist's Salary. Artists receive $75 a day for residencies; performance fees are negotiated separately.

Eligibility of Artists. Quality of work is the major criterion by which artists are judged. A second, but equally important criterion, is the artist's ability to communicate the creative process. Applications for employment are accepted in August. Artists approved by the Program's advisory panels are contacted as sites become available. Sponsors of longer residencies participate in the selection of an artist.

Eligibility of Sponsors. Any school with an existing arts program may apply to sponsor a residency. Any nonprofit agency with an existing educational program and a commitment to the arts is welcome to apply as well. Forms are available from the RISCA office.

Completed applications are reviewed once each month by the Council's education panel. Designing and establishing a residency will generally require six to eight weeks. Because of limited funding, early application is recommended.

Recommendations. Interested parties may call the Artists in Education Program for the names of sponsors who have hosted residencies in the past.
How to Apply. For applications, phone or write the Artists in Education Program, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, 312 Wickenden Street, Providence, RI 02903.

277-3880