

SDAC Artists In Schools & Communities - Teaching Artist Residency Program

The South Dakota Arts Council's, Artists in Schools & Communities program is designed to enrich and support arts education throughout South Dakota. This mission is supported by the belief that professional artists can enhance the educational process and provide inroads to learning that are engaging, creative, and meaningful. The intent of the program is to enrich and support quality education, not to supplant or in any way furnish a substitute for school-based arts education programs or services more appropriately provided by state certified arts instructors.

What is a Teaching Artist?

A teaching artist is an "artist-educator," who is able to translate their creative process into an instructional setting. Nationally recognized teaching artist and author Eric Booth developed the following definition: "A teaching artist is a practicing professional artist with the complementary skills and sensibilities of an educator, who engages people in learning experiences in, through, and about the arts." Teaching artists represent all disciplines including craft, dance, literary arts, media arts, music, storytelling, theatre, visual arts, folk/traditional arts, and multicultural arts.

Professional Teaching Artists Are:

- Accomplished artists in their field.
- Able to teach their art form(s) which includes skills such as organization, classroom management, public speaking and knowledge of how various educational systems operate (schools, social service agencies, after-school programs, community centers, etc.).
- Business-minded, possessing the ability to self-market, work within a budget, and deliver projects on-time and in the manner proposed.
- Great communicators and able to facilitate conversations with teachers, community leaders and other individuals through the process of creating and designing educational projects.

Teaching artists are an invaluable resource for schools and communities and greatly contribute to the overall process of learning. Ways in which teaching artists intersect with schools and community-based organizations may include:

- Short and long-term in-school and after-school residencies.
- Arts integration instruction that supports higher order thinking skills in which students learn math, science, language arts and social studies through visual art, music, dance and/or theatre.
- Curriculum-based projects using K-12 arts and non-arts education standards.
- Core arts instruction in visual art, dance, theatre, and/or music.
- Professional development for educators.
- Lifelong learning in the arts through community events, classes and workshops.

Roster Eligibility

Applications from prospective teaching artists must be submitted by Sept. 24. Artists who live and work in South Dakota, Indigenous artists, and artists who live in bordering states are given priority.

Professional artists are encouraged to apply. The South Dakota Arts Council defines professional artists as individuals who earn 50% or more of their income from their artistic work. Unfortunately, we cannot accept applications from college students.

Once approved, teaching artists are eligible to be on the roster for three years. New teaching artists must participate in a roster artist training and orientation. Roster artists are eligible for travel reimbursements for training sessions. New artists must also submit to a background check. Please review the background check. Please review the background check policy document and background check results review policy document for more information.

Maintaining Status on the Roster

To maintain status, artists must re-apply after their first full three-year endorsement. At that time, evaluations from residency activity will be reviewed along with application materials. After successful re-application, artists will remain on the AISC roster as long as they are active and in good standing. Active participation includes any of the following; contracted residencies, presentations, workshops, and/or participation in professional development. "In good standing" means the artist has received satisfactory evaluations of their residency work and has worked with SDAC staff to address any noted concerns. New applicants will be notified of this requirement at the appropriate time.

Inclusion on the roster is not a guarantee of employment. The South Dakota Arts Council cannot act as an agent on behalf of artists – though we do promote the program and application deadline for sponsor organizations. Teaching artists accepted to the roster are expected to network and market their services directly to schools and other organizations with whom they wish to collaborate. We will provide a profile space on our website for artists to share information about their residency programs, as well as contact information, useful links, and a photograph. View artist profile pages at <https://artscouncil.sd.gov/aisc/meetartist.aspx>.

Teaching Artist Program – Application Process

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Review the AISC Program information at: <https://artscouncil.sd.gov/aisc/index.aspx>.

Review the AISC Artist Application Process at: <https://artscouncil.sd.gov/grants/aiscartist.aspx>.

Review the Applicant Portal for additional resources:

<https://artscouncil.sd.gov/grants/AISCApplclicantPortal.aspx>

Contact Rebecca Cruse, Arts Education Director, (605) 295-4052, Rebecca.cruse@state.sd.us

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Sept. 24, annually.

NEW TEACHING ARTIST EVALUATION

Artists are evaluated by a panel that reviews all submitted materials to determine artistic and teaching capacity, and ability to work effectively within the school and community environment. SDAC strives to select a diverse roster of Teaching Artists who can positively represent their experience as an artist in school and community settings.

APPLICATION TO SDAC TEACHING ROSTER INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- A. *Profile Information (Submitted via “Applicant Profile” section of online application system)
- B. Resumé
- C. Responses to the Narrative Questions
- D. Residency Plan
- E. References and 1-3 Letters of Recommendation
- F. Work Samples

* The South Dakota Arts Council is required to collect specific information from all grant applicant for the purpose of reporting to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). This document provides descriptions of terms and definitions needed in collecting information from constituents. Use the links within this document for responses to the information requested and/or questions provided [https://artscouncil.sd.gov/grants/AISC NEA Questions Guide.pdf](https://artscouncil.sd.gov/grants/AISC_NEA_Questions_Guide.pdf)