

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **1. What is an Artist Residency Project?**

Artist Residency Projects are designed to place professional artists into school and community settings where they can share the myriad benefits of their creative processes. Each Residency Project is a custom-designed collaboration between the host site and the Teaching Artist. Pittsburgh Center for Arts and Media's (PCA&M) Artist Residency Program was founded in 2001 through our partnership with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts' Arts in Education Division.

### **2. Who is eligible for an Artist Residency Project?**

Schools, nonprofit agencies, and community organizations working with both children and adults in Allegheny, Beaver, Greene, and Washington Counties are eligible for an Artist Residency Project. School-based residencies include public, private, parochial, and charter schools serving elementary, middle, and high-school students. Residencies can also be designed at the collegiate level. Community-based residencies may take place in any size community and/or in various types of community and cultural organizations, including social and human service agencies such as social rehabilitation sites for adults, special needs children in an inclusion-oriented program, senior citizen facilities, and/or military/veteran organizations.

### **3. What are the benefits of an Artist Residency Project?**

Studies have shown a significant correlation between arts education and skills development, resulting in improved levels of achievement. Skills developed through the arts are recognized as being essential elements for success in today's society. These skills, as noted by Robert Root-Bernstein, Professor of Physiology at Michigan State University, include the ability to:

- observe acutely
- think spatially and kinesthetically
- identify the essential components of a complex whole
- recognize and invent patterns
- gain empathy with objects of study
- synthesize and communicate the results of one's thinking, visually, verbally, or mathematically.

Teachers and artists working together gain skills and insights from each other that translate into improved learning for current students as well as future learners.

#### **4. How many days constitute an Artist Residency Project?**

Residencies may last anywhere from 5 to 60 days for individual artists and groups/ensembles. The days don't need to be consecutive. A Teaching Artist can work at a site one day a week for eighteen weeks, twice a week for five weeks or twice a month for the whole school year. Artists may work directly with core group participants for up to four hours per day. If pre-determined during the planning meeting, they may also work with or present to other classrooms and/or conduct workshops for teachers, administrators, and/or parents.

#### **5. What is a core group?**

An Artist Residency Project is designed as an in-depth medium-specific experience for up to three core groups of students, not to exceed 30 students per group, or four core groups of 25 students, or five core groups of 20 students. The artist may be introduced at an assembly, may do a whole school performance or slide show, may visit classrooms to talk with other students, and may provide workshops for teachers to take specific techniques and creative ideas back to their classrooms. Please welcome the Teaching Artist to your site with the idea of positively impacting everyone in the building, but giving the core group students and teachers a fuller, richer, more in-depth experience.

#### **6. What kinds of artists are in the Artist Residency Program?**

We currently have approximately 40-45 Teaching Artists in our program, including media artists, dancers, folk artists, inter- and multi-disciplinary artists, fiber artists, jewelers, musicians, visual artists, craftsmen, clown artists, writers, and more! These artists are professionals who are exhibiting, performing, and publishing regularly. If you open up a regional, or sometimes a national, newspaper, you are likely to see positive reviews of their works each week. Part of the skill set of a Teaching Artist is his/her ability to communicate both the creative process and the techniques of his/her medium. Artist applying to the program undergo an independent panel review process. Qualifying artists are chosen based on the quality of their artwork, their ability to articulate their artform and residency project plans to an independent review panel of artists, educators, and administrators, and on their proven ability to fully implement a successful residency plan. The panel sends its recommendations to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, which makes the final decision regarding approval. Once approved, the Teaching Artists are placed on our roster but are not employees of the Pittsburgh Center for Arts & Media. They maintain their own studio spaces and often work for other non-profit arts organizations as well as PCA&M.

#### **7. How do the Teaching Artists get paid?**

Artist Residencies are funded by the host site with support funding provided by PCA&M through our partnership with the PA Council on the Arts' Arts in Education Division. PCA&M contracts with and pays the artist in full and invoices the host site for its match, plus any materials that we've purchased on behalf of the site and/or artist.

## **8. Is it difficult/competitive to receive support funding from PCA&M for an Artist Residency Project?**

It is not at all difficult, although artists' schedules fill up quickly so make your requests in a timely fashion. The program is designed to operate on an on-demand basis, but funding is limited.

## **9. How much will this cost?**

Teaching Artists are paid between \$200-\$350 per day. Companies' and ensembles' daily rates vary depending on the size of the group. There is a sliding rate scale for host sites based on the number of days of a residency project as required by the PA Council on the Arts. This information can be found on Side B of the Artist Residency Request Form. The host site is solely responsible for the cost of materials and for any compensation to the artist associated with travel expenses. Teaching Artists excel at making the cost of materials for their projects affordable to the host sites.

## **10. How will the Artist Residency Project fit in with existing programs/curriculum?**

Since the Teaching Artist, representatives from the host site, and PCA&M plan the residency project together, much care is taken to address Pennsylvania's Arts & Humanities Standards in all art forms and to clearly articulate the goal of having the Teaching Artist at the site. Artists and teachers regularly communicate regarding the intent of the project and how to tie the art form into a specific program and/or extend it throughout the curriculum. Often it is not the Arts Educators who are working with the Teaching Artist but, rather, the Classroom Teacher(s) who recognize(s) how an artform brought to life by a practicing artist can fully illuminate a concept for students. Arts integration strategies and outcomes are a strong area of focus in all residency projects. As defined by the Kennedy Center "Arts Integration is an approach to teaching in which students construct and demonstrate understanding through an art form. Students engage in a creative process which connects an art form and another subject area and meets evolving objectives in both."

## **11. OK, I've decided that I want to participate in this program! What are the next steps?**

Step 1: Think about specific areas of your curriculum or program that could benefit by having a Teaching Artist with whom to work. Review the online Artist Residency Directory to see which artist(s) might provide insight into or illumination of that area. You may contact Mary Brenholts, Director of Artists in Schools & Communities at [mbrenholts@pghartsmedia.org](mailto:mbrenholts@pghartsmedia.org) to begin a discussion of which artist(s) and artform(s) might be most suitable to meet the needs of your host site. Read through the supporting materials included in this packet in order to get a better understanding of how the program works and how it is intended to improve host sites, now and into the future.

Step 2: We will set up an initial phone call or virtual meeting to discuss your ideas, followed by a planning meeting with the Teaching Artist.

Step 3: After the planning meeting you will complete the appropriate Artist Residency Request Form (school-based or community-based) making sure to provide as many details as possible. If you are uncertain at this point about the source or confirmation of your matching funds simply write “pending” or “awaiting approval.” You may have funds provided by a school budget, district budget, a PTA, PTO, or PTG, or from a foundation or local business. Some sites hold fundraisers in their communities. The request form is not a binding document, it simply allows us to determine demand for the program and how to best allocate our funds. If you are unsure of how to complete the budget section, call us for assistance. Make certain to get signatures from principals or other appropriate administrators. Submit your request form as soon as possible to ensure having a good chance to receive support funding.

Step 5: Once we have received your Artist Residency Request Form we will generate the paperwork designed to keep the process moving forward cleanly and clearly. We are just a phone call 412-606-4723 or e-mail away [mbrenholts@pghartsmedia.org](mailto:mbrenholts@pghartsmedia.org) at all times and love hearing from potential host sites to answer questions and/or share ideas!