

Customizable Artist Residencies for PK-12 Students in Ohio's Schools

The TeachArtsOhio (TAO) program brings schools together with teaching artists to share engaging, personal, high-quality arts learning experiences. Residencies can vary from short introductory exposures lasting as few as 10 days to in-depth immersive experiences spanning a full school year. Creative and experienced teaching artists, through TAO grant awards, offer learners the opportunity to participate in a unique creative process, bridge cultural differences, develop fresh ways of learning through the arts, and realize lasting benefits from collaboration with professional artists who are experienced in working with school age children and youth. TAO is a school's opportunity to work with a professional teaching artist to supplement arts instruction. Through a collaborative effort between teachers, artists, and administrators, the program supports in- depth, sustained arts instruction and does not reduce a school's commitment to engage professional arts educators to teach the arts.

GRANT AWARDS: Grants are awarded to schools to cover teaching artist fees. The total professional fee for teaching artists in the TeachArtsOhio program is \$350 per residency day. A residency day must mirror a full school day, including arrival and departure times for teachers. TeachArtsOhio grantees generally receive their full request.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible organizations are Ohio's public, private, charter, or parochial schools (pre-kindergarten through grade 12). Organizations whose primary focus is to provide childcare are ineligible to apply. Every application must include estimated in-kind administrator and teacher time in the budget.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS: TeachArtsOhio provides one-year grants. A school may apply for no more than one grant per year. Similar applications (e.g., from separate schools within a district with the same artist) should emphasize the distinct characteristics between each residency and how unique populations of students are served.

All artist fees (i.e., 100 percent) are paid using OAC funds, alleviating financial burdens from school and district budgets. Schools are required to provide all program-related materials and supplies. While no cash match is required, in-kind contributions from the school include program related materials and supplies, teacher and administrator participation and time, and other project-specific items described in the application.

Grantees may work with the Ohio Arts Council to select an Ohio teaching artist from the [Ohio Teaching Artist Roster](#) or from other sources in consultation with OAC staff. Pursuant to [Ohio Revised Code 3319.391](#), criminal records checks are required for non-licensed employees and contractors (e.g., teaching artists) of a school district, educational service center, or chartered nonpublic school upon their initial hire.

Artists, teachers, and administrators collaboratively plan an in-depth arts learning residency that engages participants of varying ages, cultures, experiences, and ability levels within a mutually supportive and creative learning environment. Artists also share their own artistic work with students, teachers, administrators, school board members, parent organizations, and the larger community.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

March 1 (annually) at 5 p.m.

STAFF CONTACT

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Every TeachArtsOhio grantee is required to work with their teaching artist to design and hold at least one professional development workshop(s) involving staff in one or more participatory arts experiences to deepen their understanding of the creative process and artists' discipline(s) (typically creative writing, dance, design, drama/theatre, media arts, music, visual arts, or traditional arts) during the residency.

Applicants may apply for residencies in one of three categories, with the number of planned residency days customizable in accordance with school needs (e.g., an applicant might choose to schedule residency activities with different grade levels on different days, or customize a structure that gives large groups of students an opportunity to engage in the art form in an impactful way):

- **Grading Period:** a residency of approximately 10-40 days over six to nine weeks
A grading period residency provides time to fully explore the essential aspects of an art form(s) and includes sufficient time to complete an in-depth culminating project such as a performance, program, or exhibition presented to the school and community to demonstrate arts learning.
- **Full Semester:** a residency of approximately 30-60 days over 18 weeks
A full semester residency allows a teaching artist to have a deep and lasting impact on a group of learners. A residency of this length also provides the opportunity for multifaceted staff professional development geared at skill development, pedagogy, and long-term practice. A full semester residency culminates with one or more in-depth concluding projects such as a performance, program, or exhibition presented to the school and community to demonstrate arts and other academic subject(s) learning.
- **Academic Year:** a residency of approximately 50-120 days over 36 weeks
A residency lasting a full academic year provides the most in-depth experience possible, giving learners an entire year to learn, grow, and mature in their understanding of an art form(s). An applicant might choose sophisticated arts projects that include a variety of grade levels, opportunities for performances or exhibitions for the school and community, and arts integrated experiences spanning the curriculum. A residency of this duration creates a long-term learning environment where the teacher, administrator, and teaching artist serve as an educational team to positively impact teaching and learning in and through the arts in a way that will provide long-lasting benefits for all involved. An academic year residency culminates with one or more in-depth concluding projects such as a performance, program, or exhibition presented to the school and community to demonstrate arts and other academic subject(s) learning.

RESIDENCY PLANNING:

Plans for a TAO residency should be in consultation with staff and administration in the school where activities will occur. While activities might be planned primarily within the arts classroom, impact on the larger teaching and learning community should be taken into consideration including scheduling of activities and opportunities for professional development, interdisciplinary learning, and community engagement. Typically, an arts discipline is selected and plans for the residency are in the grant application.

Applicants are required to select a teaching artist who will be named in the application and include a bio with artistic and school-based experiences described. Applicants must first confirm the teaching artist's interest and availability prior to submitting the application. If an applicant requires help in selecting a teaching artist, the OAC arts learning coordinator is available for consultation prior to application submission.

New applicants are encouraged to submit their application for feedback from OAC arts learning staff at least two weeks prior to submission.

Once an award is made the formal residency planning begins. At least three weeks in advance of the residency start date, a planning session is held with the primary contact for the grant award, the teaching artist, and members of the school's planning committee (minimally the committee is comprised of the arts teacher, classroom teacher, school administrator, and teaching artist) to develop a residency plan. This plan outlines the expected impact and outcomes of the residency, what measurement tools will be used to assess progress and learning, and outlines the roles and responsibilities of all parties – school and/or school district staffers and the teaching artist. Templates of past planning documents are available for interested schools, and OAC arts learning staff are available to provide coaching or advice during the planning stages as needed.

NOTE: OAC funding cannot be awarded for residency activities designed in preparation for (or in conjunction with) school competitions, nor for residencies that are part of higher education coursework or that will serve those students exclusively. Please refer to [Appendix A](#) for other OAC funding restrictions that may affect your project's eligibility.

Upon receipt of the grant agreement in ARTIE, the grantee will automatically receive full or partial payment of the award based on the size of the award. OAC staff may request additional information regarding grant activities prior to approving any payment.

HOW TO APPLY: All applications to the TeachArtsOhio program must be submitted via the [ARTIE](#) system. Please refer to [Appendix F](#) for a step-by-step look at applying for, accepting, and managing a grant through this program.

EVALUATION AND SCORING: A panel of arts and cultural professionals, educators, artists, and other community members evaluate and score TeachArtsOhio grant applications. Panel meetings are open to the public through a free video conferencing platform. Representatives of applying schools, as well as teaching artists, are strongly encouraged to listen online. For details on panel meeting dates, times, and instructions for participating, visit the OAC [online grants calendar \(oac.ohio.gov/Grants/Grants-Calendar\)](https://oac.ohio.gov/Grants/Grants-Calendar).

At the panel meeting, panelists discuss how well each application satisfies the program's evaluation criteria. Panelists highlight strengths and weaknesses, discussing all aspects of the application and its support materials. Following the public discussion, each panelist enters a final score for each application. Later, OAC staff use averages of these scores to determine award recommendations. The OAC Board is the only body authorized to make final funding decisions and approve grant awards. The review process is competitive, and not all applications are funded.

REVIEW CRITERIA: Criteria are divided into four categories: Program Quality, Community Engagement, Defining and Measuring Success, and Resource Management. Evidence of meeting the criteria may be found in any portion of an application or support materials. Each criterion is worth up to five points, for a maximum of 60 points.

Program Quality (20 points)

- ☐ Design, planning, and implementation are well-conceived with sufficient detail to demonstrate intended outcomes
- ☐ Activities support arts learning tied to educational standards and school-established curriculum
- ☐ Commitment to in-depth, appropriate, and authentic learning activities aligned to residency length is strong
- ☐ Residency professional development activities will positively impact the practices, attitudes, or behaviors of educators and other staff

Community Engagement (10 points)

- ☐ Applicant demonstrates a commitment to designing an accessible and all-inclusive residency experience
- ☐ Residency activities involving the larger community will be meaningful and engaging

Defining and Measuring Success (15 points)

- ☐ Residency planning involves a broad range of voices reflecting the [demographic diversity](#) and school leadership of the school community being served
- ☐ Applicant has articulated what student success looks like for the residency
- ☐ Residency planners have identified ways to document observable changes in teaching and learning through the arts

Resource Management (15 points)

- ☐ Demonstrated commitment shown to the value of human resources through collaborative learning
- ☐ Safe, inviting, and appropriate space, and reliable scheduling for teaching artist time with students and teachers is articulated and practical
- ☐ Budget reflects school's obligation to provide materials and supplies for the residency

TIMELINE: The following timeline outlines the TeachArtsOhio grant lifecycle. Any deadline falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday is extended until the next business day.

Task/Deadline	FY 2026 Applications	FY 2027 Applications
Application Available in ARTIE	November 2024	November 2025
Application Deadline at 5 p.m.	March 1, 2025	March 1, 2026
Grant Award Announcement	July 2025	July 2026
*Grant Agreement Deadline	August 30, 2025	August 30, 2026
*Final Report Deadline	30 days after residency end date	30 days after residency end date

**If the OAC does not receive your grant agreement and final report before their specified deadlines, your grant is in danger of immediate cancellation. Grantees who fail to submit required and acceptable final report packages may not receive any other OAC funding for five years following the due date of the final report they failed to submit.*