

Program Overview

Adaptation, Integration, and the Arts (AIA) uses the power of arts integration and collaboration to improve student success, educator development, and school engagement. The program partners community teaching artists and classroom educators for creative residencies in inclusive classrooms. AIA is a program of VSA Ohio, a nonprofit, statewide organization focused on arts and disability (www.vsao.org).

What is an Arts Residency?

VSA Ohio worked with an outside evaluator to understand the impact of this program during a multi-year quantitative and qualitative research study. AIA supports success!

- ***Creative.*** Students and educators utilize a variety of art forms to engage with academic material in unique, unexpected and impactful ways.
- ***Student-focused.*** Residencies place student needs at their core and adaptations are made throughout in order to reach learners of *all* abilities.
- ***Inclusive.*** Classrooms generally include students *with and without* disabilities, as equal learners, and where peers support academic and social advancement.
- ***Student Achievement.*** Students increase personal, artistic, 21st century, and academic skills. Social-emotional gains are particularly strong in this program.
- ***Educator Growth.*** Educators learn more about arts curricula, concepts, and integration. They value collaboration with artists, see the possibility in their students, and report satisfaction and enjoyment.
- ***Academic Content Standards-focused.*** Residency plans address Ohio and/or national academic content standards for art and integrated subjects to advance classroom goals, and are supported by Universal Design for Learning strategies.
- ***In-depth.*** Research confirms that sustained access to arts and arts education opportunities have a greater impact on learners. AIA supports long-term residencies.
- ***Flexible.*** Every school and classroom has different needs. AIA lets schools and artists schedule the residency when it works for them.
- ***Team Effort.*** Educators work with the teaching artist to develop a meaningful residency plan then actively participate in its implementation.
- ***School-wide Success.*** AIA usually engages families and the community, helping address state goals, and is recommended by 100% of Administrators.
- ***Free.*** Funders allow VSA Ohio to offer this program completely free of charge to schools, a value of approximately \$5,000.

Timeline & Expectations

1. School submits Call for Classroom to VSA Ohio for review. Notifications are made 4 – 6 weeks after application. **All residency agreements and implementation are dependent on annual funding.
2. Scheduling of Introductory Meeting. Includes all parties: teaching artist, educators, administrator, and VSA Ohio representative. Includes project overview, expectation setting, and initial planning for residency theme, goals, and logistics.
3. Teaching Artist visits the classroom to observe, become acquainted, and understand classroom synergies.
4. Planning sessions between teaching artist and educators to develop a final schedule and curriculum plan that aligns with academic content standards and Universal Design for Learning strategies.
5. Site Coordinator approves Residency Plan and schedule.
6. Residency begins and includes opportunities for students to learn, create, and discover through the arts in a safe, adaptive learning environment.
7. Site Coordinator visits school for residency observation and evaluation.
8. Residencies may include a culminating event such as performance or exhibition that involves families, the community, and/or the rest of the school.
9. Evaluation completed by Teaching Artists, Educators, Students, and Administrators.

The [best part of the residency for me was the] reinforcement of geometry concepts learned in the classroom. It helped some students who needed a visual reminder of the terms. – Heidi, 4th Grade teacher

*The best part was the opportunity for students with and without disabilities to learn/dance together. I saw opportunities for peer teaching and guidance, and many students took the lead to help one another.
– Bridget, Principal*



Fine Print

- **ROLLING DEADLINE:** Applications may be submitted for consideration at any time and will be reviewed for approval as they are received.
- This program is made possible through funding from the Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children, and a contract for services with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.
- Due to the mission of the program and funding, *at least one-third (1/3) of participating students must have a documented disability*, such as an IEP.
- Schools and Agencies in the state of Ohio serving students with disabilities are eligible to apply. Non-public, non-chartered schools are ineligible.
- School Administrators must be aware of any classroom educator/s submitting an application and supportive of making the time and space for an arts residency.
- There are no direct costs to hosting an AIA residency, aside from school and individual time and space commitments.
- VSA Ohio pays the teaching artist for services and materials. No funds should be exchanged between the artist and the school.
- All documentation of the AIA residency becomes the property of VSA Ohio and may be used for evaluation, reports to funders, and educational marketing materials for the organization.
- Acceptance into the AIA program is 100% funding dependent, and may be amended at any time.

Direct Questions & Return Application Form to:

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