



VSA arts



VSA arts Call for Teaching Artists with Disabilities

Fellowships for Teaching Artists with Disabilities
in the Visual and Performing Arts

Deadline:
April 24, 2009

“A teaching artist (artist-educator) is a practicing professional artist with the complementary skills and sensibilities of an educator, who engages people in learning experiences in, through, or about the arts.”

—Eric Booth, Arts Educator

Fellowship Program

VSA *arts* Teaching Artist Fellowship program identifies, engages and supports teaching artists with disabilities in the visual and performing arts. VSA *arts* recognizes that teaching artists provide the creativity, guidance, and motivation necessary to introduce the arts to all learners. Artists with disabilities may also serve as role models to demonstrate the importance of diversity, expression, and inclusive learning in the classroom.

Benefits to selected Teaching Artist Fellows will include:

- Program orientation and professional development retreat designed especially for teaching artists
- Subscriptions/memberships within the teaching artist network (e.g., Teaching Artist Journal, Art Education, Teaching Theatre)
- Networking and teaching opportunities in Washington, D.C. (stipend and travel costs included)
- \$1000.00 stipend to support professional development or career goal objectives

VSA *arts* Teaching Artist Fellows will serve as facilitators for our educational efforts and will be profiled in VSA *arts* publications.

Timeline

- Notification of all applicants by Friday, May 22, 2009
- Selected Teaching Artist Fellows must commit to the Teaching Artist professional development retreat in Washington, D.C., held August 10–14, 2009

Who Can Apply

Open to artists with disabilities with:

- Demonstrated experience working in pre-K–12 classrooms within the past three years
- Familiarity with inclusive settings and educational standards
- Artistic achievement in visual or performing arts
- Ability to travel
- PLEASE NOTE: This program is designed specifically for teaching artists. Classroom instructors (pre-K-12 and higher education) are not eligible for the fellowship.

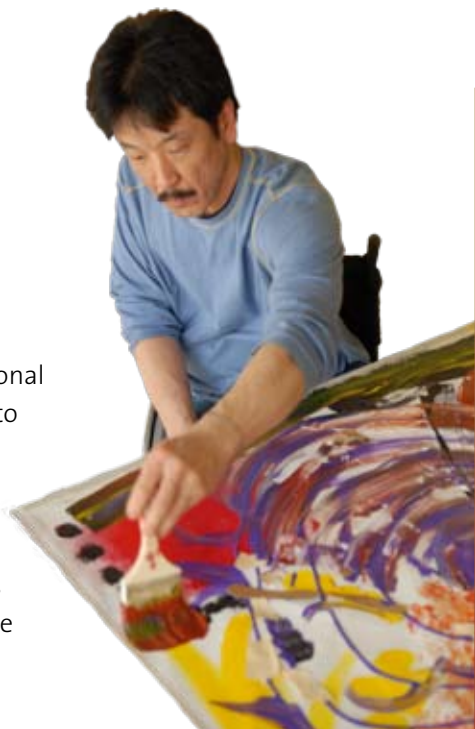
Artists should demonstrate excellence in their chosen artistic discipline within the past year. Evidence of recognition should be included in their support materials.

A disability is defined as an impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. For more information about disabilities, please review *VSA arts' Disability Awareness Guide*, located under Resources at www.vsarts.org.

Selection of the Fellows

VSA arts Teaching Artist Fellows will be selected through a competitive process. Selection will be based upon artistic merit, prior artistic and educational experience, professional references, and responses to the completed application.

Each application will be reviewed by a committee including leading professionals in the field of arts education and representatives of VSA arts. This committee will review the program criteria, evaluate



submitted materials, and make final selections. Applicants are asked to present evidence that will best exemplify the extent and quality of their accomplishments.

Applicants will be reviewed based upon the following factors:

1) Teaching and Arts Learning Experience (40% of total score)

- Design residency plans that are high quality, developmentally appropriate, and have direct involvement in art making
- Experience in aligning state standards in the arts and other subjects
- Teaching practice and education materials reflect current research and practices in education (differentiated instruction, inclusive teaching practices, etc.)

2) Artistic Merit (40% of total score)

- A high level of mastery of the chosen artistic discipline or traditional arts practice, as shown by recent examples of artwork
- Evidence of professional practice: exhibitions, awards, honors, and other significant achievement or recognition
- Creativity and individuality of work

3) Professional and Managerial Capability (20% of total score)

- Ability to communicate about arts discipline, including artistic process and vision
- Be able to write workshop descriptions
- Plan and promote own work as a teaching artist



Alternative Formats and Accommodations



Alternative formats are available upon request.

We recognize that some artists may require assistance with this application. For assistance, please contact Mary Liniger at (202)628-2800, ext. 3865, or e-mail mliniger@vsarts.org. Or, contact your local VSA *arts* affiliate. A listing of affiliates may be found at: www.vsarts.org.

Application Materials

Applicants should submit the following:

- Completed entry form
- Resume or CV
- Evidence of artistic accomplishment (support materials)
- Two letters of recommendation commenting on your experience as a teaching artist. These recommendations should come from individuals who have witnessed your teaching experience (e.g., principals, teachers, colleagues, VSA *arts* affiliates.) All letters must be submitted with the application materials. Please do not mail recommendation letters separately.
- Evidence of teaching and arts-learning experiences (lesson plans, residency outlines, curriculum maps, etc.)

Submitted materials will not be returned. Applicants should make and keep copies of all materials submitted. VSA *arts* is not responsible for materials lost or damaged in the mail. Online submissions are not accepted.

Additional applications may be found at www.vsarts.org/taf

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April 24, 2009

Support Materials

Select TWO of the following:

Video Cassette, DVD, Compact Disc, CD-ROM

Clearly label the cases with your name, dates, length of submission, and total running time. CD-ROMs must be in PC format. Cue video cassettes and indicate the specific sections or tracks that you would like the committee to review.

Slides

Enclose one set of up to 10 slides in a 9" x 11" clear plastic slide sheet. Label the front of each slide with your name, title, media, dimensions of artwork, and year created.

Photographs

Submit up to 10 printed photographs no larger than 8" x 10." Each photograph should be labeled on the back with your name, date of work/activity, location, and a brief description.

Books, Publications, Articles, Research Papers

Please mark a selection of up to 10 pages on which you want the panel to focus. Clearly label each item with your name and the date of the publication.

Time spent reviewing support materials will be determined by the committee. While members will focus on the selections specified, the entire content is subject to review.

Notification

Artists will be notified by
May 22, 2009.



About *VSA arts*

VSA arts is an international nonprofit organization founded in 1974 by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith to create a society where people with disabilities learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts. *VSA arts* provides educators, parents, and artists with resources and the tools to support arts programming in schools and communities. *VSA arts* showcases the accomplishments of artists with disabilities and promotes increased access to the arts for people with disabilities. Each year millions of people participate in *VSA arts* programs through a nationwide network and in 55 countries around the world. *VSA arts* is an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Programming and initiatives of *VSA arts* are guided by four essential principles:

- Every young person with a disability deserves access to high-quality arts learning experiences.
- All artists in schools and art educators should be prepared to include students with disabilities in their instruction.
- All children, youth, and adults with disabilities should have complete access to cultural facilities and activities.
- All individuals with disabilities who aspire to careers in the arts should have the opportunity to develop appropriate skills.

The *VSA arts* Teaching Artist Fellowship is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education and by a grant from the Dana Foundation.

The contents of this call were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.

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VSA arts

Teaching Artist Fellows Entry Form

Please submit by **April 24, 2009** to:

Teaching Artist Fellowship
VSA arts
818 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006



First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

TTY: _____

E-mail: _____

Web Site(s): _____

Date of Birth: _____

Disability: _____

1) How did you learn about this fellowship?

2) Describe your involvement (if any) with the VSA arts affiliate located in your state.

3) Please attach your resume. Be sure to list your academic background, colleges attended and significant awards or honors held. Note both teaching and artistic experience.

(continued on next page)

4) Please attach a one-page narrative of 400 words or fewer that answers EACH of the following questions:

- What role does art play in living with your disability? Does your disability affect your artwork in any way?
- What is your perspective on the role of arts in education, and how does this influence your work as a teaching artist?
- How would this program further your experience and training as a teaching artist? What do you hope to accomplish through this fellowship?

5) List any employment or activities pertinent to your participation as a Teaching Artist Fellow.

6) What languages do you speak, other than English?

Indicate your level of proficiency.

Language proficiency: Fair Good Excellent

7) List the names and affiliations of persons from whom you have requested letters of recommendation.

Name: _____

Institution/Organization: _____

Name: _____

Institution/Organization: _____

Agreement

By submitting an entry, the artist agrees with the terms and conditions for fellowship. If selected, the artist will list the VSA *arts* Teaching Artist Fellowship with their professional promotions, including resume, biography, and related materials. The applicant grants permission to photograph and/or publish his or her biography, including mention of disability, and artistic samples for promotional and educational purposes (e.g., broadcast, print, and electronic media including the Internet.) The artist understands that all application materials sent to VSA *arts* will become the property of VSA *arts*.

Signature: _____

Date: _____