

# Mississippi Arts Commission - Arts in the Classroom FY2013 Program Guidelines

Next application deadline: Thursday, March 1, 2012

Applications must be submitted through eGRANT, postal mail, or delivered by hand to MAC's office by the due date. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

Please submit Arts in the Classroom applications no earlier than 30 days prior to the March 1 deadline. Applications received prior to this date will be returned.

## Overview

The Arts in the Classroom (AIC) Program assists preK-12 schools that are interested in exploring arts integration as a way to enhance the teacher skills and improve student achievement. AIC introduces arts integration concepts through professional development for the school's staff, as well as providing direct arts experiences for the students. Schools that are interested in joining MAC's Whole Schools Initiative (WSI) are required to complete a year in AIC before applying to WSI. For more detailed information on arts integration and MAC's commitment to it as a method of school reform, please visit the WSI website ([www.mswholeschools.org](http://www.mswholeschools.org)).

AIC is a yearlong program. Participating schools receive a grant of up to \$5,000 that supports:

- Professional development for faculty and administrators through the Whole Schools Summer Institute and the bi-annual Whole Schools retreats
- On-site professional development and modeling of arts integration led by professional artists, arts specialists, or consultants.
- Visual and performing arts experiences for students and faculty
- Staff travel to visit a WSI Model arts-integrated school
- Purchase of art supplies or other arts-related resources (such as books or videos)

An AIC grant requires a dollar-for-dollar cash match. Grant funds awarded to schools applying on the March 1, 2012 deadline will be available for the 2012-13 school year (see "Dates to Remember" section at the end of the guidelines).

## Eligibility Requirement

Schools may apply if they are a public school or a school that has been incorporated in Mississippi as a non-profit organization with IRS 501(c) 3 status in place.

## Review Criteria

AIC applications are reviewed using the following criteria:

### 1. Your School's Educational Environment (25 points)

- Briefly describe your school's environment, who you serve, as well as your mission and vision.

- Explain how Arts in the Classroom will improve your school.

## **2. Need for Improvement in Academic Achievement (25 points)**

- What are the greatest needs in your school that must be met in order to generate academic improvement?
- How are you currently addressing these needs?
- How are the arts currently being taught at your school?
- What would you like to change?

## **3. Vision & Ability to Craft a Plan (25 points)**

- Describe your vision for using the arts to address your school's needs.
- Describe your school's plan for accomplishing the following:
  - Identifying leaders and (non-school staff) partners for your AIC leadership team;
  - Instituting regular professional development related to arts integration

## **4. Commitments from Your Leadership Team (25 points)**

Each member of your AIC Leadership Team must submit the following information for this section of the narrative:

- Name, job title, phone number, and email address
- A statement (no more than 200 words in length) explaining why they are interested in bringing arts integration into the school and what their specific role will be in the process.

## **How to Apply**

Please submit one original and one copy of the following documents in the order listed. Do not staple or bind your application.

- Arts in the Classroom Application Form
- Narrative (three-page maximum) in which you address the above review criteria;
- Letters of intent from the artists and consultants who will be working with your school this year. If the individuals are not members of MAC's Artist Roster. Please submit:
  - Artists: a brochure or promotional materials and work samples (see the guidelines for MAC's Artist Roster program for appropriate formats for the work samples)
  - Consultants: a resumé and list of recent clients (including contact information for the clients)
- Letters from organizations that are partnering or co-sponsoring your project (only if applicable to your project – partners are not required). The letters should clearly explain the partner or sponsor's role in the project.
- If a private school, a copy of your school's IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

## **Return of the Artist's Work Samples**

Applicants who want their artist's work samples returned by mail must provide a self-addressed mailer with sufficient postage affixed to it. They may also be picked up between July 1st and August 30th at MAC's office during regular business hours. Please make arrangements with the

Whole Schools Initiative Director before visiting the office. All materials will be discarded after August 30th if no instructions are given for their return.

### **Dates to Remember**

**March 1, 2012** – Arts in the Classroom application deadline

**April 2012** – Review of applications by the grant panel (the specific panel date will be available by mid-March. Applicants are allowed to attend panels.)

**June 2012** – MAC Board meets and makes final funding decisions on all applications

**July 2, 2012** – Applicants are notified whether their application was funded or not. No information on the grants (including whether or not an organization will be receiving an award or the amount of the award) will be available from MAC prior to this date.

For more information about Arts in the Classroom or to discuss an application to the program, please contact Jodie Engle, Arts Education Program Director at (601) 359-6040 or [jengle@arts.state.ms.us](mailto:jengle@arts.state.ms.us).