FY 2026 Arts in Education Information Session

July 31, 2025
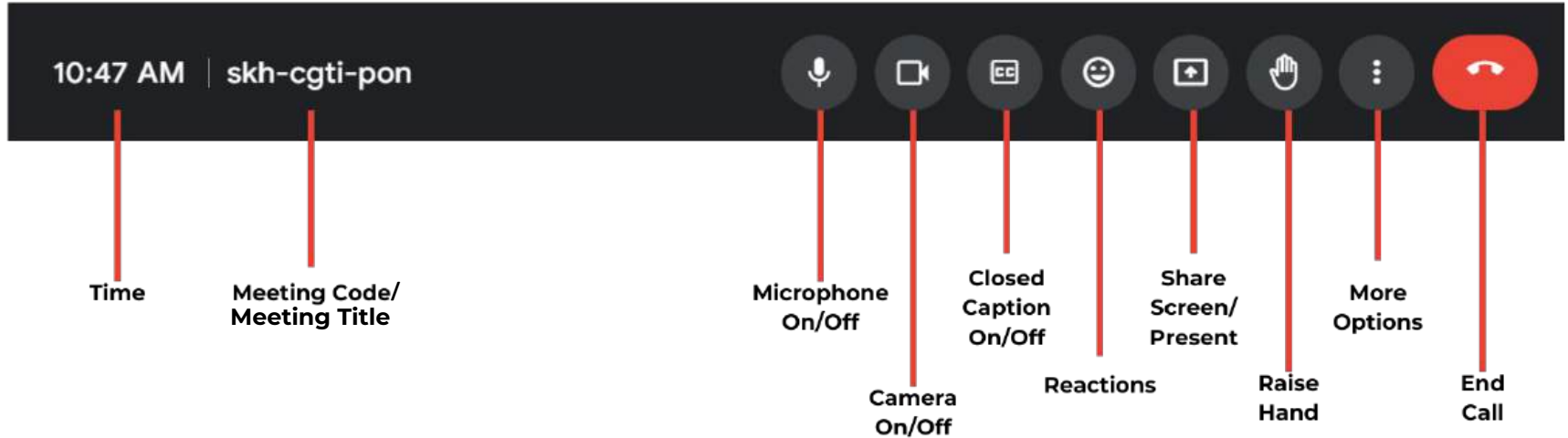
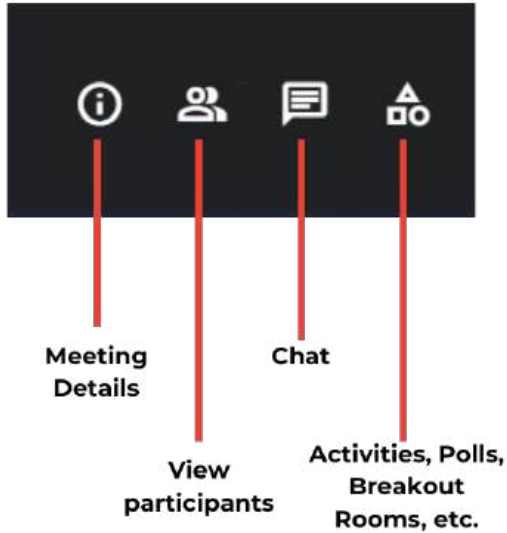**Hosted by:**
Lizzie Morales, Arts in Education Program Director & Accessibility Coordinator
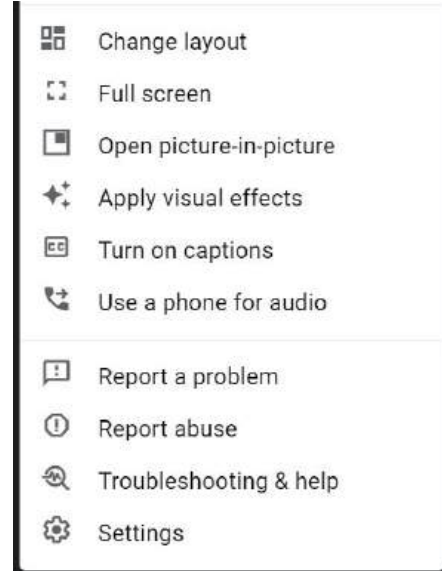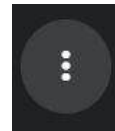**Kirk Amaral Snow, Grants Management Associate & Roster Assistant**

Reference Shot of Features (1 of 2)

Time

Meeting Code/
Meeting Title

Microphone
On/Off

Camera
On/Off

Closed
Caption
On/Off

Reactions

Share
Screen/
Present

Raise
Hand

More
Options

End
Call

Reference Shot of Features (2 of 2)

Meeting Details

View participants

Chat

Activities, Polls, Breakout Rooms, etc.

In "More Options"

- Change layout
- Full screen
- Open picture-in-picture
- Apply visual effects
- Turn on captions
- Use a phone for audio
- Report a problem
- Report abuse
- Troubleshooting & help
- Settings

Land Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge the lands and waters now known as Maryland are the home of its first peoples: the Accohannock Indian Tribe, Assateague People's Tribe, Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians, Choptico Band of Indians, Lenape Tribe, Nanticoke Tribe, Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians, Piscataway Conoy Tribe, Piscataway Indian Nation, Pocomoke Indian Nation, Susquehannock Indians, Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee, and tribes in the Chesapeake watershed who have seemingly vanished since the coming of colonialism. We acknowledge that this land is now home to other tribal peoples living here in diaspora. We acknowledge the forced removal of many from the lands and waterways that nurtured them as kin. We acknowledge the degradation that continues to be wrought on the land and waters in pursuit of resources. We acknowledge the right of the land and waterways to heal so that they can continue to provide food and medicine for all. We acknowledge that it is our collective obligation to pursue policies and practices that respect the land and waters so that our reciprocal relationship with them can be fully restored.

Equity and Justice Statement

The arts celebrate our state's diversity, connect our shared humanity, and transform individuals and communities. The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) is committed to advancing and modeling equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion in all aspects of our organization and across communities of our state.

MSAC and its grantees are committed to embracing equity and non-discrimination regardless of race, religious creed, color, age, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, class, language, and/or ability.

Vision

MSAC plays an essential role ensuring every person has access to the transformative power of the arts.

Mission

MSAC advances the arts in our state by providing leadership that champions creative expression, diverse programming, equitable access, lifelong learning, and the arts as a celebrated contributor to the quality of life for all the people of Maryland.

MSAC Strategic Plan - Pillars and Goals

Access
Bolster access to arts experiences and resources

Awareness
Amplify the stories of Maryland's arts sector and the value of public support

Connection
Foster networks within and beyond the arts sector

Equity
Cultivate a thriving arts ecosystem centered in equity

Leadership
Commit to a culture of care and innovation

Creative Meeting Actions

Celebrate being in the space with other creative people.

Engage with everyone's presence as a gift.

Acknowledge that together we know a lot.

Enter the conversation with curiosity and inquiry.

Share your idea and trust that it will be heard.

Use "I" statements.

Focus your language on the task at hand.

Hold one another accountable with care.

Honor all perspectives and build on shared ideas.

Balance speaking with listening.

Professional Development

- Info sessions
- Topic-specific sessions
- Coffee with the Council
- Office hours
- Maryland Arts Summit (visit mdarts.org)

Share your ideas:
https://msac.org/contact

See upcoming sessions on Eventbrite:
https://tinyurl.com/pkw7pcrk

Ways to Get Involved

MSAC relies on a diverse array of constituents from across the state to give input in a variety of ways.

- Panelists review and score applications
- Editors give input on program policies
- Schedule of public calls and details at msac.org/about/ways-get-involved
- Apply in SmartSimple
- Training and support
- Compensation provided for service

Agenda

- Grounding Slides
- Arts in Education Program Overview
- Poetry Out Loud
- Teaching Artist Roster
- Arts in Education Grant
- Questions

Debra Mims with Arts for Learning Maryland performs for families at the Neighborhood Creative Arts Center in Charles County, MD.

Poetry Out Loud

Overview

- High school student poetry competition
- National program implemented at the state and local levels
- MSAC supports regional & state competitions
- Public call for Judges (Oct-Nov)

Maryland State Champion, Penny Tofigh, recites a poem at the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Competition.

Teaching Artist Roster

What is it?

List of Maryland-based teaching artists who have experience providing group or classroom arts instruction and/or performances in a variety of educational settings.

Artists are vetted through application and panel review process

Benefits

- Highlighted on MSAC Arts Directory
- Artists eligible to apply for AiE grants
- Annual Teaching Artist Showcase

Melissa Foss leads an instrument-making workshop at Maryland Hall in Annapolis, MD.

Teaching Artist Roster

Program Paused for 2025-26

Program revision will focus on:

- Application questions and materials
- Requirements to remain on the Roster
- Process to update teaching artist information

Slim Harrison leads a instrument-making and dance residency at the Banner School in Frederick, MD. (2024)

Teaching Artist Roster

Program Revision Timeline

- Phase 1: Research current practices
  June-September 2025

- Phase 2: Public Input
  October-December 2025

- Phase 3: Draft application and procedures
  January-March 2026

- Phase 4: Implementation
  April-June 2026

Young student plays djembe during a drumming workshop with Moving History in Baltimore, MD.

Arts in Education Grant

Overview

Supports teaching artists leading arts learning activities in school and community settings for learners of all ages in Maryland.

Steve Cyphers with Arts for Learning Maryland leads a bucket drumming lesson with students at Prince Street Elementary. (2023)

Arts in Education Grant
Eligibility

- Artist must be on the Teaching Artist Roster
- School or community site must be:
  - Nonprofit organization
  - Unit of government
  - College or University

Lisa Mathews with Arts for Learning shows a toddler how to play a xylophone during a music workshop.

Arts in Education Grant

Activity Types

- Residencies
- Workshops
- Visiting Performances
- Lectures/Lecture Demonstrations
- Out of School Time Programs
- Online Programs
- Field Trips
  (only if another activity type is selected)

Students from Resurrection St. Paul School work on a collaborative mural during a residency led by Kristin Helberg.

Glossary of Activity Types on *Arts in Education Grant* *website*

Arts in Education Grant

Grant Details

- Maximum grant request amount **per application**: $6,000

- No limit on the **number** of applications an artist or artist organization can submit.

- Monetary limit on the **amount** of grant awards that an artist or artist organization can receive each fiscal year.
  - This is based on a percentage of the overall Arts in Education Grant budget
  - Specific amounts are forthcoming

Arts in Education Grant

Grant Details

- If approved, the full amount of the grant award goes to the artist or artist organization.
    - Artist or artist organization is considered the primary contact and applicant
    - Grant award does not go the school

- Schools/organizations may participate in up to two grants per fiscal year.
    - Fiscal Year: July 1-June 30

- No site match is required.
    - Income from other sources are allowed.

Arts in Education Grant

Grant funds may be used for:

- Expenses directly associated with arts learning activities
  - Artist payment/stipends*
  - Transportation costs*
  - Art materials*
  - Consultant fees
  - Honoraria
  - Contractual services
  - Hotel/lodging accommodations costs for programs further than 50 miles from an artist's residence
  - Software licensing

Arts in Education Grant

Grant funds may not be used for:

- Space rental
- Institutional indirect costs in excess of 15% of the total grant amount
- Capital improvements
- Activities that are principally recreational, therapeutic, or rehabilitative
- Travel outside Maryland to present or produce arts
- Projects chiefly for classroom use/in school activities
- Re-granting
- Scholarships
- Political contributions or lobbying activities

Not sure? Please ask!

Arts in Education Grant

How to Apply

1. Artist and school/organization agree to collaborate

2. Identify point of contact at school/organization (site coordinator)

3. Begin online application

   ○ Rostered artist or organization begins online application

   ○ Optional: The site coordinator may be added to the online application as a collaborator to receive grant writing and editing access

Diane Macklin presents a story to students at Glenallan Elementary in Silver Spring, MD.

Arts in Education Grant
SmartSimple Online Application

Arts in Education Grant

Evidence of Support from Collaborator

- Upload a file demonstrating the collaborating school or organization's support for the proposed arts learning activities.

The file should include:
- Include name and title of the representative from the collaborating school/organization
- Artist's name
- Date in the current fiscal year.

Letter of Intent template available on Arts in Education Grant website.

Arts in Education Grant

Application Prompts: (10 points each/50 points total)

1. Describe the proposed arts learning activities.

2. Describe the objectives of the proposed arts learning activities. For in-school programs, include references to State standards or learning competencies.

3. Describe the intended audience and how the objectives will align with the audience's needs.

4. What is the timeline of the proposed arts learning activities?

5.   What is the budget for the arts learning activities?

Arts in Education Grant

General Application Recommendations

- Spell out all acronyms at least once
- Avoid including links to websites or other materials
- Approach the narrative as if the reader is not familiar with you or your work
- Consider asking a colleague/friend to review and proofread the application

Arts in Education Grant

Application Question - Proposed Project

1. Describe the proposed arts learning activities.

Excellent Response: The description of the proposed arts learning activities is **clear, specific, and thorough.**

Considerations:
- Include information on the content and instruction
- Include details on how the arts learning experience unfolds

Arts in Education Grant

Application Question - Objectives

2. Describe the objectives of the proposed arts learning activities. For in-school programs, include references to State standards or learning competencies.

Excellent Response: The description of the objectives, standards, and/or competencies is **clear, specific, and connected** to the proposed arts learning activities.

Considerations:
- "Students will be able to _____"
- The objectives should connect with the arts learning activities

Resource available: Instructional Standards and Competencies for Teaching Artists

Arts in Education Grant

Application Question - Audience and Needs

3. Describe the intended audience and how the objectives will align with the audience's needs.

Excellent Response: The description of the intended audience is **clear and specific**. The objectives, standards, and/or competencies **strongly align** with the audience's needs.

Considerations:
- Who is this experience for? Include specifics on the intended audience
- How does this project address a need in the school, community, or with the specific group of students?

Arts in Education Grant

Application Question - Timeline

4. What is the timeline of the proposed arts learning activities? Specify dates even if they are tentative, and include evidence of individual and collaborative planning, implementation, and follow-up/reflection with key stakeholders.

Excellent Response: The timeline of activities is **clear, specific, and realistic** and includes **strong evidence** of individual and collaborative planning with key stakeholders.

Considerations:
- Provide a full timeline of the project
- Detail the frequency and duration of the experience
- Include details on the collaborative planning process with stakeholders

Arts in Education Grant

Application Question - Budget

5. What is the budget for the arts learning activities? Include all expenses and any anticipated income. Provide context and itemize expenses by category and amount.

Excellent Response: Financial information provided is **detailed, realistic, and clearly tied** to the successful implementation of the proposed arts learning activities.

Considerations:
- Breakdown and be specific with all expenses
- Include how expenses are calculated
  For example: Artist fee = $___ (Session/hourly rate of $___ for ___ sessions/hours.)

Arts in Education Grant

Application Prompts (not scored but provides more context)

6. Is the collaborating school/organization offering any financial support or in-kind support? (In-kind support includes teacher time, labor, disposable art supplies, etc.)

6a. Please list what support will be provided and the associated costs from the collaborating school or organization.

7. Total Program Budget.

8. Grant Request Amount.

Arts in Education Grant

Title I and Special Education Schools - *New!*

- Applications that include Title I or Special Education Schools will be awarded 1 additional point on application's average score

- Special Education Schools: Schools that exclusively serve special education students

Arts in Education Grant

Underrepresented Counties in Maryland

- Applications received from underrepresented counties will be awarded   1 additional point to the application's average score

- Underrepresented Counties are determined by the number of applications received during the previous fiscal year

- FY26 Underrepresented Counties include:
  Allegany, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Harford, Somerset, Talbot, and Washington

Arts in Education Grants

Evaluation Process

1. Submit by application deadline:
   - September 5, 2025
   - November 5, 2025
   - January 5, 2026
2. Eligibility checks by Arts in Education Program Director (1 week)
3. Panel committee review (3 weeks)
4. Award approval process (1 week)
5. Applicants notified the following month in which the app was received

These times are estimates and can vary depending on the number of applications received.

Arts in Education Grants

Final Reports

- If awarded an AiE Grant, the grantee completes the online final report by August 15.

- If the educational experience is rescheduled or takes place after the reporting deadline, notify AiE Program Director to adjust the final report deadline.

Arts in Education Grants

Changes to Approved Applications

1. Notify program director of any changes to an approved application.

2. Program director will confirm that changes are within compliance with Grant Agreement Form

Arts in Education Grants

Application Support and Resources

- Feedback
  - Draft applications - request at least two weeks in advance of deadline
  - Feedback form request after panel review
- Arts in Education Information Session
  - Slides and recording will be posted on the website
- Resources available on the Arts in Education website:
  - [Guidelines](#)
  - [Full Rubric](#)
  - [Letter of intent template](#)
  - [Instructional Standards and Competencies for Teaching Artists](#)

Questions

Arts in Education
FY22-25 Applications and Award Rates

Monthly Application Cycle	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
1. Average number of **applications received** each month	14	36	51	71
2. Average **award rate** each month	96%	85%	55%	44%
3. Average application **scores awarded** each month	70% and above	76% and above	94% and above	96% and above

1. 400% increase in applications received each month between FY22-FY25

2. 54% decrease in grant award rates between FY22-FY25

3. Declining more high-scoring applications each year

Contact Us!

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Thank You!

Join our mailing list!

tinyurl.com/MSACsMailingList