

Arts for Children and Youth in Philadelphia

New Job Opportunity Announcement

Director

Posted March 13, 2009

The Philadelphia Arts for Children and Youth Initiative seeks a Director to lead a new, major effort that will bring the arts to more children and youth in Greater Philadelphia through stimulating and coordinating arts experiences and education throughout the community.

The Arts for Children and Youth initiative will bring arts learning opportunities to all children and youth in the Greater Philadelphia region over a ten year period. The initiative will begin in Philadelphia and expand to the region in later years. It will support and coordinate high quality arts learning offerings, both in and out of school, and ensure equity, access and diversity in arts programming. The initiative is built on the recognition that arts are key tools in transforming communities and in giving students the opportunity to participate in a thriving economy in which the skills of imagination and innovation are valued.

The Initiative's leadership structure consists of the Director; three organizations providing overall guidance: Philadelphia Education Fund (Ed Fund), Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY) and the Fleisher Art Memorial (Fleisher); and a Steering Committee consisting of arts, education and civic leaders. The Director will be the key leader in building this city wide, and later regional, Initiative

The Director will be knowledgeable of the arts and school community and of the important role that arts can and should play in educating our children. He/she will bring the stature, skills and experience necessary to form a strategic alliance of the myriad and diverse arts organizations in the city and the region with the public school districts consisting of students, teachers and community members. The Director will be an individual who is at home both addressing broad policy issues, and serving "on the ground" in neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia. And he/she will deal successfully with the diversity in our city, schools and our communities and will demonstrate a commitment to equity in the work.

The Initiative's Director will play a central role in raising the funds to render this work sustainable, and will be supported in this role by a small, effective staff as well as by the Steering Committee.

Responsibilities:

Program

- Act as primary leader and coordinator for all program partners in the areas of arts programming, advocacy and research;
- In conjunction with the Steering Committee and community/cultural partners, conceptualize and articulate the role of arts education in school reform;
- Convene and lead citywide, ultimately regional, coalition of arts organizations as the backbone of this initiative;
- In conjunction with Fleisher and PCCY, design and implement Arts Infused Zones and a community planning process as central platforms for the Arts for Youth Initiative;
- Develop and manage the implementation of a plan for artist and teacher professional development that broadly supports the cultural community and schools in raising the quality of arts education practice; and
- Engage and coordinate with multiple parties who participate in the Initiative's development and growth; seek frequent feedback from multiple stakeholders regarding program quality and effectiveness and make adjustments as necessary.

Communications

- Develop and manage a comprehensive communications branding and marketing plan with leadership partners and outside consultants that reaches, influences and motivates stakeholders from diverse constituent groups throughout the region;
- Ensure fluid, constructive communication between leadership entity partners and the Steering Committee;
- Present the work of the Initiative in public, providing consistent and compelling exposure in large presentation settings, radio and TV outlets, and in printed and electronic media.

Research/Evaluation

- Identify and monitor on-going availability of arts experiences offered to youth first in middle grades and then both in the higher and lower grades;
- Work with outside evaluation and research teams to support work of Arts for Youth and provide ongoing formative feedback in a timely manner.

Governance

- Build , manage, inspire, and deploy a Steering Committee to support and guide the Initiative;
- Coordinate the work of the leadership entity organizations
 - Ed Fund: Administration, fundraising, integration of initiative into School District school reform priorities and practice;
 - PCCY: Communications, advocacy, and public awareness;
 - Fleisher: Development of Arts Infusion Zones, citywide artist & teacher professional development, strengthening of community-based arts organization sector.

Financial Management & Fundraising

- Raise funds for Initiative with support of development staff, working closely with Ed Fund, PCCY and Fleisher Executive Directors, and with Steering Committee;
- Develop and manage initiative budget;
- Oversee and coordinate Arts for Youth designated staff from multiple organizations; and
- Convene and lead discussions and planning for program sustainability.

Qualifications:

- Demonstrated solid knowledge and understanding of the arts and K-12 education in Philadelphia or similar urban settings;
- Demonstrated strong leadership skills and the ability to develop and manage multiple constituent relationships and program components simultaneously;
- High energy, and ability to think creatively and interact effectively with diverse constituencies; ability to coalesce diverse constituents into active alliances;
- Excellent public process and mediation skills;

- Demonstrated fiscal responsibility, as well as ability to take a leadership role in fundraising; track record in raising funds from local and national foundations, corporations and individual donors;
- Excellent skills in analyzing and solving problems in a collaborative manner;
- Outstanding communication skills, both verbal and written; including the ability to communicate processes, policy decisions and results to multiple constituencies;
- Ability to complete multiple responsibilities simultaneously and under time pressure;
- Ability to work independently, while part of a team;
- Minimum of bachelor's degree, higher degree preferred;
- Minimum of seven years of relevant professional experience in the arts and education.

Reporting:

This position reports to the Executive Director of the Philadelphia Education Fund and will be housed at the Ed Fund. The Director will also work in close collaboration with the Executive Directors of Public Citizens for Children and Youth and Fleisher Art Memorial.

Applications:

Applicants should send electronically a resume, cover letter, and the names and contact information of at least three professional references to: Arts4Youth@Philaedfund.org
Please refrain from phone, email and in-person inquiries at this point in the search process.

This position is available immediately.

For more information, see:

www.omgcenter.org/Arts4Youth

www.philaedfund.org

www.pccy.org

www.fleisher.org