

ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS POLICY

Approved by Council May 21, 2003

PURPOSE: To describe how the Artists in the Schools (AIS) program increases opportunities for arts education and encourages a diversity of arts experiences.

POLICY

Arts education in Manitoba schools is enhanced through practising professional artists of all artistic disciplines “residing” in school settings in partnership with students and teachers.

1. AIS creative residencies support cognitive and social skills, and creative development for students, and enable teachers to work with a professional artist in creating a learning environment where all learners, from the gifted to the at-risk, can engage in the creative process.

The program creates opportunities for students in grades K-12 to participate in the arts and to develop an appreciation of the arts and of the various art forms while providing lasting direct and indirect benefits to schools, teachers, participating artists, students, and communities.

2. Residency terms and conditions, and school and artist selection, will maximize accessibility and long-term effects on students, teachers, and communities.
 - a) Residencies will be designed to be short- and long-term (1 week to 10 weeks) with preference given to those that support an in-depth arts experience, support the relevant curricula, have time scheduled for pre-residency planning and on-site discussion/ collaboration between artists and teachers, and have time scheduled during the residency for professional development opportunities for teachers.
 - b) Schools will be selected on the basis of geographical location with priority as follows: north – rural – inner city – urban.
 - c) Schools not previously accessing the program will be given priority, plus selection methods will ensure a rotation of schools using the program over a number of years.
 - d) The school and the Manitoba Arts Council will share the cost of the residency.
 - e) Artists, teachers, and the schools will participate in an evaluation process designed to continually improve the overall experience for the students.
 - f) Participating artists will be selected by a jury process that will reflect the applications and include one out-of-province artist, with selection based on appropriate artistic and educational criteria.
 - g) Community-based, Aboriginal and ethnocultural artists are encouraged to apply, with all artists having to reapply to the program every three years.
 - h) The fees/expenses paid to artists will be scaled so as to provide a fair fee for service while recognizing the extra costs incurred in northern travel.
 - i) Selected new artists will be required to take part in a pre-residency professional development session, with on-going professional development opportunities provided for artists continuing in the program.
 - j) All residencies will be subject to a regular assessment based on program guidelines and expectations.
 - k) The program will support and ensure attempts to link AIS artists with the resident community.