

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TALENTED ARTISTS NEEDED for SCHOOL RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

The (your arts council name) is part of the Western Arts Agencies of North Carolina, a regional group that works together to network and develop of roster of teaching artists that are available to work in schools in our region. The name of the teaching artist program is the Mountain Arts Program (MAP).

MAP is currently seeking artists in all disciplines to participate in a program of residencies in the public schools in western North Carolina counties. Visual artists, dramatists, dancers, jugglers, mimes, folk and classical musicians, photographers, craftspeople, and writers are sought to work in schools with students of all grade levels. The residencies range from single day visits up to full week-long residencies (up to five groups of students). The deadline to apply has been extended to May 22, 2009.

Founded in 1983 the Mountain Arts Program has sponsored single day visits to full week-long residencies (of up to five groups of students) at all grade levels from kindergarten through high school. The students who take part are involved in hands-on sequential art experiences and are exposed to working professionals who bring a respect for their art and discipline, while providing a positive role model and hands-on art experience for the students.

The residencies are administered in each county by the participating arts council and supported by locally raised funds, allocations from public school budgets, as well as grants from the North Carolina Arts Council which is funded by the North Carolina Legislature. The artists receive a stipend for each residency from \$200 to \$650, depending on the number of days contracted.

In the past, the roster of artists for this program has included visual artists who worked with murals, sculptures, masks, pottery, leather, fabric, basketry, painting, pottery and drawing. Performing artists have taught juggling, clowning, dance, creative movement, dulcimer, mime, magic, storytelling, drama, improvisation, and clogging. The program also encompasses photography, music, and creative writing.

The Western Arts Agencies of North Carolina (WAANC) sponsors the Mountain Arts Program and each arts council is then responsible for contracting directly with the artists who is responsible for all local arrangements.

Representatives of all participating arts councils select the artists for the roster through an application and interview process. Artists are also required to submit a sample 5 day lesson plan with the completed application and 3 letters of reference. Final selections will be conducted through auditions held on June 10. For more information, fee structure, and an application, visit the WAANC website at www.waanc.org or contact the Toe River Arts Council, the current coordinator, at trac@toeriverarts.org or 828-682-7215.

Application deadline is now May 22, 2009.