



**WASHINGTON  
PERFORMING ARTS**

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**Organizational Position Description**

**Position Title: Teaching Artist / Teaching Artist Ensemble**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

**Department: Education & Community Engagement**

**Employment Type: Independent Contractor**

**Pay Scale: Variable based on program type and number of artists; starting at \$180 (per artist) per 45-60 minute program session**

**Position Summary:** Washington Performing Arts seeks Teaching Artists and Teaching Artist Ensembles to provide education and community programs throughout the D.C. Metro Area. Teaching Artists may submit multiple programs for consideration to be listed on the artist rosters for programs such as Concerts in Schools, Embassy Adoption Program, and Capital Arts Partnership artist residencies. Teaching Artists are independent contractors who work directly with the Education & Community Engagement staff to be placed in schools and other community event spaces based on program requests received by Washington Performing Arts. Program request forms are opened to the public each fall, and opportunities are assigned to Teaching Artists on a rolling basis from approximately September through August of the following year. Artists of all art forms are encouraged to apply!

**Application Deadlines:** Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, but will be considered according to the following deadlines. In order to be considered for inclusion on the Teaching Artist roster at the start of the school year, application must be received by the Fall Deadline.

**Fall Deadline:** July 16

**Spring Deadline:** January 15

**ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS:**

One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts has engaged for more than half a century with artists, audiences, students, and civic life. The city is truly our stage: for decades, in venues ranging from concert halls and clubs to public parks, we have presented a tremendous range of artists and art forms, from the most distinguished symphony orchestras to both renowned and emerging artists in classical music, gospel music, jazz, culturally-specific genres, dance, and more. We also have an ever-expanding artistic and educational presence on the internet, envisioning ongoing opportunities for online connection and community.

Washington Performing Arts nourishes communities throughout the region by partnering with local organizations and other arts institutions, staging concerts and arts activities in the neighborhoods, involving internationally known main stage performers in community programs, and presenting locally based artists to a wider audience. We place a premium on establishing artists as a continuing presence in the lives of both young people and adults through sustained



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residencies and educational programs. Our achievements have been recognized with a National Medal of Arts and with two Mayor's Arts Awards from the DC Government. We embark upon our next half-century with the goals of expanding our commitment to excellence and rededicating ourselves to the motto of our founder, Patrick Hayes: "Everybody in, nobody out." Washington Performing Arts' employment decisions are made based on the business needs of the organization and qualifications of the applicants and employees.

#### **Organizational Diversity**

Washington Performing Arts prizes the diversity of the organization, at every level; from programmatic content to composition of its board and staff, and is continually striving to better diversify its staff.

#### **Diversity Statement**

Washington Performing Arts subscribes to a policy of Equal Employment Opportunity, and will not discriminate against any employee or applicant because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, protected veteran status, religion, ancestry or national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression. In addition, the District of Columbia adds protection for marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, or political affiliation. Minorities, Women, Protected Veterans and Individuals with Disabilities are encouraged to apply.

#### **TEACHING ARTIST PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES:**

##### ***Concerts in Schools (CIS)***

CIS provides in-school music, dance, theater, and storytelling performances, and visual arts workshops to students in Title I public schools in Washington, D.C.; Montgomery or Prince George's County in Maryland; or Arlington County, Alexandria City, Falls Church City or Fairfax County in Virginia. Using curriculum- and standards-based teaching plans, Teaching Artists introduce students to live performance as well as the opportunity to learn about and appreciate heterogeneous cultures through interactive arts experiences. Most CIS events are a one-time performance of approximately 45-60 minutes in length. Teaching Artists are assigned to CIS events based on requests received by Washington Performing Arts throughout the school year.

##### ***Embassy Adoption Program (EAP)***

In the Embassy Adoption Program, 5th and 6th grade DC Public School classes work with an Embassy or global partner for a year of learning about their adopted country. Their experience culminates with a Capstone Presentation at the embassy, ambassador's residence, or similar location. Teaching Artists may work with the EAP classroom to either 1) introduce the arts and culture of the class' adopted region or 2) introduce a specialized project (a song, dance, art project, etc.) that the classroom teacher can continue to practice with the students for inclusion in the final presentation. Teaching Artists work with EAP classrooms for a total of three sessions with one optional planning meeting. Teaching Artists are not responsible for planning and/or rehearsing the entire presentation for an EAP class, but rather may be a collaborator on introducing the arts. Teaching Artists may be invited to participate in EAP based on the



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relevance of their experience and/or programming to the Embassies participating in the program that year.

***Capital Arts Partnerships (CAP)***

CAP programs are collaborative long-term partnerships between Washington Performing Arts and DC Public Schools. Washington Performing Arts Teaching Artists work with DCPS music and dance classroom educators throughout the school year to introduce students to performing arts, including instrumental music, vocal music, world music, and dance. The Capital Arts Partnership programs provide students with the opportunity to interact with professional musicians and dancers who, over a period of months, come into the classroom and engage students in playing their instruments, creative movement, learning about various genres of music, appreciating performances, and developing their skills in creativity and improvisation. Teaching Artists may be invited to participate in CAP based on the relevance of their experience and/or programming to the needs of the participating schools that year.

***Other Opportunities***

Teaching Artists may also be invited by Washington Performing Arts to participate in programs such as Mars Arts D.C. community events, donor/special events, and other forms of organizational engagement as opportunities arise.

**Duties & Responsibilities**

- Create thoughtful, professional arts education experiences for grades PK-12 and/or adults
- Respond in a timely manner to requests from Washington Performing Arts and partnering schools, teachers, and administrators
- Plan with teachers and administrators to create arts experiences tailored to the needs of the population receiving the requested program

**Minimum Qualifications**

Teaching Artist applicant (and all members of group applicants) must be:

- 18 years of age or older at the time of applying;
- legally authorized to work in the United States;
- based in the Washington, D.C. metro area;
- a professional artist with expertise in one or more arts disciplines;
- fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or able to provide a valid medical or religious exemption from vaccination against Covid-19;
- able to complete and pass the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) Clearance process, required of all program providers of DCPS (includes Criminal Background Check, Sex Offender Registry Check, and Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing)



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#### Preferred Skills/Qualifications

- Experience working with one or more of the following populations in a school or community setting: children, youth, teachers
- Some knowledge of disability, accessibility, and inclusion practices; interest and/or experience working with or developing programming for individuals with disabilities
- Excellent time-management and communications skills
- Ability to work independently with attention to detail including managing multiple programs scheduled at multiple sites
- A willingness to work with flexibility, as Teaching Artists work in a wide variety of educational settings

#### Specific Conditions of Work

- In-person work in schools, community event spaces, and performance venues.
- Successful candidates will be required to complete and pass the DCPS Clearance process before engaging in in-school programs with students.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement:** Washington Performing Arts values the safety of our employees and families, our patrons and visitors, artists and students, and the community at large. Therefore, effective October 15, 2021, we are requiring that all Washington Performing Arts staff (including contractors and vendors who interact in-person with the general public) must be vaccinated against COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccines remain a critical tool for saving lives, reducing the severity of the illness in infected people, and stopping the spread of COVID-19. In support of these values, if you are selected to be a Washington Performing Arts Teaching Artist, you must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 at the start of your contract. You must submit proof that you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to the Education & Community Program Manager in order to be listed as a program provider on the Teaching Artist roster and any program request forms. In the instance where vaccination is not medically advised or violates your sincerely held religious beliefs, you may ask for an accommodation. Additionally, Teaching Artists must follow any federal/state/local mandates (such as mandated mask wearing in public spaces) that may be in effect at the time of their contract, as well as any new policies or procedures enacted by Washington Performing Arts.

#### How To Apply

Click here to access the **Teaching Artist Application** in Submittable:

<https://washingtonperformingarts.submittable.com/submit>

Using the Submittable Application above, please submit

- Completed Application Questions
- Biography (of individual or ensemble/organization)
- Promotional Photo (of individual or ensemble/organization)
- Program Description(s)
- Work Samples



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- Resume
- 2 Professional References

Please include work samples that are as recent as possible and that reflect the type of work you are interested in presenting as a Teaching Artist. Work samples may include a recorded performance or rehearsal, digital portfolio, links to website content, or other supporting materials.

Applications will be reviewed by the Education & Community Engagement department with input from other stakeholders. Reviewers will consider qualifications of applicants, artistic quality and curricular connections of the proposed program(s), and current needs of the Washington Performing Arts Teaching Artist roster when selecting new Teaching Artists.

*Questions? Contact Education & Community Program Manager, Valerie Murray, at [vmurray@washingtonperformingarts.org](mailto:vmurray@washingtonperformingarts.org).*