



RURAL ARTS[®]
Collaborative

Building Creative Learning Opportunities in Rural Communities.

The Rural Arts[®] Collaborative Teaching Artist Program connects professional artists with schools and communities to expand access to high-quality arts education in rural regions. This packet provides program information and the application materials required to join the RAC Teaching Artist network.

Contact Information

Rural Arts[®] Collaborative

Website: www.ruralartscollaborative.org

Program Manager: Sam Turich

For questions about becoming a teaching artist please contact RAC through the website.

Mission, Program Overview & Teaching Artist Expectations

The mission of the Rural Arts® Collaborative (RAC) is to expand access to meaningful arts education in rural communities by connecting professional artists with schools, students, and community organizations.

Teaching artists are at the heart of RAC programs. Artists collaborate with educators to bring creative disciplines into classrooms including visual arts, music, theater, storytelling, digital media, and other forms of artistic expression. These programs allow students to engage directly with working artists while building creativity, confidence, and communication skills.

Professional Expectations

- Maintain professional and respectful conduct with students and school staff
- Provide engaging and age-appropriate arts instruction
- Arrive prepared and on time for scheduled programs
- Communicate clearly with educators and RAC coordinators
- Promote inclusive learning environments that respect all students

Required Background Clearances

- Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Clearance
- Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance
- FBI Federal Criminal History Clearance (if applicable)

Teaching Artist Disciplines We Support

Rural Arts® Collaborative welcomes artists from a wide range of creative disciplines. Our teaching artists bring diverse artistic perspectives into classrooms and community spaces, helping students experience creativity in many forms.

- Visual Arts (painting, drawing, sculpture, mixed media)
- Music (instrumental, vocal, composition, music technology)
- Theatre & Acting
- Dance & Movement Arts
- Creative Writing & Storytelling
- Digital Media & Film
- Photography
- Interdisciplinary Community-Based Arts

Areas Served

Rural schools in Southwestern Pennsylvania and parts of West Virginia.

Many rural communities have limited access to arts education and professional artists. The Rural Arts® Collaborative helps bridge this gap by bringing working artists directly into classrooms and community learning environments. These programs help students explore creative expression, build confidence, and gain exposure to cultural experiences that strengthen both education and community life.

Teaching Artist Application

Section 1 – Contact Information

Full Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Website/Portfolio	

Section 2 – Artistic Discipline

Visual Arts	
Music	
Theater/Acting	
Dance/Movement	
Creative Writing/Storytelling	
Digital Media/Film	
Photography	
Other	

If additional space is needed to complete any section of this form, please attach a separate sheet with your responses.

Section 3 – Professional Background

<p>Artist Biography</p> <p>If additional space is needed to complete any section of this form, please attach a separate sheet with your responses.</p>	
<p>Years of Professional Experience</p>	
<p>Describe your artistic practice</p> <p>If additional space is needed to complete any section of this form, please attach a separate sheet with your responses.</p>	

Teaching Artist Participation Agreement

Artists accepted into the Rural Arts® Collaborative Teaching Artist Program agree to uphold the professional standards and expectations outlined below.

By submitting this application, I confirm that the information provided is accurate and that I agree to follow the professional standards and program expectations of the Rural Arts® Collaborative Teaching Artist Program.

I understand that teaching artists working with students must complete all required background clearances and maintain professional conduct while participating in RAC programs with schools and community partners.

I agree to:

- Maintain professional conduct when working with students and educators
- Follow school policies and classroom guidelines
- Complete all required background clearances before working with students
- Represent the Rural Arts® Collaborative program professionally in schools and communities

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____