
MAINE ARTS TEACHERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

GUIDELINES 2009



The Maine Alliance for Arts Education
is a member of the Kennedy Center Alliance
for Arts Education Network



MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Fulfilling the promise of giving

Maine Arts Teachers Fellowship Program

Maine Alliance for Arts Education • Maine Community Foundation

GENERAL INFORMATION

Deadlines:

September 10, 2008-November 28, 2008: Potential applicants must call the Maine Alliance for Arts Education between September 10, 2008, and November 28, 2008, to discuss their idea for a fellowship. Those teachers who are approved will receive an application form and an invitation to apply.

January 15, 2009: Application due (postmarked)

Background/ Program Description: The Maine Alliance for Arts Education (MAAE) and the Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF) believe that providing opportunities for arts teachers to immerse themselves in their disciplines will lead to an enrichment of arts education in Maine. MAAE and MaineCF launched the *Maine Arts Teachers Fellowship Program* (MATF) in 2006 to support K-12 arts teachers in Maine public schools.

Through the *Maine Arts Teachers Fellowship Program*, fellows will design individualized courses of study that will provide both immersion in their own creative work and the opportunity to interact with other professional artists in their fields.

Upon completion of the fellowship projects, all fellows—accompanied by school leaders—will convene in fall 2009 to share experiences and discuss relevant issues and concerns. (Convocation expenses will be paid by MATF.) Fellows will also be expected to work with colleagues and school administrators to carry out post-fellowship plans and to submit interim and final reports to help document and assess the impact of the fellowship.

Maine Arts Teachers Fellowship Program is modeled after the Surdna Foundation's Arts Teachers Fellowship Program,¹ which invites arts teachers from specialized, public arts high schools across the U.S. to apply for funding for artistic development. Thanks to support from Surdna and from MaineCF donors, we are offering this fellowship opportunity to teachers in all public schools in Maine.

¹ The Surdna Foundation, a national family foundation established in 1917, helps support organizations in five program areas: Environment, Community Revitalization, Effective Citizenry, the Nonprofit Sector, and Arts. Various arts initiatives confirm the value of teens making art with accomplished artists. Additional information can be found on the foundation's website at: www.surdna.org.



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Awards: The selected fellows will receive up to \$4,000 each, with a complementary grant of \$1,000 to fellows' schools to support post-fellowship activities. The fellowship award may be used to defray the costs of tuition and other fees, room and board, travel, purchase of materials and/or equipment for personal art-making, childcare and other relevant expenses.

The program will support up to eight fellows in the 2009 – 2010 school year. The fellows will be selected through a competitive process. Recruitment will be statewide, with special emphasis on underserved areas.

Eligibility: All permanently assigned full- and part-time arts faculty (including visual arts, film, video, and other media, theater arts, music, dance and creative writing) in Maine's K-12 public schools are eligible. Applicants must have been teaching arts for a minimum of 5 years and plan to continue as an arts teacher in their school in 2009-2010.

Selection Criteria: Teachers will be expected to design a program that provides opportunities to interact with professional artists and that enhances the teachers' understanding of current techniques, activity, and thinking in their artistic domain(s). Most fellowship activities will be conducted during the summer, but they can occur throughout the year. Fellowships may include: study in arts courses; attendance at advanced art-making workshops, festivals or institutes; residencies at artists colonies; formal mentor relationships with recognized professional artists or other artistic entities.

The MATF program is for artistic revitalization. Plans will be evaluated based on:

- Quality and relevance of the selected fellowship venue
- Quality and realistic expectations of plan
- Stature of the artists/mentors
- Anticipated impact of fellowship experience on artistic development and future teaching

See "Resource List" on the MAAE website at www.maineartseducation.org for examples of possible sites and previous fellowship projects. Feel free to explore other options.

Proposals that will not be considered include those focused solely on participation in educational conferences, development of pedagogy, academic research or graduate study, curriculum building, learning of new skills solely towards the development of new courses.



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Examples of Past Fellows' Projects in the Maine Arts Teachers Fellowship Program:

- Attend a month-long program at the International School of Painting, Drawing and Sculpture in Umbria, Italy
- Study privately with Wycliffe Gordon (jazz trombone) and Nancy Marano (vocal jazz) in New York City
- Attend the Book Arts workshop at USM's Stone House in Freeport followed by creation of a body of work based on new skills and techniques
- Study weaving with mentor Susan Merrill and create a cohesive series of seven 3-D forms on three different looms
- Study West African drumming through a month-long workshop in Mali
- Work under mentors Linda Funk, botanical illustrator, and Rebecca Goodale, book artist, toward the creation of artist books.

As you can see, the only limit is your imagination. We hope that you will think BIG and consider new and exciting experiences. To get started, research potential sites and workshops and think about what will be stimulating and fitting for your work. For a listing of arts opportunities in all disciplines, email MAAE (fellowship@maineartseducation.org) or visit its website: www.maineartseducation.org.

How to Apply:

- **Step 1: Intent to Apply:** Contact MAAE by phone to discuss your proposed project. You must speak with MAAE by November 28 to receive approval to apply. You can reach Program Coordinator David Lamon at (207) 244-5286 or fellowship@maineartseducation.org.
- **Step 2: Application:** Those who receive approval from MAAE to apply will be invited to submit applications, which will be reviewed by a panel of Maine artists and educators. The deadline for the applications is January 15, 2009 (postmarked).

For more information, visit MAAE's website: www.maineartseducation.org or contact David Lamon (207) 244-5286 or fellowship@maineartseducation.org.

The Maine Alliance for Arts Education is a statewide nonprofit organization whose mission is to strengthen education in all of the arts for all Maine students.

A statewide organization with offices in Ellsworth, Portland, and Augusta, the Maine Community Foundation has been partnering with donors and community groups to strengthen Maine communities for 25 years. For information, visit www.mainecef.org.



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