

UPSTREAM ARTS GRANT TEMPLATE – School Residencies

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION:

The organizational mission of Upstream Arts is to enhance the lives of adults and youth with disabilities by fostering creative communication and social independence through the power of arts education. Upstream Arts' programs integrate individuals with mild to severe cognitive, developmental, and physical disabilities in interactive arts activities that nurture social and communication skills vital to success in school and everyday life. Its programs are led by local, professional artists—including actors, dancers, poets, musicians, creative writers and visual artists—who have been trained to provide programming to groups of individuals with a range of abilities. Upstream Arts fulfills its mission through school residencies in Special Education classrooms; Programming with metro area Transition programs; Adaptive workshops and camps with Parks and Recreation programs in multiple municipalities; and Arts programs and workshop series for disability-focused organizations like the Courage Center, Hammer Residencies and Lifeworks.

PROGRAM NAME:

Upstream Arts Residency in the [Special Education/DCD/Autism/etc.] Classroom of [School]

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Upstream Arts' school residency program in Special Education classrooms makes the arts accessible to students with disabilities, and uses the arts to develop students' social and communication skills.

Upstream Arts' high caliber roster of local, professional artists includes visual artists, poets, dancers, actors, creative writers, and vocal and instrumental musicians. Once a week, [for 6 weeks, for 12 weeks, every week of the semester, every week the school is in session], Upstream Arts artists will lead inclusive and interactive activities in our Special Education classroom. Each week the students cooperatively create together in a supportive and fun environment: they may develop and embody characters and emotions, paint or move to music, or collectively write and act out poems. These cooperative group activities in music, theatre, poetry, visual arts and dance are designed to expose the students to a variety of art forms, while using the arts to nurture self expression, social interaction and positive group participation. Students with disabilities, for whom social interaction and communication are often a challenge, are given a safe forum to express themselves, build self confidence, act out real life situations, and develop communication skills that can benefit them in their everyday lives.

Many Special Education students have limited opportunities to attend performances or community arts events. In Upstream Arts' school residency program, the artists come to the students, giving them a front row seat to the wealth of our metropolitan arts community and the unique opportunity to interact directly with some of the Twin Cities' most exciting and accomplished artists.

DEFINE SPECIFIC NEED & PURPOSE:

Explain who your students are, and why they specifically would benefit from an Upstream Arts residency in their classroom.

-Who are your students? Describe the make up of your classroom: age, range of ability, ethnicity and socio-economic background.

-What are some of the common and individual goals of your students and how does that tie in with Upstream Arts program? Do your students struggle with social interaction? Do they have limited access to arts classes or activities?

DEFINE YOUR GOAL OR THE EXPECTED OUTCOME:

-Given your students' specific needs, what will this program provide to your students?

Will this give them opportunities for creative expression, a place to develop social skills, exposure to the fine arts that they would not otherwise have? Will it build self-confidence they need in school or other settings? Will it develop social and communication skills like listening, following directions, the ability to participate in a group?