



Artists in the Schools FAQs

1. What is the Artists-in-the-Schools (AITS) Program?

The AITS program supports arts-based programs and residencies in Hawaii DOE public and charter schools conducted by teaching artists on the Artistic Teaching Partners Roster.

The AITS Program was started by the Hawai'i Dept. of Education (DOE) in SY 1969-1970, authorized after a recommendation by the 1969 Legislature. The services consisted of performances and lecture-demonstrations by artists. In SY 2007-2008, the AITS Program moved from the DOE to the HSFCA. Arts education is one of HSFCA's Strategic Plan Priorities.

All public schools and charter schools are eligible to apply for an AITS grant. There are two types of AITS grants – AITS Regular and AITS APP PWA in conjunction with the Art in Public Places (APP) Program. Schools are required to use a teaching artist from the Artistic Teaching Partners Roster to conduct a residency.

2. What is an AITS Residency?

A residency engages a core group of students for 8 or more sessions (elementary), or 5 or more sessions (secondary), in standards-based lessons in fine arts—visual arts, dance, drama, music, and literary arts. The purpose is to spark students' awareness of and interest in the arts and to develop students' knowledge and skills in the arts. The emphasis is on students *doing* art. Many residencies integrate the arts with other core curricula. Another purpose is to build, through workshops, mentoring, and/or observation, the teachers' capacity to teach the arts. Professional development for teachers is a required element in each grant.

3. How is the AITS Program funded?

AITS grants are funded with State of Hawaii legislative general fund and special works of art appropriations, federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, and private matching funds from the Hawai'i Community Foundation. Schools must contribute 10% of the grant amount received for the AITS Regular grants. In SY 2018-2019, 105 applications were received, determined to be eligible and funded with either an AITS Regular grant or an AITS APP PWA grant.

4. When does the AITS grant proposal process begin and how are AITS grants selected?

Application materials are available in December. Applications are made online only and are due in the spring – see website and application materials for date and time. A panel of arts educators and administrators reads the applications, rates them based on criteria and makes funding recommendations. After the HSFCA Board of Commissioners approval of the recommendations, schools and teaching artists are notified. Residencies must be completed by the end of the school year. Final reporting is due no later than May 31 of the same school year from the teaching artist, the lead teacher/AITS coordinator for the school and the individual AITS classroom teachers.



5. What is the HSFCA Art in Public Places (APP) Program?

In 1967, Hawaii became the first state in the nation to pass legislation that sets aside one percent of state construction appropriations to provide a funding base for the acquisition of works of art. The objectives of the APP Program are to enhance the environmental quality of public buildings and spaces throughout the state for the enjoyment and enrichment of the public; to cultivate the public's awareness of visual arts in all media, styles, and techniques; to contribute to the development and recognition of a professional artistic community; and to acquire, interpret, preserve, and display works of art expressive of the Hawaiian islands, the multicultural heritages of its people, and the creative interests of its artists. Permanent Works of Art (PWA) are commissioned and situated at state facilities and buildings, including schools.

6. What is an AITS APP PWA Residency?

The HSFCA Art in Public Places Program funds a category of AITS grants. The goal is to increase students' appreciation of, and engagement with, the permanent works of art at their school. Schools that have an eligible HSFCA Permanent Work of Art (PWA) on campus may apply. As with all AITS residencies, an AITS APP PWA residency engages a core group of students for 8 or more sessions (elementary), or 5 or more sessions (secondary), in standards-based lessons in fine arts—visual arts, dance, drama, music, and literary arts. The emphasis for this new category of grant, however, is on *interpreting* the PWA by means of these art forms. The requirement that schools contribute 10% of the APP PWA grant amount received will be waived this year.

7. What is meant by “interpreting” the PWA?

The school's Permanent Work of Art is the springboard for observing, describing, making meaning, and wondering. The teaching artist will facilitate the process of thinking and talking about the artwork—its materials, subject matter, theme, style, cultural significance, etc. Students will make personal connections to the artwork and create their own response to some aspect of the artwork through the art form of the teaching artist, i.e. through visual arts, dance, drama, music, or literary arts. As with all AITS residencies, students will be *doing* art.

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