



ARKANSAS LEARNING *through the* ARTS



affiliated with the national Young Audiences Arts for Learning network

PARTNERS IN ARTS
AND EDUCATION

November, 2019

RECENT PROGRAMS AND TESTIMONIALS!

Arkansas Learning Through The Arts (ALTTA) delivers high quality educational experiences to Pre-K through 12th grade classrooms by providing engaging experiences that lead to deeper learning opportunities. Young people respond quickly to the artists' creativity and become active participants in creating their own work of art.

Singer song-writer, Chana Caylor, leads students in The Old Chisolm Trail. They learn how setting, including culture, history and geography, affects a story. Principal Penny Smothers said, "The students loved the program and can't wait until she's back."



Poet and actor, Jay McClure, works with students on a unit called "Poems of Freedom." He introduces them to the poetry of Langston Hughes and poetry about Harriet Tubman. A student said, "Mr. Mac has lived for poetry. He has made art with his poetry and has filled our hearts with curiosity."



SPOTLIGHT ON NEW PROGRAM WITH TEACHING ARTIST JERI HILLIS



Arkansas Learning Through The Arts has introduced several new programs, some at the request of the schools and others because artists realized they could connect with additional curriculum units. One such unit is Pottery of the Earth and Sky in which 7th graders learn:

- ✓ how integral pottery was to the Native American peoples,
- ✓ how they painted on bowls to tell a folk story, and
- ✓ how they created effigy bowls to depict important animals.

Students consider the reasons Native Americans created these pots. Then they write about what they learned in the unit as it relates to the essential question, "How are Native American customs portrayed in art?"

REPORT CARD FOR THE FALL:

Twenty-four schools are participating within Garland, Pike, Pope, Saline, St. Francis and Phillips counties with:

- over 450 one-hour sessions scheduled in the Fall semester,
- at least 400 sessions scheduled for the 2nd semester (with more to be added), and
- eleven teaching artists representing poetry, visual arts, dance, Native American storytelling and flute playing, African storytelling and drumming, theater and creative writing.

ART LINKS 2019 CONFERENCE

One session of this conference, sponsored by the Arkansas Arts Council, dealt with a 2019 report entitled "Rural Prosperity Through the Arts and Creative Sector: A Rural Action Guide for Governors and States" issued by the National Governors Association. Their research documented that:

- "Rural arts organizations draw non-local audiences at higher rates than do urban arts;
- The number of innovative or design-integrated businesses rises proportionately in the presence of performing arts organizations;
- Rural counties that are home to performing arts organizations experienced population growth three times higher than rural counties that lack performing arts institutions, in addition to providing residents with higher incomes;
- Two out of three rural businesses report that arts and entertainment are important for attracting and retaining workers; and
- Integrating the arts and education better prepares the workforce."

Infusing STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) curriculum with the Arts (making STEAM) can give budding scientists, coders, designers and mathematicians additional abilities in creative problem-solving, information processing and collaboration. This infusion is most effective when the integration is initiated at young ages so that by the time young people enter the workforce, they have valuable skills to offer area businesses.

Kudos to the Arkansas Arts Council which supports a variety of arts organizations and education-oriented projects in many rural communities. Their efforts contribute to increasing student literacy, high school graduation rates, workforce development and population retention.



John Brown (left), Senior Advisor of Windgate Foundation, and Craig Welle, ED of ALTTA, following a session on the importance of the creative economy for rural settings.

NEW PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE

Four new programs contain components designed to enrich social and emotional learning, in addition to the arts and classroom curriculum themes. All of these are integral to a child's development of critical-thinking skills.

1st Grade - **Feeling Good** - Visual Artist, Jeri Hillis

Students create accordion books that reflect their different feelings as a result of thinking about whom they talk to about their feelings. Ultimately, they create a self-portrait expressing how they feel at a critical moment.

2nd Grade - **Character Counts** - Visual Artist, Jeri Hillis

Three famous people of character who have experienced serious challenges in their lives are introduced. They learn the traits of good character and judgment and then make a collage showing their view of what good character means to them.

4th Grade - **Free to FEEL** - Poet, Kai Coggin

Several poems of four American poets are used to demonstrate how feelings can be expressed in words. Each student then creates their own personal poetry and shares them with their classmates.

9th Grade - **Outsiders Speaking Out** - Poet, Kai Coggin

Ten poets, including Robert Frost, Maya Angelou and Shakespeare, speak out on issues and thoughts of concern through their poetry. Students practice reading these expressively.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING LEADS STUDENTS TO:

- understand and manage their emotions,
- set and achieve positive goals,
- feel and show empathy for others,
- establish and maintain positive relations, and
- make positive decisions.

WELCOME TO NEW SCHOOLS

Garland County

CUTTER MORNINGSTAR HIGH
LAKE HAMILTON PRIMARY

Phillips County

KIPP DELTA ELEMENTARY

Pike County

CENTERPOINT ELEMENTARY
CENTERPOINT MIDDLE
CENTERPOINT HIGH



Treasurer Rob Bowers (right) welcomes Jim Dixon to the Board as the new Assistant Treasurer of ALTTA.

DONATE ON GIVING TUESDAY

The Tuesday after Thanksgiving has been designated as a national day of giving to non-profits. Arkansas Learning Through The Arts is participating for the first time. Mark your calendar for December 3.

You may be a part of this giving opportunity by visiting ALTTA's Facebook page and selecting the "Giving Tuesday" link. This is an easy way for individuals to support our young people's education opportunities!

OF SPECIAL NOTE!

Two Anonymous Donors have challenged Arkansas Learning Through The Arts to raise at least \$20,000 from individuals. They will match with funds up to that amount. We are currently at 15% of that goal and are hopeful that the Giving Tuesday campaign and a March letter solicitation will let us reach the goal.

PLEASE HELP MAKE THE MATCH!

The ALTTA Leadership Council of Greater Hot Springs' purpose is to broaden community support that enables ALTTA to keep the cost of workshops at an affordable rate for schools. The members include Susan Aldridge, Don Gooch, Carla Mouton, Dorothy Morris, Don Munro, Kerry Lockwood Owen, Tiffany Rogers, Les Warren and Robert and Mary Zunick.

ALTTA is also forming Leadership Councils in Phillips and Saline Counties to accomplish the same purpose. If you would like to participate, please contact Martha Smither (501-922-2743) or Craig Welle (214-676-0222).

YOU CAN ENCOURAGE ARKANSAS' YOUTH TO ENGAGE IN LEARNING!

Want to build a better world, but not sure how? Art helps children develop on many fundamental levels, ranging from increased confidence, focus, motor-skills and, of course, to inspire creativity. YOU can encourage our youth to engage in art by ensuring our programs continue through individual donations.

Arkansas Learning Through the Arts (ALTTA) is a 501(c)(3) organization that contracts with professional artists to complete a residency in public and private schools within central Arkansas. You can become a FRIEND by donating to ALTTA.

Your contribution matters!



Picasso\$100Reaches 25 students (1 session)
Joplin\$300Reaches 75 students (3 sessions)
O'Keefe\$500Reaches 125 students (3 sessions)
Beethoven\$1,000Reaches 250 students (3 sessions)
Shakespeare	.. \$3,000Reaches 750 students (3 sessions)



We invite you to give to Arkansas Learning Through the Arts by visiting our website www.altta.org and selecting "Donate." You can also go to the ALLTA Facebook page to donate. Your contribution can make art more affordable for schools when combined with other grants and donations. Thank you for making Arkansas a better place by investing in our children.

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A FRIEND

AS YOU CONSIDER YOUR ALTERNATIVES FOR GIVING PRIOR TO THE END OF THE YEAR!

Arkansas Learning Through The Arts
is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization.



To become a volunteer, please contact Martha Smither (501-922-2743) or Craig Welle (214-676-0222)

BECOME A FRIEND OF *Arkansas Learning Through The Arts* AND SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN!

Name _____ Street Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ E-mail _____

I want to be a friend at the following level:

Individual \$15 _____

Family \$25 _____

Van Gogh \$50 _____

Picasso \$100 _____

Joplin \$300 _____

O'Keeffe \$500 _____

Beethoven \$1000 _____

Shakespeare \$3000 _____

Other \$ _____

Contact me about Volunteering! _____ This contribution is for _____ County.

SEND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

***Arkansas Learning Through the Arts*, 4501 N. HWY 7, SUITE 8, #315, HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, AR 71909**

Your membership is entirely tax deductible.

ALTTA is designated as a 501(c)(3) organization under IRS regulations.



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4501 N. HWY 7, SUITE 8, #315
HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, AR 71909

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