

## **Writing a Teaching Artist Philosophy Statement**

A Teaching Artist Philosophy statement is a brief essay, 2-3 paragraphs at most, describing your beliefs about arts education, the importance of the arts in facilitation and support of student learning and in the overall educational experience of students. It should describe how you instruct to support these beliefs.

The Teaching Artist Philosophy statement serves multiple purposes. Not only can it be used as a way for you to gather together your thoughts and beliefs about teaching, learning and the arts in order to more easily articulate them in interviews but it can also be used as a personal introduction to schools and classroom teachers via the web or when sending out information and resumes. Additionally, the statement is key to professional growth, as it requires you to give examples of how you act on your philosophy, necessitating thoughtful consideration of the relationship between your teaching methods and beliefs.

Use the following to begin considering and writing your Teaching Artist Philosophy.

- How do you believe student learning occurs in and through the arts?
- What specific ways do you use your learning, teaching beliefs and goals in the design of your art projects and classroom collaborations?
- Specify goals for students which might include; student learning techniques and methods of an art process; appreciation or enjoyment the art form and academic discipline; developing critical thinking skills; improving problem-solving abilities; working effectively in groups; developing interests for life-long learning; collaborative interdisciplinary projects.
- Invite collaboration with the classroom teachers and schools.
- Describe ways that you will facilitate celebration and promotion of a teaching artist residency in a community.
- Consider using the latest research in arts and education to support your philosophy.

This document will grow and change with you. You will review and rewrite your teaching philosophy as you gain experience and continue to develop as both an artist, educator, and arts partner.