

Is it possible to shadow someone?

If you would like to shadow someone in the classroom, we will make every effort to pair you with an experienced resident artist to observe his or her work. You would have to adhere to all of the District regulations for visitors in the classroom and receive prior approval from the teacher and teaching artist to observe a residency.

Is there one background check form for all the schools?

Each school district is different, and you will have to abide by each school district's requirements. Districts post their requirements on their websites. Please note that there is a fee for background check, and it can take weeks for background checks to be completed, so it is best to have them completed well in advance of your scheduled residency. Background checks are not necessary for Arts Exposure Assemblies.

How much time will you have to organize?

Each residency is unique, and some will require more advance work than others. New teaching artists may be required to put in more hours for initial residencies as they learn how to adequately plan for the needs of the classroom and familiarize themselves with the VAPA Standards. As you become more familiar with the needs of a classroom or have worked with a teacher or school more than once, preparation may be simplified. Resident artists are paid a flat fee that includes prep and meeting time.

Do the teachers want to work with you?

No teacher is required to have a residency in the classroom, but each school district handles residency assignments differently. Some teachers particularly enjoy residencies and request them from the district; others may never have worked with resident artists and have been assigned them by their principal and/or District lead. It is up to you to contact the teacher and begin discussions to create a positive experience. The goal is to create a comfortable and creative atmosphere and to help teachers understand the value of this work.

Does the work lesson sample video have to be an actual assembly or can it be mock training?

It can be a mock training. The important thing is that it shows how you approach your artform and your teaching style with one or more grade levels.

Are supplies provided?

No. We expect that artists will provide their own supplies or work closely with teachers and principals to get the materials they need. We ask that all resident artists try to work with materials that are easily available and don't require extra expenses. We add a small amount of funding to each residency fee to cover the cost of basic materials.

Do you have to reapply every year?

Once you are on the teaching artist roster you do not need to apply in the following year. We reserve the right to review our rosters every three to five years to determine whether artists may need to reapply. However, if you have received evaluations from teachers or volunteer observers that point to specific issues in your residency, we will meet to discuss steps for improvement or changes. If changes

are not made, an artist may be suspended from the roster and asked to reapply. And, in all cases, inclusion on the roster is not a guarantee of work or a specific number of residencies assigned. Residency assignments are based on the requests received from the school districts, and specifically the requests for particular disciplines. This applies equally to Arts Assemblies. Assemblies are evaluated each year and, if an issue arises, we will contact the arts group to determine whether changes can be made.

How many residencies do you get during the year and when will you know?

It varies depending on the need, your availability and willingness to work in multiple districts. In general, the more flexible you can be, the more residencies you will be assigned. Some artists can only accommodate a small number of residencies and we try to work around the artist's schedule. We are always subject to the requests from the district and residencies may be limited by their need for specific disciplines. As soon as we have requests from the districts, we can begin to notify artists as to their assignments. This should happen between September and October 2018.

If I represent an organization with multiple artists that want to apply for residencies, should I submit an application for each of them on their behalf?

Any artist who fulfills the basic requirements listed in the guidelines may apply. If an organization is applying on their behalf, it will have to submit a separate application for each and each will need to present a lesson plan. Because we aim for diversity of artform and content of residency, it is unlikely that several artists from a particular artistic discipline and organizational background will be selected in any one round of applications. Organizations should determine which artists are the best fit for residency activities.