Visiting Artist Program & Artist Directory

The Visiting Artist Program Grant funds 50% of eligible costs for hosts to bring professional artists to their communities for performances, workshops, residencies, and other arts activities.

Eligible hosts include:

- South Dakota-based nonprofit organizations with current 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status
- Public schools/districts, colleges, and universities
- Private schools with tax-exempt status, or private schools applying through an affiliated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
- City, county, and state government agencies and public institutions, including parks and recreation departments
- Federally recognized tribal governments

Activity Types

- **Performance:** A public presentation by the artist.
- **Workshop:** A hands-on learning activity led by the artist.
- **Demonstration:** A presentation showing artistic skills, techniques, or processes.
- **School Assembly:** A performance or presentation designed for a school audience.
- **Residency:** An extended series of hands-on learning activities led by the artist through workshops, demonstrations, classes, and creative projects in schools or community settings.

Residencies

Artists marked with an asterisk (*) are approved for residencies and other extended arts education engagements. Residencies provide hands-on learning through workshops, demonstrations, classes, and creative projects in schools and community settings.

Residency Duration

- Minimum length: 1 week with maximum 20 hours of artist-led activities
- Residency may take place over consecutive weeks or throughout the year

Residency Artist Fees (base rates)

- Single artist: $1,600 per week; two artists working together: $2,600 per week

Residency Host Responsibilities

- Pay the artist fee
- Provide lodging when needed
- Provide supplies and materials required for the residency

Visiting Artist Program Directory

This list of professional artists is organized by discipline, then genre, then alphabetically by last name. Contact artists directly with the contact information provided, to plan the activity details, dates, location, and costs.

Every artist offers a variety of engagement options. Artists marked with an asterisk (*) are additionally available for extended arts education experiences and residencies.

Dance

Traditional Lakota

Dallas Chief Eagle*
Sicangu Lakota hoop dancer and teaching artist who shares Lakota culture, storytelling, movement, mindfulness, and character-building through performance and residency work.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Martin, SD
(605) 455-1805 • dchiefe@gwtc.net

Starr Chief Eagle*
Lakota hoop dancer and educator who shares Lakota language, art, stories, and culture through interactive hoop dance performances and hands-on learning.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Rapid City, SD
(605) 787-0210 • healingthebrokenhoop@yahoo.com • http://chiefeaglestarr.wixsite.com/hoop

Literary Arts

Poetry & Creative Writing

B.J. Buckley*
Poet and teaching artist who uses poetry, bookmaking, illustration, oral performance, and regional literature to help students discover voice and confidence.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Power, MT
406-402-6359 • wild4verses@yahoo.com

Lawrence Diggs*
Poet, editor, and broadcaster who helps students build communication skills through writing, publishing, and performing original poetry.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Roslyn, SD
(605) 486-4536 • art@diggsart.com • http://www.ldiggs.com

Candy Hamilton*
Writer and educator who teaches sensory writing, editing, rewriting, myth writing, news writing, and public speaking with flexible residency options.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Rapid City, SD
(605) 545-0354 • candyhamilton713@gmail.com

Writing & Poetry

Jean Patrick*
Writer and narrator who offers literature, writing, poetry, lecture, and workshop experiences for youth and community audiences.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School
Location: Mitchell, SD
(605) 770-7345 • jeanpatrick.jlsp@gmail.com • http://www.jeanpatrick.com

Music

Americana • Folk • Bluegrass • Storytelling

Humbletown
Bluegrass and folk ensemble that uses original songs, harmonies, and South Dakota stories to connect audiences to place and history.
Best audience: High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Lead, SD
(605) 219-7810 • dylanjamesflatpicking@hotmail.com • http://www.humbletownband.com

Americana • Folk • Storytelling

Eliza Blue
Singer-songwriter and storyteller who performs original songs about rural life, Northern Plains landscapes, grasslands, and our relationship to the land.
Best audience: Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Bison, SD
(605) 244-5990 • elizabluesings@gmail.com • http://www.elizablue.net

Blues • Folk • Country • World

Hank Harris
Veteran singer-songwriter who blends blues, folk, country, gospel, reggae, jazz, humor, history, and storytelling into solo performances.
Best audience: Adult
Location: Rapid City, SD
(605) 786-7111 • hankharris2001@yahoo.com • http://www.hankharrismusic.com

Broadway • Classical Vocal

Andrea Ross
Vocalist who performs Broadway classics, the Great American Songbook, tribute programs, and seasonal music with polished professional accompaniment.
Best audience: Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(508) 254-5280 • andreachristineross@gmail.com • http://www.andreaross.com

Children's Music • Rock • World Folk • Jazz

Phil Baker
Singer-songwriter who blends rock, samba, jazz, folk, movement, and interactive songs to encourage imagination and joyful participation.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • Adult
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 321-9546 • philbaker3@sio.midco.net • http://www.philbakermusic.com

Classical Musicians

Robert Erhard
Principal cellist with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra who connects classical repertoire, chamber music, and American tunes for audiences of all ages.
Best audience: Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(720) 585-7119 • roberterhard@gmail.com • https://sdsymphony.org/about/musicians-artists/orchestra-members/bios/robert-erhard

Mila Belakova
Classical pianist who combines performance, composer stories, music history, and cultural context to make piano music engaging and accessible.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Rapid City, SD
(605) 391-5156 • lyudmila_angel@yahoo.com
https://sites.google.com/site/milasmusicpianostudio/home

Classical Orchestra • Chamber Music

South Dakota Symphony & Chamber Orchestra, Dakota Wind Quintet, and Dakota String Quartet
Professional orchestra and chamber ensembles offering full orchestra concerts, chamber performances, and educational programs for venues of different sizes.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 335-7933 • brad.berens@sdsymphony.org • http://www.sdsymphony.org

Classical • Folk • Jazz

OboeBass!*
Oboe and bass duo that performs classical, folk, and jazz programs with teaching options for children's literature, storytelling, instrument demonstrations, and live music to introduce classical music concepts.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Apple Valley, MN
(651) 319-1413 • info@oboebass.com • http://www.oboebass.com

Classical • Folk • Theatre

Flower and Flame
Professional actor and music ensemble that blends classical and folk music with theatrical storytelling and costumed performance.
Best audience: Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 413-6102 • mmmodze@sio.midco.net • http://www.flowerandflame.com

Classical • Jazz • Pop

Rawlins Piano Trio of The University of South Dakota
University of South Dakota trio that performs violin, cello, and piano programs ranging from classical repertoire to jazz and contemporary selections.
Best audience: Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Vermillion, SD
(605) 658-3480 • eunhee.park@usd.edu • http://www.rawlinstrio.com

Classical • World • Interdisciplinary

Curious Music Collective
Multidisciplinary ensemble that combines chamber music, poetry, dance, visual art, and storytelling to celebrate diverse cultures and voices.
Best audience: Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(646) 704-3693 • sfcmcollective@gmail.com • http://www.sfcmcollective.com

Folk • Songwriting • Healthcare • Music Education

Jami Lynn Olson*
Folk musician who teaches South Dakota folk music, group guitar and ukulele, songwriting, and adaptive music experiences for schools and healthcare settings.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Garretson, SD
(605) 949-0238 • jamilynnmusic@gmail.com • http://www.jamilynnmusic.com

Dylan James*
Singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who teaches guitar, ukulele, folk traditions, songwriting, music theory, and participatory music-making.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Lead, SD
(605) 219-7810 • dylanjamesflatpicking@hotmail.com • http://www.humbletown.com

Piano • Classical • Jazz • Pop • Multimedia

Nina McIntire
Pianist and composer who pairs classical, jazz, rock, pop, and visual projection to create a multimedia concert experience.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Hill City, SD
(512) 921-0554 • ninamcintire@gmail.com • http://www.ivoryfantasy.com

Traditional Americana • Folk • Storytelling

Chris Vallillo
Folk musician and folklorist who uses vintage instruments, roots music, and historical narratives to connect audiences with American history.
Best audience: Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Macomb, IL
(309) 224-8210 • vallillo@macomb.com • http://www.chrisvallillo.com

Comfort Theatre Company
Theatre and music ensemble that presents Americana-inspired performances blending live music, storytelling, and community entertainment.
Best audience: Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 366-4114 • bjbonde@gmail.com • http://www.comforttheatre.com

Traditional Celtic • Folk • Storytelling

Maggie In The Meantime
Celtic and folk ensemble that combines music, actors, and storytelling through guitar, fiddle, keyboard, oboe, and percussion.
Best audience: Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 361-7213 • eroplain@sio.midco.net • http://www.maggieinthemeantime.com

Traditional Folk • Storytelling

Curtis & Loretta
Folk duo that uses tight harmonies, stringed instruments, humor, original songs, and traditional music to create story-rich performances.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Minneapolis, MN
(612) 812-4555 • loretta@curtisandloretta.com • http://www.curtisandloretta.com

Traditional Jazz • Contemporary Jazz

Dominant 7
Jazz ensemble that offers traditional jazz performances and educational experiences rooted in live ensemble playing.
Best audience: High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Bath, SD
(605) 290-3740 • grant.manhart@northern.edu • http://www.northern.edu/dominant7

JAS Quintet
Jazz ensemble that performs traditional and contemporary jazz with brass, drums, bass, piano, flute, and educational outreach options.
Best audience: High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 376-7764 • jspeirs@mac.com • http://www.jazzsd.com

Traditional Pop • Jazz • Big Band

Shaun Johnson Big Band Experience
Big band ensemble featuring brass and vocals with traditional pop, jazz, and big band performance and teaching options.
Best audience: Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 610-5193 • mjmassman@aol.com • http://www.shaunjohnsonmusic.com

Traditional Western • Americana • Storytelling

Miss V the Gypsy Cowbelle
Performer and educator who blends cowboy, country, Americana, homemade banjo, leatherwork, and rural storytelling into programs for many settings.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Thermopolis, WY
(307) 231-9252 • gypsycowbelle@gmail.com • http://www.gypsycowbelle.com

Allen & Jill Kirkham
Western music duo that shares cowboy songs, harmonies, humor, and stories from Western history and culture.
Best audience: Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Custer, SD
(605) 440-7338 • KirkhamMusic@icloud.com • http://www.allenandjill.com

Kerry Grombacher
Cowboy musician and storyteller who shares songs, history, folklore, and perspectives from the American West.
Best audience: Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: New Orleans, LA
(512) 296-7833 • kgrombacher@yahoo.com • http://www.kgrombacher.com

Paul Larson
Cowboy singer-songwriter who uses guitar, warm vocals, yodeling, and campfire-style storytelling to celebrate Western traditions.
Best audience: Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Hill City, SD
(605) 574-3938 • p_l_cowboy@yahoo.com • http://www.paullarsoncowboymusic.com

Theatre

Inclusive Theatre • Youth Theatre

Fran Sillau*
Teaching artist and theatre educator who specializes in inclusive drama, special education programming, classroom residencies, and theatre for youth.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Omaha, NE
(402) 660-6892 • fran@fransillau.com • http://www.Fransillau.com

Playwriting • Theatre Creation

Sandra Kern Mollman*
Theatre artist, playwright, performer, composer, and educator who guides participants through collaborative playwriting, acting, directing, and creative exploration.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Vermillion, SD
(605) 670-9753 • Sandra.Mollman@gmail.com

Theatre Education • Arts Integration • Family Theatre

Linda Bruning*
Actress, director, and master teaching artist who uses puppetry, literature, creative dramatics, and social-emotional learning to build creative skills.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Wynot, NE
(402) 357-3344 • lambruning@aol.com

Vickie Fuller*
Educator, actor, and director who teaches character development, curriculum connections, oral interpretation, Shakespeare, one-act performance, and classroom theatre.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • High School
Location: Yardley, PA
(605) 201-5573 • vickiefuller@msn.com

Markie Scholz*
Puppeteer and teaching artist with more than five decades of experience using handmade puppets, original stories, humor, and hands-on activities to explore kindness, friendship, problem-solving, and creative storytelling.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Spearfish, SD
(605) 642-4805 • www.DragonsAreTooSeldom.com • markie@dragonsaretooseldom.com

Visual Arts

Abstract Painting • DIY Design

Marlee Hayes*
Painter and arts educator who uses non-traditional tools, recycled materials, color, and playful process-based workshops to encourage creative expression.
Best audience: K-5
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(612) 804-9588 • marleeraehayes@gmail.com • http://marleehayes.com

Arts in Health • Creative Aging • Community Art

Ariadne (Ari) Albright*
Visual artist and arts-in-health educator who designs inclusive, all-abilities community art experiences that support creativity, wellness, and connection.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Belle Fourche, SD
(605) 675-9830 • creativecarellc@hotmail.com • https://creativecare.llc

Clay • Three-Dimensional Art

Nancy Losacker*
Clay artist who helps students shape their ideas into three-dimensional artworks through hands-on ceramics and visual art residencies.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School
Location: Vermillion, SD
605-624-8525 • nlosacker@gmail.com

Comics • Illustration • Visual Storytelling

Dylan Jacobson*
Comic artist and illustrator who teaches storytelling, storyboarding, character creation, drawing, inking, and collaborative comic production.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 941-1846 • thedylanjacobson@gmail.com

Community Art • Creative Aging

Michele Mechling*
Teaching artist, curator, and community arts facilitator who creates visual art experiences for all ages, all abilities, and creative aging settings through watercolor, printmaking, fabric dying and mosaics.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Vermillion, SD
(605) 670-2945 • michele.mechling4dac@gmail.com • https://www.mdmdavidaart.com/

Community Art • Murals • Social Practice

Markus Tracy*
Community artist who uses murals, dialogue, social engagement, and site-specific projects to build cross-cultural understanding and community connection.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Palm Desert, CA
(702) 330-7623 • markuswtracy@gmail.com

Contemporary Visual Exhibit • Math • Science

Dick Termes / Termespheres
Artist and lecturer who connects art, science, and math through Termespheres, visual exhibits, lectures, and teaching experiences.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Spearfish, SD
(605) 642-4805 • termes41@gmail.com • http://www.termespheres.com

Contemporary Visual Storytelling • Poetry

Xavier Pastrano
Artist, poet, and narrator who blends drawing, writing, poetry, lecture, and workshop formats for youth and adult audiences.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 413-3310 • xpastrano@gmail.com • http://www.facebook.com/xppoetry

Creative Thinking • Drawing • Paper Animation

Bob H. Miller*
Artist and educator who connects science, technology, drawing, paper animation, sequence, and black light art through creative problem-solving workshops.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School
Location: Rapid City, SD
(605) 716-9784 • bobhbobh@rushmore.com

Culturally Centered Visual Art

Kyrie Dunkley / Shinin Star Style*
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate visual artist and teaching artist who creates culturally centered, art-integrated learning experiences for K-12 students.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School
Location: Flandreau, SD
(605) 777-5024 • shininstarstyle@gmail.com

Drawing • Murals • Installation

Cheryl Peterson Halsey*
Artist and educator who teaches visual problem solving through drawing, murals, environmental installation, cardboard, paper, glue, and found-object projects.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • High School
Location: Springfield, SD
(605) 369-2861 • halseycher@hotmail.com • http://cherylhalseyart.com

Drawing • Printmaking • STEM Art

Jordan Thornton*
Printmaker and medical illustrator who teaches observational drawing, infographics, visual learning tools, and art integration with STEM concepts.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Helena, MT
(605) 728-2908 • jethornton.artist@gmail.com • http://www.youngandgreenart.com

Drawing • Painting • Printmaking

Mark Zimmerman*
Professional painter and teaching artist who helps students develop creativity, confidence, and technical art skills through drawing, painting, printmaking, and mural projects while encouraging imaginative thinking and personal visual expression.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Deadwood, SD
(605) 342-2552 • green.ink.mark@gmail.com • http://www.greeninkgalleryandstudios.com

Drawing • Painting • Printmaking • Murals • Paper Marbling

Mary Wipf*
Painter, printmaker, and teaching artist who guides students, adults, and all-abilities community members through collaborative drawing and painting projects that leave a lasting visual mark.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Deadwood, SD
(605) 342-2552 • mwipf@ymail.com • https://greeninkgalleryandstudios.com/

Painting • Murals • Collaborative Art

Nicole Gagner*
Painter and teaching artist who creates colorful, accessible workshops, collaborative paintings, murals, and projects for students, elders, and all abilities.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Bismarck, ND
(701) 391-3742 • nicole.gagner@gmail.com • http://www.PainterNicole.com

Graphic Design • Portrait Art • Visual Storytelling

Jenny Menzel*
Graphic designer, portrait artist, and visual storyteller who teaches design-centered art experiences rooted in creativity, observation, and communication.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Aberdeen, SD
(605) 377-8162 • contact@jennymenzel.com • http://www.jennymenzel.com

Illustration • Cartooning • Painting • Murals

Hector Curriel*
Illustrator, cartoonist, painter, and teaching artist who teaches drawing, visual storytelling, and fine art techniques through hands-on workshops.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 351-9569 • hcurriel777@yahoo.com • http://www.hectorcurriel-artwork.com

Mixed Media • Journaling • Drawing

Marcia Holliway*
Mixed media artist and author who uses artistic journaling, self-portraiture, masks, set design, colored pencil, and drawing to explore personal stories.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Nebraska City, NE
(605) 521-4255 • mwholliway.artist.author@gmail.com • https://http://www.itsinthewindstudio.com

Mixed Media • Painting

Amanda Boerger*
Multimedia artist who helps learners build confidence through expressive acrylic collage, experimentation with paint, and supportive art critique.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 880-8808 • amandaboerger22@gmail.com • https://http://www.amandaboerger.com

Mixed Media • Visual Art

Laura Koch*
Artist based in Sioux Falls who offers visual art residencies centered on hands-on making, creativity, and community connection.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Valley Springs, SD
(507) 351-8113 • Info@laurakoch.com • www.laurakoch.com

Murals • Community Art

Mural Co-op*
Collaborative mural organization that partners with communities to create public art projects rooted in teamwork, local stories, and visual expression.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Vermillion, SD
(605) 660-2083 • darcy.millette@gmail.com

Murals • Multidisciplinary Art

Myra Klein*
Multidisciplinary teaching artist and muralist who collaborates with rural schools and communities to create hands-on visual art experiences.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School
Location: Mott, ND
(701) 880-8752 • artwithmissmyra@yahoo.com

Native Arts • Ceramics • Painting • Metals

Randall Blaze*
Lakota artist who teaches ceramics, sculpture, painting, metalsmithing, and Native design while sharing cultural knowledge and technical art processes.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Buffalo Gap, SD
(605) 441-9790 • blazecat49@yahoo.com

Sculpture • Ceramics

Yoko "Tenyoh" Sugawara*
Ceramic artist who helps students shape their ideas into three-dimensional artworks.
Best audience: Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Rapid City, SD
(605) 787-1099 • tenyohcreations@gmail.com

Native Arts • Contemporary Art

Daryl No Heart*
Hunkpapa Lakota artist who shares Indigenous artistic traditions, contemporary Native art practices, cultural perspective, and hands-on artmaking.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Rapid City, SD
(605) 593-6352 • dnoheart@yahoo.com

Printmaking • Bookmaking • Textile Arts

Susan Heggestad*
Printmaker and community artist who teaches printmaking, bookmaking, drawing, textile collage, murals, identity, and personal expression.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Vermillion, SD
(605) 670-8375 • artist@susanheggestad.com • http://www.susanheggestad.com

Sculpture

Darwin Wolf*
Sculptor who helps students create sculptures they can be proud of while building hands-on skills and confidence in three-dimensional art.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School
Location: Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 362-5256 • darwinwolf@wolfbronze.com • http://www.wolfbronze.com

Three-Dimensional Art • Creative Process

Ann Taecker*
Teaching artist who expands visual art beyond two dimensions through hands-on creative projects and artmaking experiences.
Best audience: K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult
Location: Watertown, SD
(605) 882-1780 • anntaecker@hotmail.com

Watercolor • Photography • Printmaking

Amber Zora*
Visual artist who teaches watercolor, ink drawing, printmaking, cyanotypes, comics, and digital photography through accessible hands-on exploration.
Best audience: Pre-K • K-5 • Middle School • High School • Adult • Nursing Homes
Location: Rapid City, SD
(605) 661-8281 • ambermariezora@gmail.com • https://amberzora.com/home.html