



## **ARTISTS-IN-SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

**Artists-In-Schools** is an artist residency program conducted by the Arts Council of Henderson County. The goal of this program is to place qualified visiting artists in all disciplines into the county schools, upon request, to enrich and support Common Core Curricula, and to enhance the cultural experience of the students.

At present, we have several Title 1 schools in our community with an underserved population of students who have little to no access to the cultural arts. We have a school system that no longer teaches or presents the traditional Appalachian crafts, music, and dance that is the heritage of many of our students. There is an insufficient number of teachers of the arts in the district. Some schools have no art or music, and some have one or the other once a year.

The Artists-In-Schools program does more than place artists in the classroom to do art activities. It is a broad program that touches all cultural aspects of the school curriculum. The visiting artists in the schools in the past years have brought experiences to students in the areas of visual art, music, storytelling, dance, puppet making, creative writing, theater and crafts. For several years, the Arts Council has successfully enriched the lives of thousands of students with a variety of art experiences. In the 2014-15 academic year, 5,472 students were served in this artist residency program.

In every case, teaching artists who are placed in school situations have unique talents to share with students on a specific time schedule. They are placed under contract from the Arts Council and must document their hours and projects. The participating artists report to the Artists-In-Schools Coordinator, Christine Mariotti, who oversees the selection of the schools and the artists and plans for a good fit. Often the experiences are publicized in local media to emphasize their originality and interest to the general public, resulting in return visits from the artists with new projects at different grade levels.

The Arts Council of Henderson County is a community organization whose mission is to promote, advocate for, and nurture the arts in Henderson County and Western North Carolina. As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, the Arts Council seeks individuals and/or other organizations/businesses who wish to provide support for this program.

Find out more about supporting the Artists-In-Schools program by contacting Managing Director, Patty Smyers, at [acofhc@bellsouth.net](mailto:acofhc@bellsouth.net), or by calling 828.693.8504.