ARTS IN EDUCATION—

EVERYTHING ACTORS WORK PROGRAM MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW

1. *What Exactly in Arts in Education? What is the difference between arts in education and teaching artists?*

   Arts in education is the term used to define the discipline, program, and or field where professional artists utilize the arts to develop academic and/or social skills with school age children. A teaching artist is the individual who delivers the curriculum. Some examples of arts in education programs: a) first graders learning whole numbers through music; b) 7th graders expressing their issues related to gangs by creating a dance piece; c) 11th graders writing and performing a play based on the theme of global warming.

2. *Teaching Artists talk about "doing"/ "creating" residencies. What is a residency?*

   A residency is another name for arts-in-education curriculum.   The curriculum should be based on education standards. New York City arts in education programs are based on the blueprint (http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/index2.html) and Los Angeles programs on the California standards (http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/) A residency consists of lesson plans for each session; each lesson plan includes a warm-up, the main activity, and a cool-down. In some cases residencies are assembly programs.*(An excellent source for curriculum: http://www.creativeeducationalsystems.com/)*

   The number of classes in a residency and the length of each class session will vary depending on the needs/desire of the school and the budget for the program.

3. *Is being a teaching artist the same as being a drama teacher? A dance teacher? A music teacher?*

No. Usually arts in education residencies are integrated into the curriculum of another subject, and are for all students. Even if the residency includes a production-there is a role or function for all students.

4. *Do American school children have to be taught the arts?*

This is a very interesting question. Although most State Department of Educations have arts standards, in practice the arts are not mandatory.

5. *How do you get work as a teaching artist?*

In most areas of the country, the school or school system contracts with a vendor/provider to deliver arts in education programs. In some cases these organizations are arts organizations (for example The Lincoln Center Institute, The LA Music Center, the Kennedy Center, American Ballet Theater, etc.). In major cities, like New York and Los Angeles there are organizations whose sole purpose is arts in education. Arts in education vendors/providers have a roster of teaching artist who "they match" with residencies. Most organizations require an applicant to both submit a resume and to audition. The audition usually consists of presenting a part of a lesson. **Vendors/providers rely heavily on recommendations from other teaching artists and of course AWP!** Schools in LA County's *Arts for All* program are required to hire artists on the County's list. Individual artists, whose residencies have been approved by the County, can be on the list.

Although most vendors/providers do not require a bachelor's degree, it is harder to obtain work without a degree.

6. *Can I earn a living as a teaching artist?*

Most teaching artists have other work.   Teaching artist work tends to be seasonal (more work in the spring than the fall) and very few full-time positions.   Many teaching artists earn money from their art; others do office work; others tour guiding, etc. There is a wide salary range—from $20 to $80 per hour. Employers with larger budgets pay more-but also hire teaching artists with more experience. In most cases, if an artist makes a commitment to a residency, he/she must make all the sessions.

7. *What is the role of the teacher? The principal? Other school staff?*

   In the ideal situation, the vendor/provider and/or the teaching artist have had teacher/school input in the creation of the residency, and the teacher has a role in its implementation. However, this is not always the case, and it is possible that the teaching artist will get little to no support from the school, and/or vendor/provider. **Regardless of the role of the teacher, a teaching artist should never be alone with students.** The law requires at least one licensed person to be in the classroom at all times.

8. *Do private schools hire teaching artists?*

   Most private schools offer traditional drama, music, and dance classes, and do not use teaching artists.

9. *Is there a way to be trained to be a teaching artist?*

   Yes and no. Teaching artists are not licensed/credentialed/certified teachers, and therefore there is no uniform requirement. As mentioned previously, teaching artist applicants are evaluated by their resume and audition. The Fund offers classes in both New York and LA; the classes are designed to help members who have had teaching experience with children develop a foundation for teaching artist work. Providers/vendors usually provide training to teaching artists on their roster, and college-level courses are also helpful. **If you are interested in becoming teaching artists, you need to get experience, and the best way to do so is by volunteering with a school-based program.**

10. *Can teaching artists' skills apply to other work environments?*

    Definitely! Many areas have afterschool programs; teaching artists have also used their skills to develop programs for seniors, those in health care institutions etc. Although there are major differences in both curriculum and purpose, teaching artists have found their experience helpful when teaching their craft privately or on a University level.

    The Actors Work Program is the employment and training arm of The Actors Fund. The Actors Work Program assists entertainment and performing arts professionals in identifying and finding meaningful sideline and parallel careers. For more information, go to http://www.actorsfund.org/services/Sideline_Work_and_New_Careers/index_html.