



ARTS FOR THE AGING

Engaging Older Adults in Health Improvement and Life Enhancement through the Arts

We are seeking talented, qualified, and committed Teaching Artists to lead workshops in Washington D.C., Maryland (Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties), and Virginia (Fairfax County, Arlington and Alexandria).

Arts for the Aging teaching artists are vital to fulfilling our mission of engaging older adults and care partners in health improvement and life enhancement through regular participation in multi-disciplinary arts. Arts for the Aging teaching artists carry out the mission by sharing their unique talent and experience as makers: by leading ongoing engagement in various art forms, and by demonstrating that making art is giving form to ideas, experiences and inner images.

Qualifications:

- Practicing professional artist/performer
- Experience leading arts workshops -- for older adults is preferred but not required
- Experience with virtual programing is preferred but not required
- Skills and desire to work with older adults with varying levels of physical and cognitive abilities
- Skills to collaborate effectively with other artists
- Demonstration of patience, respect, and compassion
- Creativity, flexibility, and sense of humor are musts!

An ideal candidate would be available for programing between 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at least two days a week, Monday through Friday. Additional availability for scheduling is preferential.

Please submit a resume, cover letter, and samples of your work (if applicable) to Program Director Sarah House at shouse@aftaarts.org or mail to 15800 Crabbs Branch Way, Suite 300, Rockville, MD 20855

In your cover letter please include a description of two arts engagement activities you might include in a workshop. Be mindful that Arts for the Aging programs do more than entertain; they should engage the older adult participants in in the creative process. Please also describe how those activities might be adapted for participants with physical and cognitive impairments.

Arts for the Aging workshops:

- *Are traditionally one hour long.*
- *Have an average group size of 16 participants (or smaller for hands-on activities like art-making)*

- *Take place in senior care communities in Washington D.C., Maryland (Montgomery and Prince George's Counties) and Virginia (Fairfax County, Arlington and Alexandria). Or virtually over Zoom, GoTo or other platforms.*
- *Emphasize participation and enjoyment, not a final product.*
- *Are best suited for older adults with mild to moderate levels of cognitive impairment.*

Training Process

If selected, the teaching artist will participate in Arts for the Aging's Teaching Artist Training program. This includes (but is not limited to) observing and co-teaching a minimum of three programs led by current TA's. The teaching artist will also create a written program curriculum during this time and engage for a stipend to teach programs with AFTA on a trial basis for a period of three months and a minimum of five workshops. If mutually agreeable, the parties may enter into an open-ended contract.

With the assistance of the program director, the teaching artist will write lesson plans for the workshop based on AFTA's methodology. Post-workshop written evaluations via an online questionnaire are required after each session.

Additional Benefits:

- Arts for the Aging presents Professional Development workshops for its teaching artists as part of our Teaching Artist Institute.
- Teaching artists are encouraged to attend monthly virtual rehearsals. Participation is voluntary, and they are compensated for their time at all trainings and rehearsals.
- Opportunities to collaborate on programming with other teaching artists and community partners such as The Phillips Collection and the Smithsonian Institution.

Learn more at www.aftaarts.org

To view Arts for the Aging workshops in action visit our Vimeo page:

<https://vimeo.com/user53313980>