



## 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 programming 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 programming 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](mailto: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 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](http://www.aftaarts.org)**

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

<https://vimeo.com/user53313980>