

Partnering with

Wolf Trap Institute
for Early Learning
Through the Arts

Application Process to Become a
Wolf Trap Institute
National Affiliate



**WOLF
TRAP**

INSTITUTE FOR
EARLY LEARNING
THROUGH THE ARTS



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ABOUT WOLF TRAP INSTITUTE FOR EARLY LEARNING THROUGH THE ARTS

Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, an internationally respected program of Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts (a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization), provides innovative arts-integrated teaching strategies and services to early childhood educators, caregivers, parents, and young children through the disciplines of drama, music, and dance.

Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts (Wolf Trap Institute) supports the cognitive, social/emotional, and physical development of children three months old through Kindergarten, with the goal of increasing their school readiness. The Institute provides professional development programs in arts integration to early childhood educators designed to infuse the performing arts into early childhood best practices, helping young children:

- Develop emergent literacy and language skills
- Learn Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) concepts, vocabulary, and habits of mind
- Experience and practice 21st century skills such as communication, creativity, collaboration, and cooperation, which are key to future success
- Achieve preschool and Kindergarten learning outcomes as defined by national and state education standards, national early childhood organizations, and local education districts.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY

Established in 1981 through a grant from the Head Start Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Wolf Trap Institute is a national leader in early childhood arts-integrated education. Each year Wolf Trap Institute provides innovative arts-integrated teaching strategies and services in more than 900 classrooms, serving more than 55,000 young children, their parents, and educators throughout the United States through its network of National Affiliates and services across the country.

Studies demonstrate that an enriched, stimulating environment can enhance a child's cognitive, academic, and social development. Providing such an environment is critical during the first five years, when 85% of brain growth occurs. Wolf Trap Institute helps to prepare young children for a lifetime of learning by educating teachers in how to use active, multi-sensory, arts-integrated learning experiences in the classroom.

Wolf Trap Teaching Artists – professional performing artists specially trained in the Wolf Trap model – partner with early childhood educators in the classroom to provide developmentally appropriate, arts-integrated learning strategies within the framework of the early childhood curriculum. Numerous evaluations of the program over the years have shown positive results, including increasing children’s skills acquisition and knowledge in a broad range of learning areas.

Wolf Trap Institute’s work is continually updated to align with the latest guidelines and recommendations for best practices in early childhood education from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, National Head Start, the International Reading Association, the Committee on Early Childhood Mathematics, and the National Academy of Sciences, as well as state and national early education standards and curricula, including Common Core State Standards.

Currently, Wolf Trap Institute is addressing national STEM educational priorities through its Early Childhood STEM Learning Through the Arts (Early STEM/Arts) program, helping to prepare children for successful, fulfilling lives in the 21st century.

ARTS INTEGRATION: A UNIQUE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

The use of performing arts as a multi-sensory teaching tool enhances approaches to learning by accommodating individual learning styles, encouraging active participation, and creating motivation and enthusiasm for learning. Opportunities for children to participate in arts-integrated learning experiences are essential to foster the creative process that supports sequential learning and habits of mind, creative problem solving, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration – the 21st Century Skills that are vital to the growth of our children into the dynamic workforce of the future.

WOLF TRAP INSTITUTE NATIONAL AFFILIATES

WHAT IS A NATIONAL AFFILIATE?

Currently there are 16 Wolf Trap Institute National Affiliates throughout the country replicating Wolf Trap Institute's model of performing arts-integrated education, allowing this valuable program to reach thousands of children, educators, and parents. National Affiliates exist under a sponsoring organization and receive professional development from Wolf Trap Education staff and Master Teaching Artists; access to Wolf Trap Institute resources and curriculum materials (including an interactive online learning community); and technical assistance and support in administering Wolf Trap Institute programming in their communities.

Each Wolf Trap Institute National Affiliate identifies a Director who oversees the program's management and implementation. A National Affiliate must agree to implement and sustain the Wolf Trap Institute program model according to defined program standards and guidelines.

Wolf Trap's National Affiliates across the country serve more than 55,000 children, parents, and teachers in more than 900 classrooms annually.

WHAT IS A SPONSORING ORGANIZATION?

Partner organizations that replicate the Wolf Trap Institute's model are considered sponsoring organizations. Most often, these are arts organizations; however they may be universities, early childhood associations, or other organizations actively serving children and educators in some capacity.

The sponsoring organization must be capable of initiating, supporting, and sustaining a Wolf Trap Institute National Affiliate. Indicators of capability include:

- Not-for-profit status
- Institutional commitment to develop and maintain a Wolf Trap National Affiliate
- Articulated mission statement and artistic vision with demonstrated comparable arts education programs in communities served
- Administrative and financial capacity that would allow for long term sustainability of a Wolf Trap National Affiliate
- Sufficient committed funding to support program implementation
- Access to and an existing working relationship with Teaching Artists (professional performing artists with experience working in process-oriented arts-in-education school-based programs)
- Access to early childhood consultants familiar with local early childhood and arts-in-education best practices

- Experience in creating and administering arts-in-education programs that are school or center-based
- Relationships with school districts and/or Head Start, or other preschool or Kindergarten programs
- Commitment to adhere to the Wolf Trap Institute Residency Program Models, policies and procedures.

BENEFITS OF BEING A WOLF TRAP INSTITUTE NATIONAL AFFILIATE

- Association with a nationally recognized leader in performing arts-integrated early childhood education
- Affiliation with Wolf Trap Foundation as a pioneer in developing, researching, and disseminating model early childhood programs that support early education skills development including emergent literacy and language, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), cognitive and social/emotional skills, and health and wellness.
- Partnership with a national network of arts education professionals to provide program expertise and advocacy
- Comprehensive training and continuing professional development opportunities for Wolf Trap Teaching Artists, customized to meet the needs of each affiliate
- Ability to implement proven Wolf Trap Institute program models, including 16-session classroom residencies for preschool and Kindergarten, Early Childhood STEM Learning Through the Arts, Baby Artsplay!™ (serving infants, toddlers and parents), and other initiatives
- Receive unlimited access to results of research studies of Wolf Trap Institute programs as available
- Share information, knowledge, and/or training on topics such as best practices, trends in early childhood, and curricula standards
- Share relevant news articles, marketing and fundraising ideas
- Access to online classroom residency forms and other resources
- Participation in regularly scheduled Directors conferences in a variety of forums as well as other opportunities to network with affiliate partners
- Access to administrative staff and Teaching Artist professional development opportunities
- Access to marketing materials and grant proposal documents to adapt for National Affiliate funding and development
- Receive administrative support and technical assistance from national office staff.

REPLICATION

REPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Sponsor an initial One-Week Residency (5 days) or workshops to observe the Wolf Trap model conducted in your community and to engage with Wolf Trap national office staff.
2. Submit a letter of intent to the Senior Director, Education, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, stating institutional support for initiating, maintaining, and sustaining a Wolf Trap Affiliate. Include a draft budget and create a timetable for the first two years of program implementation.
3. Create and submit a feasibility analysis document that identifies:
 - a. Education, artistic and community needs, issues and concerns of potential supporters and collaborators (i.e. Head Start directors, school administration, local arts organizations, etc.)
 - b. Pool of qualified performing artists to be trained as Wolf Trap Teaching Artists
 - c. Organizational leadership, governance, and administrative structure
 - d. Organization representative to serve as the Wolf Trap Institute Affiliate Director
 - e. Committed and potential funding sources to sustain the Wolf Trap Institute program for a minimum of five years
4. Host a demonstration One-Week Residency, planned in conjunction with Wolf Trap national office to:
 - a. Identify and invite potential education partners and collaborators
 - b. Invite potential funders, sponsors, and board members to observe classroom residency sessions and to meet with visiting Senior Director, Education, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts or other Wolf Trap Education senior management staff
5. Visit and meet officers and staff at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts at the Center for Education in Vienna, Virginia
6. Assign a staff member to be the Wolf Trap Institute Affiliate Director, who serves as the primary program administrator and Wolf Trap liaison
7. Create a committee and/or identify advisors to advance and support the National Affiliate.

If replication is approved, Wolf Trap Foundation national office will:

- Provide pertinent Wolf Trap Institute information and materials
- Meet with potential funders, sponsors, and board members at your site
- Coordinate a visit for key members of potential affiliate site to the Center for Education at Wolf Trap
- Approve proposal for replication after funding has been secured
- Prepare a replication agreement with affiliate site
- Select a Master Teaching Artist for training new National Affiliate Teaching Artists
- Coordinate New Artist Training with the National Affiliate

- Facilitate logistical and administrative arrangements for Master Trainer to conduct New Artist Training
- Work with affiliates to develop customized ongoing professional development and provide technical assistance and oversight to further the skills of Wolf Trap Teaching Artists and National Affiliate Directors in Wolf Trap models, new initiatives, and best practices in early childhood education.

WOLF TRAP INSTITUTE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MODELS

16-SESSION CLASSROOM RESIDENCIES

Classroom Residencies support an integrated approach to both teaching and learning by providing early childhood educators with professional development in arts-integrated strategies and hands-on techniques to enrich children’s learning experiences. Teaching Artists instruct, guide, model, and coach preschool and Kindergarten classroom teachers in arts strategies that support children’s development while reinforcing national, state, and local standards, including Common Core, and emergent literacy goals. Teachers gain an understanding of how to use the performing arts to reinforce their curriculum as well as teach children important skills and concepts.

The Wolf Trap residency model is a 16-Session Classroom Residency program. During a classroom residency, a Teaching Artist and an early childhood educator partner together to translate instructional goals into performing arts strategies designed to meet the objectives of the teacher and the classroom curriculum. Within this collaboration, early childhood educators gain an understanding of the important connection between the performing arts and a child’s learning process. By observing and participating in the Teaching Artist’s lessons with the children, as well as developing arts-integrated lessons, the teacher gains the experience, confidence, and skills necessary to integrate the arts into the curriculum and daily routine. Classroom teachers learn how performing arts integrated strategies and techniques foster children’s growth in all development domains, including:

- Emergent literacy
- Creative problem-solving and critical thinking
- Expressive and receptive language development
- Self-awareness, self-confidence, and self-regulation
- Large and small muscle coordination and body awareness
- Exploration of individual creativity
- Social and emotional development
- Motivation and enthusiasm for learning
- Cognitive skills.

After the completion of the classroom residency, the teacher has acquired the skills necessary to embed arts strategies within daily practices and apply them in current and future classes to further the success of children.

Curriculum / Instructional Materials are provided by Wolf Trap Institute for early childhood educators who participate in residencies.

EARLY CHILDHOOD STEM LEARNING THROUGH THE ARTS RESIDENCIES

Wolf Trap Early Childhood STEM Learning Through the Arts (Early STEM/Arts) provides innovative, effective arts-integrated professional learning for classroom teachers designed to advance children’s learning with dynamic and developmentally appropriate experiences that engage young learners in the discovery process integral to the sciences, engineering, and math. This intentional approach to learning and educational practices embeds elements of dance, drama, and music with preschool and Kindergarten curricula standards in math, the sciences – including scientific inquiry – and principles of engineering methodology. Aligning with local and national standards and curricula, Wolf Trap Institute Early STEM/Arts programs address two national priorities – STEM and early childhood education – and is informed by experience in classrooms around the nation along with recommendations and position statements offered by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the National Academy of Sciences, Next Generation Science Standards, and the National Research Council’s Committee on Early Childhood Mathematics.

Modeled after the 16-session Classroom Residency program and goals, Early STEM/Arts residencies pair a Teaching Artist and an early childhood educator together to translate instructional goals into performing arts strategies designed to meet the objectives of the teacher and the classroom STEM curriculum. Classroom teachers learn how to improve STEM skills for children through developmentally appropriate, active, arts-integrated learning, focusing on real world applications of:

- Math content
- Scientific inquiry
- Principles of engineering methodology
- 21st century skills: creative problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication
- Habits of mind and approaches to learning.

BABY ARTSPLAY!™ RESIDENCIES

Baby Artsplay!™ residencies enhance young children’s learning in all areas of development through the performing arts of music, movement and drama. Taught by veteran Wolf Trap Teaching Artists, the classes engage children, ages three months to three years, their parents or caregivers, as well as educators in arts experiences designed to include all learning styles in multi-sensory, active experiences that facilitate language and vocabulary, social/emotional and motor skills, and promote understanding of the arts as an integral part of early childhood development. Baby Artsplay!™ residencies can be classroom or family-based and are presented in a variety of settings including Early Head Start classrooms or socialization programs, public libraries, and classes for teen parents in alternative high schools.

The program is designed to:

- Support children’s multi-sensory learning styles, sense of discovery, and innate curiosity
- Stimulate children’s vocalizations and language
- Use steady beat as a tool to assist children in focusing and self-regulation
- Offer children the opportunity to experience a variety of music tempos and movement qualities
- Encourage children’s social emotional skills
- Provide experiences that stimulate children to make connections to their world and environment
- Promote early literacy and vocabulary.

Parents and caregivers will:

- Learn the important connection between the performing arts and infant/toddler learning and development
- Understand the importance of singing/chanting and develop confidence using voice that is pleasing, comforting, and appropriate for infants and toddlers to hear and begin to imitate
- Develop confidence in using simple dance and movement with infants and toddlers that is appropriate to their age/stage of development
- Learn how to use the performing arts to introduce children’s literature that is engaging, expressive, multi-sensory, and fosters a love of books
- Learn and practice quality and developmentally appropriate songs, movement, and drama experiences to use with infants and toddlers
- Learn arts strategies that can be infused throughout children’s daily routine that promote receptive and expressive language.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

Professional Development Workshops for early childhood educators teach educators arts-integrated strategies that support and are aligned with early childhood curriculum standards. Workshop participants will be able to immediately apply strategies in a classroom setting. Wolf Trap Institute Workshops are conducted by professional Master Teaching Artists specializing in music, movement, drama, and puppetry. All Master Teaching Artists have developed workshops based on their extensive experience working with teachers and children in the early childhood classroom. (Handout included.)

During a Wolf Trap Institute Professional Development Workshop, early childhood educators will:

- Explore innovative arts-integrated strategies that engage children’s imagination and enhance early childhood curriculum outcomes
- Learn creative methods for classroom management and daily transitions
- Discover avenues to foster children’s creative thinking, problem solving, communication, and collaboration.

Family Involvement Workshops conducted by Wolf Trap Teaching Artists are interactive sessions that bring young children and their parents/caregivers together for a shared experience in the performing arts. These workshops offer parents and caregivers of young children an introduction to performing arts integration experiences and provide an opportunity to sample the work the Teaching Artist brings into their child’s classroom.

Customized Arts-Integrated Professional Development Multi-day Training Sessions address a specific program focus for Teaching Artists or classroom teachers. These sessions may address specific curriculum content associated with Wolf Trap Education development initiatives or may be designed in response to requests from National Affiliates.

One-Week Demonstration Residencies are conducted by Master Teaching Artists in collaboration with the National Office for potential sponsors, funders, and partners to see the Wolf Trap model in the classroom.

Estimated Expenses To Become A National Affiliate

Initial One-Week Residency (4 classrooms, 2 workshops)

Residency fee	\$3,500
Per diem - \$50 x 6 days	\$300
Airfare	\$600
Lodging - \$150 x 6 days	\$900
Luggage - \$25 per flight	\$50
Local Transportation	\$300
Other transportation (parking, gas, etc.)	\$100
Total	\$5,750

Demonstration One-Week Residency (4 classrooms, 2 workshops)

Residency fee	\$3,500
Per diem - \$50 x 6 days	\$300
Lodging - \$150 x 6 days	\$900
Airfare	\$600
Luggage - \$25 per flight	\$50
Local Transportation	\$300
Other transportation (parking, gas, etc.)	\$100
Total	\$5,750

Meeting at Wolf Trap Foundation offices in Vienna, VA

(2 staff from applicant organization)

Per diem - \$50 x 2 days	\$200
Airfare - \$600 per flight	\$1,200
Lodging - \$200 x 2 days	\$800
Luggage - \$25 per flight	\$50
Local transportation	\$150
Other transportation (parking, gas, etc.)	\$100
Total	\$2,500

Total Application Budget	\$14,000
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New Artist Training (4 trainees, 1 trainer)

Trainer fee	\$3,000
Trainee fees - \$500 x 4 trainees	\$2,000
Per diem - \$50 x 6 days	\$300
Airfare	\$600
Lodging - \$150 x 6 days	\$900
Luggage - \$25 per flight	\$50
Local Transportation	\$300
Other transportation (parking, gas, etc.)	\$100
Materials	\$100
Total	\$7,350

Grand Total (application budget plus New Artist Training)	\$21,350
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**All travel costs are estimates.*

***Application budget does not include overhead for applicant organization.*

Budget, Minimum Annual Affiliate Expenses

These expenses reflect the estimated cost for the minimum number of affiliate program services annually. Costs vary by community.

12 Preschool and/or Kindergarten Classroom Residencies	
Teaching Artist fees at \$1,000/residency	\$12,000
Teaching supplies at \$25/residency	\$300
Professional Development for Four (4) Teaching Artists	
Training fees for 4 Teaching Artists (\$250/day x 2 days)	\$2,000
Local Travel	
1 visit at \$15 x 12 visits	\$180
3 day Biennial Conference at Wolf Trap Institute National Office for Affiliate Director	
50% of airfare	\$300
Dinner meal 3 days	\$60
50% of local travel	\$75
Subtotal	\$14,915
Indirect Costs: Office Supplies, Postage, Printing, and Utilities (10%)	\$1,492
Administrative Costs (20%)	\$2,983
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$19,390

**Costs vary by community*

***All travel costs are estimates.*