



ARTS FOR THE AGING

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

**Seeking talented, qualified, and committed teaching artists to lead in-person and virtual 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 givers in health improvement and life enhancement through regular participation in multi-disciplinary arts. They carry out this mission by sharing their unique talent and experience as professional artists: by leading multisensory programs in various art forms, and by demonstrating that making art is giving form to ideas, experiences, and imagination.

Teaching artists customize their programs to fit the needs of client partners, seniors, and caregivers at client partner locations throughout the Greater Washington D.C. Area, including virtual delivery over Zoom. Our fee-based service model includes financial aid and subsidized partner opportunities for communities with limited access to quality, therapeutic arts programming.

We prioritize partnerships with communities that are BIPOC-impacting and/or BIPOC-led (Black, Indigenous, People of Color). We are presently engaged in and committed to the guided interrogation of our current policies and practices in an effort to become a fully anti-racist organization. With a commitment to both diversity and inclusion, we are especially interested in hiring faculty whose teaching practices are aligned with anti-racist and anti-oppressive models.

**Learn more about Arts for the Aging on our [website](#) and in our [program guide](#).**

To view Arts for the Aging workshops in action [visit our Vimeo page](#).

### **Qualifications:**

- Practicing professional artist, performer, art therapist
- Experience leading arts workshops, classes, or experiences – for older adults is preferred but not required (we have an extensive training program)
- Commitment to diversity and inclusion evidenced in teaching practices and philosophy
- 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!
- Willingness to lead workshops in Greater Washington D.C., especially with client partners in Virginia
- Proficient in English, and conversational in Spanish, Korean, or Mandarin preferred but not required

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 preferred.

**Arts for the Aging workshops:**

- Are traditionally one hour long
- Have an average group size of 16 participants
- Take place with community and residential care partners in Washington D.C., Maryland (Montgomery and Prince George's Counties) and Virginia (Fairfax County, Arlington, and Alexandria), or virtually over Zoom or other platforms
- Emphasize participation and enjoyment, process over final product
- Incorporate multisensory and multidisciplinary art aspects to promote participation
- Are suited for older adults with mild to moderate levels of cognitive or physical health conditions
- Current artists and arts disciplines [available here](#)

**Training Process**

If selected, the prospective teaching artist will participate in our training program. This includes (but is not limited to) observing and co-teaching a minimum of three programs led by mentor teaching artist. The prospective teaching artist will also create a written program curriculum during this time and engage to teach programs on a trial basis for a period of three months and a minimum of five workshops. **All training time is fully compensated.** If mutually agreeable, the parties may enter into an open-ended contract. With the assistance of the program director and a mentor teaching artist, the prospective teaching artist will write lesson plans for the programs based on our 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.
- Starting teaching artist workshop fees are \$80 per workshop.
- Teaching artists are encouraged to attend monthly virtual meetings. Participation is voluntary, and they are compensated for their time at all trainings and meetings at the rate of \$30 per hour.
- Opportunities to collaborate on programming with other teaching artists and community partners such as The Phillips Collection and the Smithsonian Institution.

**To Apply:**

Please submit a resume, cover letter, and samples of your work (if applicable) to [info@aftaarts.org](mailto:info@aftaarts.org)

No phone calls or postal mail please.

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 are not entertainment; they actively engage the older adult participants in the creative process and intentional participation. Please also describe how those activities might be adapted for participants with physical and cognitive health conditions. Your cover letter should also include a diversity and inclusion statement that addresses past experiences and activities that reflect your commitment to support diverse populations.

**Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.**