Our mission is to engage older adults and caregivers with diverse abilities and backgrounds in health improvement and life enhancement through regular participation in the multidisciplinary arts.
Since 1988, Arts for the Aging has been a pioneer in the design, development, and delivery of artist-led, multi-disciplinary, participatory arts programs for older adults. These programs are designed to improve health, enhance quality of life, and combat isolation.

Arts for the Aging is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization funded through grants, donations, and workshop fees. Our mission’s reach is focused especially on providing financial aid opportunities for underserved community and residential care settings.

www.artsfortheaging.org
Artistic disciplines that we currently offer:

Theater  Drawing  Music
Dance  Collage  Creative
Writing
Singing  Creative
Movement  Poetry
Mixed-media  Expressive Arts
Theatrical  Improvisation  Painting
Photography  Musical Theatre
Museum Outings

Areas where we would like to expand:

music of all genres, art history, and culturally specific art forms.

At Arts for the Aging we not only value diversity, we are actively seeking it. We are currently growing our teaching artist faculty with the goal of more accurately representing the Greater DC in areas of culture, language, and artistic discipline and inspiration. We need teaching artists bilingual in Spanish, Korean, Mandarin, and ASL.
Do you enjoy collaborating with artists of different arts disciplines?

Are you improvisational, friendly, and eager to be part of a community of artists and administrators who care deeply about advancing the field of creative aging?

Are you a professional artist interested in using your creativity to bring uplifting, therapeutic, and joyful programming to older adults and their caregivers?

Apply to be an Arts for the Aging teaching artist and discover new ways to share your art form virtually and in-person.

www.artsfortheaging.org
Engaging Older Adults and Caregivers with Diverse Abilities and Backgrounds in Health Improvement and Life Enhancement through the Multidisciplinary Arts

Seeking talented, qualified, and committed teaching artists to lead in-person and virtual workshops in Greater Washington D.C.

Arts for the Aging Teaching Artists are vital to fulfilling our mission. They carry it out 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. These programs take place in community and residential care settings.

Teaching artists customize their programs to fit the needs of clients, partners, older adults, and caregivers at client and partner locations throughout Greater D.C. – Maryland (Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties), Virginia (Fairfax and Arlington Counties, City of Alexandria), and Washington D.C. Wards 4, 5, 7, and 8. Our program model is hybrid with virtual delivery over Zoom and in-person programs. Our fee-based service model includes financial aid and subsidized opportunities for communities with limited access to quality, therapeutic arts programming. Current artists and arts disciplines available here.

We prioritize clientele (community and residential care settings) 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 more fully culturally equitable. With a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging (DEIAB) we are especially interested in hiring faculty with diverse abilities and backgrounds and 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 or any arts discipline, performer, art therapist, or art historian
- Experience leading arts workshops, classes, or experiences – for older adults is preferred but not required (we have an extensive training program)
- Commitment to DEIAB evidenced in teaching practices and philosophy
- Experience with virtual programming is preferred but not required
- Skills and desire to work with older adults with diverse 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 clients in Virginia
- Proficient in English, and conversational in Spanish, Korean, Mandarin, ASL, or other language preferred but not required
- Must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 according to CDC guidelines

An ideal candidate would be available for programming between 10 a.m. – 4 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 single workshops or part of a four-week series
- Have an average group size of 16 participants
- Take place with community and residential care clients in Maryland (Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties), Virginia (Fairfax and Arlington Counties, and City of Alexandria), and Washington, D.C. Wards 4, 5, 7, 8 or virtually over Zoom
- Emphasize participation and enjoyment; process over final product
- Incorporate multisensory and multidisciplinary arts aspects to promote participation
- Are suited for active older adults to those with mild to moderate levels of cognitive and/or physical health conditions

Training Process
If selected, the prospective teaching artist will participate in our training program. All training time is fully compensated. This includes (but is not limited to): reading a handbook covering our guidelines, methodologies, and current research in Creative Aging; reviewing recorded training videos; observing workshops; working with a mentor teaching artist; co-leading workshops observed by the program director. This process takes two-four months depending on schedules and availability. After the training period, if both parties agree, the prospective teaching artist becomes a 1099 contracted teaching artist.

Additional Benefits:
- Arts for the Aging presents 12-18 personal and professional development workshops per year for its teaching artists as part of our Teaching Artist Institute including organization-wide equity committee meetings with board, staff, and volunteers. All paid time.
- Opportunities to collaborate on programming with other teaching artists and community partners such as The Phillips Collection and the Smithsonian Institution.

Compensation:
Arts for the Aging Teaching Artists are 1099 contractors
- Starting teaching artist workshop fees are $88 per workshop.
- Program development, workshop prep time, program evaluation time, professional development trainings, and meetings $38 per hour.
- Reimbursements for workshop materials and supplies and mileage at the government rate

To Apply:
Please submit a resume, cover letter, and samples of your work (if applicable) to 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 passive entertainment; they actively engage older adults and caregivers in the creative process and the participatory arts. Please describe how your activities might be adapted for participants with aging-related physical and cognitive health conditions. Your cover letter should include a DEI/AB statement that addresses past experiences and activities that reflect your commitment to support diverse populations.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with interviews scheduled 1-2 times per year.