

All Quad City Arts programs are partially supported by Festival of Trees, Quad City Arts Partners and operating grants from the Iowa Arts Council and the Illinois Arts Council (both state agencies).



Quad City Arts' Visiting Artist Series receives tremendous support from many people and businesses. Local businesses donate lodging and rental vehicles, and area colleges and universities provide performance space.

Financial support for the Visiting Artist Series comes from more than 12 local, state, regional and national grants, as well as service fees paid by school districts, PTAs, businesses and service clubs and paid subscriptions to VAnguard, our subscription series for major donors.



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QUAD CITY ARTS



VISITING ARTIST SERIES

The Visiting Artist Series brings artists of international acclaim to the Quad City region, offering community members the opportunity to see world-class and world-renowned performers.

From jazz to dance to world music to classical, our audiences experience performances they could only see if they traveled to Chicago, L.A. or New York City. Since 1973 dancers, musicians, writers, actors and visual artists in over 300 residencies have reached more than 2,000,000 Quad City children and adults through the Visiting Artist Series.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ABOUT QUAD CITY ARTS

Quad City Arts is a nonprofit local arts agency dedicated to the growth and vitality of the Quad City region through the presentation, development and celebration of the arts and humanities. All Quad City Arts programs are partially supported by Festival of Trees, Quad City Arts Partners and operating grants from the Iowa Arts Council and Illinois Arts Council (both state agencies).

THE VISITING ARTIST SERIES

One- to two-week residencies provide in-depth and often repeated contact between the artist and audience. Each residency is designed to be interactive. Artists give 45 minute educational performances in three schools or community sites each day, creating personal interaction between the artists and the community. The primary goal is to expose and educate residents by broadening their understanding of the arts through interaction with artists from various cultural and artistic backgrounds.

Performances occur mostly in schools, but also at business locations, social service organizations and public facilities. The series offers programs for workers in factories, members of civic organizations and after-school programs, senior citizens, the correctional center, the disabled and programs for at-risk youth, including alternative school students, pregnant teens and at a residential facility for delinquent boys.

Each residency includes public performances in locations such as college campuses, the Quad City ArtsCenter and public libraries. The

residency concludes with a formal concert in a traditional concert hall. Most of these concerts are free, though donations are accepted at the door. This provides community members with the opportunity to hear and see a longer performance which reinforces what they have seen during the presentations during the week. Families often take this opportunity to enjoy together the artists the students have seen earlier at their own school.



The Visiting Artists are selected based on the quality of their work and the ability to interact with audiences of diverse backgrounds and ages. Artists are included in the development of each residency. We receive many letters throughout the year that the artists make a significant impact in the lives of area students - often inspiring them to take up the performing arts on their own. One school administrator commented "The Visiting Artist Series is very beneficial to area students. For many, it is their only cultural experience."

WHAT IS A RESIDENCY?

Most residencies are two weeks long. "Informal performances" make up the majority of the residency activities. They are 45 min. lecture/demonstrations, with time for questions & some sort of audience participation whenever possible (even if it's just teaching them a rhythm to clap along or vocabulary related to the art form). The artists perform three times a day (usually twice in the morning and once in the afternoon) primarily for elementary school students, but also at senior homes, Rotary clubs, public libraries, day centers for the handicapped, after-school programs and colleges. What makes us unique is that **we take the art to the people** - we provide the artists with a vehicle (and some help the first day) and they travel from performance site to site. Most artists find that by the second day they have no problem finding their way around.

We schedule two performances on the middle Saturday (usually a public library and perhaps a donor event in the evening). Sunday is the artists' day off.

DO THEY PERFORM FOR THE PUBLIC?

At the end of the residency we hold what we call the "formal concert": a full-length concert in a "traditional" concert hall. Most often this will be at a college or university, though occasionally we do use high school auditoriums or one of the Quad Cities' two restored vaudeville theaters. Professional sound and light technicians are hired for this performance.

HOW ARE THE ARTISTS SELECTED?

We schedule our residencies two years in advance. In late January or early February the Performing Arts Committee - comprised of arts administrators, teachers, artists, board members and business people - reviews potential residency artists. Quad City Arts' staff presents a slate of 20-25 artists to the committee, who then choose 7-10 residencies, balancing artistic discipline with budget and number of activities (we have to include enough activities to meet the requests of our performance sites). The group listens to and views work samples. Committee members are given biographical information and links to websites ahead of time in case they wish to do individual research. Quad City Arts' Board of Directors approves the final selection of artists prior to contracting.



HOW ARE THE ARTISTS MATCHED WITH PERFORMANCE SITES?

The spring before the season begins we provide school administrators with a list of artists & background information from which they choose which artists they would like to have perform at their school. The schools pay a small fee, a fraction of what it actually costs to present the assembly, and we write grants and hold fund-raisers to cover the rest of our operating costs.

HOW ARE THE SITES PREPARED FOR THE ARTIST'S VISIT?

We create study guides for every residency. Each school who books an artist receives a guide for every one of their teachers. The guides include background information on the artist and art form, ideas for pre-performance and follow up activities, as well as web sites and/or books for further exploration. Samples are available for download at www.quadcityarts.com (click on arts-in-education).

HOW ARE FEES DETERMINED?

The artist fee calculated by the agent or booking manager should include airfare to & from the Quad Cities, as well as meals.

Artists find the residencies to be a lot of work, but also a very rewarding experience. After their residency with us, many have asked their agents to look for similar opportunities. It's not often that an artist can stay in the same place for two weeks and reach as many, and as diverse, groups of people as they do through a Visiting Artist Series residency.

WHAT ABOUT LODGING, MEALS & TRANSPORTATION?

Quad City Arts provides hotel rooms and a vehicle for transportation between the residency sites. Local hotel managers donate all of our rooms each year, and car dealerships provide us with the use of the cars/vans as a generous in-kind contribution. Artists submit their gas receipts at the end of the residency, and we mail a reimbursement check following the residency.

Our airport is the Quad City International Airport (MLI). The Quad Cities Convention & Visitor's Bureau website, www.visitquadcities.com, has a lot of background information about our area. Most of the hotels provide at least a continental breakfast and restaurant prices are not outrageous - \$30 easily buys dinner with a drink, and most places are far less than that. We have a wide variety of chain restaurants like Applebees, Ruby Tuesdays, Carlos O'Kellys, and Bennigan's, plus many local favorites.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE ARTIST ARRIVES IN THE QUAD CITIES?

A staff or committee member meets the artists at the airport upon arrival the day before the residency begins and takes them to the hotel. At the beginning of each residency we provide the artists with a packet full of materials, including an updated schedule, a visitors guide, a list of "off the beaten track" restaurants, and a sample of the confirmation materials sent to the outreach sites before the residency. The packet also includes a Quad Cities road map and detail maps for many of the sites. The residency schedule includes addresses, contact names and phone numbers for each of the sites, and we pre-program a GPS unit for the artists to use during their stay. A Quad City Arts staff member accompanies the artist or ensemble to the residency sites the first day.