



Frequently Asked Questions for APL Program Providers

How do I become a part of next year's APL Programs?

A Request for Programs (RFP) for 2013-14 APL programs was disseminated in April 2013 and the deadline for submission has passed. APL will post another RFP in April 2014 for the 2014-2015 school year. APL encourages submissions from arts and cultural organizations throughout the eight counties of Western New York to submit up to four educational programs that may be implemented in partnership with schools. Programs may target students at the Pre-Kindergarten level, the K-12 level, and/or professional development of teachers. Announcements are made via the APL website, APL Facebook page, email and other APL partners' communications.

What happens once my program is accepted into APL?

APL will notify each program contact that has been accepted and will provide further details about the coming year. All accepted programs are brought together over the summer in an orientation process to explain the procedures and to establish agreements on APL policies including program evaluation.

Why is participation in APL of benefit to my program?

APL serves as a hub for arts and cultural education programs that have been reviewed to meet educational standards and will be in demand by schools and other learning centers. In addition, APL provides coordination, marketing, funding, professional development and other support to programs to ensure their success.

What happens if my program is offered only at a specific time of year or around an event, performance or exhibit?

Programs that focus on one-time events or time specific opportunities are encouraged to apply. If accepted, we will notify schools and other educational partners of the time sensitivity for the program. APL operates on the school calendar and due to the school application and planning process, programs may not begin until October or later.

How will participation in APL help me improve my program?

APL will offer numerous professional development trainings that will address program needs including curriculum development, program evaluation, and best practices in classroom and school partnerships. APL brings together diverse arts and cultural education providers who can provide an additional layer of networking and exploration of best practices.

What if I cannot offer programs during the school day in schools?

You may still submit a program submission but you will need to be clear as to the time availability of your program. APL is increasingly partnering with schools and learning centers that are seeking after school and out of school time programs. If your program is site specific, such as a performance outside of school or field trip, please indicate this in your submission.

How will APL help me connect with schools?

APL was conceived by Young Audiences of Western New York which has a 50-year history in working with schools and districts throughout the region. That experience will benefit APL programs as we promote them and engage schools and other learning partners. APL is also working closely with several key regional education partners such as the Buffalo School District,

BOCES in Erie, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties; and several colleges and universities who will provide guidance and connections to schools.

Will participation in APL require changes to my program?

Once APL programs are accepted into the initiative, APL will promote and advertise programs based on descriptions that were submitted. Once schools and educational partners select programs, they may request some aspect of customization, although APL will insist upon the integrity of program content. These decisions will have to be agreed upon prior to program implementation. A contract will be created to ensure program expectations.

Will I receive funding as part of my participation in APL?

APL seeks private and government funding for program implementation. Through a school program application, selected schools will be granted financial support to implement their requested APL program. Program providers will receive funding through this process.

Does APL take a portion of the funds needed to finance my program?

No. Programs that are accepted into the initiative must indicate the cost of their programs. That is then shared with schools and other partners who have indicated an interest in implementing their program. Programs will be paid what they have requested.

Our staff is small and we may have limitations on how to implement our program with schools. How will that affect participation in APL?

It is encouraged that organizations have dedicated education staff who can serve as coordinators and liaisons for their programs, but it is not required. For those organizations with a small staff, they will receive additional support from APL for coordination of school programming. In addition, professional development will be offered that will help small organizations understand how to build their education program capacity.

I would like to learn about other APL programs and see how they work. Can I do that?

APL is making plans to hold various training and professional development events that will connect APL program providers to one another. APL program providers may make plans to meet with one another at other times to visit schools and learn more about other programs. In addition, APL is planning a program evaluation process that may involve APL program providers to visit other sites to conduct evaluation procedures.

We do not have an education director or school program director on staff. Will that affect our participation in APL?

No, APL does not require a dedicated person on staff who is responsible for, and knowledgeable about education programming, however it is strongly encouraged. APL will host professional development opportunities throughout the school year that may be beneficial for small and under-resourced organizations to learn how to develop education programs that will meet the APL requirements.