



National Service and the Arts

Update

Since the publication of the National Service and the Arts Federal Resource Funding guide in 2008, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNS) has experienced several fluctuations in funding. In FY 2011 and FY 2012, the agency experienced especially dramatic cuts in funding for its programming, including the elimination of funding for the Learn and Serve America program. Funding in 2014 may increase if Congress approves the proposed budget of \$1.061 billion, an increase of \$12.2 million over the current funding level.¹

While funding for the Learn and Serve American program continues to be eliminated, other National Service programs continue to provide opportunities for arts organizations to receive support, as well as opportunities for individuals to volunteer as AmeriCorps service members in the capacity of the arts. The FY 2014 budget proposes the following funding for AmeriCorps programs:

AmeriCorps State and National: \$345,800,000
 AmeriCorps NCCC: \$29,882,000
 AmeriCorps VISTA: \$94,820,000

Appropriations

\$1.061 billion requested in FY 2014 budget

Year	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Appropriations ² (in dollars)	856,331,000	889,866,000	1.149 billion	1.076 billion	1.048 billion	1.055 billion	1.061 billion requested

How to Find National Service Opportunities

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides an active database that allows visitors to search for current AmeriCorps and Senior Corps volunteer opportunities. Visit the CNS website for more information regarding opportunities to serve with AmeriCorps and Senior Corps:

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps>.

Examples

The following current or recent volunteer opportunities highlight the continued support of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs for arts organizations across the country.

Arts Organizations with AmeriCorps*State and National Support

- **Arts for All, Inc., Tucson, AZ (2012-2013):** Arts for All, a non-profit corporation, engages students, ages three through adulthood, from throughout the greater Tucson area. Arts for All currently provides special considerations during the planning and programming for persons with

¹ Corporation for National and Community Service, "Budget," <http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/budget>.

² Ibid.

physical disabilities, visual limitations, hearing impairments, learning disabilities, cognitive limitations, emotional disturbances, mental illness, behavior problems, autism, and seizure disorders. All programs attempt to provide a quality art focus for children and youth with and without disabilities. Arts for All currently has 9 programs which merge humans services and the arts – services, day program for adults with disabilities, community-wide public performances, direct support professional training, and AmeriCorps.

The AmeriCorps member will be responsible for direct care for children and adults as needed, completing performance measures that comply with the current AmeriCorps contract, modeling and participating fully in all Arts for All activities and classes, assisting with accountability and accessibility for participants, and assisting in assuring that all contract and license requirements are being met, among other duties.

Source: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=47047&fromSearch=true>

- ***UCA – Douglas County Museum Education Coordinator, Douglas County, OR (2013-2014):*** Serving with the Douglas County Museum (www.co.douglas.or.us/museum), the VISTA member will serve closely with the Museum Education department to provide dynamic and effective educational programming for the youth of Douglas County. The Museum Education Coordinator will design, implement, and sustain high quality Museum-based educational programming to local school children and families of Douglas County.

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Source: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=33632&fromSearch=true>

- ***Providence Children’s Museum, Providence, Rhode Island (2013-2014):*** Join MuseumCorps and be part of a team that designs and leads programs for inner-city children in the greater Providence area. Create hands-on “Learning Clubs” for elementary school-aged children in after-school and summer programs, lead activities in Head Start pre-schools, and recruit and mentor volunteers who facilitate play and learning in the Museum’s exhibits. Members will be assigned to work on one of four service teams, facilitate learning in the Museum’s exhibits. Members will be assigned to work on one of four service teams, facilitate learning in the Museum’s hands-on exhibits and programs, and participate in scheduled training sessions at the Museum and through the AmeriCorps program.

The Museum AmeriCorps team is a group of dynamic and diverse individuals who, in conjunction with Museum staff, develop and lead activities for children ages 3-11 and recruit and mentor Museum volunteers who facilitate play and learning in the Museum’s exhibits.

Source: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=48472&fromSearch=true>

- ***Arts Corps – Teen Program, Seattle/Tacoma/Bremerton, Washington (2013-2014):*** The Teen Program includes teens attending Arts Corps classes who want to pursue advanced instruction and programming activities in their art form. Teen programming includes the Youth Speaks Seattle program which supports youth poets in Seattle and provides opportunities for youth to participate in the production of the Youth Speaks Seattle Poetry Slam series, culminating in the

selection of five youth poets to represent Seattle in national finals. In addition, the Teen Program includes open mic nights, creative circles within schools, and classes in music, dance, and spoken-word poetry. Members guide teens through a creative journey to help them build skills in their art form and to foster creative habits that will help them reach their full potential as leaders and artists.

The AmeriCorps member duties include: leading youth recruitment and outreach at local schools, selecting and supervising a 15-member youth leadership team that will organize poetry slams, writing circles, grassroots fundraisers, and community open mics, co-implementing and facilitating a two-month intensive social justice and artistry institute for 15 teen leaders, supporting young people to develop strong social justice analysis and structured support, and developing partnerships with local school sites to promote and recruit for teen programs, among other duties.

Source: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=51054&fromSearch=true>

- ***Seattle Music Partners, Seattle/Tacoma/Bremerton, Washington (2013-2014):*** SMP is a non-profit that provides free, after-school music lessons for underserved elementary school students in Seattle. Their mission is to help underserved children learn to play instruments and read music. They recruit, train, and support high school, college and community musicians who volunteer as music tutors/mentors. Under the guidance of SMP's staff, tutors lead individual music lessons with their student each week. They also provide instruments to participants when needed. SMP works in partnership with several schools in Seattle's Central District. In the past year, SMP provided as many as 100 students with weekly lessons, as well as working with over 100 tutors from high schools and colleges, as well as a number of adult amateur and professional musicians. Tutors gain invaluable job experience and leadership skills; improve with own musicianship, and strengthen their own optimism by directly addressing an inequality in their lives.

The AmeriCorps member will collaborate closely with existing staff and directly with students, tutors, families and school personnel. Responsibilities will include the following: direct service responsibilities daily on-site at schools, coordinating and leading activities of tutors and students, coordinating recruitment and training efforts, helping to organize recitals and related programs, helping to organize and lead parent meetings, coordinating artist visits to schools, and organizing student and tutor records, among other duties.

Source:<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=50270&fromSearch=true><https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=50339&fromSearch=true>

- ***University of Puget Sound Slater Museum, Seattle/Tacoma/Bremerton, Washington (2013-2014):*** The Slater Museum of Natural History provides great resources for environmental and natural history education, research, and inspiration in the Puget Sound region with our large collection of animals and plants. The volunteer will train local elementary school teachers in the use of natural history curricula and kits, and lead classroom lessons. In addition, the museum provides tours of the museum to K-college groups and work with other environmental education programs and non-profits for whom we provide specimens, workshops, and expertise.

The AmeriCorps member will serve as Outreach and Education Assistant. Duties will include: publicizing and facilitating the use of the Nature in the Classroom curricula to teachers and schools, training teachers in the use of the curricula, coordinating and conducting behind the scenes tours of the Museum, recruiting and training volunteer Docents who assist with tours, teaching, and hosting guests during the museum's open hours. Additionally, the member will

assist with the development of museum exhibits and additional curricula, and will learn museum techniques.

Source: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=50339&fromSearch=true>

- ***Appalachian Forest Heritage Area AmeriCorps, Randolph County, West Virginia (2011-2012):*** The Appalachian Forest Heritage Area: Enhancing Assets to Benefit Communities AmeriCorps program sought three VISTA members to work on hands-on projects that conserve, develop, and enhance natural, heritage, and community assets in order to increase economic development based on heritage tourism. The three AmeriCorps teams focused on heritage development including interpretation and community development; conservation and interpretation of natural resources including visitor center/education and hands-on conservation, NNIS and trail projects, and/or historic preservation construction work on community buildings.

Source: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=40633>

For more information regarding AmeriCorps*State and National opportunities, visit the AmeriCorps*State and National website: http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/state_national.asp
http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/state_national.asp.

Arts Organizations with AmeriCorps*VISTA Support

- ***Explore & More Children's Museum, East Aurora, Buffalo, New York (2013-2014):*** Explore & More Children's Museum provides an environment for creative play and learning through hands-on exhibits, activities, and programs that inspire creativity, curiosity, and imagination. The museum has begun plans for a major expansion and relocation to the Buffalo Waterfront at Canalside, in order to expand creative play and learning to more children and families.

The VISTA member serving will work to expand the museum's reach in serving children living in poverty by developing policies, data collection, and partnerships with agencies already serving children living in poverty. The VISTA member will do this by expanding formalized partnerships to develop new programs as well as expand on existing programs as well as conducting outreach to bring new participants to existing programs. The VISTA member will also be expected to expand the museum's reach by securing funding as needed by grant writing or fundraising.

The AmeriCorps program at Explore and More Children's Museum is administered by Serve New York. While serving, VISTA members receive support from the VISTA team at The Service Collaborative of WNY, Inc., which includes monthly trainings, a social network of fellow members, and daily support from VISTA leaders.

Source: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=50221&fromSearch=true>

- ***Providence City Arts for Youth, Inc., Providence, Rhode Island (2013-2014):*** CityArts seeks a VISTA Expanded Day/Program Coordinator to help improve and expand arts learning opportunities by improving systems for teaching and learning, during CityArts in-school and out-of-school time programs and CityArts Service Projects for the community. CityArts youth arts programs expand learning for elementary and middle school youth, during out-of school time and the school day, through arts-integration residencies. Specifically, the VISTA Expanded Day/Program Coordinator will help to facilitate positive and creative teaching/learning

environments through program stewardship, support of teaching artists, and cultivating a dynamic youth culture for learning; assist in building effective data collection and tracking systems for student outcomes; actively communicate and raise student participation and engagement in CityArts programs; and engage volunteers in service.

Source: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=50377&fromSearch=true>

- ***The Willowell Foundation, Monkton, Vermont (2013-2014):*** The Willowell Foundation seeks VISTA member service to find ways to support at-risk youth through new and existing field trips, the Walden Project high school program, summer camps, the Vermont Sail Freight Project, volunteer opportunities, and special events. The VISTA member will create curricula for environment- and arts-related field trips for youth. The member will also have the opportunity to plan the Foundation's Farm to School garden and will be responsible for inviting at-risk youth and community members to volunteer in the garden and learn about agriculture, nutrition, and physical activity during the warmer months. Additionally, the VISTA member will help the Foundation promote its mission by creating publicity materials to raise the profile of our work in local communities, Vermont, and nationally.

Source: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=45047&fromSearch=true>

- ***SerVermont—Caramount Film and Arts, St. Johnsbury, VT (2013-2014):*** Catamount Arts seeks a VISTA member who will assess the needs of the local Head Start program and develop a comprehensive arts program which addresses those needs. The VISTA member will create a developmental arts education curricula, including assessment metrics that meet state and national educational standards. They will also coordinate efforts with K-8 arts education programs and local public schools' curricula to ensure seamless transition of pre-school students. The VISTA member will develop strategies for including parents in class activities and train them in age-appropriate at-home arts projects. Additionally, the VISTA will perform outreach to engage other Head Start programs in the region that primarily serve low-income pre-schoolers.

Catamount Arts was founded in 1975 with a mission of enhancing the cultural climate of northern Vermont and New Hampshire (one of the poorest areas in the country). Catamount has a long history of working with local school and is implementing a new arts education program throughout the region that will bring the magic of the arts to low-income children via summer camps, after-school programs, and classroom instruction.

Source: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=49998&fromSearch=true>

- ***New Phoebe House-Hilltop Artists, Seattle/Tacoma/Bremerton (2013-2014):*** Hilltop Artists seeks a VISTA member to support its work of connecting youth to better futures through the enhancement of our infrastructure. The member will engage in key functions of Hilltop Artists, including: systems for tracking and recording program evaluations; volunteer recruitment and management; strengthening strategies for communication with our constituents with a major focus on social media; donor prospecting and data entry from all constituent contacts; and grant prospecting and grant support for special projects. Additionally, at the New Phoebe House, the member will coordinate Community Role Model presentations for the children of the home's residents; help coordinate and conduct a volunteer appreciation event and increase volunteers; establish an electronic semi-annual newsletter for donors and community; enhance use of social media; and assist with special events.

Hilltop Artists provides youth, ages 11-20, with hot glass instruction and related arts training with a focus on increasing students' academic and interpersonal success. They specifically run programs for youth who face multiple barriers to success such as poverty, drugs, violence, gang pressures, low parental involvement, academic vulnerability, adjudication, and homelessness. Over 500 youth are served annually.

Source: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=51097&fromSearch=true>

- **Lowndes County “Healthy Living Initiative,” Columbus Arts Council, Columbus, GA (2013):** The VISTA members serving this initiative work with nonprofit service agencies in Columbus/Lowndes County to build the capacity of the seven partner organizations through the creation of programs that will increase the overall health of the community in areas such as mental health, self-esteem, physical fitness, educational success and healthy nutrition.

Source: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=47183>

- **Unchained Talent, Baltimore, MD (2012-2013):** Unchained Talent sought to engage one VISTA member as the Arts Integration Coordinator to help build an arts-integration framework to help youth graduate from high school on time and ready for college and/or a career. Unchained Talent uses the arts as a hook to keep young people engaged in their education and their lives. Unchained Talent strives to create vibrant urban communities by building upon the strengths in the community and working with our youth to identify areas for improvement. They give young people a safe place to share their reflections and solutions with their community in the form of original theatre music and dance, inspiring change through their own actions and their words.

VISTA member duties include: working with a non-profit organization that uses the arts as a way to engage and enrich students so that they, through mentoring, are able to have an outlet that provides them with the tools needed to excel in and graduate from high school, building an in-school arts curriculum that appeals to the students and serves as a way for them to engage in college and career readiness opportunities, conducting research and needs assessments for our program and students, and working closely with the leadership and direct service staff to execute the newly created in-school arts integration curriculum.

Source: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=44464>

- **Walker Outreach—Heritage Center, Walker County, AL (2012-2013):** With the assistance of CNS-VISTA, Walker Outreach we will be able to open and operate a Center that will provide art and heritage enrichment for all citizens of Walker County and serve as a destination for travelers.

The Vista member's duties will include: assisting with the activities of the Bankhead Heritage and Cultural Arts Center and other historic sites and museums in the Walker County area, compiling a resource directory of Arts and Artisans in and near Walker County for potential display and/or acquisition, carrying out program development as determined by the Heritage Advisory Council and the Foundation Board of Directors, and assisting with capacity building within the Non-Profit Council and in increasing the membership.

Source: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=33198&fromSearch=true>

For more information regarding AmeriCorps*VISTA opportunities, visit the AmeriCorps*VISTA website:

<http://www.americorps.gov>.

Arts Organizations with AmeriCorps*NCCC Support

- ***Vollintine Evergreen Community Organization, Memphis, TN (2013)***: The team conducted beautification projects at a school and an arts complex.

Source:

http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/upload/state_profiles/pdf_2013/TN%20AmeriCorps.pdf

- ***Trail Construction and Improvements to Adventure Tourism, KY Trail Town, Office for Adventure Tourism, Kentucky Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet, (2013)***: The NCCC team works along the Sheltoewe Trace and the Pine Mountain Trail to help communities who are interested in becoming “Trail Towns.” Projects have included building bridges, adding trail steps, and clearing trails. Additionally, the team learns about trail maintenance and historic preservation from experts.

Sources:

http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/upload/state_profiles/pdf_2013/KY%20AmeriCorps.pdf

<http://commerce.ky.gov/news/ATAmeriCorps2013.htm>

- ***Oahe Family YMCA Day Camp, Pierre, SD (2012)***: An NCCC team assisted the Oahe Family YMCA with the day camp activities from July-August 2012. Team responsibilities included participating in activities with the campers, including, swimming, arts and crafts, and sports.

Source: http://www.capjournal.com/news/ameriCorps-nccc-serves-pierre-through-ymca/article_93554db2-e111-11e1-8a62-0019bb2963f4.html

- ***Camp Preparations and Fire Mitigation, Caldera Arts, Camp Caldera, Sisters, OR (2012)***: The NCCC team works to prepare the facilities and surrounding land of Camp Caldera. Caldera’s mission is “to be a catalyst for the transformation of underserved youth through innovative year-round art and environmental programs.”

Sources:

http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/upload/state_profiles/pdf_2013/OR%20AmeriCorps.pdf

<http://www.calderaarts.org/caldera/about-us/>

- ***J. Austin White Cultural Center, Eudora, AR (2011)***: The NCCC team serves as camp counselors for art camps at the J. Austin White Cultural Center, which offers music, arts, theater, and other activities for youth in southeast Arkansas.

Source:

http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/upload/state_profiles/pdf_2013/AR%20State%20Profile.pdf

- ***Friends of the History Museum of East Otter Tail County, Perham, MN (2011)***: The team worked to complete the renovations of the VFW Post 4020 building into the ITOW Veterans Museum, an arts and educational museum intended to benefit the community and veterans.

Sources: <http://www.dl-online.com/content/itow-museum-receive-amicorps-team>
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/58969131/NCCC-Deployment-Report-6-28-11>

Arts Organizations with Senior Corps Support

RSVP

- ***Art Goes to School, Philadelphia, PA***: This program is an introduction to the joys of art. It is usually the first exposure the children have to art. RSVP volunteers present prints and pieces of sculpture to elementary school children. They discuss color, form, artist, what the children see, etc.
Sources: http://SeniorCorpsopa.org/opportunities/project_details.asp?id=16
- ***Strand Theatre in Grisell House for Performing Arts, Moundsville, WV***: RSVP volunteer greets visitors or patrons invited to view the facility, maintains the cleanliness of the facilities, opens the art center, and helps with activities at the art museum.

For more information regarding Senior Corps opportunities, visit the Senior Corps website:
<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/senior-corps>.