SUMMARY

The education outreach program in the fine arts provides a mechanism for Utah’s professional art organizations to assist in teaching the Utah’s fine art core curriculum in the public schools. Professional organizations match state revenues to support and enhance the delivery of art education through demonstrations, performances, presentations, and educational activities in the schools.

The program ensures that each of the 40 school districts have the opportunity to receive services in a balanced and comprehensive manner over three years. Schools receive services through three programs: the Professional Outreach Program in the Schools (POPS), a Request for Proposal (RFP) program, and a Subsidy program.

Program History

For more than 40 years, the Legislature has funded fine arts educational outreach in the public schools. The program originated in the early 1960s with the Legislature appropriating funds to the Utah Symphony to perform in the public schools. A decade later the program expanded to include Ballet West, the Utah Opera, and the Planetarium (now part of the Science Outreach Program).

During the 2006 General Session, the Legislature bifurcated the Fine Arts and Sciences program into two separate budgetary line-items, the Fine Arts Outreach program and the Science Outreach program. Both programs provide similar types of services in the schools (demonstrations, presentations, and educational activities), but differ significantly in subject matter. Legislators determined that bifurcation would provide greater visibility to the specific needs of each program and allow the Legislature to focus appropriations to meet specific content area goals.

Funding Match

Each participating organization matches state revenues appropriated for educational outreach programs. In FY 2008 participating organizations matched the state appropriation of $3.1 million with an additional $4.8 million – match funding comes largely from organization sponsors and grants. The state appropriation contributed 38.9 percent of all funds dedicated to the program.

Overview of Programs

The largest of the three programs is the POPS program. POPS organizations have fully developed statewide educational outreach programs. Each organization receives an ongoing allocation of state funds. These funding levels and program participation are evaluated every four years. Currently, ten professional organizations participate in the POPS program. These organizations include: Ballet West, Children’s Dance Theatre, Repertory Dance Theatre, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, Springville Museum of Art, Utah Festival Opera, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Utah Symphony and Utah Opera.

The remaining funding is divided among two programs, the RFP program and the Subsidy program. Two organizations currently participate in the Request for Proposals program, the Utah Museum of Fine Arts and Spy Hop Productions. Finally, Arts Inc. is the only organization that participates in the Subsidy Program.
The following table details allocations, by participating organization, for the FY 2009 appropriation made during the 2008 General Session. Action during the 2008 Special Session and 2009 General Session altered the ongoing budget for the Fine Arts Outreach Program.

During the 2008 Special Session, Legislators reduced the ongoing appropriation supporting the program by $95,700. This reduction was back-filled with one-time funding for FY 2009, impacting the ongoing FY 2010 base budget.

So far in the 2009 General Session, Legislators reduced the ongoing appropriation for the program by an additional $239,200, and provided another one-time back-fill of $115,600. Participating organizations will need to reduce $123,600 from the current Fiscal Year and $334,900 in FY 2010. The total operating budget for the program in FY 2010 will be $2,854,700, a decrease of 10.5 percent.