

# 2025 Artist Residencies: Program Overview



Dear Special Education Teacher,

Artists Creating Together (ACT) is excited to announce another season of In-School Artist Residencies.

ACT is a nonprofit arts organization based in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It is ACT's mission to empower individuals with disabilities to learn, grow, and celebrate through the arts. By bringing together professional teaching artists, visual and performing arts, and students with disabilities, ACT makes an impact on the West Michigan community. Thank you in advance for partnering with ACT!

Each year, ACT offers FREE, accessible art opportunities to Grand Rapids area special education classrooms. Our upcoming school programs include Residencies, Creativity & Ability Festival, and Field Trips. ACT also offers contracts for custom art programming in schools. Please continue to check our website at [artistscreatingtogether.org/classroom-partnerships](https://artistscreatingtogether.org/classroom-partnerships) and social media (@actwm) for the most current information about each of these programs.

**To be eligible for the 2025 In-School Residency program:**

- You must be a 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade special education classroom during the 2024-25 school year.
- Your classroom must be in a Kent County school district.

*If you are not eligible for In-School Residencies, please consider contracting with ACT for a custom art program. To learn more about contracting with ACT, please contact ACT Executive Director, Angela Steele, at [director@artistscreatingtogether.org](mailto:director@artistscreatingtogether.org).*

We hope you will continue reading and consider applying for ACT's 2025 In-School Residency program.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jess Pennock".

Jess Pennock, ACT Program Director

[program@artistscreatingtogether.org](mailto:program@artistscreatingtogether.org) | 616-885-5866

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In 2025, ACT will award up to (15) In-School Artist Residencies to special education classrooms in Kent County. These residencies, which are free to schools, pair teaching artists and special education classrooms for **SIX** sessions of interactive visual or performing arts. Sessions run from 45 minutes to one hour, and typically occur weekly.

Students must be **1<sup>st</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade**, in a **Kent County** special education classroom.

In 2025, all residencies will take place *in-person*. If awarded a residency, you will host your teaching artist in your classroom or a multipurpose space in your school. Your teaching artist will collaborate with you to meet the unique needs of your students. You and the teaching artist will set the final residency schedule and determine the format for their six sessions of instruction. The duration of the sessions (45-minutes to 1-hour) is dependent upon the artform/ artist's availability and the classroom teacher's discretion. Typically, sessions occur weekly on the same day/time, however this is also up to your discretion and your artist's availability.

All materials will be provided by ACT, aside from the typical items found in most classrooms.

Please note: Not everyone who applies is guaranteed a residency. Residences will be awarded based on ACT's available resources, as well as the availability of teaching artists & classrooms.

**New this year:** ACT is piloting a new method for recruiting artists and classrooms. In order to streamline scheduling, **ACT Teaching Artists have already proposed their artform + availability to ACT.** On the classroom teacher's application, **you will find a list of available options.** Classroom teachers will select the opportunities they are most interested in.



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## Important Dates

Event	Date	Details
Applications Open	November 2024	Special education teachers (grades 1 – 12) are invited to apply beginning in November.
<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Wednesday, December 4, 2024</b>	Email your application to Jess Pennock at <a href="mailto:program@artistscreatingtogether.org">program@artistscreatingtogether.org</a>  Or by mail to Artists Creating Together: 1140 Monroe Ave NW, Suite 4101 – Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Award Announcements / Artist Assignments	By December 20, 2024	ACT awards residencies based on available resources. If your classroom is awarded a residency, you will receive an email from <a href="mailto:program@artistscreatingtogether.org">program@artistscreatingtogether.org</a> by mid-late December. If you are <b>not</b> awarded a residency, you will be notified via email.  If awarded, ACT will e-connect classroom teachers with their assigned teaching artists, providing their name and contact information. Then, the classroom teacher & teaching artist may determine the final residency schedule and plan for the program. ACT will provide a document with FAQ's, planning tips, and expectations for classroom teachers.  Prior to your program starting, ACT will request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a <b>class list</b></li> <li>- a <b>pre-evaluation</b></li> </ul> ACT is required to collect these items and report the data. Failure to do so may jeopardize ACT's funding. <b>Please hold time in your calendar to complete these documents at least two weeks prior to starting your program.</b>
Residencies Begin	January 2024	Program dates may vary based on the schedule you and your teaching artist have set. It is up to you and your teaching artist to schedule (6) sessions before the end of the school year.  Please remember to schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a make-up day in case of inclement weather, school, or illness cancellation (<i>required</i>)</li> <li>- a culminating showcase or special event (<i>optional</i>)</li> </ul> An ACT staff member will visit each residency program once to check in with you and the artist, take photos of students in action, and generally offer support. ACT will contact you prior to visiting.
Residencies End	May 2024	Following the completion of your program, ACT will collect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a <b>post-evaluation</b> / survey with your feedback (<i>required</i>)</li> <li>- any photos you would like to share with ACT (<i>optional</i>)</li> <li>- any artwork your students choose to donate to ACT (<i>optional</i>)</li> </ul>

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## Orientation for Classroom Teachers

Orientations are optional. The purpose of orientation is to explain the application process, clarify your role as the host teacher, and to note important dates and deadlines. If you choose not to schedule an orientation, the information you need to apply can be found here in this introductory packet, and later provided in the e-packet ACT will provide to participating classrooms.

To schedule an orientation, please contact ACT Program Director, Jess Pennock at (616)885-5866 or by email at [program@artistscreatingtogether.org](mailto:program@artistscreatingtogether.org).

## Apply Today!

**Applications are due on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.**

***Please return your application to ACT by mail or email.***

***MAIL: Artists Creating Together; 1140 Monroe Ave NW, Suite 4101; Grand Rapids, MI 49503***

***EMAIL: [program@artistscreatingtogether.org](mailto:program@artistscreatingtogether.org)***

Contact Jess with any questions via email or phone (616-885-5866). If we have any questions upon receiving your application, we will reach out to clarify.

Please note that your application will be shared with your teaching artist, once assigned.

On the application, you can expect to find:

### **CLASSROOM & STUDENT INFORMATION**

- Please provide the necessary contact, school, and demographic information.

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Select your preferred artforms from the list of available opportunities.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

- Please describe additional details such as students' learning goals, your goals for the art class, and the space where you will meet.

### **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

- On your application, please confirm that you will:
- Provide evaluative data upon request, such as program evaluations or surveys.
- Obtain additional student information upon request, such as photo releases.
- Be present and actively engaged during every residency session.

***Thank you for your interest in Artists Creating Together! We look forward to receiving your application.***