



December 1, 2011

Dear Future *Artists In Schools* Artist,

There is a history of *Artists In Schools* programs and arts residencies in Sarasota County sponsored in the past through the Sarasota County Arts Council (now called the Arts and Cultural Alliance), the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, and individual artists working on their own. A new version of *Artists In Schools* program has been created by the Arts and Cultural Alliance, and we would like to invite you to consider submitting an application.

The new *Artists In Schools* program is affiliated with the recently launched website created by the Sarasota County Schools with funding by The Patterson Foundation. You can see the new website at EdExploreSRQ.com. Arts organizations are primarily on the site, featuring Explorations, which can be field trips or in-school experiences. By January we plan to add the *Artists In Schools* section of this website. Artists will be listed individually, and each residency will be called an Exploration. Each Artist will manage his/her own posting on this website. Twenty-three Artists completed training in the fall of 2011. Their Explorations will be listed on the website starting in January.

To be approved as an Artist for this program and website, the Artist must attend five workshop sessions at the Arts and Cultural Alliance, complete an EdExploreSRQ Criteria Form for the school district, and be approved by the Alliance and school district. Each Artist Exploration must be strongly connected to school district/state curriculum. We believe that each Artist's talent and offerings will be enhanced by the EdExploreSRQ connections to the standards. This will communicate to teachers that the Exploration offered by the Artist is an integral part of learning. Although many of our local artists have had previous training and/or experience working in schools, this approach has curricular and technical specificity that has not been addressed previously. Additionally, the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards have only recently been implemented fully in the schools.

An Artist may submit multiple Explorations. Once an Artist is listed on the website, he/she will be contacted by interested teachers and schools. There is funding available to teachers to help them pay for the Explorations. Each Artist will act independently to book residencies and secure payment from the teachers and schools. There are limitless

opportunities for designing Explorations that work in the schools! In fact, you may become an “artrepreneur!”

For an Artist to be considered for inclusion on the EdExploreSRQ site, the process is as follows:

- 1) Artist will submit the Artist Application Form and resume to the Arts and Cultural Alliance to Cindy Balistreri, cbalistreri@sarasotaarts.org. by January 15, 2011.
- 2) Applications will be reviewed by the Alliance.
- 3) Artists will be selected for the free *Artists In Schools* Training Program. The Training Program includes five sessions and will take place in February 2012.

Additional assistance will be provided by the Alliance and the school district as Artists post their Explorations on EdExploreSRQ.com.

The free training through the Arts and Cultural Alliance is required. If you are not selected for the training, you will be invited for the next training series in the fall of 2012.

Artists will be listed on EdExploreSRQ.com as Explorations are created and approved, and teachers will begin to book Explorations/residencies. Artists may continue to post other Explorations as they are approved by the Alliance and by the school district.

We are looking forward to making sure that our Sarasota county public school teachers and students have many excellent artist residencies to choose from to enjoy and enhance their learning. Thank you for considering this opportunity. We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely yours,
Judy Levine, *Artist In Schools* Coordinator
Nancy Roucher, *Artist In Schools* Facilitator