

Dear Principal,

Your students and staff play a vital role in our arts community. The Art Gallery of Alberta is committed to supporting and enhancing the curriculum in your school by providing engaging, meaningful and relevant experiences for your students and teachers.

The AGA's educational objectives complement those of your school on many levels. Through interactive explorations of exhibitions, an array of studio projects, dynamic full-day programs, and a variety of teacher Professional Development opportunities, AGA School and Teacher Programs give students and teachers the opportunity to learn and interact with art in an authentic environment. We encourage students to think carefully about art, articulate their ideas, and connect art to their own experiences. Our emphasis on strengthening *21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills* such as critical thinking, problem identification and solving and innovation provides great support to all areas of the Alberta Education Programs of Study.

Our programs are informed through communication with teachers and administrators, as well as members of the art community, whose guidance is crucial to anticipating the needs of your school. AGA School Programs feature:

- A focus on the diverse needs of all students. Programs are tailored to address a variety of learning styles and ages and are designed to complement the Alberta Education Programs of Study in the areas of Fine Arts, Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, French and Spanish.
- A wide range of online Teacher Resources available to complement each program, including information about the current exhibitions and programs, pre- and post-visit activities for interaction in the classroom, and links to Alberta Education Programs of Study.
- A focus on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning, visual thinking skills and strategies to interpret and interact with art in a variety of ways. Studio and gallery experiences encourage individual and group planning, problem identification and critical inquiry, collaboration and reflection, with a focus on the conceptual and technical process of different art-making practices.
- Educators that are thoroughly trained on exhibitions and have backgrounds in education, art history, and art-making. Educators are trained to work with students to create innovative and imaginative work with a focus on play, experimentation and 'not knowing'.
- A focus on the integration of art education as a cross-curricular vehicle that effectively engages students in all areas of study, helping to raise student achievement.

We hope that you make the Art Gallery of Alberta part of your students' academic experience and we encourage your teachers and students to pursue museum-based programs as an integral part of their curricula. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me, the Education Programs Manager at [Jessie.Beier@youraga.ca](mailto:Jessie.Beier@youraga.ca). We look forward to working with your teachers and students!

Sincerely

Jessie Beier  
Education Programs Manager