

Kate Kuper Post Project Evaluation

1. Accomplishments and how grant funds were utilized during the grant period

Grant funds were used to provide two groups of third grade students, their teachers, and the dance/drama teacher at Yankee Ridge Elementary School with a one-week intensive “hands-on, bodies-on” dance and science experience. In the following week, over a three-day period, they consolidated and arranged the work into an “Interactive Museum.” Each third grade group gave a 45-minute presentation to a second grade class. In each presentation, the third grade students taught back what they had learned about key science concepts. They taught using images: posters and pictures. They used spoken word: call and response, short explanation and question and answer. They included the second grade in movement explorations and performed dances for them. They used physical demonstration throughout, by building shapes in pairs and small groups, performing actions to show many of the scientific principals, and involving the second graders in movement and spoken word call and response readings. The Urbana Arts Commission funds were utilized to pay instructors salaries and to cover teaching supplies.

2. The impact that the grant funds had on your artistic or organizational development.

For the past year Kate Kuper has been working on this integrated curriculum with a science professor at UIUC, in order to make the content accurate and consistent. Her goal is to publish this as a resource for music, dance, science and classroom teachers. It was valuable for her to implement the lessons, so that she could ‘test drive’ their structure and organization. She gained tremendous insight into the material and was very enthusiastic about the outcome.

3. The number of hours spent in completing the project, including planning, administration, promotion, production, and the final presentation.

Kate Kuper pre-planned with the dance and drama teacher for 2 hours, and planned with her and the classroom teachers for 5 hours during the residency. She planned outside of class an additional 8 hours. She was on-site 4-5 hours a day, for 5 days. Though the grant did not fund a second week, She did donate time to help with during the two preparation days and the final performance day. For promotion, she contacted the media (News Gazette) and the Urbana Schools media liaison. (A photographer from the paper did come out and shoot stills and video, which were in the News Gazette).

Total hours: 40 (Additional hours donated: 15)

4. The number of participants in events or activities related to your grant.

125. Four classes and their teachers, parent visitors.

4. Description of experience working with collaborating partners

Betty Allen, the dance/drama teacher, and I worked really well together. I learned from her, as she lead grouping and transition activities, and she learned from me. We are looking forward to future collaborations. I was very gratified by the success of collaborating with the teachers. They really went the extra mile to make the learning experience successful. We did not need the assistance of parent volunteers.

5. Any additional comments

I am grateful to the City of Urbana and the Arts Grant for making this residency possible.