

# ARTS ARE BASIC

∞ *Helping Classrooms Grow Beyond the Predictable* ∞

## Mission Statement

*The Arts Are Basic mission is to put artists and their works central to learning.*

Arts Are Basic is a program in Doane College's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning that provides unique workshop training and classroom support for teachers through exploration of carefully selected works of art and live performances.

Arts Are Basic fosters the development of aesthetic education as an important part of learning. Through the formation of long-term partnerships with schools and community leaders, the aesthetic dimension of the human experience will be explored through encounters with a broad spectrum of performing and visual arts. In order to serve teachers and students fully, Arts Are Basic serves as a catalyst not only to create a greater aesthetic awareness of the world but also to foster greater understanding of the world's peoples through culturally specific arts.



## The Three Parts of the Program

**1. A summer workshop:** taught by a team of specially trained master teaching artists from the Lincoln Center in New York, where they guide participating teachers to become more comfortable with the arts and give direction in structuring students' classroom experiences.

Following attendance at the summer workshop, Arts Are Basic participating teachers select the disciplines to be studied during the subsequent school year and plan their unit of study with a Professional AAB Teaching Artist. The "text" for each unit of study is the selected performance or works of art previewed at the summer workshop.

**2. Units of study:** taught collaboratively during the academic year by AAB-trained classroom teachers and teaching artists, these units of study guide students through a series of lessons in which they experience the creative process through an exploration of elements that are integral to the work of art serving as the text. Each unit of study is written to serve curricular needs of individual classrooms in other subject areas such as social studies, reading, language arts, science, math, etc.

**3. Attendance at the performance (text) or viewing the visual art works selected for study:** the work of art is experienced in the middle of the unit of study. After viewing the work of art, students reflect about the piece with their classroom teacher and teaching artist, bringing the process full circle and ensuring that they have a clear understanding of their experiences.

**To learn more about how Arts Are Basic can make a difference for your school please contact:**

**Rhea Gill - Executive Director**

rhea.gill@doane.edu  
402-466-4774

303 N. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68504

