

Funding Opportunities for Art Teachers

Craig Roland

As school budgets become tighter, resourceful art teachers are turning to alternative funding sources for professional development, curriculum enhancement projects, and classroom technology purchases. To assist you in locating available funding sources, this month's column lists several organizations that offer grants or collect donations that will help you achieve your teaching goals.

Adopt-A-Classroom Grants www.adoptaclassroom.com

Adopt-A-Classroom invites the community into classrooms to support teachers and their students. By registering on the Adopt-A-Classroom website, a teacher's classroom can be adopted by an individual, business, or organization. Donors can choose to support a classroom with a donation of \$25 or more, or adopt a classroom with a \$500 donation. Once adopted, teachers receive the funds in an online account they can use to purchase resources and materials for their classroom from a network of affiliated vendors.

Best Buy Teach Awards www.BestBuy.com/teach

The Best Buy Teach Award program recognizes and rewards schools that are using technology in interactive and engaging ways. Best Buy Teach Awards range from \$1000 to \$10,000 in the form of gift cards that are available to K–12 schools to sustain or enhance existing educational programs. Teach Award winners are selected based on teacher applications describing how they incorporate student use of technology in their classrooms. Visit the Best Buy website to download the grant application, review previous winners' applications, and learn more about the program.



ClassWish www.classwish.org

ClassWish allows teachers to create wish lists of the supplies and equipment they need for their classrooms, which are, in turn, seen by potential supporters who can make tax-deductible donations online. Teachers must choose items for purchase from the ClassWish.org online catalog. Materials and strategies for attracting local businesses, parents, and other sponsors are available on the ClassWish website.

DonorsChoose www.donorschoose.org

DonorsChoose allows teachers to propose a project that will enhance student learning, describe the equipment and supplies needed to carry out the project, and explain why the items are needed and how the project will benefit students. Donors review projects on the DonorsChoose website and give any amount to a project of their choice. Once a project reaches its funding goal, DonorsChoose purchases the materials requested and delivers them to the school. In return, the teacher and students write thank-you letters and share photos of the project in action.


National Art Education Foundation (NAEF) Grants www.arteducators.org/olc/pub/NAEA/grants

The NAEF, the independent grants-making arm of the National Art Edu-



cation Association, offers members a variety of grant opportunities that support projects ranging from professional and curriculum development to research in art education. The NAEF website lists each of the grants available along with proposal guidelines, application preparation tips, and past grant recipients.

Target Arts Grants target.com/grants

Target funds arts projects that provide opportunities for students to participate in cultural experiences, such as school touring programs, field trips to the theater or symphony, or artists residencies and workshops in schools. Each Target store is authorized to make Arts in Education grants available within its local community. Grant guidelines and applications are available at local Target stores. Applications are accepted between March 1 and May 31. 

Craig Roland is an associate professor of art education in the School of Art and Art History at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. He is the author of The Art Teacher's Guide to the Internet (Davis Publications, 2005). rolandc@ufl.edu