



## Artie Character Performer

**Department:** Entertainment & Creative Experiences

**Reports To:** General Manager / Operations Supervisor

**Works Closely With:** Artie Character Attendant, Parade Team & Creative Experiences Team

**Location:** The Artsnasium® – Arlington, Texas

**Employment Type:** Part-Time / Seasonal

**Schedule:** Flexible schedule including weekdays, evenings, Fridays, Saturdays, holidays, special events, community appearances, rehearsals, and scheduled Artie appearances

### Position Summary

The **Artie Character Performer** brings **Artie the Axolotl®**, **Chief Creativity Officer (CCO)** of **The Artsnasium®**, to life.

Artie is more than a mascot. He is the face of creativity at The Artsnasium and an important part of the experience children and families have with our brand.

The Artie Character Performer portrays Artie during scheduled meet-and-greets, Creator Parades, birthday celebrations, special events, community appearances, promotional activities, photo opportunities, and other approved experiences.

Through movement, gestures, dancing, playful interactions, and expressive nonverbal communication, the performer creates memorable moments while maintaining Artie's established personality, appearance, and character standards.

The ideal performer is energetic, expressive, dependable, physically active, comfortable entertaining children and families, and capable of maintaining character even in busy environments.

### Meet Artie

**Name:** Artie the Axolotl

**Title:** Chief Creativity Officer (CCO)

**Birthday:** September 13

**Home:** The Artsnasium®

**Personality:** Creative, playful, encouraging, curious, energetic, friendly, and always ready for a high five.

Artie believes one thing above everything else:

## **Every Child Is Creative.**

The Artie Character Performer is responsible for making that personality feel real whenever Artie appears.

# **Key Responsibilities**

## **Character Performance**

- Portray Artie according to established Artsnasium character standards.
- Remain fully in character whenever visible to guests.
- Use expressive body language, gestures, movement, dancing, and approved interactions to communicate Artie's personality.
- Create energetic and memorable interactions with Creators and families.
- Adapt interactions appropriately based on a child's age, comfort level, and response.
- Encourage creativity, celebration, and participation through Artie's actions.
- Learn and perform approved Artie movements, poses, dances, greetings, and signature interactions.
- Participate in rehearsals and character-performance training.

## **Artie Meet & Greets**

- Participate in scheduled Artie Meet & Greet experiences.
- Pose for photographs with Creators and families.
- Offer waves, high fives, fist bumps, celebrations, and other approved interactions.
- Work with Artie's Character Attendant to maintain safe and orderly guest interactions.
- Allow hesitant children to approach at their own comfort level.
- Never chase, pressure, grab, or force interaction with a child.
- Help ensure every interaction remains positive and family-friendly.

## **Creator Parades**

- Portray Artie during scheduled Creator Parades.
- Perform approved parade movements and choreography.
- Maintain awareness of parade formations and musical cues.
- Work closely with Artie's Character Attendant and Parade Team.
- Maintain safe distances from floats, vehicles, props, performers, and spectators.
- Follow all parade safety signals and emergency stop procedures.
- Maintain Artie's energy and personality throughout the parade route.

## **Birthday & Special Appearances**

- Participate in approved birthday party appearances when scheduled.
- Help make the Birthday Creator feel recognized and celebrated.
- Participate in approved birthday photos, dances, entrances, or other special moments.
- Support seasonal celebrations, grand openings, promotional events, and other Artsnasium experiences.
- Follow the specific performance plan established for each appearance.

## **Community Appearances**

- Represent Artie and The Artsnasium at approved community events, festivals, parades, schools, promotional appearances, and other off-site activities.
- Maintain character standards whenever visible to the public.
- Follow established arrival, dressing, performance, break, and departure procedures.
- Work with the Character Attendant and event leadership to navigate unfamiliar environments safely.
- Maintain professional conduct before and after appearances.

## **Character Integrity**

Protecting the Artie character is an important responsibility.

The Artie Character Performer must:

- Never remove any portion of the character costume where guests or members of the public can see.
- Never reveal the performer's identity while portraying Artie.
- Never discuss who performs as Artie with guests.
- Never intentionally break character in public areas.
- Never portray Artie using inappropriate gestures, movements, language, or behavior.
- Never use the Artie costume for unauthorized photographs, videos, appearances, or personal purposes.
- Never post backstage or out-of-character costume images without company authorization.
- Follow all Artsnasium standards regarding Artie's personality and approved behavior.

The goal is simple:

**To our Creators, Artie is Artie.**

## **Nonverbal Performance**

Unless specifically authorized for a designated experience, the costumed Artie character is primarily portrayed through expressive movement rather than normal spoken conversation.

Performers should become skilled at communicating through:

- Waves
- High fives
- Fist bumps
- Thumbs up
- Dancing
- Clapping
- Pointing
- Celebratory gestures
- Expressive reactions
- Approved character poses

When verbal communication is necessary for safety or an emergency, **safety always takes priority over maintaining character.**

## **Costume Care & Appearance**

- Inspect the Artie costume before and after each appearance.
- Wear all required costume components and performer garments correctly.
- Maintain Artie's approved appearance at all times.
- Handle costume pieces carefully during dressing, performance, removal, and storage.
- Immediately report damage, excessive wear, visibility concerns, ventilation issues, or other costume problems.
- Never attempt unauthorized alterations or repairs.
- Follow established cleaning, drying, storage, and sanitation procedures.
- Return all costume components to their designated storage locations after use.

## **Performer Safety**

Character performance can be physically demanding.

The performer must:

- Follow established maximum performance-time and required break procedures.
- Stay appropriately hydrated before, between, and after appearances.
- Immediately communicate overheating, dizziness, nausea, breathing difficulty, vision problems, or other physical concerns to the Character Attendant.
- Never continue performing when doing so may be unsafe.
- Follow established warm-weather procedures for outdoor appearances.
- Use designated backstage areas for breaks.
- Follow safe entry and exit procedures when putting on or removing the costume.

Management or the Character Attendant may end an appearance at any time due to performer safety, environmental conditions, costume concerns, or other hazards.

# **Working With the Character Attendant**

Artie should not navigate busy guest environments alone.

The Character Attendant assists the performer by:

- Helping navigate crowds and obstacles.
- Monitoring children approaching Artie.
- Communicating with guests when verbal explanations are needed.
- Monitoring performance duration and required breaks.
- Watching for costume or environmental hazards.
- Assisting with photographs and guest flow.
- Guiding Artie through entrances, exits, and backstage areas.
- Responding to safety concerns.

The performer must maintain awareness of and follow appropriate safety direction from the assigned Character Attendant.

## **Child & Guest Safety**

- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries with children.
- Use only approved forms of physical interaction.
- Never pick up or carry a child.
- Never engage in rough play.
- Avoid movements that could accidentally knock over or frighten a child.
- Allow appropriate space when interacting with very young children.
- Immediately disengage if a child appears frightened or uncomfortable.
- Follow all Artsnasium child-safety and guest-interaction procedures.
- Report incidents or concerns immediately.

## **Backstage Standards**

- Keep character dressing and backstage areas restricted to authorized personnel.
- Maintain costume components and personal belongings in designated areas.
- Keep backstage spaces organized and secure.
- Never allow guests into restricted character areas without authorization.
- Maintain professionalism backstage even when not actively performing.
- Protect confidential information regarding character operations.

## **Team Responsibilities**

- Work collaboratively with the Character Attendant, Parade Team, Creative Coaches, Birthday Party Hosts, Guest Experience, Operations Supervisors, and management.
- Attend required rehearsals, meetings, and character training.

- Arrive on time and prepared for scheduled call times.
- Support special events and promotional activities as assigned.
- Maintain Artsnasium attendance, appearance, and professionalism standards.
- Perform other appropriate entertainment responsibilities necessary to support Artie experiences.

## **Qualifications**

- High school diploma or equivalent preferred.
- Must meet all minimum age requirements established by The Artsnasium and applicable law.
- Previous mascot, character, dance, theatre, cheer, entertainment, theme park, attraction, or performance experience preferred but not required.
- Energetic and expressive personality.
- Strong nonverbal communication and physical-performance skills.
- Comfortable performing in front of children, families, and large groups.
- Ability to learn choreography, character movements, and performance cues.
- Ability to maintain character consistently.
- Strong commitment to safety and professionalism.
- Ability to follow direction and work closely with a Character Attendant.
- Comfortable performing in an enclosed character costume.
- Dependable attendance and punctuality are essential.
- Must successfully complete an Artie performance audition and all required background screening, character training, safety training, and employment requirements.

## **Physical & Work Requirements**

This is a physically demanding performance position.

The Artie Character Performer may be required to stand, walk, dance, wave, gesture, bend, and perform repetitive movements while wearing a full character costume.

The costume may limit peripheral vision, hearing, mobility, and ventilation.

Performers may work indoors and outdoors and may encounter varying temperatures and environmental conditions.

Scheduled breaks and hydration procedures must be followed.

Final performer suitability may also depend on safe and appropriate fit within the Artie character costume.

Reasonable accommodations may be provided in accordance with applicable law where they do not compromise performer, guest, or character safety.

# What We're Looking For

We're not simply looking for someone who can wear the Artie costume.

We're looking for someone who can **become Artie**.

When Artie enters the room, Creators should immediately feel like something special is happening.

The right performer can make a child laugh without saying a word, turn a high five into a memorable moment, lead a room into a dance, and make a Creator feel like Artie was genuinely excited to meet them.

Artie Character Performers should demonstrate:

**Energy • Expression • Playfulness • Safety • Reliability • Showmanship • Patience • Professionalism • Character Integrity**

Most importantly, the performer must understand the responsibility that comes with bringing a beloved character to life.

## Our Artie Philosophy

**Artie doesn't just represent creativity. He celebrates the Creator in every child.**

## Our Mission

To inspire children and families through hands-on creative experiences that cultivate imagination, confidence, learning, and joyful exploration in a safe, welcoming environment.

**The Artsnasium®**

*Where Creativity Comes to Play.*

*\*Every Child Is Creative.*