

Arts + Social Impact Explorer Fact Sheet

EDUCATION

ARTS + YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

IMPACT POINTS

\$1 FOR AFTER SCHOOL ART PROGRAMS SAVES \$9 ON OTHER COSTS

After-school arts programs save cities money. For every \$1 spent on after-school programs, \$9 is saved by reducing welfare and crime costs, improving academic performance, and increasing kids' earning potential.¹

4 OUT OF 5 MORE LIKELY TO VOTE

The arts make young adults more civically engaged. Seventy-eight percent of young adults who had arts-rich experiences were more likely to vote or participate in a political campaign.⁴

2X AS LIKELY TO GRADUATE COLLEGE

The arts help people succeed. Low-income students who are highly engaged in the arts are more than twice as likely to graduate college than their peers with no arts education.²

100 POINTS HIGHER ON THEIR SAT

Students who take four years of arts and music classes average almost 100 points better on their SAT scores than students with only a half-year or less.⁵

5X LESS LIKELY TO DROP OUT

Students excited by school stay in school. Low-income students who participate in the arts, both in school and after school, have a dropout rate of just 4 percent—five times lower than their peers.³

5% DROP IN NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME

Arts programs reduce crime levels. Participation in after-school arts programs causes juvenile crime to fall by 4.2 percent on average, and slightly more (5.4 percent) in lower-income cities.⁶

OVERVIEW

The arts have intersected with education strongly and inextricably for all of human history. Each of the art disciplines (music, visual art, theater, dance and media arts) can carry forward a civilization's history, teach lessons, and celebrate our individual and collective heritage.

In more recent history, starting with early advocates like John Dewey, both formal and informal education in the United States have demonstrated imagination, better test scores, more civic engagement, public savings, increased lifelong earning potential, better community cohesion, and more. Arts and youth development also extends beyond the classroom to the domain of what is now called Creative Youth Development, which means the longstanding theory of practice that integrates creative skill-building, inquiry, and expression with positive youth development principles, fueling young people's imaginations and building critical learning and life skills.

The rich and well-documented links between the arts and education, both formal and informal, create a robust case for supporting pro-arts education funding and pro-arts education policy in every community.

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EXAMPLES OF PRACTICE

AS220, Providence, RI



AS220 Youth focuses its arts education program on youth ages 14 to 21 that are in the care and custody of the state. It engages youth in a creative process to lead them to positive social, educational, and vocational outcomes.

youth.as220.org

info@as220.org

image: AS220 is a creative incubator for at-risk and beyond-risk youth.

Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, Detroit, MI



Mosaic empowers young people by helping them develop patterns of cooperation, disciplined work habits, and effective problem-solving skills through the creation of high-quality, professional-level performances of theater and music.

mosaicdetroit.org

rick@mosaicdetroit.org

image: Let It Shine, Joe's Pub, NY, June 2017. Photo by © 8SP_Simon Luethi.

SAY Sí, San Antonio, TX



SAY Sí strives to have each student artist become a productive and thoughtful citizen by enhancing their social, academic, cognitive, and vocational competencies and improving their self-esteem and self-identity.

<http://saysi.org/>

Nicole@saysi.org

image: SAY Sí senior Victoria Villaseñor speaks at the annual HelloGoodbye ceremony, where seniors are recognized and middle school artists are welcomed into high school programs

The Wooden Floor, Santa Ana, CA



The Wooden Floor uses dance to transform the lives of young people in low-income communities through a long-term approach grounded in exploratory dance education. One hundred percent program graduates enroll in higher education.

thewoodenfloor.org

Jennifer.Bonfil@TheWoodenFloor.org

image: Students of The Wooden Floor perform Folk Dance in Gold. Choreographed by Keely Garfield and The Wooden Floor dancers. Photo by Christine Cotter © 2017 The Wooden Floor

Cheyenne River Youth Project (CRYP), Eagle Butte, SD



CRYP is an authentic grassroots initiative that intersects culture, history, heritage, and service. It is designed to meet the specific needs of the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation through innovative youth programming, vital family services, and educational public events and activities.

<http://www.lakotayouth.org>

lakotayouth@gmail.com

image: Young boys performing traditional dance at RedCan Graffiti Jam. Image courtesy of Cheyenne River Youth Project

top image: Young woman performing traditional dance at RedCan Graffiti Jam. Image courtesy of Cheyenne River Youth Project

REFERENCES

1. Green, L., 2017.
2. Arts Education Navigator: Facts & Figures. Americans for the Arts. Retrieved on 13 May 2018 from <https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/networks-and-councils/arts-education-network/tools-resources/arts-ed-navigator/facts-figures>.
3. *ibid*.
4. Catterall, J., Dumais, S., & Hampden-Thompson, G. (2012: The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth: Findings from Four Longitudinal Studies (Research Report #55), 21. Washington, DC: National Endowment for the Arts.
5. Arts Education Navigator: Facts & Figures.
6. Gregg, M., Gupta, R., & Bach-Coulibaly, M. (2014, May 6). After-school Programs & the Arts as Tools for Youth Development. Footnote. Retrieved 4 February 2018 from <http://footnote.co/after-school-programs-the-arts-as-tools-for-youth-development>



READING LIST

The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth: Findings from Four Longitudinal Studies



The report studies the academic and civic behavior outcomes of teenagers and young adults engaged with the arts in or out of school. The study tracked students who received intensive arts exposure compared with students who did not.

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/95884>

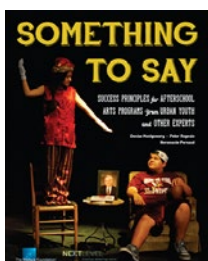
Creative Youth Development (CYD) Webinars



Presented by the Creative Youth Development National Partnership in 2017, this year-long technical assistance series is designed to increase understanding of Creative Youth Development practice, build capacity, and advance the field.

<http://creativeyouthdevelopment.org/2017/03/22/2017-creative-youth-development-webinar-series>

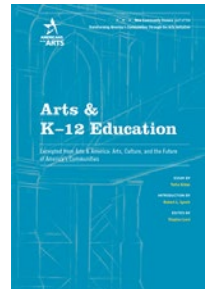
Something to Say: Success Principles for Afterschool Arts Programs from Urban Youth and Other Experts



The study looks at what teens want and compares that to what the experts think teens need. The report includes exemplar projects, key research finding, and principles for effective afterschool arts programs.

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/95423>

Arts & K-12 Education



This essay from the book *Arts & America: Arts, Culture, and the Future of American Communities* looks at pending changes within the K–12 American formal education system and the role that the arts may play in positively impacting those changes over the next 10–15 years.

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/90690>

Setting the Stage: National Summit on Creative Youth Development



This report is based on research conducted to gather insights from arts, humanities, and science based youth development programs on the keys to their practice, impact, and future.

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/100751>



ORGANIZATIONS

The Alliance for International Youth Development

This group provides an opportunity for engaged organizations and individuals to share effective practices across all sectors of international youth development and to inform programs and policies that support and impact youth.

<https://www.theyouthalliance.org>

Creative Youth Development National Partnership

A partnership of organizations working in concert with the broader field to drive collective action in three strategic priorities to advance creative youth development.

<http://creativeyouthdevelopment.org/>

National Art Education Association

The leading professional membership organization exclusively for visual arts educators advancing visual arts education to fulfill human potential and promote global understanding.

<https://www.arteducators.org/>

Arts Education Partnership

A national network of organizations dedicated to advancing the arts in education through research, policy, and practice. AEP's vision is that every student in America succeeds in school, work, and life as a result of a high-quality education in and through the arts.

<http://www.aep-arts.org/>

top image: Abraham Aguillon Orsagh, junior in SAY SÍ's Media Arts studio, adjusts his camera while documenting artwork for his portfolio

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