

## ARTS EDUCATION IMPACT GROUP: *Arts as a Pathway to Learning*

### Impact Groups: Engaging Deeply, Acting Purposefully

Grantmakers for Education (GFE) impact groups leverage the network of education philanthropists within GFE to bring people together for meaningful dialogue and action on the most critical challenges in public education today and into the future.

The **Arts Education Impact Group** aims to support education philanthropy in meeting its goals and priorities by incorporating arts in education as a strategic resource. Through collaborating and deepening knowledge of the transformative power of arts education, funders can facilitate the expression of student voices as well as ensure all students have the skills they need to be ready for college, career and life.

The mission of the Arts Education Impact Group is to encourage understanding among GFE members of the benefits of a quality arts education to drive improvement. Its vision is to have arts as a pathway to learning for all students.



### Why Arts Education Matters

For young people to be fully prepared for college, career and life, they will need the ability to think creatively and to imagine the unimaginable. They will need to reason analytically, communicate effectively, and work collaboratively. In other words, they will need the knowledge, skills and competencies the arts teach. The arts are an integral part of the solution in preparing all students, especially students of color and other marginalized student populations, for success. (Arts Education Partnership (AEP), 2020 Action Plan)

## Proven Results from Arts Education

Decades of research shows the arts improve academic and social outcomes for students as well as strengthen the instructional effectiveness of teachers reaching a diverse range of learners.

Student outcomes include:

- Development of critical-thinking skills including adaptability, flexibility, imagination, fluency, originality, elaboration and abstractness (AEP, ArtsEdSearch.org).
- Narrowing of the achievement gap between youth at high and low socioeconomic levels (National Endowment for the Arts, J. Catterall, et al., 2012).
- Increase in civic engagement and community participation (National Endowment for the Arts, J. Catterall, et al., 2012).
- Improvement in grades, attitudes, and graduation rates (AEP, ArtsEdSearch.org).

Teacher outcomes include:

- More dynamic and engaging lessons that are more likely to reach all students (AEP, ArtsEdSearch.org).
- Learning connected to the real world so students develop personal and social capacities necessary for college and career success (AEP, ArtsEdSearch.org).

## Join Us to Increase Your Grantmaking Impact

**We welcome your participation.** Joining the Arts Education Impact Group will give you access to resources and a committed group of practitioners that can help you:

- Stay current on the most updated, beneficial arts education resources.
- Identify key programs, based on quality research, that use arts education to decrease educational barriers.
- Carry out successful collaboration between arts education and education philanthropy.

All GFE members are invited to join the Arts Education Impact Group. Financial support is encouraged to help fulfill our impact measures. For more information, contact us at [information@edfunders.org](mailto:information@edfunders.org).

*Cited Sources:*

*Arts Education Partnership (AEP), 2020 Action Plan  
Arts Education Partnership (AEP), ArtsEdSearch.org*

*National Endowment for the Arts, Report: The Arts and  
Achievement in At-Risk Youth: Findings from Four  
Longitudinal Studies / James S. Catterall, et.al*