



## Winter 2017 Report

In 2015, the US Department of Education passed the Every Student Succeeds Act designating arts and music as core subjects within the definition of a “well-rounded education”. Research over the past decade shows that education in the arts is the education of the whole child. Learning in and through the arts increases student engagement and achievement, significantly decreases dropout rates, and increases college enrollment. Arts-rich schools show improved climate and positive parent engagement.

Baltimore City Public Schools District in partnership with Arts Every Day is pleased to announce the Baltimore Arts Education Initiative, a collaborative Fine Arts Strategic Planning process designed to ensure equity and access to arts education for all Baltimore City Public School students. The Baltimore Arts Education Initiative (BAEI) is a 2017 recipient of a \$50,000 National Endowment for the Arts *Art Works: Collective Impact* grant. The Baltimore Arts Education Initiative seeks to increase student access to an arts-rich education that includes the following:

- **Sequential Fine Arts Education** taught by a certified fine arts teacher following the national fine arts standards.
- **Arts Integration** taught independently by the non-arts classroom teachers or in collaboration with a fine arts teacher/teaching artist.
- **Arts Partnerships** connecting classroom learning with a range of teaching artists, arts and cultural organizations.
- **Out-of-School Time and Summer Arts Programs** provided by school-based staff, nonprofit and community partners during summer and non-school hours

Baltimore City Public Schools and Arts Every Day are convening students, parents, community partners, arts educators, arts organizations, and district stakeholders to create a Strategic Plan to move the Baltimore City Public School District forward in 1) meeting new Maryland State Department of Education Fine Arts Standards and Regulations, 2) equipping school leaders and educators with a roadmap for building arts-rich schools, 3) defining guidelines for quality school and community partnerships, out-of-school time and summer arts programming.

Planning sessions are facilitated with support from Baltimore City Public Schools, Arts Every Day, Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance and Maryland Out of School Time Alliance. Evaluation support is provided by MN Associates, Inc. The planning process is currently in process and will culminate with a plan presented to the Baltimore City School Board of Commissioners on May 22, 2018.

Overview of work completed as of December 20, 2017

- Draft policy recommendations for sustainably increasing the number of fine arts educators with particular focus on:
  - Identifying intentional and strategic partnerships to build a pipeline of diverse educators
  - Improved hiring process and timeline
  - Dedicated funding to support the long-term sustainability of arts education
- Draft rubric for school administrators to use as a planning and reporting tool to build an arts rich learning environment that meets Maryland State Standards and supports City Schools *Blueprint for Success* goals: Literacy, Wholeness, Leadership including:
  - Staffing, scheduling, and student to arts teacher ratio
  - Quality of instruction, professional development, arts teacher support, connecting to the community through the arts
  - Partnerships with local artists and community based organizations, museums, and performing arts organizations
  - Facilities/dedicated classrooms, dedicated budget for the arts
- Draft best practices for extending arts access through high quality out of school and summer arts programs
- Draft terminology, quality indicators, and best practices for teaching artist residencies
- Strategies for arts organizations and artists to coordinate efforts, share resources, and support each other's programs.

### **Baltimore Arts Education Initiative Committees Overview**

**Listening Sessions:** In January 2016, Citizen Artist Baltimore (CAB) hosted seven listening sessions across the City of Baltimore. Hundreds of Baltimore citizens shared their priorities, values, and ideas about how the city can sustain and strengthen its arts, culture, and humanities assets. CAB sorted, analyzed, and contextualized these responses, distilling them into priority statements of the arts and culture issues most relevant to voters in the 2016 election. Equitable access to arts education emerged as a top priority from this effort.

To inform the Baltimore Arts Education Initiative, the Baltimore Arts Education Coalition will hold a series of Listening Sessions throughout the 2017-18 School Year to engage parents, students, community members, teachers, and business leaders around the topic of arts education. Ideas, feedback, and concerns will inform every aspect of the Fine Arts Strategic Planning process and will lay the groundwork for assessing progress year after year.

**Arts-Rich Schools Committee:** This committee comprised of principals, fine arts teachers, and district office leaders will develop an arts-rich school portfolio based on the work begun by the Maryland State Department of Education Fine Arts Advisory Panel. The Committee will also review other state and district models with the goal of creating a 'road map' for principals seeking to build an arts-rich school. The Portfolio will include staffing, course offerings, teacher/principal professional development, scheduling/budgeting guidance, facilities/supplies, and community partnerships. Sessions will be led by Lori Snyder, Executive Director of the Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance.

**Arts Out-of-School-Time (OST) Committee:** This committee will develop best practices and recommendations for schools and programs seeking to offer high quality arts during after school and summer. Recommendations will support the current Maryland Out-of-School Time Programs' Quality Standards Framework utilized by OST and summer programs across the State of Maryland. This committee will be comprised of OST and Summer practitioners and leaders with facilitation by Ellie Mitchell, Executive Director of the Maryland Out of School Time Alliance.

**Arts Partnerships Committee:** The Arts Partnerships Committee will bring together arts organizations and teaching artists across Baltimore City to develop a shared vision and asset map with the goal of collectively reaching and supporting all Baltimore City Public Schools. The committee will also develop an annual calendar for sharing programs, resources, best practices and identifying opportunities to work on hard-to-solve problems such as transportation. This committee will be facilitated by Julia Di Bussolo, Executive Director and Carla Blackwell, Partnerships Coordinator, Arts Every Day.

**Steering Committee:** The Steering Committee will be comprised of Baltimore City Public School District Leadership and representatives from each of the committees. The committee will gather the recommendations from the listening sessions and committees to build a set of districtwide goals and benchmarks to improve equity and access to the

arts and prepare the Baltimore City Public School District to meet the new Maryland State Department of Education Fine Arts Standards and Regulations (COMAR). This committee will be jointly led by Baltimore City Public Schools, Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance, Arts Every Day, and the Baltimore Arts Education Coalition.

**Advisory Committee:** The Baltimore Arts Education Initiative will be supported by a diverse group of Baltimore City, arts, education, philanthropic and community, leaders who will review and offer feedback on the planning efforts and documents produced throughout the planning process.



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