



National Endowment for the Arts - December 2014 Grant Announcement

Arts Education: Collective Impact

Among the 73 arts education grants in this round of Art Works funding, seven projects represent a new project type for the NEA, collective impact. These projects focus on collaborative, systematic approaches that encompass entire schools, school districts, and/or states, in communities of all sizes.

Number of Grants: 7

Total Dollar Amount: \$495,000

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

\$100,000 Washington, DC

To support expansion of Any Given Child (AGC), a collective impact project that maintains and develops access to arts education opportunities for elementary and middle schools around the country, to six new sites. AGC brings access, balance, and equity in arts education opportunities by combining community, school, and local cultural resources with those of the Kennedy Center.

AGC's multi-year plan for sites has three phases: strategic planning process that includes asset-mapping, goal-setting, and survey development to audit their current resources. Implementation Committee, another smaller cadre of CAT members, is established to put the strategic plan into action, including staffing, funding, and marketing. During the grant period, existing AGC sites will continue to develop strategic plans, and additional sites will begin the evaluation phase.

Ingenuity Incorporated Chicago

\$100,000 Chicago, IL

To support collective impact through a citywide collaboration to bring excellent arts education to all students. The project will bring together Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Department of Arts Education, certified teachers, Chicago's arts, cultural, and philanthropy communities, as well as parents and students to increase arts education in area schools.

Activities will include tracking and analyzing arts teachers, arts partners, instruction, budget, planning and partnerships in as many as 600 schools through three cloud-based data collection portals. Ingenuity Institutes will help arts organizations use data to partner more effectively with schools. Coordinated efforts will continue to foster the re-integration of the arts into Chicago classrooms. Ingenuity Incorporated serves as Chicago's hub for arts education data, analysis, information, system wide planning, strategy, and partnerships. It provides vision, leadership, and coordination of the collective impact efforts to implement the CPS Arts Education Plan.

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

\$15,000 North Adams, MA

To support a collective impact project to increase access to arts education in rural communities. Working collaboratively, the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Vermont Arts Council, and the Berkshire Readiness Center will add to the emerging body of literature on rural arts education initiatives by examining and compiling best practices in rural areas of the U.S. that have been



successful in increasing access to arts education, and will assess these practices through state, regional, and local lenses.

The partnering groups will review existing data and research tools that can be employed in making the case for the importance of arts education access and will consult with national and organizational thought leaders who can offer insight into best practices. The project will culminate with the production of a workbook to help organize initiatives in rural communities.

Jones County Public Schools

\$50,000 Trenton, NC

To support collective impact in rural Jones County through partnerships among North Carolina A+ Schools Program, Crayola, Jones County Schools, the Jones County Arts Council and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. An A+ Schools district-wide arts education plan will be developed and disseminated to Jones County Schools that includes strategic planning, leadership development, professional development, coaching and evaluation for district leaders and educators.

The combined experience and expertise of the project partners will be focused on crafting a creative vision and building the capacity of the school district to implement arts education practices and strategies. A+ Schools Program of the North Carolina Arts Council is a whole-school reform model that views the arts as fundamental to teaching and learning in all subjects and provides professional development to schools to support the development of an arts-infused, creative culture at each school.

Austin Independent School District

\$80,000 Austin, TX

To support Creative Learning Initiative. The initiative is a collective impact project in Austin that networks education, government, arts, business, and philanthropy to provide what every child should learn in arts-rich schools. Leaders from education, government, arts, business, and philanthropy collectively have developed a methodical, districtwide ten-year plan, the Creative Learning Initiative (CLI), to transform the community through arts education. During this project period, schools will assume more independent leadership in the implementation of creative learning. Schools will be supported with training to deliver arts-based instruction, design and implement individualized learning plans, map the gaps, and activate solutions in neighborhoods to address equity and access to arts education.

Big Thought

\$100,000 Dallas, TX

To support Dallas City of Learning. A collective impact project of city agencies and community partners, the project's goal is to make imagination a part of everyday student learning. The next phase of Big Thought's collective impact work, the Dallas City of Learning project will increase access to quality out of school time arts programs. Through a network of educational experiences provided by city agencies, community partners, museums, and other arts education providers, students will be guided through an arts learning pathway of sequential, skill-building experiences. Student accomplishments will be recognized through digital badges, digital resumes documenting their advancements and interests to use when applying for college, scholarships, and employment. The impact of the program will be measured through a longitudinal study.



Young Audiences, Inc. of Houston (aka Houston Arts Partners)

\$50,000 Houston, TX

To support Houston Arts Partners Initiative, a collective impact project. The initiative engages arts administrators, district leaders, city government, higher education, businesses, and philanthropic sectors to ensure that all children have the opportunity to develop academically, creatively, emotionally and cognitively through the arts. Project activities will include the implementation of an arts education plan to improve arts education in the Houston Independent School District (HISD) through completing the "State of the Arts" Mirror Report to map arts-rich and schools that are not arts-rich. In addition, Houston Arts Partners will use "State of the Arts" data to assign schools a rating for the level of student access to the arts, and will move schools up to the next rating level through professional development for principals, teachers, and parents. Project plans also will involve the direct delivery of arts programming for students in schools that are not arts-rich.