



Research: Art Works

Number of Grants: 19 Total Dollar Amount: \$300,000

Arizona State University

\$15,000 Tempe, AZ

To support an evaluation of a "theater-making" program's ability to promote healthy eating behaviors in elementary school students. Grounded in social cognitive theory and theory of planned behavior, the study will examine how the program, when integrated with cooking classes, contributes to a range of healthy lifestyle behaviors and attitudes among participants. In addition to surveying students on these factors, researchers will conduct qualitative assessments using teacher-artist journals, student journals, and observations.

Boise State University

\$15,000 Boise, ID

To support a study of the relationships between universities and creative clusters in the Intermountain West region. The comparative case study will survey regional artists in Colorado and Nevada, analyzing factors such as educational background, career trajectory, business/organizational innovation, and cross-sector employment opportunities. Researchers also will interview university administrators in Colorado, Nevada, and Idaho to understand their perceptions of local cultural assets and strategies for investing in the arts.

City of New Orleans, Louisiana

\$10,000 New Orleans, LA

To support a retrospective appraisal of career paths and obstacles in New Orleans' cultural economy. Researchers will conduct a survey and in-depth interviews of workers in six segments of the local cultural economy: culinary arts; design; entertainment; literary arts and humanities; preservations; and visual arts and crafts, to identify their demographic characteristics and career histories. The study will examine contextual data from the company Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI), the city's Bureau of Revenue, Guidestar.org, and other sources. The results will allow working artists' needs and experiences to be more fully reflected in New Orleans' economic policies in the future.

Concordia University Chicago

\$10,000 River Forest, IL

To support a study of the relationship between live performing arts attendance (concerts, plays, or musicals) and changes in the stress levels and cognitive ability of older adults. To be conducted in partnership with Rush University Medical Center, the study will use data from the Chicago Health and Aging Project, a longitudinal study of health concerns, especially risk factors for Alzheimer's disease, in African Americans and white Americans aged 65 years and older.

Curators of the University of Missouri at Columbia

\$10,000 Columbia, MO

To support a study of factors that encourage nonprofit arts organizations to become more civically active. The study will identify organizational, financial, and community characteristics in common with arts groups that prioritize civic engagement. Based on an analysis of three datasets (the 2014 Nonprofit Arts Survey, IRS Form 990s, and county-level data from the U.S. Census Bureau), the study will yield useful information for nonprofit arts organizations that strive to become more civically active while providing quality arts and cultural programs.



George Mason University

\$20,000 Fairfax, VA

To support a study examining whether middle school students from at-risk backgrounds who take arts electives show greater academic achievement than those who do not. Data for the analysis will come from the Miami School Readiness Project, a longitudinal study consisting largely of children who received free or reduced-price lunches in kindergarten. More than half of the students are English Language Learners, a historically understudied group.

Hearthstone Alzheimers Foundation Inc. (aka I'm Still Here Foundation)

\$20,000 Woburn, MA

To support an evaluation of "Meet Me at the Movies," a creative arts intervention for older adults with dementia. Using a quasi-experimental design with a control group, researchers will give pre- and post-intervention surveys to adults aged 65 years and older who have dementia and who reside in assisted living facilities. The intervention consists of showing movie clips featuring iconic and/or universal themes (e.g., love, family, work) and inviting participants to express their feelings and opinions afterward. Outcomes to be measured include positive engagement/affect, perceived quality of life, perceived depressive symptoms, and challenging behaviors.

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (Trustees of)

\$15,000 Indianapolis, IN

To support a study of artists' employment patterns relative to prior decades and how artists found new markets during and after the recent recession. Researchers will construct a longitudinal study sample from data files produced by the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The study also will yield a new data file consisting of "web scrapes" from the crowdfunding sites Kickstarter and Indiegogo, partly to understand variations in fundraising outcomes of arts projects compared with technology and non-arts projects.

Maryland Institute (aka Maryland Institute College of Art)

\$10,000 Baltimore, MD

To support an evaluation of Community Art Collaborative, an AmeriCorps service program that places artists in residencies in low-income neighborhoods in Baltimore, Maryland. Through pre- and post-intervention surveys, observations, and interviews, the researchers will assess changing attitudes and behaviors among K-12 students who participate in the collaborative. Attitudinal changes to be studied relate to academic engagement, self-efficacy, sense of community, creative problem-solving, and personal empowerment.

Occidental College

\$20,000 Los Angeles, CA

To support a series of experimental studies of viewers' perceptual, cognitive, emotional, and physiological responses to American-Indian photographs from the 1860s to the 1930s. Participants will include undergraduates and volunteers at the Autry National Center of the American West who will be asked to view the exhibits in museum and lab settings. In addition to collecting behavioral and eye-tracking data from the viewers, researchers will monitor heart rate, skin conductance, skin temperature, and acceleration of movement during and after viewing. The study aims to understand the role of visual competencies in deepening cultural interpretation.

Ohio State University



\$15,000 Columbus, OH

To support a meta-analysis on the effects of drama-based pedagogies on literacy-related student outcomes. The study focuses on empirical research literature published from 1985 through the present. Literacy-related outcome areas of interest include achievement (writing and reading), and psychological, social, and behavioral student outcomes in educational settings. The meta-analysis will include published and non-published, and experimental and quasi-experimental, studies involving school-aged children, adolescents, and college students.

Omaha Conservatory of Music

\$10,000 Omaha, NE

To support an evaluation of String Sprouts, a music education program that will improve school readiness and neurocognitive development in preschool and school-age children. With the University of Nebraska Medical Center, researchers will assess two versions of the String Sprouts program: 1) the original model (which features mandatory caregiver participation in class but does not mandate daily practice) and 2) the test model (which does not mandate caregiver participation in class but does mandate daily practice). Outcome measures include child receptive vocabulary, social and emotional development, parent-child closeness, executive functioning, kindergarten readiness, music skills, and performance in reading and math.

Regents of the University of California at San Diego

\$25,000 La Jolla, CA

To support an evaluation of the effectiveness of Arts-in-Corrections programming in California prisons. In partnership with the University of California at San Francisco, the William James Association, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, researchers will investigate the relationship between program participation and performance on a host of life-effectiveness measures. The study will use a control group and will compare inmates' administrative records as well as data to be collected from pre- and post-intervention surveys and interviews.

University of Florida

\$25,000 Gainesville, FL

To support a study of the effects of live preferential music on emergency department operations. The randomized, controlled study will use a group of professional musicians to serve in an emergency and level-one trauma care setting. Researchers will examine whether patients who are guided by the musicians to select live music options show higher levels of satisfaction, less reliance on pain medications, reduced hospital stays, and lower overall costs of care when compared with patients who do not have the opportunity to select live music options. Staff who are exposed to the music also will be assessed for perceptions of personal work performance and satisfaction in the workplace.

University of Louisville

\$15,000 Louisville, KY

To support a study of the relationship between theater engagement and self-reported levels of psychosocial well-being among older patrons of the Actors Theatre of Louisville. The researchers will conduct a cross-sectional survey of adult audiences and a focus group of audience members aged 60 years and older. A third component of the study involves tracking a cohort of older subscribers for two theatrical seasons, to learn whether they experience gains in positive affect from pre- to post-performance, and whether those gains predict psychological "flourishing" among older subscribers.



University of Maryland at College Park

\$10,000 College Park, MD

To support a study profiling the workforce of arts educators in the nation's public schools. The study will analyze two nationally representative datasets (the U.S. Department of Education's Schools and Staffing Survey and the Teacher Follow-Up Study) to produce a statistical snapshot of arts educators based on gender, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, salary, and teaching responsibilities, among other characteristics. Researchers will analyze job satisfaction issues and relate the base-year demographics and attitudes to the likelihood of arts educators exiting the teaching profession.

University of Missouri at Kansas City

\$15,000 Kansas City, MO

To support a study of arts participation as a predictor of teenagers' civic behaviors and attitudes. Using representative data from two international studies of civic engagement (the 1999 Civic Education Study and the 2009 International Civics and Citizenship Education Study), researchers will examine the extent to which participation in arts-based activities in adolescence is associated with a variety of civic outcomes. More specifically, the researcher will examine whether arts participation is more related to civic outcomes for some groups of students rather than others, whether arts participation is more associated with certain types of civic outcomes (e.g., specific social attitudes or of expected future involvement in particular civic areas), and whether there are differences among students from different countries.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

\$20,000 Greensboro, NC

To support an evaluation of the effect of a participatory, structured visual arts program on the neuropsychiatric symptoms of older adults with cognitive impairment. The program, ARTmail, involves participants who collaborate in creating visual art works in the abstract expressionist style during an eight-week period with the help of trained volunteers. At pre- and post-intervention, caregivers for ARTmail participants, as well as caregivers for a waitlist control group, will complete surveys assessing the patients' levels of apathy, agitation, and depressive symptoms.

University of South Florida

\$20,000 Tampa, FL

To support a study of the impact of piano training on cognitive, psychosocial, and neurophysiological dimensions of well-being in older adults. In partnership with the Hillsborough County Department of Aging Services, researchers will employ a randomized, controlled trial study design, comparing such outcome variables as verbal fluency, working memory, mood, and self-efficacy in older adults who receive piano training versus older adults who receive either computer-based auditory training or no treatment at all. Brain wave measurements will allow researchers to track allocations of attentional and working memory, while biomarkers will be used to gauge stress levels and immune function during the study period.