

## Why Arts? Introducing Your Arts Plan to Your Community



*Music teacher Helen Zhou with the Dearborn Park Intl Elementary dance troupe this month.*

Many schools completed their action arts action plans this month and the first action listed on many is to introduce the new arts plan to school staff and families.

### This issue includes info on:

- Introducing the arts plan to staff
- Research to share about the impacts of arts education
- Arts opportunities for teachers and students

## Introducing (or Reintroducing) Your Arts Plan

A number of schools completed their arts action plans this winter and more will be developing year two arts plans this spring. In both year one and year two action plans, **a common first action is to introduce the arts plan to the broader school community - staff, families and students.** That is a smart approach that will help in a number of ways, including creating understanding and buy-in prior to taking actions that will impact staff like arts integration professional development or new arts-based community events. Introducing the plan to staff, families and students is also a way to get more people involved in the action of the arts action plan. The goal of The Creative Advantage is that every school develops their own arts culture where arts learning is valued and owned by everyone in the school community.

We suggest introducing your arts plan in an all-staff meeting, in convenings with families and with students in classrooms. Introduction should include combination of an art-making activity, an opportunity to read and hear about the plan, as well as time for reflection and feedback. The SPS Creative Advantage web pages have a number of activities and suggested scripts to help.

- [Visual Art Activity: Pass Around Drawing](#)
- [Theatre Activity: This Is Not A...](#)
- [Script for introducing a new school arts plan](#)

## Research on Arts Education to Share

There is a lot of research about the impacts that the arts have on school-aged youth. This is a round-up of recent research that will help school staff and families understand why it is vital that every student has access to high-quality arts learning.



*Teaching artist Aaron Walker-Loud is collaborating with music teacher Christine Serica (not pictured here) on residency in keyboarding, percussion and digital music at South Shore K-8 this spring.*

### Arts and Academics:

- A March 4th [New York Times article](#) cites a Johns Hopkins research study that shows that when students were taught lessons (e.g. language art or science) using arts integrated curriculum, they were **more likely to remember the content taught 10 weeks later**, and the difference was even greater for lower achieving students.
- **Visual arts enhances writing quality and early reading skills.** [In one study](#), drawing before writing helped students formulate ideas and led to better quality of writing and storytelling.
- [In another study](#), ninth grade musicians scored significantly higher on algebra assessments than their non-musician counterparts, as their **brains are accustomed to performing the underlying processes used in complex math**

### Arts and Social Emotional Learning:

- [A Kennedy Center study](#) found that the teachers of students who received regular arts education reported a "more positive and cohesive learning environment", citing **increased peer collaboration and improved social skills in the classroom.**
- [This Edutopia article](#) shows how an Oakland elementary school uses theatre activities are used to reduce conflict by allowing students to role-play different situations, teaching **healthy conflict resolution** and how visual art practice teaches **collaboration skills** by creating and critiquing each other's art. Discussing art can also teach students how to **communicate without judgment.**

### Arts and Everything:

- A [recent study in Houston](#) (that name checks The Creative Advantage) finds that a substantial increase in arts educational experiences has remarkable impacts on students' academic, social, and emotional outcomes. Relative to students assigned to the control group, treatment school students experienced a 3.6 percentage point **reduction in disciplinary infractions**, an improvement of 13 percent of a standard deviation in **standardized writing scores**, and an increase of 8 percent of a standard deviation in their **compassion for others**. In terms of our measure of compassion for others, students who received more arts education experiences are more interested in how other people feel and more likely to want to help people who are treated badly.

# Arts Opportunities for Teachers

## BRINGING *theatre* INTO THE CLASSROOM



"(FULL OF) 100% HONESTY,  
KINDNESS, FOCUS, INSTRUCTION,  
PROFESSIONALISM, FUN, LOVE, AND  
PASSION!"

- 2016 PARTICIPANT

[Register here](#)

Bringing Theatre into the Classroom (BTiC) is back this summer and better than ever! The BTiC team is gearing up to offer you everything you love about your favorite Teacher Professional Development Program, while also bringing it to the next level, with all-new, diverse classes that will continue to inspire and enrich your teaching.

**What:** Seattle Children's Theatre partners with Book-It, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and the Seattle Repertory Theatre to bring you professional development that will equip you with the tools and skills to successfully integrate drama and dance into your entire curriculum.

**When:** July 15-19, 2019

**Where:** Seattle Repertory Theatre

**Price:** \$550 (scholarships and early-bird discount available.) Are you a Creative Advantage School? You can use Creative Advantage funds to pay for BTiC. Talk to your school administrator about setting aside funds today.

**PLUS...** 30 clock hours and 3 credits available! Registration opens in March for this curriculum enhancing program.

**Questions?** Contact [btic@sct.org](mailto:btic@sct.org) or call 206.859.4015 x.1164

## Arts Opportunities for Schools

### *SAM: Jeffrey Gibson school tours*

#### **Identity, Intersectionality, & Voice**

School tours are filling fast! Book yours now to explore and discuss identity, multiculturalism, intersectionality, and personal voice with your students in the current exhibition *Jeffrey Gibson: Like a Hammer*. Students are invited



to experience the auspicious and powerful nature of Gibson's work, and make connections to their own cultural identities. SAM's school tours are image-focused and inquiry-based experiences led by trained guides for K–12 students. Art workshops give students an opportunity to get creative and work in our art studio alongside professional Teaching Artists.

Schools can use their Creative Advantage funds to pay for SAM art workshops.

[Email us](#) to learn more about SAM's subsidized funding and partial bus reimbursements for Title 1 schools.

[BOOK NOW](#)



## Free Mindfulness and Arts Classes for Schools

Yareli Quintana is a Certified Holistic Health Coach, Mindfulness Meditation Coach, and Yoga Instructor new to the Seattle area. Certified by the Institute for Integrative Nutrition and trained in Compassion Cultivation Meditation by the Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education at Stanford University's School of Medicine, Yareli launched Mindfulness In The Classroom - a K-12, eight-week curriculum that aims to teach students and school administrators the benefit of mindful learning, compassion cultivation, and holistic health. Mindfulness in the Classroom has graduated more than 1200 students in the San Francisco Bay Area. Now a resident of Seattle, Yareli's hope is to introduce it to Seattle area schools.

You can learn more about Yareli and her program at [YareliQuintana.com](http://YareliQuintana.com) or [MindfulnessInTheClassroom.com](http://MindfulnessInTheClassroom.com).

## Arts Opportunities for Students

### City of Music Career Day

City of Music Career Day is a free event providing young people, ages 13-24, the chance to spend the day with working musicians and industry professionals to learn what it takes to make it in a competitive, yet rewarding world of music. Attendees will be guided through an action-packed day of networking, experiential learning, engaging conversations and roundtable discussions that focus on the wide range of career possibilities within the music industry from those who know it best.



### Friday, April 19 at MoPop & Vera at Seattle Center

Attendees will enjoy a free, catered lunch and have a chance to meet businesses and organization that fuel the local music economy – from record labels to concert promoters to recording studios and more.

[Register here](#)

## Western Governors' Association High "Celebrate the West" High School Art Competition

## Resources

As you implement your school arts plans, here are a few websites and people you can look to for help:

[Sign up](#) for the Creative Advantage Arts Team Newsletter

[The Creative Advantage Page](#) on the SPS website

Resources and tools for arts teams, Creative Advantage news and archived newsletters.

[The Community Arts Partner Roster](#) is a vetted list of teaching artists and community arts and culture organizations approved to work in Seattle Public Schools through the Creative Advantage.

[The Creative Advantage Website & Toolkit](#) houses the school arts plans, tools for planning partnerships, guidelines for contracts and invoices and more.

**If you can't find what you need on-line, contact the Creative Advantage staff:**

[Audrey Querns](#)-SPS project manager for Creative Advantage *(for questions about arts teams and planning, arts partner logistics like contracts and funding)*

[Tina LaPadula](#) - Seattle Office of Arts & Culture Creative Youth Project Manager and [Lara Davis](#)-Arts Education Manager *(for questions about the Arts Partner Roster and working with teaching artists and arts organizations)*

[Gail Sehlhorst](#)-SPS Visual and Performing Arts Manager *(for questions about arts staffing, curriculum and assessment)*

[Kate Baker](#) - SPS Media Arts Skills Center Project Manager