

ARTS CONNECT HOUSTON

Arts Connect is building a future in which every child thrives because they have a complete education that includes the arts.

By maximizing change through collective impact, Arts Connect ensures that the entire community understands the fundamental necessity of the arts for all children. Using data, advocating for change, building capacity, and opening avenues for strategic funding, the initiative creates new pathways for students, schools, and districts to embrace high-quality arts education. With over 80 partners, the collective aligns seven primary stakeholder groups including local arts and culture organizations, Houston ISD, the City of Houston, the Houston Arts Alliance, the local philanthropic community, state and national partners, and community members.

Vision: To realize the tremendous potential of every student by ensuring the arts as essential to a complete education, recognizing that when students prosper, our community thrives.

Mission: To unite the Greater Houston community to ensure access to high-quality arts education in creative writing, dance, music, theater and the visual arts for every student, beginning with the Houston ISD.

"As an organization, Arts Connect fills a new space in Houston. Collectively, we work towards creating the right conditions for lasting systems change so that every student, in every school, in every classroom has access to the arts without regard to family income or where they live."

Deborah Lugo, Executive Director

Collecting Actionable Data

Understanding which students are receiving an arts education and which students are not is the key to reaching all students. This important data is the first step to creating system-wide change. With it, our partners can improve their decision making and deploy resources to close arts education gaps.



Driving Advocacy

Arts Connect advocates for the vital role of the arts within education to ensure that all HISD students have access to a high-quality arts education. Most recently, Arts Connect helped ensure HISD was providing arts educators in high needs schools.



Building Capacity

Arts Connect helps educators and nonprofits do better work in schools through trainings, the Arts Action Fund and other capacity building services. In this way, dozens of cooperating partners get better together and do better together.



Unlocking New Investments

Arts Connect taps untapped public and private funds in Houston—and across the country—to unlock new resources, allowing the collective to achieve systems change, eradicate arts education disparities, support innovation, and amplify capacity building efforts.



COLLECTIVE ACTION TOWARDS EQUITY

Arts Connect's systemic approach to education access has profound effects inside and outside of the classroom. Beyond the necessity of the arts as part of a complete education for all students, it shines a light on issues of access and equity by addressing disparities in resource allocation that disproportionately impact students of color. Because arts education is a proven way to bolster student success across socioeconomic factors, disinvesting in the arts deepens already widening gaps in achievement. The results of these inequities have far-reaching consequences for the health of students' communities and for their lives outside of school.

Equity Matters: Arts Education and Student Impacts

Dr. Daniel Bowen, Assistant Professor, Department of Education Administration and Human Resources, Texas A&M University



- When conducted rigorously, research shows that the arts improve student engagement, attendance, critical thinking skills, writing achievement, empathy, compassion and tolerance, among others.
- When we look at the impact of arts learning by student success by subgroups, we find effects that are substantially greater in magnitude—in many cases two to three times—when compared to the general student population.
- When we provide arts learning opportunities, schools are compensating for learning opportunities that would not otherwise be taking place for historically marginalized students.

Arts Action Fund

\$730,000 strategically invested and leveraged thus far on arts education opportunities for students in Houston ISD

Arts Action Fund Impact, since 2018

65,494 students participated in diverse arts partnership opportunities in
1,970 classrooms through **316** direct partnerships with over
192 Houston ISD campuses.



- Programs delivered in a variety of formats including virtual, in-person and multi-modal
- Arts disciplines include creative writing, dance, music, theatre and visual arts via arts experiences, integration and instruction

ARTS CONNECT HOUSTON

Our Leadership

Board of Directors

Brenda Peters Chase, President
Enterprise Products

Lauren Anderson
Houston Ballet

Caroline Goeser
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Craig Massey
Merrill Lynch

Jack McBride
Writers in the Schools

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Cathy Bencivenga
Alley Theatre

Rachel Hemphill Dickson
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Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Harrison Guy
Fifth Ward Community
Redevelopment Corporation
Urban Souls Dance Company

Craig Hauschildt
Houston ISD

Deborah Lugo
Arts Connect Houston

Janette Garza Lindner
Veritas Total Solutions

Debbie McNulty
Arts and Culture Leader

Wenden Sanders
Houston ISD

Our Partners

District

Houston ISD

State and National Partners

Arts Education Partnership

Ingenuity, Inc.

The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

MINDPOP

Texas Cultural Trust

Texans for the Arts

City of Houston

Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs

Mayor's Office of Education

Funders

Houston Endowment

National Endowment for the Arts

The Powell Foundation

Texas Women for the Arts at Texas Cultural Trust

Arts and Culture Partners

Ad Deum Dance Company

AFA

A.I.R. Project

Alley Theatre

Alta Arts

Aperio, Music of the Americas

Apollo Chamber Players

Ars Lyrica

Art League Houston

Arte Público Press

ARTreach

Asia Society Texas Center

Aurora Picture Show

Bay Area Houston Ballet & Theatre

Campbell Learning Center

Carya String Quartet

Community Artists' Collective

Community Music Center of Houston

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

Culture Arts Initiative, Inc.

Da Camera of Houston

Dance the Dream

Diversity in the Arts and Entertainment

Edison Arts Foundation

EnActe Arts Inc.

The Ensemble Theatre

Exalted Arts

Express Children's Theatre

Fashion Museum of Texas

FotoFest Inc.

Foundation for Modern Music

Frame Dance Productions

Friends of Africa

Hearts In Motion

Heritage Society

HITS Theatre

The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts

Hope Stone

Houston Ballet

Houston Boy Choir

Houston Center for Photography

Houston Chamber Choir

Houston Children's Chorus

Houston Contemporary Dance Company

Houston Grand Opera

Houston Healthy Hip Hop

Houston Masterworks Chorus

Houston METdance

Houston School of Arts and Design

Houston Symphony

Houston Viola Society

Houston Youth Symphony

Main Street Theater

MECA

Mercury Chamber Orchestra

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Musiqá

Nameless Sound

Open Dance Project

Opera in the Heights

Orange Show Center for Visionary Arts

Partnerschools

Prelude Music Foundation

The Printing Museum

Rising Arts Academy of Dance & Performing Arts

Rothko Chapel

Silambam Houston

Social Movement Contemporary Dance

Society for the Performing Arts

Take the Stage

Texan French Alliance for the Arts

Theatre Under The Stars

UNICEF USA

Urban Souls Dance Company

WindSync

Workshop Houston

Writers in the Schools

The Houston Arts Alliance is Arts Connect's supported organization and operating home.

For more information, contact Deborah Lugo, Executive Director, at deborah@artsconnecthouston.org.