Creative Advantage This Month:

NEA Grant to support South-Southwest Schools in Implementing Creative Advantage

In January, 2017 the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will make a $100,000 award from the Art Works grant program to Seattle Public Schools to support the implementation of The Creative Advantage program. This is the second year in a row that we have received this grant. The Art Works category focuses on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts.

This year, the grant will be used to fund The Creative Advantage program in the South-Southwest Arts Pathway. It makes possible:

- Arts leadership coaches who will return to schools to work with arts teams to update the arts plans for next school year.
- Stipends for school arts team coordinators who put in extra time facilitating arts team meetings and coordinating the school arts partnerships.
- Setting up art integration supply closets for each school so that teachers who are getting professional development in integrating arts have the materials
The arts teach children that in complex forms of problem solving purposes are seldom fixed, but change with circumstance and opportunity. Learning in the arts requires the ABILITY and a WILLINGNESS to surrender to the unanticipated possibilities of the work as it unfolds.

The arts make VIVID the fact that neither words in their literal form nor numbers exhaust what we can KNOW. The limits of our language do not define the limits of our COGNITION.

The arts teach students that SMALL DIFFERENCES can have LARGE EFFECTS. The arts traffic in subtleties.

The arts teach students to think through and within a material. All art forms employ some means through which IMAGES become REAL.

The arts help CHILDREN LEARN to say what cannot be said. When children are invited to disclose what a work of art helps them FEEL, they must reach into their POETIC CAPACITIES to find the words that will do the job.

The ARTS ENABLE us to have EXPERIENCE we can have from no other source and through such experience to DISCOVER the range and variety of what we are capable of FEELING.

The arts' position in the

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**Bringing Theatre into the Classroom's FREE Week-Long Summer Training for SSSW Teachers**

Bringing Theatre into the Classroom (BTiC) is an engaging, fun, five-day intensive summer workshop that will teach you ways to integrate drama into your entire curriculum. The Creative Advantage is pleased to announce that we have reserved up to 70 spots in next summer's workshop, July 10-14th at Seattle Repertory Theatre. We are able to do this thanks to a grant from the Laird Norton Family Foundation.

Think of it as summer camp-only with WAY better activities. Get all the tools you need to integrate art into your classroom on a daily basis. Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Book-It Repertory Theatre and Pacific Northwest Ballet bring you the best summer workshop you'll ever take! During the hands-on workshops offered throughout the week, you'll "try out" curriculum in a supportive environment with professional Teaching Artists, then receive a wealth of detailed, easy-to-follow lesson plans. Clock hours and university credit are available.

This January, BTiC can come to your school on a Wednesday afternoon to provide a professional development preview to your entire staff. Please contact Audrey Querns to arrange a preview.

**Arts Plan in Action: Art Walk at Concord International Elementary**

By Laura Strand

At Concord International Elementary School, one of our Creative Advantage goals for this year is to hold 3 evening community art gallery events to showcase student and staff art. Work by students was displayed in 6 "art galleries", devoted art areas around our school, mostly in stairwells and hallways. All students were trained in giving tours of our galleries, using arts concepts and vocabulary to discuss the artwork on display. During art time, all of the classes took a "field trip" to our school museum to
The school curriculum symbolizes to the young what adults BELIEVE is IMPORTANT.

**SOURCE:** Eisner, E. (2002). The Arts and the Creation of Mind, In Chapter 4, What the Arts Teach and How It Shows. (pp. 70-92). Yale University Press.

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**CONNECT**

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 South-Southwest newsletter**
- **The Creative Advantage Website**
- **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.
- **SPS’ Visual and Performing Arts website**

Here you can find an overview of the Creative Advantage as well as resources related to the Naramore student art show, summer music, and for teachers, arts curriculum maps and cornerstone assessments.

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

- **Audrey Querns** SPS project manager for Creative Advantage.

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We view and discuss the artwork on display. We then invited families to come to an evening “gallery walk”. We chose an evening during conferences when many families were already coming to the school. Students made posters to publicize the event. Our City Year Interns were on hand to serve up snacks and beverages to gallery visitors. One exciting thing about this process was seeing the way that students began to view themselves, and each other, as legitimate artists.

**Kindergarten Gallery**

**2nd Grade Gallery**

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**Save the Dates for the The Creative Advantage Arts PD Series**

The Creative Advantage Professional Development Series is for teachers and teaching artists and focus on tips, tools and techniques for successful school partnerships. Workshop will conclude with 4 discipline focused breakout groups, led by a master Teaching Artists and Certified Arts Teacher.

Dates and topics for 2017 are:

- **Thursday, January 19, 5 - 8pm, Topic: Best Practice for Partnership**, Location: Seattle Asian Art Museum
- **Saturday, February 11, 1 - 4pm, Topic: 21st Century Training**, Location: Northwest African American Museum
- **Saturday April 29, 1 - 4pm, Topic: Arts Teaching and Learning with LBGTQ Youth**, Location: TBD
- **Saturday May 13, 1 - 4pm, Topic: Arts & English Language Learners**, Location: TBD
The Creative Advantage is releasing our 2016 Progress Report. It is a new tool to help you share your arts team’s work with staff, students and families. The report can be found here: http://www.creativeadvantageseattle.org/go-deeper/

It contains graphics and descriptions initiative and highlights the progress made in the first two years in the Central Arts Pathway.

Since The Creative Advantage was implemented in the Central Region in 2013 there has been a 200% increase in the number of students receiving music instruction on a weekly basis (serving 876 students in 2012-13 to 3,023 students in 2014-15).

There has also been a 34% increase in students' demonstration of 21st century skills, skills critical for life and career success-especially creativity, critical thinking, communication and perseverance. Additionally, there has been an increase in arts integration for students provided by teaching artists, arts organizations and classroom teachers.

In January, paper copies will be sent to each Creative Advantage school to share with staff and families.