THE CREATIVE ADVANTAGE

OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE
SEATTLE

SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2015 progress report

arts education now.
innovative minds tomorrow.

dear colleagues & friends,

As a city and community we strongly believe in providing every student in every school with the education they need to thrive in today's creative economy. When we began this journey to provide meaningful and equitable arts access to our students we knew that it would take a collective effort on the part of the district, the city and arts partners to achieve success.

Regardless of the neighborhood, every student in every school should have access to arts learning. At the district we are strategically laying the foundation for arts learning from elementary to middle to high school. We are working to realize our vision of providing high-quality, 21st century education and equitable arts access for every student and it takes a commitment from our teachers, parents, community arts partners and the city to make this vision a reality.

Access to equitable arts education is a citywide effort. For Seattle to continue to thrive and compete in today's global economy we need our students to be able to think critically, creatively and collaboratively. That is why the city and the district are working in tandem with our entire community to provide our students with the wealth of resources our city has to offer.

We are transforming the practices of schools, arts organizations, funders and the community at large. The Creative Advantage has made tremendous progress to provide access to high-quality arts education to our students in the Central Area and it continues to expand to more regions.

We want to thank everyone who has made The Creative Advantage possible, the 23 arts teams at Seattle Public Schools and the district staff who support them, the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, the Seattle Foundation and our incredible arts community. We would not be moving forward and making a difference without them.

Sincerely,

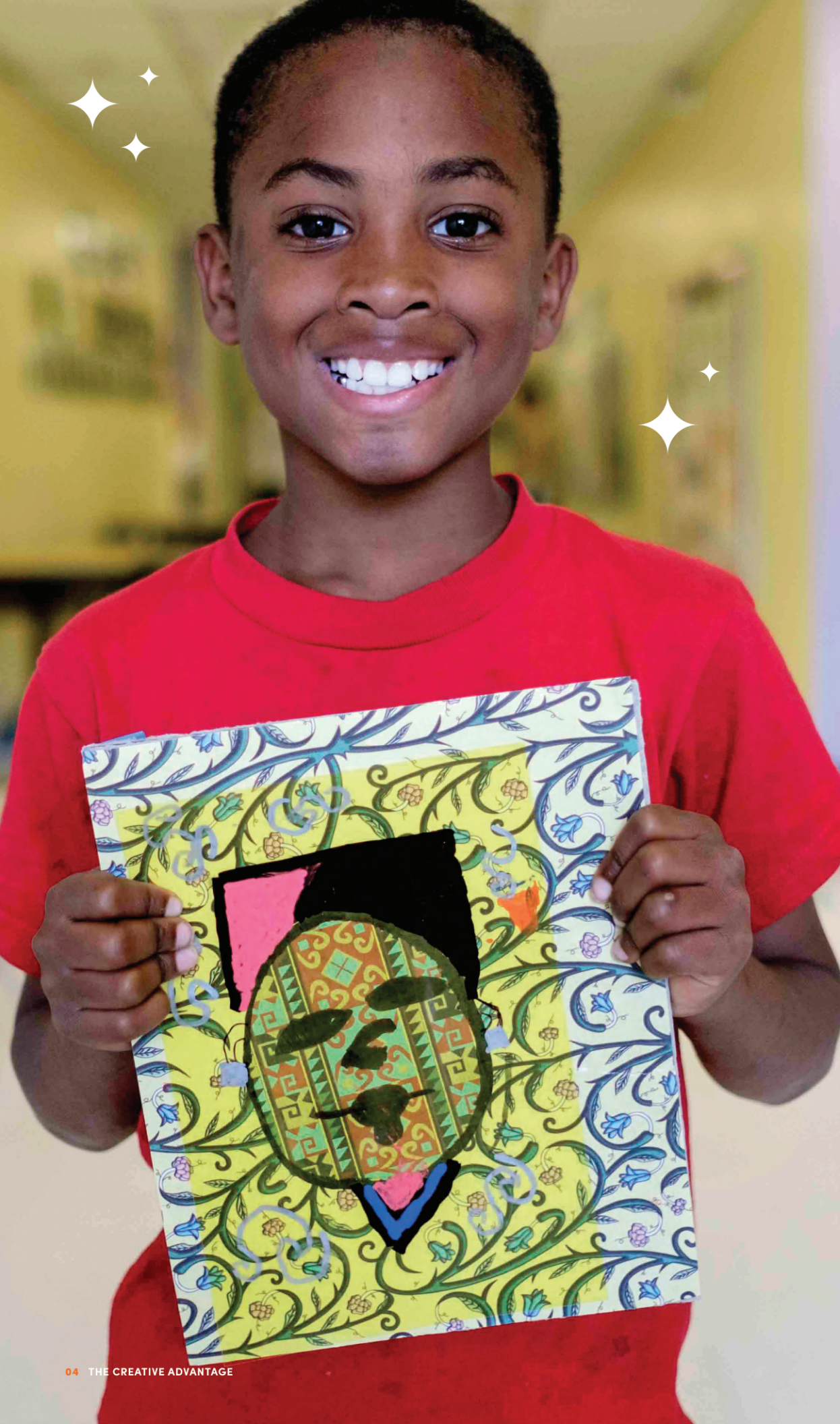
Dr. Larry Nyland, Seattle Public Schools Superintendent and Mayor Ed Murray

21st century arts learning

In Seattle, arts education includes dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts. All disciplines are taught as a means of expression, culture, identity, and ideas, and intentionally foster the 21st century skills of creativity, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, growth mindset, and perseverance.

Students engage in 21st century arts learning through arts classes taught by certified arts teachers, through integrated arts instruction taught by classroom teachers and teaching artists, and through learning experiences facilitated by community arts organizations in and out of the school day.

arts education now. innovative minds tomorrow.



what is the creative advantage?

The Creative Advantage is a city-wide initiative to establish equitable access to arts education for each and every student in Seattle Public Schools. The Creative Advantage is made possible through a public-private partnership with Seattle Public Schools, the City of Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, the Seattle Foundation, and community arts organizations.

Seattle Public Schools
Expands students' access to arts teachers and classes, transforms arts curriculum to incorporate 21st century skills, and helps schools develop arts-rich communities.

Seattle Office of Arts & Culture
Increases students' access to professional artists and arts organizations and provides training for teaching artists and teachers.

Community Arts Partners
Engage students and teachers in learning that integrates arts into other subject areas and in cultural arts experiences.

Seattle Foundation
Act as the fiscal sponsor of The Creative Advantage.

Creative Advantage Advisory Group
Makes recommendations and provides key information to The Creative Advantage by engaging and advocating in the community, especially with youth.

the creative advantage implementation

Central Arts Pathway

- Bailey Gatzert Elementary
- John Muir Elementary
- Leschi Elementary
- Lowell Elementary
- Thurgood Marshall Elementary
- McGilvra Elementary
- Montlake Elementary
- Stevens Elementary
- Madrona K-8
- Washington Middle School
- Garfield High School
- Nova High School
- Seattle World School

South-Southwest Arts Pathway

- Arbor Heights Elementary
- Concord International Elementary
- Highland Park Elementary
- Roxhill Elementary
- Sanislo Elementary
- West Seattle Elementary
- Louisa Boren STEM K-8
- Denny International Middle School
- Chief Sealth International High School
- Interagency Southwest at Youngstown

seattle public schools 2014-2015 at-a-glance

Mission

Seattle Public Schools is committed to ensuring equitable access, eliminating opportunity gaps, and excellence in education for every student.

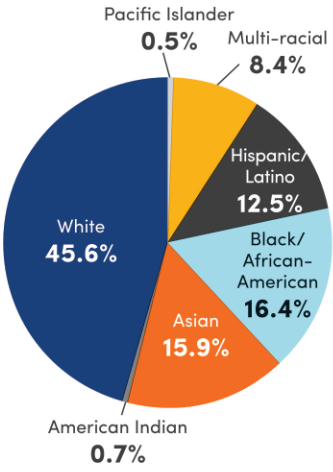
Vision

Every Seattle Public Schools' student receives a high-quality, 21st century education and graduates prepared for college, career and life.

Total enrollment: 51,988
Schools: 97
Languages/dialects: 128
Graduation rate: 76.3%
Teachers: 3,122
Budget: $689.4 M

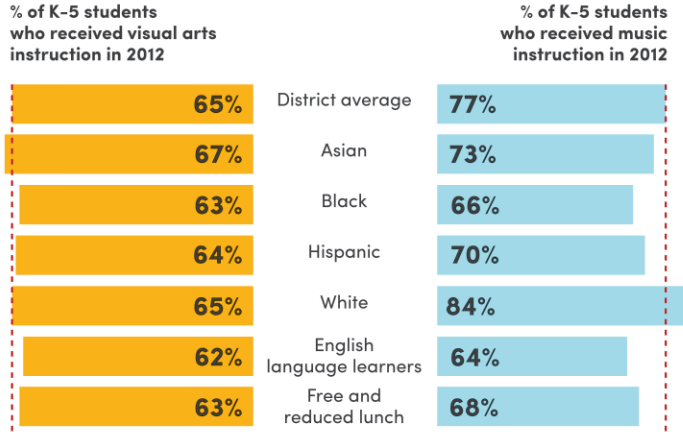
Schools with dance: 3
Schools with multi-arts: 10
Schools with music: 57
Schools with theatre: 19
Schools with visual arts: 58
Arts teachers at SPS: 190

Student demographics 2014-2015



Arts opportunity gaps

The inequities in access to the arts galvanized the creation of The Creative Advantage



Arts Access Survey and Cohort Analysis Results by Annette de Soto, Beyond the Divide

how seattle got its (arts) groove back

By Robyn Jordan, Visual Arts Teacher at Lowell Elementary School

Excerpt printed with permission from the artist.

progress

Equitable access to arts instruction is a guiding pillar in The Creative Advantage. Arts instruction is an essential component of educating the whole child and preparing students for college, career and life in the 21st century. The foundation for The Creative Advantage was set in 2009 with a generous grant from the Wallace Foundation to develop a plan for Seattle Public Schools to provide high quality arts education equitably across the district. The grant allowed the district to accelerate its efforts to address systemic barriers to students' access to arts, and increased its capacity to expand its goals.

The Creative Advantage utilizes the resources of the district, city and arts organizations to provide a K-12 continuum of arts learning in schools. Comprehensive research conducted throughout the district showed that arts access gaps were the greatest for students of color, low-income and English Language Learner (ELL) students. The Creative Advantage is dedicated to eliminating these access gaps and in 2013 began with the Central Arts Pathway where arts access was the most inequitable.

Timeline of arts education at Seattle Public Schools

1960s
SPS is a nationally recognized leader in music education, employing 30 Elementary Instrumental Music (EIM) teachers in District.

1974
Recession leads to a double school-levy failure. All elementary arts specialists are cut.

1974
SPS pilots the Arts and Education Program to expand SPS's strong arts and music program to include dance, drama, media and literacy arts.

1980
SPS changes from a neighborhood school model to school choice to promote desegregation.

2000
SPS District Office of Arts Education is eliminated.

2007
Seattle Arts Commission and Office of Arts & Culture partner with SPS to re-establish District Visual and Performing Arts Department. Manager for Visual and Performing Arts hired.

2008
An arts education Partnership between the City and SPS is launched. Music Instructional Coach hired.

2009
SPS changes from school choice to neighborhood assignment plan.

2010-12
The School Board adopts new music curriculum and allocates over $400,000 for new instruments.

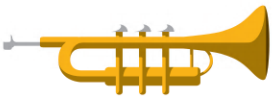
2011
The Families and Education Levy passes.

2012
Washington Supreme Court rules tha the state must amply fund K-12 education by 2018.

2013
The Creative Advantage is launched in the Central Arts Pathway.

2015
South-Southwest Arts Pathway is launched.

2017
South-Southeast Arts Pathway will be launched.



"The most outstanding benefit for me and my community right now is that it's given us something to come together around in a very diverse community. Through the arts, we celebrate our cultures. It brings out the best in our different cultures and has created an opportunity for community building. That was an unanticipated pay-off." — SPS principal

goals
every student in every school receives...

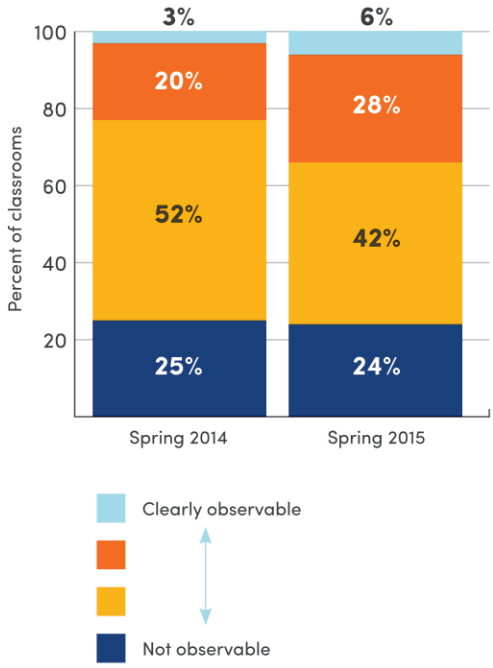
1. **High quality arts instruction that teaches sequential arts skills and techniques, develops students' 21st century skills and is culturally responsive**

   Why: It has been shown that arts instruction helps develop students 21st century skills such as **creativity**, **critical thinking**, **communications**, **collaboration**, **growth mindset**, and **perseverance**.

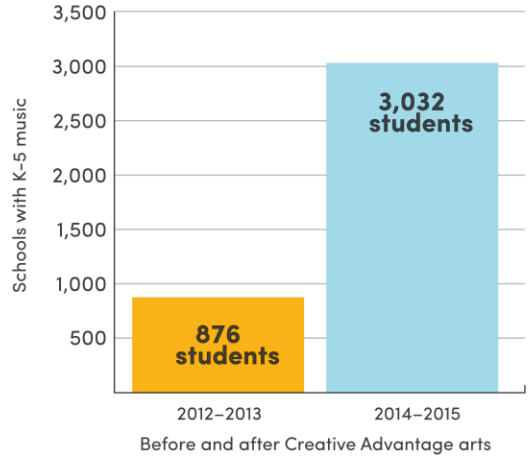
   Progress: In the 13 Creative Advantage schools, there was a 34% increase in students demonstrating 21st century skills—especially creativity, critical thinking, communication, and perseverance.

   Next Steps: In 2016-17, all Seattle arts teachers will use the 21st Century Arts Common Assessments that intentionally teach and assess 21st century skills.

Increase in 21st century skills in Creative Advantage Schools



200% growth in music in the Central Arts Pathway



2. **Instruction from certified arts teachers**

   Why: Research has found that students who had instruction from arts teachers were more likely to meet state arts standards than those who received instruction from a non-arts teacher.

   Progress: Before The Creative Advantage, only three elementary and K-8 schools in the Central Arts Pathway had music programs taught by certified teachers. We eliminated the gap and the number of elementary instructional minutes increased by **200%**.

   Next steps: In 2015-16, music programs are now at all seven elementary and K-8 schools in the South-Southwest Arts Pathway of Seattle.

Leschi Elementary students learning song-writing and sound production at Jack Straw Productions.

"I like choir because I learn a lot of words and their pronunciations. It helps with my English, like understanding words in math class or understanding the meaning of a song." — Seattle World School choir student

3. Integrated arts instruction

Why: Integrated arts learning is an approach to teaching and learning in which students engage in a creative process that connects an art form with another subject to promote deeper learning in both.

Progress: In 2014-15, students at all 13 Central Arts Pathway schools had more chances to learn through integrated arts with teaching artists and arts organizations. In addition, integrated arts trainings at five schools allowed more teachers to integrate arts teaching into their practice.

Next steps: In 2015-16, all 10 South-Southwest Arts Pathway schools now have the same opportunity for residencies and professional development in arts integration. Additionally, 70 K-12 teachers will get training and mentorships to integrate theatre into their classrooms.

City of Music Career Day.

4. Arts partnerships with community-based organizations and teaching artists

Why: Partnerships increase student engagement in the arts, build bridges between schools and the arts community, and broaden students' experiences in the arts.

Progress: In 2014-15, 27 teaching artists and arts organizations partnered with 13 schools in the Central Arts Pathway in topics as diverse as writing poetry, creative dance and podcasting.

Next Steps: In 2015-16, all 23 schools—Central and South-Southwest Arts Pathway schools now have opportunities for arts partnerships.

5. Opportunities to connect arts to careers in high school.

Why: Research shows that arts related jobs in industries such as film, graphic design, and digital gaming are created in Seattle every year.

Progress: In 2014-15, all high school students had the chance to attend City of Music Career Day, connecting students the diverse opportunities and career pathways available in the music industry. Produced in partnership with SPS, Seattle Music Commission, Office of Film + Music, Seattle Arts Commission and Office of Arts & Culture.

Next steps: Opening Media Arts Skills Center programs that will be available to all juniors and seniors in high growth careers such as music production, film production, and graphic design.

"When I saw the smiles of success and confidence on the ELL students faces last night at their Family Night performance, it was clear: The Creative Advantage has made it possible to reach these students, and these arts opportunities are making all the difference in their lives." — Bonnie Showers, Curator, Education + Interpretive Services, Experience Music Project

approach

how we do what we do...

Arts Instruction in Schools

SPS invests in hiring new arts teachers, developing district guidelines to meet Washington State Basic Education laws, and providing resources like instruments, art supplies, and text books to ensure that every student has a well-rounded education and access to high quality arts instruction taught by certified arts teachers.

Regional and School Arts Planning within K-12 Pathways

The Creative Advantage is implementing in regional pathways to ensure sequential arts learning from kindergarten through high school. A regional pathway is defined by a neighborhood's elementary, middle and high schools. Each pathway's principal cohort creates a long-term regional arts vision that articulates their goals for arts instruction, integrated arts instruction, arts partnerships, and community arts events. Then, each school forms their own arts team made up of school staff, parents, youth, and community artists to develop school arts plans that honor their unique school community.

Community Arts Partnerships

The Creative Advantage provides funding and support for schools to collaborate with teaching artist and arts organizations. Schools select from The Creative Advantage Community Arts Partner Roster—a vetted list of teaching artists and community arts and culture organizations who provide integrated and cultural arts learning for students and teachers, and exposure to different methods of expression and viewing the world.

Professional Development

The Creative Advantage partners with Seattle Art Museum to provide a professional development series. Examples of trainings include race and social justice, trauma informed practice, social and emotional learning, arts integration, and 21st century skills. Professional development is also provided to teachers by local arts organizations in topics such as integrating dance into physical education, media-arts integration and theatre integration.

Evaluation

The BERC Group, a local evaluator, annually tracks students' access to arts learning across the district; the quality of arts teaching; student demonstration of 21st century skills and the impact of arts learning for students both while they are in school and after graduation.

"Creative youth development is recognizing that arts programs and other out of school time programs, engage creativity to connect with young people and support healthy development."
— Program leader

teacher success story

Julie Trout, Visual Arts Teacher, John Muir Elementary, Central Arts Pathway

John Muir Elementary is a culturally rich school with very limited resources that has benefited greatly from The Creative Advantage initiative. Previously there was an established visual arts program, random opportunities with Powerful Schools, and no established consistent music program. We felt as a team that we wanted to strengthen and build upon what we had and with great excitement, add a music program. As an arts team we have three main goals, increase intentionality and participation in community events through the arts; increase collaboration and share learning between classes; and increase practice, knowledge and skills for shared ownership of arts integration and collaboration.

We used our funding to make sure all students have equal access to visual arts instruction with a goal of building upon each one as the students move up in grade. In addition, the arts team organized arts infused professional development for the past three years as a kick-off to build community and foster collaboration. One of the most powerful transformations has been the blending of our race equity work –led by our music teacher with the arts team.

Our goals continue to be a work in progress and transform as we grow to become more aware of our students needs. **One thing is very clear, that using the arts and creative expression through visual arts, music, and movement we are witnesses and motivated to create social change and show our students anything is possible.**

look ahead

The Creative Advantage continues to deepen arts education experiences in schools that have experienced the greatest gap in arts access. The Central Arts Pathway will continue to expand arts instruction and the South-Southwest Arts Pathway will begin offering new programs to students based on their regional arts plan. Implementation of The Creative Advantage in additional pathways will begin in the 2016-17 school year.

funding

Integrating arts back into SPS requires an investment from the city, district, individual schools, parents, students, community arts partners, and private donors. The investments below reflect staff and program investments from 2013 to 2015—the first two years of The Creative Advantage implementation.

Over $1.4 million invested by SPS provides funds for certified arts teachers, professional development, materials, and arts assessments.

$925,000 from ARTS, supports arts partnerships and helps build district capacity to increase arts access to all students.

$234,108 from private sources including the National Endowment for the Arts, the Clowes Fund, the Laird Norton Family Foundation, the Seattle Foundation and The Wallace Foundation, supported regional and school arts planning, professional development, curriculum, and partnership tools.

SPS YEAR	SPS AMOUNT	ARTS YEAR	ARTS AMOUNT	DONOR/GRANT YEAR	DONOR/GRANT AMOUNT
2013-2014	$647,652	2013	$350,000	2013	$29,002
2014-2015	$758,295	2014	$350,000	2014	$176,099
		2015**	$225,000	2015	$29,007
	$1,405,947		$925,000		$234,108

*** 2015 Budgets for Arts and Donor/Grant are at 50% to account for monies applied to the 2014-2015 school year.*

The Creative Advantage leadership team

James Bush, Director of School & Community Partnerships, Seattle Public Schools
Carri Campbell, Chief Engagement Officer, Seattle Public Schools
Lara Davis, Arts Education Manager, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture
Randy Engstrom, Director, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture
Dan Gallagher, Director of Career and College Readiness, Seattle Public Schools
Dr. Brent Jones, Chief Strategy & Partnerships Officer, Seattle Public Schools
Audrey Querns, Creative Advantage Project Manager, Seattle Public Schools
Gail Sehlhorst, Visual & Performing Arts Manager, Seattle Public Schools
Cashel Toner, Executive Director of Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction, Seattle Public Schools

Arts team coaches and coordinators, 2013-15
Amy Allan
Erika Ayer
Julie Breidenbach
Marika Fagan
Treneicia Gardner
Bianca Gomez
Bonnie Hungate
Robyn Jordan
Karen Kosoglad
Lori Leberer
Morgan Leming
Deana Linden
Jennifer Lundgren
Thais Miller
Natalie Ramsey
Farah Thaxton
Julie Trout

Arts team members, 2013-16
Amy Allan
Kathleen Allen
Julia Anders
Kelley Archer
L'Erin Asantewaa
Magda Ashtok
Carolyn Autenrieth
Lori Badruswamy
Darcy Baker
Lisa Becerra
Erika Bell
David Bestock
Kayti Bouljon
Maria Breuder
Kristin Brewster
Callie Broughton
Tenny Canning
Joe Carchedi
Casey Cheever
Erin Chen
Jeff Clark
Rhonda Claytor
Christy Collins
Emily Coulter
Chris Cronas
Mary Cushman
Brenda Ball Cuthbertson
Christy Dahms
Hannah Danforth
Olivia Davis
Daphne Dejanikus
Travis DesAutels
Monica Dewald
Claire DiJulio
Nicole Dingler
Daniel Downs
Laura Drake
Lida Enche-Keene
Elizabeth Enriquez
Sandy Eshelman
Kate Eriksen
Christa Ernst
Marika Fagan
Don Fleming
Susan Follmer
Aida Fraser-Hammer
Kelsey French
Megan Garica
Rebecca Garcia
Treneicia Gardner
Scott Gelband
Margaret Gingrich
Brian Goetz
Bianca Gomez
Melissa Gray
Sunny Graves
Stefan Gruber
Geri Guerrero
Carole Guizzetti
Danielle Guzman
Eve Hammond
Beverly Harding-Buehler
Stewart Hawk
Stephany Hazelrigg
Rusty Hibbert
Kyle Hoffman
Na'Cesia Holmes
Jonathan Hughes
Bonnie Hungate
Matt Hutz
Omana Imani
Marcia Ingerlsev
Isaura Jimenez
Robyn Jordan
Stephanie Jungblom
Lydia Jurcys
Angela Klaassen
Karen Kosoglad
Kim Krasne
Rebecca Laird
Lori Leberer
Lenora Lee
Yoon Lee
Michelle Lehman
Morgan Leming
Shelby Leyland
Deana Linden
Jennifer Lundgren
Svetlana Mamedova
Sarah Martin
Michelle Martine
Katherine May
Mary McDaniel
Liz McFarland
Christi McGrath
Aimee Mell
Yeggy Michael
Thais Miller
Kathleen Mills
Stacy Mitchell
Lisa Moland
Rachelle Moore
Marie Nelson,
Adrienne Nestor
Kimberly Noble
Matthew Okun
Ruel Olanday
Noemi Oldham
Cristina Orbe
Ben Ostrom
Wilfred Padua
Daniel Pak
John Parker
Concie Pedroza
Mark Perry
Janine Pierce
Tang Po-yuk
Amanda Poch
Missy Pody
Mike Popelka
Joan Rabinowitz
Natalie Ramsey
Bruce Rhodes
Chris Robert
Guadalupe Rodriguez
Jill Rullkoetter
Melissa Rysemus
Vicki Sacco
Julie Salathe
Mariela Salcedo-Valencia
Daniel Sato
Craig Seasholes
Tamia Sheldon
David Simmons
Nathan Simoneaux
James Simpson
Tara Slinden
Katie Snyder
Andrea Soroko
Laura Strand
Tracy Thirdgill
Megan Thorberg
Jeffrey Triestman
Julie Trout
Israel Vela
Longina Verdugo
Andy Wakefield
Sahnica Washington
Jodi Williamson
Sue Wilson
Alisha Winger
Megan Winterheimer
Janet Woodward
Tia Yarbrough
Norma Zavala
Noah Zeichner
Beth Zirngible
Elyse Zylstra

Governance committee
Carmella Dellino
Suzette Espinoza-Cruz
Bianca Gomez
Stephanie Guerra
Omana Imani
Lydia Jurcys
Daniel Pak
Regan Pro
Shani Watkins

Community arts partners
Aaron Walker-Loud
Andrew Peterson
Angela R. Goodman
Angie Bolton
Ann Marie Caldwell
Antonio Davidson-Gomez
Arni Adler
Arts Corps
Arts Impact
ArtsEd Washington
Book-It Repertory Theatre
Carina A. del Rosario
Carla Moreno
Clarence Burrowes
Dana Squires
danceDaigre
Eduardo Mendonca
EMP Museum
Extraordinary Futures
Franchesska Berry
Frye Art Museum
Gage Academy of Art
Gregory D Stump
International Capoeira Angola Foundation
Jack Straw Cultural Center
James R. Lapan
Jennifer Bennett
Jourdan Keith
Junior League of Seattle, Inc.
Kathya Alexander
Kristina Sutherland Rowell
KUOW Puget Sound Public Radio / RadioActive Youth Media
Lauren Appel
Lauren Patrice Goldman Marshall
Lin Lucas
Lynda Belt
Macha Monkey Productions
Melanie White
Mylen Huggins
Naho Shioya
Nate Herth
Nicole Appell
Nikkita "KO" Oliver
Pacific Northwest Ballet
Patricia Auch
Powerful Schools / YMCA
Pratt Fine Arts Center
Rachel Atkins
Rachel Kessler
Red Eagle Soaring
Reel Grrls
Roger Fernandes
Sara Brickman
Seattle Art Museum
Seattle Arts & Lectures (Writer's in the Schools)
Seattle Children's Theatre
Seattle Opera
Seattle Repertory Theatre (BTIC)
Seattle Theatre Group
Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra
Sharon Birzer
Sierra Nelson
SIFF
Spectrum Dance Theater
Stephanie Guerra
Stone Soup Theatre
STYLE: Songwriting Through Youth Literature Education/Bushwick Northwest
Sumayya Diop
Thaddeus Jurczynski
Think.Move.Learn.
Totem Star
We.App
Whistlestop Dance Company
Young Shakespeare Workshop
Youth in Focus

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