



TURNAROUND:ARTS

creating success in schools

<http://turnaroundarts.pcah.gov>

WHAT

The President's Committee's Turnaround Arts initiative, created in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education and the White House Domestic Policy Council, is a public-private partnership designed to help transform some of the nation's lowest performing schools through comprehensive and integrated arts education.

Developed from the recommendations in PCAH's recent report *Reinvesting in Arts Education: Winning America's Future Through Creative Schools*, the Committee's landmark research publication of May 2011, Turnaround Arts will test the hypothesis that high-quality and integrated arts education can be an effective tool to strengthen school reform efforts—boosting academic achievement and increasing student motivation in schools facing some of the toughest educational challenges in the country.

WHY

The first federal review of research data on the impact of arts education in over a decade, *Reinvesting in Arts Education* analyzed the challenges and opportunities in arts education in America. Studies included in and following this report show that **when students are highly engaged in the arts they are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement**, have higher GPA/SAT scores, and demonstrate a 56 percent improvement in spatial-temporal IQ scores.



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They show significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12, are more engaged and cooperative with teachers and peers, and are more self-confident and better able to express their ideas. The benefits of arts education are particularly pronounced for low socio-economic status and low proficiency students and work in tandem with other pedagogical approaches. **Used as part of an overall school and education reform strategy, arts education programs can have dramatic and measurable results.**



Yet, as outlined in the recent Fast Response Survey System report by the National Center for Education Statistics (April 2012), in 2009-2010, 1.3 million elementary students in this country had no access to music instruction and 3.9 million had no access to a visual arts class, even once a week. The numbers for dance and drama instruction are much worse. Especially troubling in this context is the inequity in access to these advantages amongst our schools. The same survey showed that students in high-poverty schools are more than twice as likely to have no access to a music or arts class. Across our nation, the students who need these classes the most are getting them the least.

We are, as a country, engaged in a national conversation about how to strengthen our educational system and fix our schools. And while no one strategy alone is a silver bullet, **we believe arts education should have a seat at that table.** Turnaround Arts will test that theory, in addition to bringing effective arts education to thousands of our neediest young people and creating more access to the arts in our most underserved neighborhoods.

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HOW

Turnaround Arts will bring arts education resources and training to a group of “turnaround schools” across the country—public schools in the lowest-performing 5% of their state receiving School Improvement Grants through the U.S. Department of Education. After consulting with and developing a customized strategic arts plan for each school, **PCAH and its partners will provide the schools with the arts resources, services, and materials they most need to increase the likelihood of successful school turnaround, engage their community, and raise the visibility of their achievements.**

The benefits of this program include:

- A summer institute for school leadership with nationally recognized arts education providers;
- In-school professional development during the school year;
- Partnerships with community arts education and cultural organizations;
- PCAH Turnaround Artists working in each of the schools;
- Arts supplies and musical instruments;
- Arts events in the school with students, parents and community;
- Communications campaign highlighting success stories and achievements;
- An external impact evaluation study to measure the effectiveness of arts education in whole school turnaround.

Key to these efforts will be building arts education programming that is rigorous, effective and integrated into the school. The program will work closely with each of the schools throughout the year to help them plan and implement their programming and ensure its quality and impact.



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TURNAROUND ARTS SCHOOLS



1 Batiste Cultural Arts Academy
New Orleans, Louisiana

2 Findley Elementary School
Des Moines, Iowa

3 Lame Deer Jr. High School
Lame Deer, Montana

4 Martin Luther King, Jr. School
Portland, Oregon

5 Noel Community Arts School
Denver, Colorado

6 Orchard Gardens K-8 Pilot School
Boston, Massachusetts

7 Roosevelt School
Bridgeport, Connecticut

8 Savoy Elementary School
Washington, DC

TURNAROUND ARTS SCHOOLS

BATISTE CULTURAL ARTS ACADEMY

Located in New Orleans, LA, in a historic school building, the Batiste Cultural Arts Academy is beginning to overcome decades of failing test scores and the destabilizing effects of Hurricane Katrina with new leadership and an emphasis on the arts.

FINDLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Findley Elementary, in Des Moines, IA, draws from a high-poverty community further battered by devastating 2008 floods. New leadership has embraced the power of arts to bring a disparate community together, including many ELL learners and an autism magnet program.

LAME DEER JR. HIGH SCHOOL

Lame Deer Jr. High, in southeast Montana, is on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, a community with some of the highest poverty and unemployment rates in the state. School leaders see the potential of the arts to increase student attendance and engagement.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SCHOOL

Martin Luther King, Jr. School in northeast Portland, is a school in transition. After a decade of disinvestment, low expectations and a dwindling student population, parents, teachers, students and community members are working to reclaim their community and improve their school with the arts.

NOEL COMMUNITY ARTS SCHOOL

A newly re-visioned and re-opened school, Noel Community Arts School is located in "Far Northeast" Denver, an outlying part of the city where failing schools were once the norm, but is now at the center of a dynamic reform effort. For NCAS, that includes an emphasis on the arts.

ORCHARD GARDENS K-8 PILOT SCHOOL

After years of neglect and failure, with six principals leaving in seven years and an unstable and unsafe environment, Orchard Gardens has reinvented itself using its School Improvement Grant and an emphasis on creative expression.

ROOSEVELT SCHOOL

When parents, grandparents and guardians rallied to save their failing neighborhood school from closing, Roosevelt School was given new life with a School Improvement Grant, strong new leadership, and a focus on the arts.

SAVOY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Just across the river from the U.S. Capitol, Savoy Elementary School in Anacostia has recently begun a dramatic recovery from many years of neglect, with the help of a veteran principal who has seen firsthand the difference the arts can make.

TURNAROUND ARTISTS

As part of the program, PCAH Artist members including Chuck Close, Yo-Yo Ma, Forest Whitaker, Sarah Jessica Parker, Damian Woetzel, Kerry Washington and Alfre Woodard will each "adopt" one of the Turnaround Arts schools. Turnaround Artist involvement with their schools will take many forms, including participating in performances, master classes and community events at the school.



**CHUCK
CLOSE**

*Roosevelt
School*



**YO-YO
MA**

*Orchard Gardens
K-8 Pilot School*



**KERRY
WASHINGTON**

*Savoy Elementary
School*



**FOREST
WHITAKER**

*Findley
Elementary School*



**DAMIAN
WOETZEL**

*Lame Deer Jr. High School
Orchard Gardens K-8 Pilot School*



**SARAH JESSICA
PARKER**

*Martin Luther
King, Jr. School*



**ALFRE
WOODARD**

*Batiste Cultural Arts Academy
Noel Community Arts School*

ABOUT PCAH

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) is an advisory committee to the White House on cultural issues. First Lady Michelle Obama is the Honorary Chair, George Stevens, Jr. and Margo Lion are Co-Chairs, and Dr. Mary Schmidt Campbell is Vice-Chair. Members of PCAH include federal officials and presidentially-appointed private individuals. The Committee works with government agencies and the private sector to initiate and support key programs in the arts and the humanities, particularly in education. In May of 2011, PCAH released the first comprehensive federal report on arts education in over a decade, *Re-Investing in Arts Education: Winning America's Future Through Creative Schools*.

PARTNERS



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