



# ARTS EMPOWERED MINDS INITIATIVE







Young  
Audiences  
Arts for  
Learning

## The Problem:

Anne Arundel County Public Schools is an award-winning system and is seen as a leader in arts education and arts integration.

Yet, as with many school communities, we see unequal student access to arts and arts-integrated learning opportunities across the County, and in Northern Anne Arundel County.

Arts-integrated learning has been a lever for boosting student achievement, parent involvement, and teacher retention at Bates Middle School in Annapolis and nationally, yet not all students have access to high performing schools like Bates.

## Our Vision:

Through the collaboration of a diverse array of concerned people and organizations we will put into place these three essential elements in twelve public schools (beginning with five pilot schools) in the area:

- Sustainable partnerships with teaching artists and arts organizations that inspire children and use the creative process to make meaningful real world connections to the curriculum
- Increased access to out-of-school time arts programs
- Professional development for teachers in arts integration to boost student engagement



**As a result, we believe that school achievement, parent involvement, and teacher retention will significantly increase.**



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# How We Get There

**COMMUNITY  
BUILDING**

**DATA  
COLLECTION**

**COORDINATION of  
ARTS PROGRAMS  
and RESOURCES**



## **Understanding the needs and resources of targeted schools and current baseline of access to the arts and arts integration as well school performance measures.**

- Inventory of fine arts teachers, AI coordinators and cultural opportunities and AI teaching available to students
- Collect current baseline of student achievement, parent involvement, and teacher retention data
- Hold focus groups, conduct surveys and interviews to understand needs and desires of each school

## **Building Community around this initiative and encouraging school participation.**

- Create advisory committee
- Host community convening around opportunity
- Hold one-on-one meetings with school leaders
- Participate in school events (i.e. back to school nights, PTA, SIT meetings)
- Create educator advisory – with one rep from each school – to participate in planning
- Hold community conversations with stakeholders including artists, arts organizations, educators, students, business and philanthropic communities, and community organizations

## **Increasing arts and arts integration resources and programming.**

- Hold summer teacher PD (21st Century Institute +) with field testing (Imagination Vacation)
- Target teachers to participate in TAI as teacher partners
- Partner with AA County Arts Council to encourage schools to apply for grants
- Partner with MSAC to encourage schools to apply for grants
- Fall: UMBC students to conduct action research





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## Confirmed Partners

- Young Audiences of Maryland - Managing Partner
- Anne Arundel County Public Schools
- Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance
- University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Arts Council of Anne Arundel County

## Pilot Program School Partners

- Brooklyn Park Middle
- Belle Grove Elementary
- Brooklyn Park Elementary
- Park Elementary
- Ferndale Early Education Center



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# Timeline

## JANUARY - JUNE 2016

- Collect baseline data:
  - » Student access to arts opportunities and arts-integrated learning
  - » Academic achievement and school engagement
  - » Attendance
  - » Parent engagement

## JANUARY - DECEMBER 2016

- Conduct needs assessment:
  - » Parent forums
  - » Student groups
  - » Community members
- Clarify needs in arts learning, as well as other academic and social challenges.
- Convene partners monthly to review data/needs assessments, establish vision, performance measures, and coordinate activities.

## SUMMER 2016

- Develop program initiatives and activities based on needs assessment.
- Plan for program kick-off in the new 2016-2017 school year.
- Convene community to share needs and plans.

## FALL 2016

- Kick off the program at five pilot schools.
- Work with community members and organizations to inform the community.

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