

Every Child in Every School

A Vision for Arts and Creativity in New York City Public Schools

This is a critical moment for the future of education in New York City. While strides have been made in improving our city's public schools, there is much work still to be done. Far too many students are failing to reach graduation or are not adequately prepared for college and career upon leaving the public school system. And far too many of our city's public school students are not being provided access to a rich and engaging curriculum that includes the arts instruction that they deserve and is required by law.

Evidence shows that instruction in the arts provides students with the skills and ability to think creatively, to innovate, and to become tenacious learners ready to solve complex problems—all skills that employers are increasingly looking for in the 21st century workforce. Research also shows that quality arts instruction can enhance cognitive and social abilities, improve academic performance and keep students engaged in school and on track to graduation.

New York City—with its rich and diverse array of arts and cultural experiences and organizations—is uniquely positioned to be the leader in arts and creative education. As a city we must come together to ensure that *every child in every school* has access to a robust and engaging arts education that includes:

- Instruction in music, dance, theater and visual and media arts that is aligned with city and state learning standards and instructional mandates;
- Highly qualified certified arts teachers, complemented by the city's dedicated teaching artists and other arts professionals;
- Classrooms and facilities that are equipped for teaching and learning in the arts;
- Access to arts supplies, instruments, and state-of-the-art equipment and technology;
- Partnerships and collaborations with the city's rich array of arts and cultural organizations and opportunities to be exposed to, and participate in, the city's diverse cultural experiences;
- Adequate and dedicated funding, resources and supports to sustain quality programming in the arts.

We, the undersigned civic and business leaders, parents, educators, and citizens believe that every child in every school deserves an equal opportunity for a complete education that includes comprehensive high-quality instruction in the arts.

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Advocates for Children of New York

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The Forum Project

Adam Huttler, Executive Director
Fractured Atlas

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"I Have A Dream" Foundation – NY

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Jazz at Lincoln Center

Eli Yamin, Artistic Director
The Jazz Drama Program

Rob Baker, Executive Director
League of Young Voters Education Fund

Russell Granet, Executive Director
Lincoln Center Education

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Lucy Moses School- Kaufman Music Center

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Javier Valdes, Co-Executive Director
Make the Road New York

Barry Grove, Executive Producer
Manhattan Theatre Club

Richard Kessler, Dean
Mannes College, The New School for Music

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Marquis Studios

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Tamara Greenfield, Co-Director
Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts New York (NOCD-NY)

Holly Fairbank, Executive Director
The Maxine Greene Center for Aesthetic Education and Social Imagination

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Suzanne Wilson, Executive Director
Midori & Friends

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The Moth

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New Heritage Theatre Group

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New York Cares

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Richard Kessler, Co-Chair
Andrea Louie, Co-Chair
Norma Munn, Chairwoman Emeritus
New York City Arts Coalition

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New York City Art Teachers Association/UFT

Kati Koerner, Co-Chair
Theodore Wiprud, Co-Chair
New York City Arts in Education Roundtable

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New York Civil Liberties Union

Matthew Van Besien, Executive Director
New York Philharmonic

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New York State Alliance for Arts Education

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NYSSMA- New York State School Music Association

Anne Harris Wilcox, Board President
New York State Dance Education Association

Heather Alexa Woodfield, Executive Director
One Percent for Culture

ParentVoicesNY

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Prentice Productions, Inc.

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Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director
The Public Theater

Napolean Revels-Bay, Artistic Director
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