

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.

Kim Sweet, Executive Director
Advocates for Children of New York

Lucy Friedman, President
The After School Corporation

Billy Easton, Executive Director
Alliance for Quality Education

Virginia P. Louloudes, Executive Director
Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York

Bennett Rink, Executive Director
Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, Inc.

Lisa Beth Vettoso, Director of Educational
Programming
***American Repertory Ballet / Princeton
Ballet School***

Steve Tennen, Executive Director
ArtsConnection

Jessica Wilt, Founder
ArtsEdTechNYC

Elizabeth Halverstam, Executive Director
Arts Horizons

Mallory King, Founder/Executive Director
Arts to Grow

Robert Lee, Executive Director
Asian American Arts Centre

K.C. Boyle, Political Director
***Associated Musicians of Greater New
York—Local 802***

Sondra Forsyth, Founder & Artistic Director
Ballet Ambassadors

AnaMaria Correa, Director of Education &
Outreach
Ballet Hispanico

Jackie Chang, Director of Education
BRIC

Bill Scribner, Executive/Artistic Director
Bronx Arts Ensemble

Karen Brooks Hopkins, President
Brooklyn Academy of Music-BAM

Kathleen A. Christie, Education Director
Brooklyn Arts Council

Eric Pryor, Executive Director
The Center for Arts Education

Jennifer March, Executive Director
***Citizens' Committee for Children of New
York***

Jennifer Katona, Director
***Graduate Program Educational Theatre,
The City College of New York***

Steve Zeitlin, Executive Director
City Lore

Vanessa Leung, Interim Executive Director
***Coalition for Asian American Children and
Families***

Ocynthia Williams, Parent Leader &
Organizer
Coalition for Educational Justice

David Jones, President & CEO
Community Service Society of New York

Brian Ricklin, Executive Director & CEO
Creative Arts Workshops for Kids

Robin Bronk, CEO
The Creative Coalition

John-Mario Sevilla, Director
Dance Education Laboratory/92nd Street Y

John Shultz, Executive Director
Dancing Classrooms

Lane Harwell, Executive Director
Dance/NYC

Jason Duchin, Co-Executive Director
Tim Lord, Co-Executive Director
DreamYard Project

Jo A. G. Frederiksen, Director
Elizabeth Pettit, Director
Education in Dance and the Related Arts

Gonzalo Mercado, Executive Director
El Centro Del Inmigrante

Jennie Smith-Peers, Executive Director
Elders Share the Arts

Frances Lucerna, Executive Director
El Puente

Richard Evans, President
EmcArts, Inc.

Diana Feldman, President/CEO
ENACT

Carlota Santana, Artistic Director and Founder
Flamenco Vivo

Ellen Kodadek, Executive and Artistic Director
Flushing Council on Culture & the Arts
a.k.a. Flushing Town Hall

S. Leigh Thompson, Executive Director
The Forum Project

Adam Huttler, Executive Director
Fractured Atlas

Liz Hopfan, Executive Director
Free Arts NYC

Voza Rivers, 1st Vice President
Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce

Amy Sananman, Executive Director
Groundswell

Yvette L. Campbell, President & CEO
Harlem School of the Arts

Voza Rivers, Chairman
Harlem Arts Alliance

Thierry Cazeau, Executive Director
"I Have A Dream" Foundation – NY

Waddy Thompson, Executive Director
InterSchool Orchestras of New York

Todd Stoll, VP Education
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

Igal Kesselman, Director
Lucy Moses School- Kaufman Music Center

Deborah Axt, Co-Executive Director
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

David G. Marquis, Executive Director
Marquis Studios

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

Dr. Pedro Noguera, PhD, Executive Director
Metropolitan Center for Urban Education

Suzanne Wilson, Executive Director
Midori & Friends

Sarah Haberman, Executive Director
The Moth

Michelle Turner, President
Music Educators Association NYC-MEANYC

Jonathan Herman, Executive Director
National Guild for Community Arts Education

Cora Cahan, President
The New 42nd Street

Voza Rivers, Executive Producer
New Heritage Theatre Group

Gary Bagley, Executive Director
New York Cares

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

Joan Davidson, President/Chairperson
New York City Art Teachers Association/UFT

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

Donna Lieberman, Executive Director
New York Civil Liberties Union

Matthew Van Besien, Executive Director
New York Philharmonic

Philip A. Alexander, Ph.D., Director
New York State Alliance for Arts Education

Dr. Steven E. Schopp, Executive Director
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

Mara Greenberg and Ivan Sygoda, Directors
Pentacle/DanceWorks, Inc.

Joy Prentice, Artistic Director
Prentice Productions, Inc.

Patrick Willingham, Executive Director
Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director
The Public Theater

Napolean Revels-Bay, Artistic Director
Revels-Bay Music

Julia Levy, Executive Director
Roundabout Theatre Company

Danny Simmons, Founder/Vice Chairman
Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation

Lynn Kelly, President and CEO
Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden

Melanie Franklin Cohn, Executive Director
Staten Island Arts

Tom Cahill, President and CEO
Studio in a School

Susan Fenley, Executive Director
Sundog Theatre, Inc.

Cynthia Elliot, President and CEO
Symphony Space

Rod Christensen, Director of Education
TADA! Youth Theater

Laurie Baskin, Director of Research, Policy &
Collective Action
Theatre Communications Group

Lee Koonce, Executive Director
Third Street Music Settlement

Karen Curlee, Co-Director
Together in Dance

Phillip Courtney, CEO
Urban Arts Partnership

Maria Fernandez, Senior Coordinator
Urban Youth Collaborative

Stephen Sunderlin, Founding Artistic Director
Linda Ames Key, Education Director
Vital Theatre Company

Claudia Bonn, President & Executive Director
Wave Hill

Paul Ashley, Executive Director
Wingspan Arts

Nancy Kleaver, Interim Executive Director
Young Audiences New York

Peggy Alston, Director
Jacqui Woods, Special Arts Project Manager
Youth Arts Academy—Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation