ARTS CONNECT HOUSTON

2025-2026 INITIATIVES REPORT



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About Us

Arts Connect Houston is a collective impact organization committed to ensuring all students have access to arts education as part of a complete education. We know that the arts connect to students, the arts connect communities, and the arts connect us to our future.

Mission

Arts Connect Houston unites the Greater Houston community to ensure access to high-quality arts education in creative writing, dance, music, theater and the visual arts for every student.

Vision

Arts Connect Houston's vision is to realize the tremendous potential of every student by ensuring the arts as essential to a complete education, recognizing that when students prosper, our community thrives.

A WORD FROM OUR DEPUTY DIRECTOR



Through our work at Arts Connect Houston, we set out as a collective to continually ensure all students have access to high-quality arts education opportunities. To accomplish this goal, we work in four areas: collecting actionable data, driving advocacy, building capacity, and unlocking new investments through responsive action.

The 2025-2026 Arts Connect Houston Initiatives Report addresses each responsive action initiative the collective invested in this past school year.

We want to thank Houston ISD for their continued partnership, as well as our new district partners in Aldine ISD and Alief ISD. Our collective looks forward to continuing our investment in equitable access to arts education for students in the 2026-2027 school year. We maintain that together, in a productive and promising partnership with school districts across Greater Houston, we can make certain that all students receive a complete education, one that includes the arts.



TAYLOR BUSH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Our Arts and Culture Partners

Our Arts & Culture Partners are a diverse group of local arts organizations representing a variety of artistic disciplines committed to fostering equitable access to arts education in Houston. They, along with Aldine ISD, Alief ISD, Houston ISD, the City of Houston, the local philanthropic community, state and national partners, and community members form the Arts Connect Houston collective.

Arts Connect Houston welcomes new Arts & Culture Partners once a year. Partner benefits include connecting with schools, educators, and arts leaders to learn from one another and align efforts; joining working groups and key conversations to help shape Houston's arts education path; and having access to the Arts Action Fund to support programs within Aldine ISD, Alief ISD, and Houston ISD.

Arts & Culture Partners introduced in the 2025-2026 school year included:

- 4th Wall Theatre
- Align Mind for Kids
- Boot Dance Project
- Broad Ambitions
- Contemporary Handweavers of Houston
- Eternal Gandhi Museum Houston
- Jazz Houston
- Meow Wolf
- Preservation Houston
- SWAMP
- Treasured Diamonds Fine Arts School

A complete list of 2025-2026 Arts & Culture Partners can be found in the Appendix.

As an educator, these experiences strengthened my commitment to seeking meaningful partnerships that bring real-world learning into the classroom. Community collaborations like this help students connect their academic experiences to a larger world, making learning more relevant, engaging, and impactful while fostering a lifelong appreciation for the arts and culture.

Eun Sung Kim
Magnet Coordinator, Carter Academy

The grant provided access to highly qualified master class instructors that would otherwise have been difficult to secure within our program budget.

Matthew Adamson
Head Band Director, Mead Middle School

Introduction

In the 2025-2026 school year, Arts Connect Houston supported five initiatives and one direct service to provide support for our Arts & Culture Partners, all moving us toward fulfilling our mission of all Houston students having equitable access to high-quality arts education.

- **Arts Action Fund** The Arts Action Fund annually invests in partnerships between Arts & Culture Partners and Houston ISD, Aldine ISD, and Alief ISD schools. Our 111 Arts & Culture Partners are a diverse group of Houston-area arts organizations representing a variety of artistic disciplines. They—along with Houston ISD, Aldine ISD, Alief ISD, the City of Houston, the local community, and state and national partners—form the Arts Connect Houston collective. The Arts Connect Houston Arts Action Fund distributed 69 grants to 61 campuses in the 2025-2026 school year.

- **Family Art Nights** Family Art Nights are a community engagement opportunity for Houston ISD, Aldine ISD, and Houston ISD Sunrise Center students and their families to enjoy an afternoon or evening of arts activities.

- **University of Houston Art Tours** Houston ISD and YES Prep high school students had the opportunity to tour the University of Houston campus and explore its art offerings on our University of Houston Art Tours.

- **Careers in the Arts Catalyst Program** Now in its third year, the Careers in the Arts Catalyst Program is a seven-week long arts career internship program for students from communities historically underrepresented in the arts.

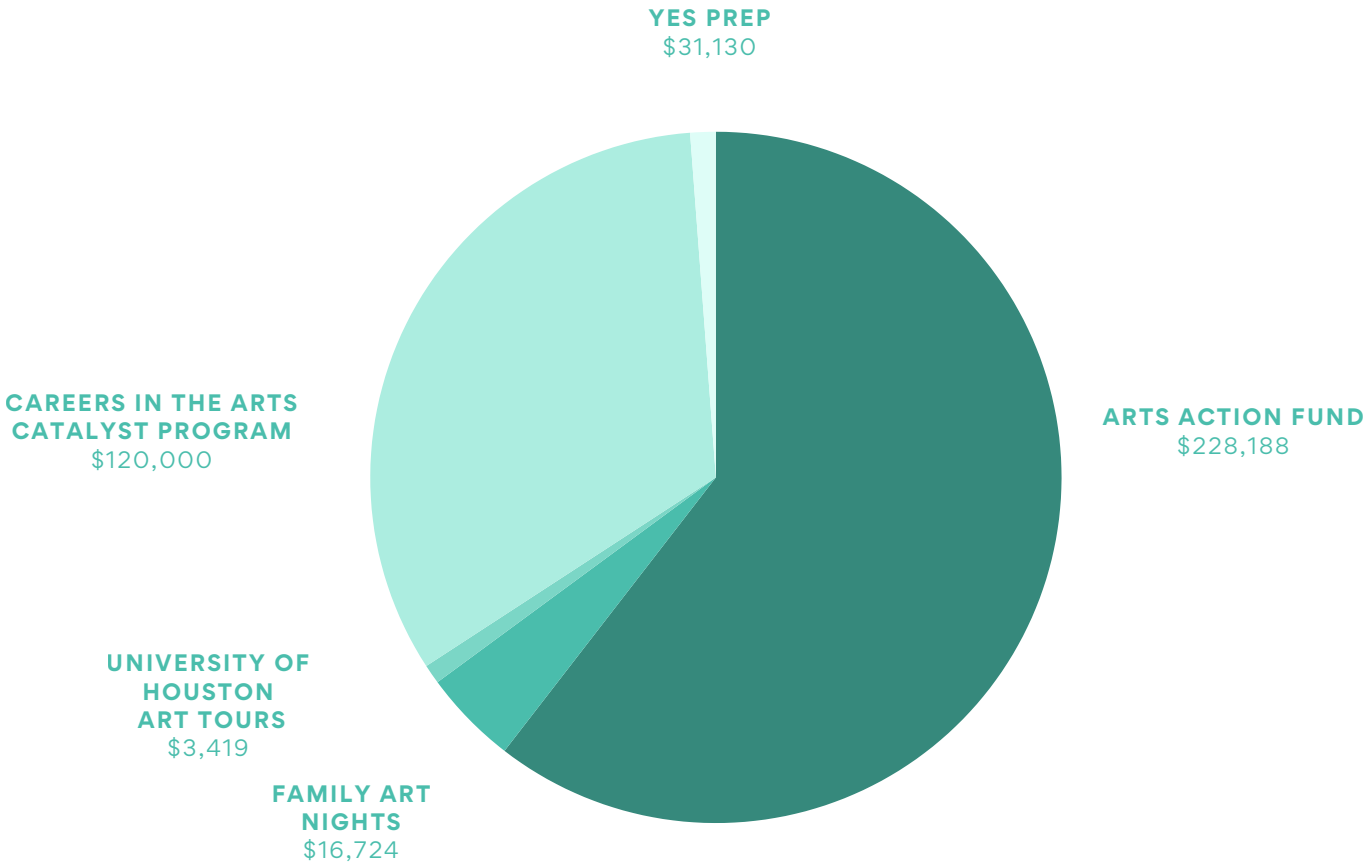
- **YES Prep campuses** Arts Connect supported four YES Prep campuses by providing arts education programming to their summer school offerings.

- **Vendor Passthrough Service** This year, we supported Arts & Culture Partners' work in Houston ISD with the Vendor Passthrough Service. This service allowed Arts & Culture Partners who do not have Approved Vendor status in Houston ISD to work directly with campuses.

2025-2026 By the Numbers

In total, Arts Connect distributed **$377,331** in funding to support our 2025-2026 initiatives.

Spending By Program



Across all five initiatives, over



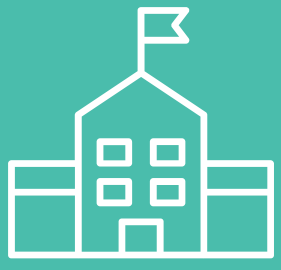
8,920

total students were served at



72

Houston ISD, Aldine ISD, and Alief ISD campuses receiving



6,031

direct learning hours.

ARTS CONNECT HOUSTON
25-26 INITIATIVES REPORT

These impact numbers include the Arts Action Fund, Family Art Nights, UH Art Tours, YES Prep Summer Programming, and the Careers in the Arts Catalyst Program.

Arts Action Fund

History of the Arts Action Fund

Through the Arts Action Fund, Arts Connect Houston provides financial support for in-school arts education programming–including arts instruction, arts integration, and arts experiences–as well as professional development. The Fund is a key tool Arts Connect Houston deploys to address arts education gaps across the district, both by ensuring students have direct access to arts education programming and by helping our Arts & Culture Partners expand their capacity. In the 2025-2026 school year, the Arts Action Fund offered grants between $500 and $8,500 and distributed $228,188. Now in its seventh year, the Arts Action Fund has helped more than 55 organizations bring arts education programming to over 130,000 students across the district.

The Arts Action Fund has historically offered two primary grant types: Learning, Innovation & Action (LIA) Grants and Seed Grants. Learning, Innovation & Action grants are larger grants available to support the continuation of a partnership between an Arts & Culture Partner and a Houston ISD school. The main focus of LIA grants is innovation; awarded programs should deeply impact both the Partner and the campus by employing new and/or innovative strategies. In contrast, Seed grants are intended to aid partnership development between an Arts & Culture Partner and both Houston ISD and Aldine ISD campuses by nurturing the 'seed' of a new or continuing relationship.

At the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, Arts & Culture Partners were invited to apply to the Fund on behalf of a Houston ISD or Aldine ISD campus. Any non-profit Arts & Culture Partner in good standing was eligible to apply for the Fund. This year, Arts & Culture Partners were able to apply for up to one Learning, Innovation and Action grant with a maximum award of $8,500 and up to 12 Seed grants with a maximum award of $12,800 with LIA and Seed funds combined. For example, a Houston ISD school could receive up to one LIA grant and up to three Seed grants for the 25-26 school year.

Arts Action Fund

Overview

Arts & Culture Partners can apply in three program categories: arts instruction, arts integration, and arts experiences. These categories were defined by the Houston ISD Fine Arts Department in The Foundation of an Arts-Rich Education, drawn from the Houston ISD Fine Arts Plan:

- Arts instruction: Academic, standards-based instruction in the fine arts that is focused on learning about each fine arts discipline and developing student artists.
- Arts integration: A cross-curricular approach to developing students that incorporates the fine arts with all other academic, social, and emotional areas.
- Arts experiences: Opportunities for students to encounter fine arts performances or exhibitions

Applications for the Arts Action Fund opened on August 20, 2025. The Learning, Innovation & Action grant application closed on September 12th, and applicants were notified of their status on October 9th. The Seed grant application closed on October 13th, and applicants were notified of their status on October 31st.

Alief ISD Spring Partnership Pilot

For the 2025 - 2026 school year, the Arts Action Fund included a pilot partnership with Alief ISD, designed to build toward Alief's full participation in the 2026-2027 fund. This pilot gave Arts & Culture Partners a different structural model than other Arts Action Fund grants, with proposals for supplementary arts education programming residencies at six Alief ISD campuses.

The goal of this programming was two-fold: first, to add depth to arts education work already happening on campuses; second, to support arts teachers on campus in preparing for their end-of-year culminating showcases/exhibitions/performances. Arts & Culture Partners were eligible to apply for a total of $15,000 distributed through six $2,500 grants.

Alief ISD proposal submissions opened March 3, 2026 and closed March 12, 2026. Applicants were notified of their status on March 24th.

Arts Action Fund Review Process

Every year, Arts Connect Houston convenes a Review Committee to evaluate all Arts Action Fund applications and make final funding decisions. The Review Committee is composed of community members, city representatives, district representatives, and Arts & Culture Partners. A Review Committee member's role is to ensure three key goals are met for any given grant:

- The partnership supports the goal to increase arts education opportunities in Houston ISD, Aldine ISD, and Alief ISD schools, specifically those campuses lacking access;
- The partnership supports Arts & Culture Partners in expanding their impact across Houston ISD, Aldine ISD, and Alief ISD; and
- The program and partnership directly impacts students while indirectly supporting arts organizations, teaching artists, teachers, and the school community in a positive way.

Each application receives two scores. The first comes from Review Committee members who are asked to assess each grant application's strength across three areas: creative thinking, inclusive spirit, and responsive action in alignment with the values of Arts Connect's collective.

In addition, every grant also receives a Priority Score based on various factors at the campus receiving programming. The Priority Score considers students' access to the arts on the campus, student-to-teacher ratios, student body composition, and the school's current performance score as assigned by the Texas Education Agency. This component of the review process supports Arts Connect Houston's value of open access by ensuring that we:

- Prioritize programming that serves students with the least access to arts education from a certified Fine Arts educator;
- Bring arts education opportunities to students who might otherwise not be provided said opportunity; and
- Support students with the "highest need" according to partnering school districts and available arts education access data.

The Review Committee score and Priority Score are combined for an overall score. These scores do not determine a grant's status; they are instead used as a frame of reference for the Review Committee to lean on as they make final decisions. Award decisions are made collectively by the Review Committee. The scoring and review process happens twice, once for Learning, Innovation & Action Grants and once for Seed Grants.

For the 2025-2026 school year, all Alief ISD proposal submissions were reviewed internally by district and campus leadership rather than through the standard Review Committee process, and partnerships were selected based on proposals that best matched each campus' stated programming needs and priorities. This process was specific to the pilot year. Beginning with Alief ISD's full participation in the 2026-2027 Arts Action Fund, Alief ISD applications will go through the same Review Committee process as Houston ISD and Aldine ISD.

I would be very interested in participating in this program again. The Arts Action Fund provided valuable opportunities for our students to engage in meaningful artistic experiences that enhanced their creativity, confidence, and engagement in learning. The resources and support made a positive impact on both students and our school community, and we would welcome the opportunity to continue building on that success in future programs.

Toby McCraw
Art Teacher, Impact Leadership Academy

In total, the 2025-2026 Arts Action Fund awarded

69

GRANTS

TOTALING

$228,188

Of these, six were Learning, Innovation & Action grants, 57 were Seed grants, and six were Alief ISD pilot program grants.

Learning, Innovation and Action

Six Learning, Innovation and Action grants were awarded totaling $40,020. These programs served 828 students in 23 classrooms for a total of 241 direct learning hours. One program served elementary schools, two programs served a combination of middle school and high school, and three programs served high schools. The creative writing, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts disciplines were all represented across these programs. Three different program structures were represented in these grants: two programs were arts instruction, two were arts integration, and two were arts experience.

Continue reading for **program highlights** from each Learning, Innovation and Action grant.

Partnership Profiles

Align Mind for Kids at Helms Elementary School

With the help of a Learning, Innovation & Action grant, Align Mind for Kids brought The Art of Mindfulness: Cultures of the World to Helms Elementary. The program served 205 students across all nine 3rd through 5th grade homerooms, providing 72 hours of instruction from mid-February through April.

Students explored visual art traditions from cultures around the world alongside mindfulness practices, including breathwork, yoga, and guided reflection.

Align Mind for Kids told us that the residency responded to the school's need for more support around stress and test anxiety. The grant also allowed them to try something new. While they have experience in both visual arts and mindfulness, this was their first time pairing culturally focused visual art with mindfulness in a long-term, school-day model across multiple homerooms.



This program reinforced the notion that art is a way of living that elevates our ideas and thoughts in way that is not done by anything else students do during the school day.

Thalia Loera
Art Teacher, Browning Elementary School

DeLUXE Theater at Mickey Leland College Preparatory Academy for Young Men

DeLUXE Theater received a Learning, Innovation & Action grant to bring 5th Ward Vanguard, a place-based theatre and theatre production program, to Mickey Leland College Preparatory Academy for Young Men. Over 14 sessions in April and May, 35 seventh and ninth grade students studied acting, playwriting, and stagecraft while exploring the history and culture of Houston's Fifth Ward, for a total of 42 direct learning hours. Students also took part in the Fifth Ward Living Legacy Historical Tour, where they shared their own knowledge about Congressman Mickey Leland and the neighborhood's legacy.

DeLUXE Theater told us this was their first opportunity to fully integrate theatre education, technical theatre, local history, and community engagement into a sustained school residency. They shared that they now have "a replicable model for delivering culturally responsive theatre education that can be adapted for other schools and communities."

The Healing Arts Program at The Health Museum at DeBakey High School for Health Professions

With the help of a Learning, Innovation & Action grant, The Healing Arts Program at The Health Museum brought Creativity in Care to 144 students at DeBakey High School for Health Professions. Across eight class sessions from January through March, students used embroidery, artmaking, discussion, and writing to explore identity, culture, ethics, and caregiving, themes often overlooked in traditional health education. The program concluded with a field trip to The Health Museum in April, and students' work was featured in a museum exhibition.

The Health Museum surveyed participating students and shared their reflections with us. One student wrote, "Identity and caregiving are built carefully, thread by thread." Another shared, "I want to be the kind of caretaker that respects and loves anyone's culture and sees the beauty in it."

The Health Museum told us that this was their first time creating a multi-session curriculum that combined embroidery, ethics, reflection, and dialogue in partnership with a high school.

Iconoclast Artists at Chavez High School

Iconoclast Artists used a Learning, Innovation & Action grant to bring creative writing instruction to 50 students in two classrooms at Chavez High School. Meeting on Tuesdays across two class periods, the program served two distinct groups, emergent bilingual students and advanced International Baccalaureate (IB) students, for a total of 84 direct learning hours. At the end of the year, students performed at They Say, Iconoclast's end-of-year event, and saw their work published in a student-produced anthology.

Iconoclast told us that the grant allowed them to pilot differentiated curricula for two very different academic levels at the same time, the first time they had offered this type of programming. They shared that what they learned will help them refine their trauma-informed curriculum and adapt their creative writing workshops for future partnerships.

By stepping into the roles of historians, writers, and performers, students transformed classroom content into meaningful and engaging learning experiences.

Amber Akhtar
Assistant Principal, Wharton Dual Language Academy

Jazz Houston at Westbury High School

With the help of a Learning, Innovation & Action grant, Jazz Houston brought a three-day residency to Westbury High School, culminating in a public performance honoring Miles Davis on January 16, 2026. Thirteen professional teaching artists led rehearsals, sectionals, and masterclasses on improvisation, jazz history, ensemble dynamics, and solo development, for a total of 15 hours of instruction. More than 300 students participated in the residency and performance activities.

The original plan also included elementary and middle school students. When the program dates shifted to fit the high school auditorium's availability, those campuses were unable to attend. Jazz Houston told us that the experience reinforced the importance of early planning with school partners, and that they plan to develop more flexible delivery models for serving younger students.

Nia's Daughters Movement Collective at Young Women's College Preparatory Academy

With support from a Learning, Innovation & Action grant, Nia's Daughters Movement Collective brought their Dancing Beyond Aesthetics curriculum to 94 students across four classrooms at Young Women's College Preparatory Academy. Over eight residency days in December, students in the school's dance program explored African Diaspora dance traditions through movement, choreography, and reflection, connecting dance to history, social justice, and cultural identity. The residency concluded with a school performance on February 18.

Nia's Daughters told us that the grant allowed them to expand a curriculum they had previously piloted with a single class to the school's entire dance program. Testing the curriculum at this scale gave them insight into delivery, student engagement, and assessment that will help them bring it to additional schools.

Arts Action has been pivotal in shaping the curriculum framework for the Photography program at Yates High School. It would be hard to imagine our success without the support granted to organizations who have offered resources and support.

Danielle Mason
CTE Photography Teacher, Yates High School





Seed

The 2025-2026 Arts Action Fund awarded 57 Seed grants totaling $173,168 to 33 organizations, with $124,363 supporting Houston ISD campuses and $48,805 supporting Aldine ISD campuses. Seed grants brought programming to 52 schools, 38 in Houston ISD and 14 in Aldine ISD, serving 7,135 students in 361 classrooms for a total of 1,223.25 direct learning hours. Seed programs reached students from Pre-K through 12th grade: five campuses received programming for Pre-K students, 17 for lower elementary (Kindergarten - 2nd grade), 16 for upper elementary (3rd - 5th grade), 13 for middle school, and 18 for high school.

The creative writing, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts disciplines were all represented across these programs. Three different program structures were represented in these grants: arts instruction, arts integration, and arts experiences. Two of these programs were completed but did not submit final reporting, so their impact is not reflected in the figures above. One Seed grant was offered an extension and will complete its program in 2026-2027 school year.

Continue reading for **program highlights** from several Seed grants.

Partnership Profiles

American Festival for the Arts at Mead Middle School

With support from the Arts Action Fund, American Festival for the Arts (AFA) brought Engage AFA to 210 band students at Aldine ISD's Mead Middle School. From January through April, AFA Teaching Artists led full band clinics and small sectional rehearsals for clarinet, trombone, flute, and French horn players, for a total of 39 direct learning hours. Students then carried the foundational skills they built in sectionals back into full band rehearsals.

Matthew Adamson, Head Band Director at Mead, told us that the grant "provided access to highly qualified master class instructors that would otherwise have been difficult to secure within our program budget." AFA also supplied clinicians for Mead's new Winter Camp and gave students access to the AFA Summer Music Festival audition process. Adamson shared, "It was especially rewarding to see students develop relationships with the instructors and become more engaged in their musical growth."

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston at Impact Leadership Academy

With support from the Arts Action Fund, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH) brought their Teaching Artists-In-Classrooms program to 25 art students at Aldine ISD's Impact Leadership Academy. CAMH paired art teacher Toby McCraw, who hoped to create a mural with his students, with teaching artist Carlos Mendoza, who attended the school under its former name and lives in the neighborhood. After a field visit to CAMH in September, students spent eight sessions in October and November designing and painting a collaborative, multipanel mural, for a total of 25 direct learning hours. The finished mural was installed at the University of Houston's Third Space Gallery from November 18 to December 2, 2025, and students celebrated their work with their families at a public opening.

Toby McCraw, Art Teacher at Impact Leadership Academy, told us that his biggest takeaway was "seeing how powerful access to the arts can be for student engagement, their families, confidence, and personal growth." He also shared, "Watching students take pride in their work and support one another throughout the creative process was especially rewarding." CAMH told us that McCraw and Mendoza have continued working together, with students creating a new mural in Third Ward in Spring 2026.

DACAMERA at Carter Academy

Through the Arts Action Fund, DACAMERA brought their Music Encounters arts integration program to 112 students at Aldine ISD's Carter Academy. DACAMERA Young Artists, teaching artists in DACAMERA's professional development program, led lessons for every grade level in Carter's Fiesta Friday program, connecting music to science through Sonic Postcards and to language arts through I Am Jam. The partnership was DACAMERA's pilot of a large-scale program in Aldine ISD.

Eun Sung Kim, Magnet Coordinator and Strings Teacher at Carter Academy, named "the tremendous value of community partnerships in expanding learning opportunities for students" as the biggest takeaway from the program, sharing, "Seeing students interact with and learn from professional artists inspired them to think more broadly about their own potential and place in the world."

Diversity in the Arts & Entertainment at Knippel Education Center

With support from the Arts Action Fund, Diversity in the Arts & Entertainment (DiTAE) brought their Visual Arts Creativity Workshop to 75 students at Aldine ISD's Knippel Education Center from February 4 to March 11. Knippel serves students whose attendance can change from one day to the next, so DITAE designed projects that students could start and finish in a single session. Each project built in time for introspection, and students' artwork reflected how they see themselves and how they want to be seen by their community.

DiTAE told us that students found their own artistic voice through the residency, building confidence and discovering new ways to process their emotions. Because students could not display their work on campus or take it home, DITAE asked permission to keep some pieces to advocate for more arts programming in settings like Knippel. DiTAE shared, "The students really could benefit from arts programming, mentally, socially and emotionally."

The Ensemble Theatre at Lovett Elementary School

With support from the Arts Action Fund, The Ensemble Theatre brought their All Access Arts Experience to all 654 students at Lovett Elementary. In December, Ensemble performed The Toys Take Over Christmas for the entire school, and on June 4 they returned with Three Pigs Remix, with teachers receiving curriculum materials to extend each show in the classroom. Ensemble also expanded the partnership beyond their original proposal by adding their From the Page to the Stage residency, where students strengthened literacy skills by bringing stories to life through performance.

Lauren Adams, Lovett's Magnet Coordinator, told us that "The live performances captivated our entire student body and created shared experiences that sparked curiosity, discussion, and creativity across grade levels." She also shared, "It reminded me that when students are given meaningful opportunities to create and perform, they often exceed our expectations and discover strengths they did not know they had."

FotoFest at Yates High School

With support from the Arts Action Fund, FotoFest brought their Literacy Through Photography in-classroom workshops to 80 students across three sections of Yates High's Commercial Photography I & II classes. From December through March, students met weekly with FotoFest Teaching Artist Joynear Duncan to study contemporary photographers and explore themes of play, food, friendship, and family history, building their writing alongside their photography. Students also learned about arts careers such as curator, archivist, and graphic designer, and their work was shown in FotoFest's 2026 student exhibition, "FotoFinish."

Danielle Mason, CTE Photography Teacher at Yates, told us, "My biggest takeaway is that the limitations of classroom supplies and photographic equipment don't have to limit our ability to create dynamic art."

Open Dance Project at Southmayd Elementary School

With support from the Arts Action Fund, Open Dance Project brought Project Imagine Dance to 95 students at Southmayd Elementary from March through May. The residency served a mixed-grade special education dance class alongside kindergarten and first grade general education students, using creative movement, rhythm games, and storytelling to explore the elements of dance. Teaching artists adapted the classroom so every student could take part, using floor dots and yoga mats to mark movement spaces and offering Spanish-language cues where helpful. When testing schedules canceled several sessions, the teaching artists wrote lesson plans so the classroom teacher could continue the work.

Ja'Nese Jett, Elective Teacher at Southmayd, participated in the residency alongside her students and told us, "This organization gave me the tools to teach elementary dance to K-5."


prelude
Learning to sing
Singing to learn
JURASSIC WORLD


LEFT-SIDE
RIGHT-SIDE
Demonstration of Learning
Learning Objective
Start DOL

Alief ISD Programming

For the 2025-2026 pilot program, Arts & Culture Partners were matched with **six Alief ISD** campuses to support their end-of-year culminating performances and exhibitions: Open Dance Project at Hearne Elementary, SWAMP (Southwest Alternate Media Project) at Albright PVAA, Musiqa at Youngblood Intermediate, and The Ensemble Theatre at Kennedy Elementary, Miller PVAA, and Alief Middle School.

All six Alief ISD pilot programs took place in Spring 2026. Together, these programs served **365 students in 15 classrooms** for a total of 106.75 direct learning hours. Final impact numbers for the remaining four programs were not reported.

Partnership Profiles

The Ensemble Theatre at Miller PVAA

With support from the Alief ISD pilot program, The Ensemble Theatre brought their From the Page to the Stage residency to 40 students at Miller PVAA. Meeting twice a week from April 28 to May 19, two groups of students turned their own writing into live theatre, working on character, story structure, movement, vocal expression, and staging, for a total of 13 direct learning hours. The residency concluded with a culminating performance on May 19.

The Ensemble told us that students responded especially well because the work began with their own writing, and teaching artist Krystal Uchem treated their ideas “with the same seriousness given to work in a professional rehearsal process.”

Musiqa at Youngblood Intermediate School

In their first partnership with Alief ISD, Musiqa brought a Vocal Coaching Residency to 50 choir students at Youngblood Intermediate to prepare them for their end-of-year choir concert. From April 14 to May 4, teaching artists Sarah Dyer-Jones and Keaton Brown coached students on posture, breath support, and projection, for a total of 6.75 direct learning hours. When the two taught together, the pairing of a soprano and a baritone helped students hear and understand their own singing ranges. The teaching artists also shared vocal exercises with the choir’s long-term substitute, Darrell Williams, who used them in class.

Musiqa shared that students asked if a teaching artist “could be added to the class permanently.” After the concert, Principal Cassandra Dyson thanked Musiqa “for partnering with us to give our students the experience and exposure of seeing and feeling music in a different way.”

"Through the program, every student on our campus had the opportunity to attend two live theatrical performances presented on-site, exposing them to the performing arts in an engaging and accessible way.

The program demonstrated that the arts are not just an enrichment opportunity—they are a powerful tool for developing communication skills, self-expression, teamwork, and confidence.

It reminded me that when students are given meaningful opportunities to create and perform, they often exceed our expectations and discover strengths they did not know they had.

Lauren Adams
Magnet Coordinator, Lovett Elementary

IMPACT

In total, the Arts Action Fund supported **37 Arts & Culture Partners in 399 classrooms at 61 campuses, presenting programming to 8,328 students for 1,571 direct learning hours.**



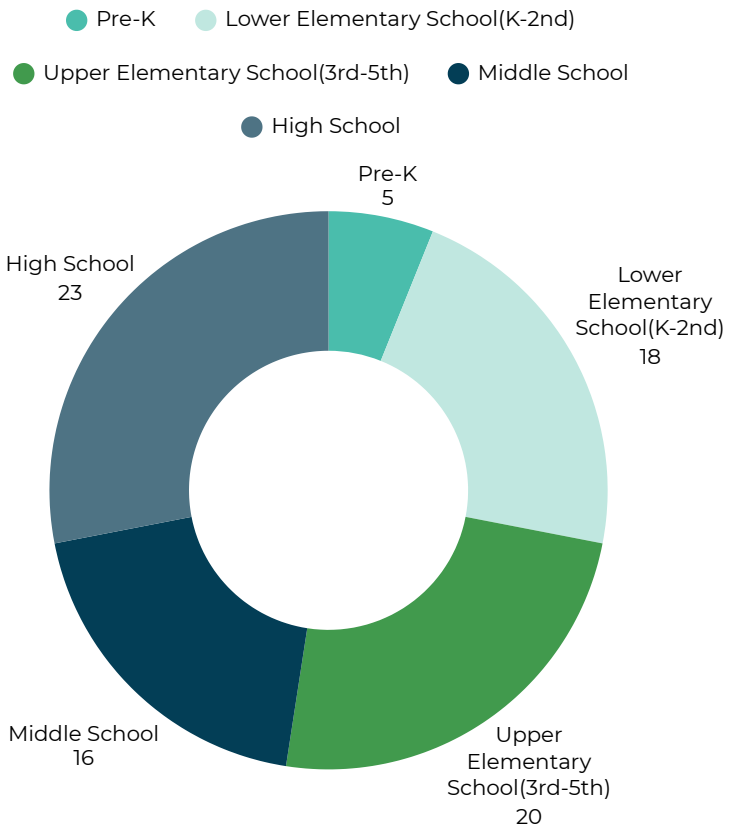
61
campuses



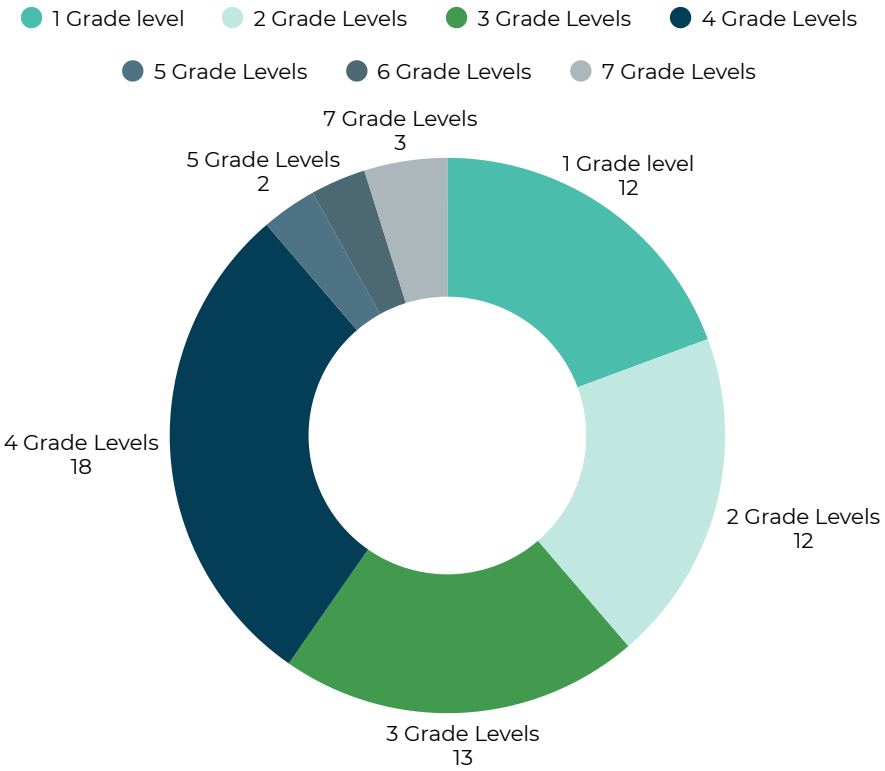
399
classrooms

IMPACT

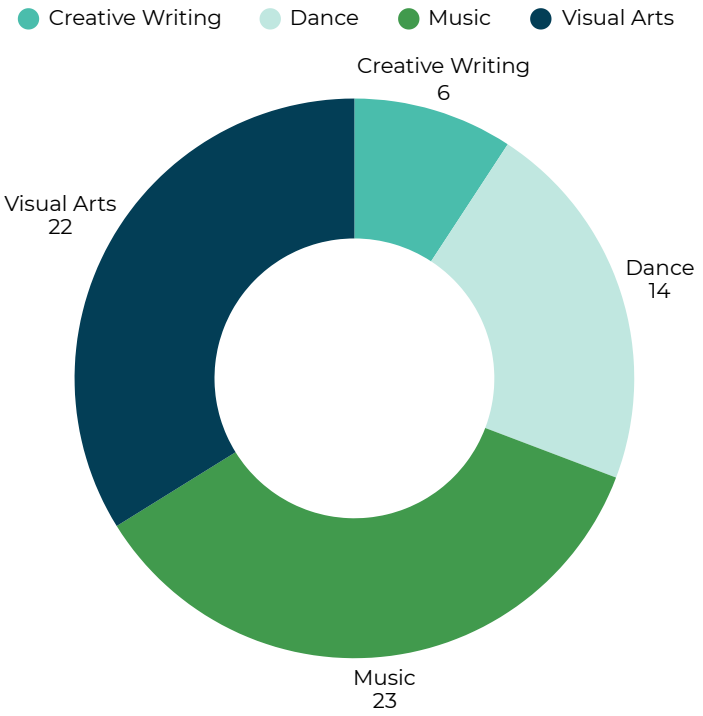
GRADE LEVELS SERVED



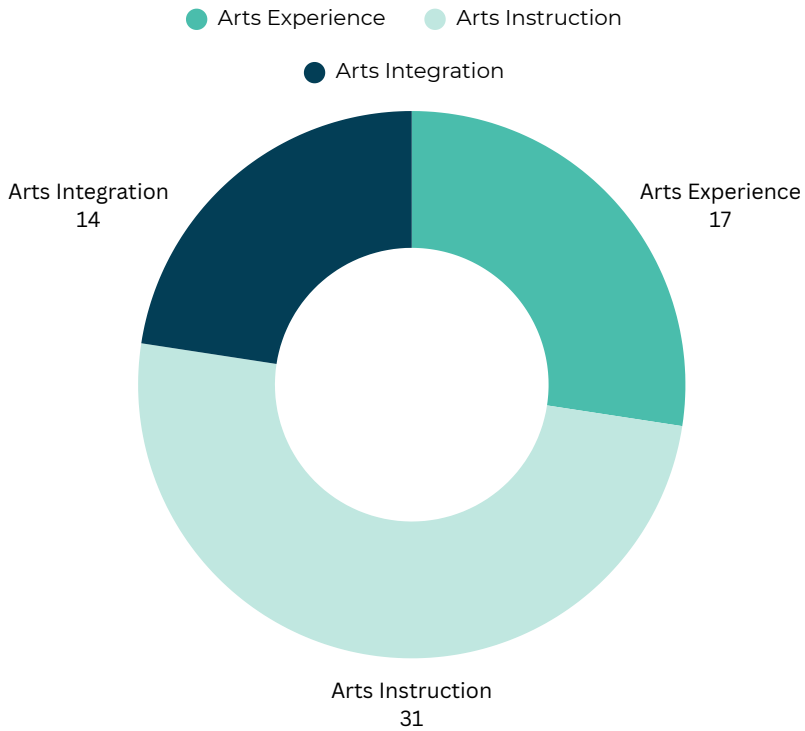
NUMBER OF GRADE LEVELS SERVED



IMPACT



DISCIPLINE COVERED



ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMMING TYPE

2025-2026 Arts Action Fund in total



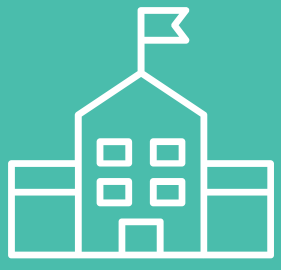
37

Arts & Culture Partners supported



8,328

Students



1,571

direct learning hours.

Arts Action Fund Through The Years

148,274
Students Served

6,495
Classrooms Visited

712
Partnerships established

491
Campuses Visited

$2.0MM
Total funds distributed





Family Art Nights

Overview

Introduced in the 2023-2024 school year, Family Art Nights are evening events hosted onsite at a campus where Arts Connect Houston brings in Arts & Culture Partners representing all arts disciplines through programming, including performances and activities, for the campus' students and their families. The goal of Family Art Nights is to expand the impact of arts education to a time and space where students are able to engage in the arts casually while their parents, families and guardians do as well.

This year, Arts Connect hosted seven Family Art Nights: three at school campuses in Houston ISD and Aldine ISD, and four at Houston ISD Sunrise Centers. Seven Arts & Culture Partners led activities in visual arts, music, dance, and musical theatre, reaching approximately 362 students and 303 family members over 14 hours of programming.

- Carter Academy (Aldine ISD)
- Eliot Elementary School (Houston ISD)
- Kujawa Elementary IB World School (Aldine ISD)
- Cornerstone Sunrise Center (Houston ISD)
- Mission Milby Sunrise Center (Houston ISD)
- West Orem Sunrise Center (Houston ISD)
- Brock Sunrise Center (Houston ISD)

Participating Arts & Culture Partners were ARTreach, Art League Houston, Align Mind for Kids, DACAMERA, Diversity in the Arts & Entertainment, Partnerschools, and Rainbow Joy Books.
Family Art Nights were funded by Texas Commission on the Arts, the William E. and Natoma Pyle Harvey Charitable Trust, the Houston Endowment, Inc., and the Houston ISD Family and Community Engagement Office.





University of Houston Art Tours

Overview

In the 2023-2024 Initiatives Report, we shared more about University of Houston Art Tours under our Transformation Arts Initiative. While that initiative came to a close, the University of Houston Art Tours continued forward. These tours serve as a connection of visioning points for students to see themselves in a university setting focused on the arts. Through this partnership, we work with the University of Houston Public Art team, the Blaffer Museum of Art, and the Moores School of Music.

On February 28, DeBakey High School students began their tour with a performance by cellist Evan Leslie, who also spoke with them about music and the college experience. Students then viewed the contemporary art on display at the Blaffer Art Museum and the University of Houston Public Art Collection, and finished with a tour of the School of Art facilities. Throughout the day, students learned about admissions and the many career paths available in the arts.

YES Prep Northline students followed a similar schedule on March 4. Because many of them were music students, the group also asked to tour the Moores School of Music, where they were excited to see the music classrooms, the music library, and a grand piano. Zoie Buske, Manager of Education and Engagement at University of Houston Public Art, gave credit to their music teacher, Kunal Kataria, music program director at YES Prep Northline, who started an after-school band with his students and assisted them with setting up performances around the city: “You could really feel, when we walked into the School of Music, that these students saw pursuing music as a possibility for themselves because of him. It was clear how much he had helped them grow and how much of a love for music he had cultivated in them!”

This year, two campuses participated in University of Houston Art Tours: DeBakey High School for Health Professions (Houston ISD) on February 28 and YES Prep Northline on March 4, impacting 55 students over 12 hours of programming.

University of Houston Art Tours were funded by Texas Commission on the Arts, the William E. and Natoma Pyle Harvey Charitable Trust, and the Houston Endowment, Inc.









Careers in the Arts Catalyst Program

Overview

The Careers in the Arts Catalyst Program (CACP) is a summer arts and culture career internship program for Houston ISD and Aldine ISD students, focused on expanding access and opportunity for students from communities historically underrepresented in the arts. The goal of CACP is to connect students with demonstrated interest in the arts to Arts & Culture Partners for paid summer internships. These internships expose students to jobs and career pathways in the arts and culture sector and demonstrate the diversity of professional opportunities available within the sector, from technical trades such as stage lighting, set-building, and costumes and make-up to administrative roles such as marketing, graphic design, and curation.

In its third year, CACP received **168** applications for **25** internship positions.

The Careers in the Arts Catalyst Program was funded by the Dearing Family Foundation, Texas Commission on the Arts, and H-E-B, with additional support from 4th Wall Theatre, DealCo, Perkins + Will, Public Art of the University of Houston System, and The Sarofim Foundation.



I think this was a great summer and amazing learning and growing experience.

CACP Intern

In the future, I know this experience will stick with me and remind me that my passion is worth chasing, even when the path gets tough.

CACP Intern

This experience can shape my future career goals by allowing me to understand that their is more to art then just painting and drawing.

CACP Intern

Arts isn't talked about enough in future careers and through this program I've learned how much following your passion can help you.

CACP Intern

This experience has shown me that I belong in creative spaces, and it has helped shape my future goals by giving me a clearer sense of how I want to contribute, communicate, and develop as a professional.

CACP Intern

Structure

Running from June 9 to July 30, 2026, the Careers in the Arts Catalyst Program consisted of three key components: Professional Development Mondays, an on-site internship, and a final Project-Based Learning (PBL) project.

Professional Development Days

The Careers in the Arts Catalyst Program kicked off with two orientation days, on June 9th and 10th. Every Monday from June 15 to July 27, interns attended a Professional Development day at the Arts Connect Houston office, while Tuesday through Thursday they worked on site at their host sites. Monday sessions were designed to help interns think more deeply about the work they were doing at their placements, build critical thinking and professional skills, and meet Houston-based artists, arts administrators, and more. Arts Connect staff led sessions on professionalism and equity in the workplace, values, PBL project development, and more. Guest speakers from across the sector joined throughout the summer, including arts administrators, artists, college recruiters, and funders.

Session speakers included:

- Stacey Allen, Nia's Daughters Movement Collective
- Lauren Anderson, Houston Ballet
- Outspoken (Emanuelee) Bean and Meta4, Writers in the Schools
- Kendahl Bermudez, KC & Co Studios
- Zoie Buske, University of Houston Public Art
- Tené Carter, Stages
- Gracie Chávez, Fresh Arts
- Kate Dearing, The Dearing Family Foundation
- Rachel Dickson, The Ensemble Theatre
- Jaideep Hebbar, The Sarofim Foundation
- Lisa Helfman, H-E-B
- Nicole Hunt, Arts Connect Houston
- Taylor Jackson, Houston Arts Alliance
- Jack McBride, Arts Connect Houston
- Lupe Mendez, Kinder HSPVA
- Monique Mogilka, Arts Connect Houston
- Judy Nyquist, Arts Connect Houston Board Member and philanthropist
- Ruby Rivera, Texas Salsa Congress
- Wes Robbins and Samantha Sharp, Educators
- Sixto Wagan, Houston in Color
- College recruiters from Abilene Christian University, The University of Texas, Trinity University, Houston Community College, and University of Houston-Downtown

On-Site Internship

Tuesday through Thursday, from June 16 to July 23, interns worked from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at their host organizations, for a total of 18 on-site days. Interns were placed with organizations based on their artistic interests, career goals, and location, as well as the interviews held during orientation. The participating organizations were:

- Art in the Heart
- Arte Público Press
- The DeLUXE Theatre
- Diversity in the Arts & Entertainment
- Edison Arts Foundation
- The Ensemble Theatre
- The Health Museum
- Rothko Chapel
- Writers in the Schools

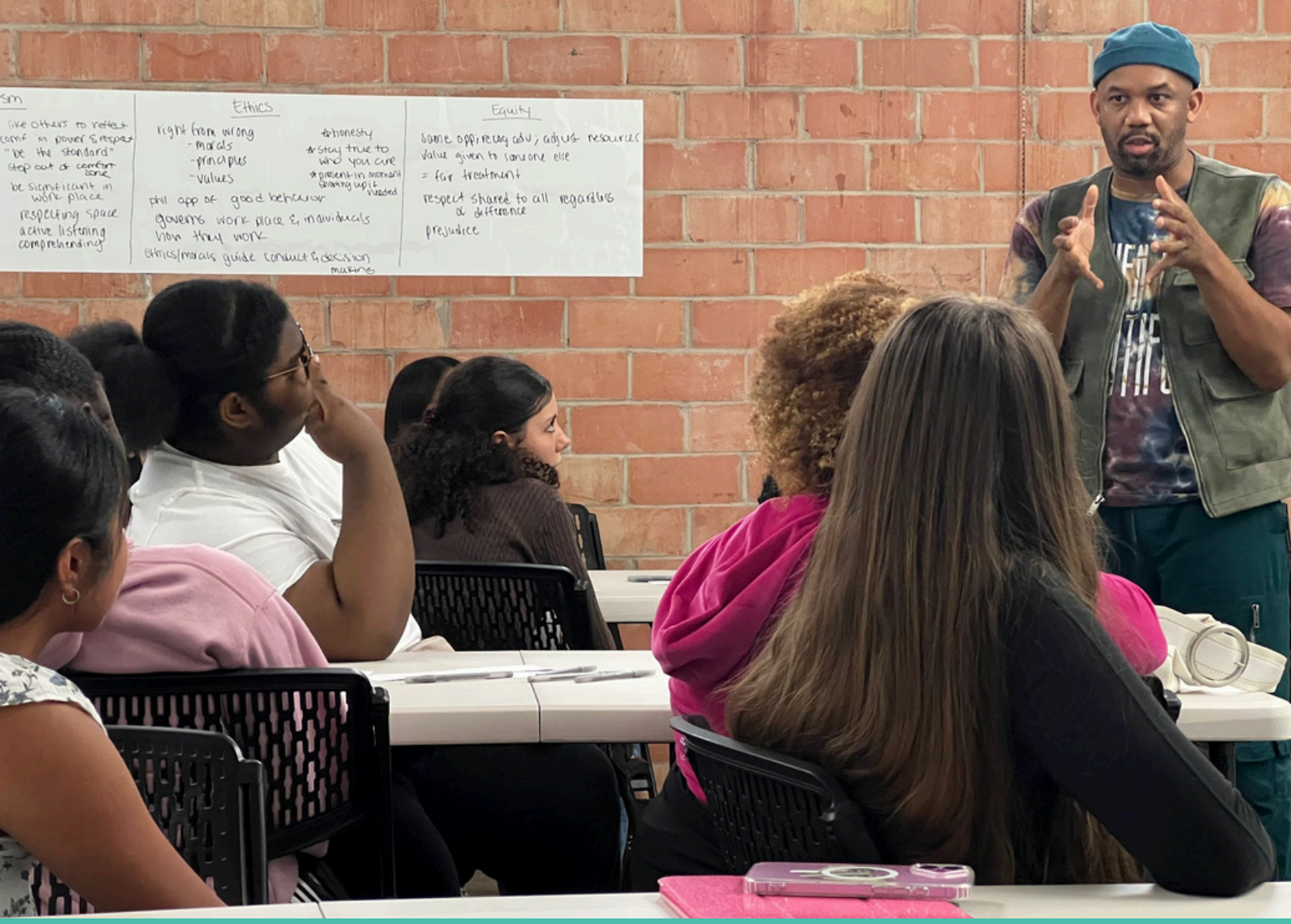
Interns had a primary supervisor at their site but often worked with several members of the organization's staff. Some interns worked directly with young students in summer camp programming, while others supported productions, events, and day-to-day operations.

Final Project

Over the course of the summer, interns developed a Project-Based Learning (PBL) project, identifying an area of improvement at their host organization, researching the underlying reasons for it, and proposing solutions to address it. Interns completed three check-ins along the way. After two weeks on site, they identified three possible topics and considered what barriers might have kept their site from addressing each one.

By the midpoint of the program, they had chosen a final topic, outlined possible solutions, and begun researching, drawing on at least three sources, including at least one interview. Before presentations, each intern submitted a minute-by-minute outline of a seven- to ten-minute presentation.

On July 28 and 29, interns presented their projects at the University of Houston to their mentors and community partners. Project titles included **"Improving Student Engagement," "Supporting Student Motivation Through Curriculum Design," "Beyond the Behavior," "Arts Integration," and "Community Outreach and Publicity Online."** The program closed with a celebration on July 30.



Before this experience, I was really lost of what my future career may be, but working on creative projects and seeing how many different jobs and roles there are in creative spaces sparked an interest in me of studying business/marketing.

Careers in the Arts Catalyst Program Intern

Programming Highlights

In addition to weekly workshops, site placements, and final projects, Arts Connect incorporated several other key elements into the Careers in the Arts Catalyst Program to add depth to the interns' learning experience and professional development.

Artist Talks

One component of the Monday professional development days was an Artist Talk series. Over the course of the summer, interns heard from several professionals working in the arts. Each Artist Talk speaker shared their path to working in the arts and offered advice on what it takes to be a practicing artist in Houston and beyond.

Artist Engagement

In addition to artist talks, each Professional Development Monday included time for Artist Engagement, which brought working artists into the room to connect their practice to interns' own creative work. Sessions included a creative writing workshop and slam poetry performance with Outspoken Bean and Meta4, a dance session with Kendahl Bermudez, a music session with Gracie Chávez of Fresh Arts, and a session on theatre, public speaking, and confidence with Tené Carter. Interns also engaged in Artist Engagements from Stacey Allen of Nia's Daughters Movement Collective, Lauren Anderson of Houston Ballet, Ruby Rivera of Texas Salsa Congress, and Nicole Hunt of Arts Connect Houston.

Other Highlights

In addition to Artist Talks and Artist Engagements, the cohort took a walking tour of Spring Street Studios, where they engaged in discussions with artists-in-residence. The cohort also had professional headshots taken by photographer Maricruz Kwon.

Impact

In total, the 2024-25 Careers in the Arts Catalyst Program cohort was comprised of 25 students who worked for 5,061 hours, making a collective $96,088. Seventeen campuses (15 Houston ISD and two Aldine ISD) were represented within the cohort:

- Aldine Young Women's Leadership Academy
- Bellaire High School
- Carnegie Vanguard High School
- Carver Magnet High School (Aldine ISD)
- Heights High School
- James Madison High School
- Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts
- Lamar High School
- North Houston Early College High School

- Northside High School
- Sharpstown High School
- South Early College High School
- Waltrip High School
- Westbury High School
- Westside High School
- Yates High School
- Young Women's College Preparatory Academy

Survey Results

As with previous cohorts, 2026 CACP interns were asked to complete four surveys throughout the summer. The goal of these surveys was to gauge the efficacy of program elements in real time, as well as track how interns' thoughts about their careers and relationship to the arts developed over the course of the program.

In each of the four surveys, interns were asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 10, their feelings about the following questions:

- How large of a role do you think the arts will play in your post-secondary day-to-day life?
- How likely are you to pursue a career in the arts following high school graduation?
- How likely are you to pursue higher education (i.e., trade school, community college, university, etc.) in the arts?
- How important do you think the arts/creativity will be to your future career?
- How confident do you feel about your post-secondary options?
- How well prepared do you feel for your post-secondary pursuits?

Interns' average ratings rose from the first survey to the final survey on all six questions. The largest increases were in interns' likelihood of pursuing a career in the arts (3.8% increase) and of pursuing higher education in the arts (2.6% increase), followed by preparedness for and confidence in their post-secondary pursuits (2.3% increase each). On both the first and final surveys, interns gave their highest ratings to the importance of the arts and creativity to their future careers, reaching an average of 9.36 out of 10 by the end of the program. Because fewer interns completed the final survey (14) than the first survey (25), these results should be interpreted with caution.

Compared with previous cohorts, the 2026 cohort began the program with the highest average ratings of any CACP cohort, averaging 8.41 out of 10 across all six questions on the first survey, compared to 8.28 in 2025 and 7.87 in 2024. The 2026 cohort ended the program with an average of 8.61, higher than the 2024 cohort (8.26) but lower than the 2025 cohort (9.18). As in prior years, inconsistent survey completion makes it difficult to draw firm conclusions.

In the final survey, all 14 respondents said they would recommend the program to a friend or sibling, and 13 out of 14 said they would participate again if they could. Interns were also asked what they would tell a funder about the program. One intern wrote, **“This program was my very first paid professional experience. Being chosen for this program and being entrusted with real responsibilities at my placement site allowed me to gain so much confidence in myself personally and professionally.”** Another wrote that **“taking a chance on young, upcoming artists means more than they realize. Knowing that there is real support behind us builds confidence we didn’t have before.”**





I think I really did find a slice of purpose in this program of what my career will look like. I used to think of my future very bleakly but being in the CACP made me learn something new everyday and widened my view on a lot of topics regarding academics or a career in general.

Careers in the Arts Catalyst Program Intern

YES Prep Summer Programming

Overview

During Summer 2026, Arts Connect Houston supported four YES Prep campuses, Airline Elementary, North Forest Elementary, North Forest Secondary, and Northline Secondary, by incorporating arts workshops into their summer programming. From June 11 to 25, two Arts & Culture Partners led 18 workshops across the four campuses.

Airline Elementary and North Forest Elementary each received programming from ARTreach and Writers in the Schools, with three visual arts workshops and three creative writing workshops at each campus. North Forest Secondary and Northline Secondary each received three creative writing workshops from Writers in the Schools.

YES Prep summer programming was supported by Arts Connect, with matching funding from YES Prep.

Impact

Through this program, approximately **150** YES Prep students received **18 hours** of instruction from two Arts & Culture Partners.



Vendor Passthrough Service

Overview

Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, Arts Connect provided a new service to our Arts & Culture Partners to help Partners without vendor status in Houston ISD offer direct programming to campuses. This service continued into the 2025-2026 school year.

Houston ISD requires that all purchases utilizing school funds be made through an Approved Vendor. We know that not all Arts & Culture Partner organizations are able to become a Houston ISD Approved Vendor due to a number of factors, such as lack of capacity to apply, an infrequent application window, and strict Houston ISD requirements for vendors. As such, we offer the Vendor Passthrough Service, a process by which an Arts & Culture Partner can contract their services to Arts Connect. As a Houston ISD Approved Vendor, Arts Connect is eligible to receive funds directly from Houston ISD; by contracting through Arts Connect, non-vendor organizations can then offer their services in turn to Houston ISD campuses.

The goal of the Vendor Passthrough Service is to utilize our resources to assist Arts & Culture Partners in overcoming a common barrier to working with Houston ISD schools. In doing so, we are opening the door for partnerships between organizations and campuses that may not otherwise have been feasible, thereby supporting arts education opportunities for students who may otherwise not have had them.

Impact

In the 2025-2026 school year, Arts Connect supported a total of four Vendor Passthroughs. Diversity in the Arts & Entertainment provided year-long programming at the Cornerstone and Buckner Sunrise Centers and fall programming at the Morefield Sunrise Center, and Houston Healthy Hip-Hop provided spring programming at the Marian Park Sunrise Center. Open Dance Project and Stages also worked with the Houston ISD Fine Arts Department's dance and theatre teams, respectively.

Conclusion

In the 2025-2026 school year, Arts Connect Houston's responsive action initiatives reached students in Houston ISD, Aldine ISD, Alief ISD, and YES Prep, in classrooms, on college campuses, at family events, and in summer internships. Through the Arts Action Fund alone, 68 grants brought arts education programming to 8,328 students at 60 schools, including the first year of our pilot partnership with Alief ISD.

These initiatives are only possible because of our Arts & Culture Partners, our district and campus partners, and the funders who invest in this work. As we look ahead to the 2026-2027 school year and Alief ISD's full participation in the Arts Action Fund, our collective remains committed to ensuring that every student in Greater Houston receives a complete education, one that includes the arts.



Appendix

Photo Captions

Cover

Students at Braeburn Elementary School show their artwork created with Partnerschools during their Arts Action Fund Seed grant-supported Tangled Together program.

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Students at Carter Academy play with recycled percussion instruments with a DACAMERA Young Artist during their Arts Action Fund Seed grant-supported Music Encounters program.

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Students at Impact Leadership Academy paint with teaching artist from Contemporary Arts Museum Houston during their Arts Action Fund Seed grant-supported Shared Grounds: CAMH Teaching Artists-In-Classrooms program.

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Students at Tinsley Elementary School play drums during their Arts Action Fund Seed grant-supported World Percussion Classes for Children program with Dinkins Music and Arts Foundation.

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Students from Chavez High School participate in the Arts Action Fund Seed grant-supported Iconoclast Artists - Arts Performance program.

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Students at Impact Leadership Academy(top) and Browning Elementary School(bottom) create work with teaching artists from Contemporary Arts Museum Houston during their respective Arts Action Fund Seed grant-supported Teaching Artists-In-Classrooms programs.

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Top: Students at Mistral Early Childhood Center participate in Prelude Music Foundation's Arts Action Fund Seed grant-supported Weekly Music and Movement Classes program. Bottom: DACAMERA Young Artists accompany a student at Alcott Elementary School as a part of their Arts Action Fund Seed grant-supported Music Encounters program.

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Top: Students from Carter Academy present their certificates of completion from Houston Metropolitan Dance's Arts Action Fund Seed grant funded Expressions in Movement program. Bottom: Students from Kinder HSPVA perform as a part of Mercury Chamber Orchestra's Arts Action Fund Seed grant-supported Vivaldi's Four Seasons program.

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Students from Kujawa Elementray School participate in bucket- drumming with Partnerschools at a Family Art Night

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A guest student artist performs in a talent show hosted by Mickey Leland College Prepatory Academy for Young Men students as a part of DeLUXE Theater's Arts Action Fund Learning,Action, and Innovation grant-supported 5th Ward Vanguard program.

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Students from DeBakey High School and YES Prep Northline participate in a University of Houston Art Tour.

Appendix

Photo Captions

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A CACP Intern presents their Project Based Learning presentation.

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Poet Outspoken Bean presents an Artist Engagement for the CACP Interns.

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The 2026 Careers in the Arts Catalyst Program Cohort, along with Jack McBride,Taylor Bush, and Mandy Whited. Photography by Maricruz Kwon.

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A CACP intern speaks to Gracie Chavez during her CACP Artist Engagement.

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Students from Wharton Dual Language Academy partipate in Loop 38's Arts Action Fund Seed grant-supported Houston: One Voice, One Thousand Accents program.

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Students from Madison High School perform at Arts Connect Houston's 2026 State of the Arts in Education Symposium. Photography by Violeta Alvarez

Back Cover

Students at Forest Brook Middle School work on paintings with University of Houston Art Education Program during their Arts Action Fund Seed grant-supported Imagination Through Meditation and Illustration program.

Arts Action Fund Grants

Learning, Innovation & Action

School	Organization	Program Title	Granted	Status
Helms ES	Align Mind for Kids	The Art of Mindfulness: Cultures of the World	$8,500.00	Complete
Mickey Leland College Prepatory Academy for Young Men	DeLUXE Theater	5th Ward Vanguard	$8,500.00	Complete
DeBakey HS	The Healing Arts Program at The Health Museum	Creativity in Care	$8,020.00	Complete
Chavez HS	Iconoclast Artists	Iconoclast Artists - Arts Performance	$6,500.00	Complete
Westbury HS	Jazz Houston	Young People's Jazz Concert	$4,250.00	Complete
Young Women's College Preparatory Academy	Nia's Daughters Movement Collective	Dancing Beyond Aesthetics	$4,250.00	Complete

Seed

School	Organization	Program Title	Granted	Status
Mead MS	AFA	Engage AFA	$3,500	Complete
Plummer MS	AFA	Engage AFA	$3,500	Complete
High School for Law & Justice	Align Mind for Kids	The Art of Mindfulness Residency	$3,500	Complete
Hamilton MS	Alley Theatre	Inclusive Devising	$650	Complete
Heights HS	Alley Theatre	Inclusive Devising	$2,000.00	Complete
Houston Academy	Alley Theatre	Matinee & Play Makers	$3,296.00	Complete
Lamar HS	Alley Theatre	Texas Young Playwrights Exchange (TYPE)	$2,100.00	Complete
Lawson MS	Alley Theatre	First Draft	$2,000.00	Complete
Davila ES	Art League Houston	ArtBound	$3,200.00	Complete
Field ES	Art League Houston	ArtBound	$2,800.00	Complete

School	Organization	Program Title	Granted	Status
DeBakey HS	ARTreach	Kinetic Vibez - Mindful Beats	$3,500.00	Complete
Ed White ES	Asia Society Texas	Explore Asia: Lunar New Year Celebrations	$3,500.00	Complete
Aldine Young Women's Leadership Academy	Bravissimo's OTM B.A.B.E.S.	Theatre Beyond the Stage	$3,500.00	Complete
Sterling HS	Bravissimo's OTM B.A.B.E.S.	The Beyond The Stage Costume Series	$3,500.00	Complete
Yates HS	Community Artists' Collective	Photography Program	$3,500.00	Complete
Browning ES	Contemporary Arts Museum Houston	CAMH Teaching Artists-In-Classrooms	$3,500.00	Complete
Impact Leadership Academy	Contemporary Arts Museum Houston	Shared Grounds: CAMH Teaching Artists-In-Classrooms	$3,500.00	Complete
Alcott ES	DACAMERA	DACAMERA Music Encounters	$960.00	Complete
Carter Academy	DACAMERA	DACAMERA Music Encounters	$705.00	Complete
Harris ES	DACAMERA	DACAMERA Music Encounters	$1,440.00	Complete
Harvard ES	DACAMERA	DACAMERA Music Encounters	$600.00	Complete
Tinsley ES	Dinkins Music and Arts Foundation	World Percussion Classes for Children	$3,500.00	Complete

School	Organization	Program Title	Granted	Status
Burbank ES	Diversity in The ARTS & Entertainment	Dance Creativity Workshop	$3,500.00	Complete
Carter Academy	Diversity in The ARTS & Entertainment	Visual Arts Creativity Workshop	$3,500.00	Complete
Knippel Education Center	Diversity in The ARTS & Entertainment	Visual Arts Creativity Workshop	$3,000.00	Complete
Carver HS	The Ensemble Theatre	Professional Coaching, Choreography & Mainstage Experience	$3,500.00	Complete
Lovett ES	The Ensemble Theatre	Lovett All Access Arts Experience	$3,500.00	Complete
Nimitz HS	Eternal Gandhi Museum Houston	Arts education at EGHM	$2,400.00	Extended
Gregory-Lincoln PK-8	Express Children's Theatre	Three Interactive Theatre Performances	$2,332.00	Complete
Fleming MS	Fashion Museum of Texas	Fashion Residency Program	$3,500.00	Complete
Meyerland MS	Fashion Museum of Texas	Fashion Residency Program	$3,500.00	Complete
Waltrip HS	Fashion Museum of Texas	Fashion Residency Program	$3,500.00	Complete
Yates HS	FotoFest	Literacy Through Photography In-Classroom Workshops	$3,500.00	Complete

School	Organization	Program Title	Granted	Status
Wharton Dual Language Academy	Gordon Education Initiatives for the Performing Arts	American History Filmmaking	$3,500.00	Complete
Griggs EC/PK/K School	Houston Center for Photography	Picture This!	$3,500.00	Complete
Hill ES	Houston Center for Photography	Picture This!	$2,964.00	Complete
Reece Academy	Houston Center for Photography	Picture This!	$3,500.00	Complete
Davis HS	Houston Grand Opera	College-Career-Create	$3,500.00	Complete
Berry ES	Houston Healthy Hip-Hop	Healthy Hip-Hop	$3,500.00	Complete
Carter Academy	Houston Metropolitan Dance	Expressions in Movement	$3,500.00	Complete
Westbury HS	Jazz Houston	Young People's Jazz Concert	$3,500.00	Complete
Mandarin Immersion Magnet School	Loop38	Houston: One Voice, One Thousand Accents	$3,500.00	Complete
Wharton Dual Language Academy	Loop38	Houston: One Voice, One Thousand Accents	$3,500.00	Complete
Kinder HSPVA	Mercury Chamber Orchestra	Vivaldi's Seasons	$2,500.00	Complete

School	Organization	Program Title	Granted	Status
Madison HS	Musiqa	MusiqaLab	$3,500.00	Complete
Young Women's College Preparatory Academy	Nia's Daughters Movement Collective	Dancing Beyond Aesthetics	$3,500.00	Complete
Anderson ES	Open Dance Project	Project Imagine Dance	$3,500.00	Complete
Reagan Education Center K-8	Open Dance Project	Project Imagine Dance	$3,500.00	Complete
Southmayd ES	Open Dance Project	Project Imagine Dance	$3,500.00	Complete
Braeburn ES	Partnerschools	Tangled Together	$3,500.00	Complete
Halpin ECC	Prelude Music Foundation	Weekly Music and Movement Classes	$3,500.00	Complete
Mistral ECC	Prelude Music Foundation	Weekly Music and Movement Classes	$2,300.00	Complete
Carnegie Vanguard HS	Public Art UHS, University of Houston	UH Arts with Carnegie Vanguard	$2,456.00	Complete
Eastwood Academy HS	Public Art UHS, University of Houston	UH Arts with Eastwood High School	$2,465.00	Complete
Madison HS	Rising Stars Academy of Dance & Performing Arts	Arts To Infinity: College Prep Residency	$3,500.00	Complete

School	Organization	Program Title	Granted	Status
Bellaire HS	Social Movement Contemporary Dance Theater	Inside the Process: A Choreographic Residency	$3,500.00	Complete
Forest Brook MS	UH Art Education Program, University of Houston	Imagination Through Meditation and Illustration	$3,500.00	Complete
Bellaire HS	Social Movement Contemporary Dance Theater	Inside the Process: A Choreographic Residency	$3,500.00	Complete

Alief ISD Spring Partnership Pilot

School	Organization	Program Title	Granted	Status
Albright PVAA	SWAMP (Southwest Alternate Media Project)	Digital Arts Program	$2,500.00	Complete
Alief MS	The Ensemble Theatre	From the Page to the Stage	$2,500.00	Complete
Kennedy ES	The Ensemble Theatre	From the Page to the Stage	$2,500.00	Complete
Miller PVAA	The Ensemble Theatre	From the Page to the Stage	$2,500.00	Complete
Youngblood Intermediate	Musiqa	Vocal Coaching Residency	$2,500.00	Complete
Hearne ES	Open Dance Project	Three Week Dance Theater Residency	$2,500.00	Complete

Our Partners

In the 2025-2026 school year, Arts Connect Houston worked with 111 Arts and Culture Partners across Houston specializing in creative writing, dance, music, theater, and visual arts.

CREATIVE WRITING

Arte Publico Press
Dream Big Books
Iconoclast Artists
Rainbow Joy Books
Writers in the Schools

DANCE

Ad Deum Dance Company
Boot Dance Project
Culture Arts Initiative Inc.
Destiny Dance Production LLC
Frame Dance Productions
Hearts in Motion HOU
Hope Stone
Houston Ballet
Houston Contemporary Dance Company
Houston Healthy Hip-Hop
Houston Metropolitan Dance Center, Inc.
Mad About Hula Hoops
MECKKA Dance Project
Mezclada Dance Company
Nia's Daughter Movement Collective
Open Dance Project
Rising Stars Academy of Dance & Performing Arts
Silambam Houston
Social Movement Contemporary Dance
Urban Souls Dance Company

MUSIC

AFA
Aperio, Music of the Americas
Apollo Chamber Orchestra
Ars Lyrica
Campbell Learning Center
Carya String Quartet
Community Music Center of Houston
The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion
DACAMERA
Dinkins Music and Arts Foundation
Foundation for Modern Music
Houston Boychoir
Houston Chamber Choir
Houston Children's Chorus
Houston Grand Opera
Houston Masterworks Chorus
Houston Symphony
Houston Viola Society
Houston Youth Symphony
Jazz Houston
Kinetic Ensemble
Loop38
Mercury Chamber Orchestra
Musiqa
Nameless Sound
Opera in the Heights
Prelude Music Foundation
Segundo Barrio Children's Chorus
WindSync

THEATER

4th Wall Theatre
A.D. Players
Alley Theatre
Bravissimo's OTMB.A.B.E.S
DeLUXE Theater
EnActe Arts Inc.
Ensemble Theatre
Express Children's Theatre
Gordon Education Initiatives for the Performing Arts
HITS Theatre
Houston Cinema Arts Society
Main Street Theater
Stages
Theatre Under the Stars

VISUAL ARTS

Align Mind for Kids
ALMAAHH
Alta Arts
Art Education Program at the University of Houston
Art League Houston
Asia Society Texas
Aurora Picture Show
Blaffer Art Museum
Community Artists' Collective
Contemporary Arts Museum Houston
Contemporary Handweavers of Houston
Eternal Gandhi Museum Houston
Fashion Museum of Texas
FotoFest Inc.
The Heritage Society
Holocaust Museum Houston
Houston Center for Contemporary Craft
Houston Center for Photography
Houston School of Art & Design
Meow Wolf
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Orange Show Center for Visionary Art
Public Art of the University of Houston System
Rothko Chapel

MULTIDISCIPLINARY

A.I.R. Project
ARTreach
Bay Area Houston Ballet & Theatre
Be Peace - Be Hope
Broad Ambitions
Diversity in the ARTS and Entertainment
Edison Arts Foundation
Friends of Africa
Garza Studios
Harris County Cultural Arts Council
The Healing Arts Program at The Health Museum
The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts
Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts (MECA)
Partnerschools
Performing Arts Houston
Preservation Houston
Treasured Diamonds Fine Art School
Southwest Alternate Media Project
Workshop Houston



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