



Arts Action Fund: Alley Theatre at Codwell Elementary

# ARTS CONNECT HOUSTON INITIATIVES REPORT

2022-2023

**ARTS CONNECT**  
HOUSTON

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# MISSION

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Arts Connect 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, beginning with the Houston Independent School District.

# VISION

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Arts Connect'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 ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

The goal of Arts Connect Houston's work is to ensure all students have access to high-quality arts education opportunities. We do this through four focuses: collecting actionable data, driving advocacy, building capacity, and unlocking new investments through responsive action.

The 2022-2023 Arts Connect Houston Initiatives Report discusses each responsive action initiative the Collective developed to address strategic needs established throughout the 22-23 school year.

Thank you to Houston ISD for their continued partnership and interest in ensuring all students have equitable access to arts education. We maintain that together, in a productive and promising partnership, we can make certain all students receive a complete education that includes the arts!

*Taylor Bush*

**TAYLOR BUSH**  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



*Transformation/RISE Arts Initiative: University of Houston Art Tour*



# INTRODUCTION

This year, Arts Connect Houston oversaw four key responsive action initiatives: Houston ISD Summer Enrichment, the Arts Action Fund, Arts After School, and the Transformation/RISE Arts Initiative.

- **Houston ISD Summer Enrichment** provided summer programming in June and July of 2022.
- The **Arts Action Fund** annually invests in partnerships between Arts and Culture Partners and Houston ISD schools.
- **Arts After School** provided programming at schools that did not have an established after-school program with arts programming after school hours.
- The **Transformation/RISE Arts Initiative** invested federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds from the Houston ISD Fine Arts Department to ensure the arts were prioritized on RISE campuses, schools Houston ISD designated as the lowest performing across the district.

In total, Arts Connect distributed **\$539,382.78** in funding to support these initiatives. Across all four initiatives, over **25,000** total students were served at **122\* schools**. Students received over **3,500 direct learning hours**, including 2,892 hours through the Arts Action Fund. Across all programs, there was a focus on filling gaps in arts education opportunities, directly supporting Arts Connect’s mission to ensure access to high-quality arts education equitably for all students in Houston ISD.



*Arts Action Fund: Art League Houston at Jane Long Academy*

# ARTS ACTION FUND

## OVERVIEW

Annually, the Arts Action Fund invests \$250,000 toward in-school arts education programs across Houston ISD with the goal of ensuring students have access to meaningful arts opportunities as part of their complete education. The Fund fiscally supports [Arts and Culture Partners'](#) collaborations with Houston ISD schools providing arts instruction,<sup>1</sup> arts integration,<sup>2</sup> arts experiences,<sup>3</sup> and professional development programming.<sup>4</sup>

Our 95 Arts & Culture Partners are a diverse group of Houston-area arts organizations representing a variety of artistic disciplines. They, along with HISD, the City of Houston, the local community, and state and national partners form the Arts Connect Houston collective.

The Arts Action Fund is the first of its kind in Houston and exists as a catalyst for closing arts access gaps in schools, focusing on underfunded campuses with reduced access to the arts. Through the Arts Action Fund, Arts Connect Houston provides capacity building opportunities for Arts and Culture Partners and Houston ISD schools to expand knowledge and understanding of how the arts impact student education and well-being.

<sup>1</sup> A learning opportunity that directly educates students in one or more arts disciplines.

<sup>2</sup> A learning opportunity in an arts discipline and in another subject. The goal of arts integration programming is to teach art through a subject and vice versa.

<sup>3</sup> A learning opportunity where students are exposed to art, but may not be creating art themselves. In arts experiences, students are still learning, but the focus is on expanding their understanding of art, encouraging engagement, and developing an appreciation of art.

<sup>4</sup> Includes discipline-specific skill-sharing, workshops and training for arts integration, seminars and panels led by content experts, and more.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Fund focused on two strategies: 1) Seed Funding (Seed) and 2) Learning, Innovation and Action (LIA) grants. The main goal of a Seed grant is to support partnership development between Arts and Culture Partners and Houston ISD schools, with the goal of increasing access for students to experience the arts at their school. For some partnerships, this may start a relationship. For others, the grant will seed a continued relationship.

In contrast, the main goal of the LIA Grant is to invest deeply in expanding already existing partnerships between organizations and a Houston ISD school. This funding, grounded in an established relationship, allows space to explore an innovative idea that is responsive to campus needs. All parties must be invested in the overall concept and how it deepens arts education impact for students.

The 2022-2023 Arts Action Fund launched on July 13th, 2022 and closed on September 2nd, 2022 for LIA grants and October 14th, 2022 for Seed grants.

Thank you to our Task Force members who supported this initiative's strategy and execution:

- Cathy Bencivenga, Chair, Alley Theatre
- Taylor Bush, Staff Lead
- KaNeesha Allen and Anthony McBeth, A.D. Players
- Charity Carter, Edison Arts Foundation
- Eepi Chaad, Art League Houston
- Craig Hauschildt, HISD Fine Arts
- Ellie Parker, DACAMERA

## GRANT APPROVAL PROCESS & REVIEW COMMITTEE

In order to evaluate applications and select grantees, Arts Connect Houston convenes a review committee composed of community, city, and Houston ISD representatives and Arts and 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 schools, specifically those lacking access;
- The partnership supports Arts and Culture Partners in expanding their impact across Houston ISD; and
- The program and partnership directly impacts students while indirectly supporting arts organizations, teaching artists, teachers, and the schools community in a positive way.

In addition to receiving a score from Review Committee members, each Arts Action Fund grant undergoes a priority review. The priority review, based on the campus that would receive programming, considers students' access to arts in school, student-to-teacher ratios, school racial/ethnic diversity and income levels, and 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 Houston ISD.

The priority review score does not automatically accept or reject applications but instead contributes to a holistic evaluation process that weighs both the quality of a proposed program and the needs of the campus that funding would support.

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## GRANT OVERVIEW

A total of seven LIA grants were awarded, and a total of 80 Seed grants were awarded. One awarded Seed grant was canceled and one Seed grant was extended to the 2023-2024 school year. Overall, 87 Arts and Culture Partners received an approved Arts Action Fund grant. In total, the 2022-2023 Arts Action Fund approved \$290,000 in grants and distributed \$287,450 in funding.

*Note: The 2022-2023 Arts Action Fund received an additional \$40,000 from Houston ISD to support the Fund in addition to the annual \$250,000. Arts Connect Houston approached Houston ISD to support the additional need after grant applications had been reviewed favorably but were not approved due to limited funding. Currently, the Arts Action Fund operates with a 90% application approval rate but is only about to grant 50% of the requested funds due to limited resources.*





Arts Action Fund: Mercury Chamber Orchestra at Scarborough Elementary

## LEARNING, INNOVATION AND ACTION

In total, seven organizations received \$66,000 through Learning, Innovation and Action grants. Programs included both arts instruction and arts integration and covered all arts disciplines (creative writing, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts).

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

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## PARTNERSHIP PROFILES

### COMMUNITY ARTISTS' COLLECTIVE AT BLACKSHEAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Students were exposed to the history of photography and different forms of photography and worked hands-on on a final project culminating in an exhibition at the school and The Collective gallery.

In 2021, Community Artists' Collective introduced photography to Kindergarten classes. Through this grant, they were able to expand to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade with a more immersive year-long program.

*"This program was a true blessing to me and my scholars. My scholars took great pride in learning a deeper understanding for photography... The experience this year was amazing and opened a new level of understanding for this field of visual art."*

Samantha Jackson, Blackshear's  
Visual Arts Teacher

CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM HOUSTON AT YOLANDA BLACK NAVARRO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Through this program, students saw first-hand what a career as an artist can look like. The program was a bridge for the students to experience working artists, materials, and processes that were not previously available in the classroom. Additionally, the field trip to CAMH allowed students to explore a different space in their community, many of whom had never visited the museum.

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ENSEMBLE THEATRE AT HIGH SCHOOL AHEAD ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Ensemble Theatre brought their Shakespeare Ahead program to High School Ahead Academy Middle School. Over the course of 22 weeks, students studied character development and Romeo and Juliet. Through the success of this program, the Ensemble Theatre saw they can be ambitious with their programs, and that there is a need for fun and challenging theatre programs.

*“The program impacted our students in a major way. We were able to put on a real theatrical production... This is something that has never been achieved before at High School Ahead Academy. We were able to work together as a team and make magic... Our principal and teachers were amazed at what we were able to accomplish.”*

*Oni Chambers, High School Ahead Academy’s Theatre Teacher*



Arts Action Fund: The Ensemble Theatre at High School Ahead Academy Middle

## FOUNDATION FOR MODERN MUSIC AT JAMES H. LAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This initiative provided an opportunity for students to see what a real life professional working artist is like, showcasing the ways in which art can be a career. By providing an engaging arts education experience, students were motivated to come to campus, form bonds as a community, and build discipline. This Arts Action Fund grant allowed the Foundation for Modern Music to take a big risk. They had never offered a program like this before, nor had the school ever hosted anything like it.

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## HOUSTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY AT WEST BRIAR MIDDLE SCHOOL

This multicultural dance residency centered around learning and celebrating different cultures and their dance traditions from around the world.

*“The dance students at West Briar have learned so much mentally, technically, and socially. The parents of the dancers were so impressed with how their children communicated and shared the information learned with their family. It also opened discussions about family history which allowed dancers and parents to connect. The parents of incoming dancers have heard about this program and are asking if this program [will be available] for next year. They are interested in their children being a part of this amazing program.”*

*Candiss Drexler, West Briar’s Dance Director*

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## MERCURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AT SCARBOROUGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

During their first year at Scarborough, Mercury worked with 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders. This year, they were able to expand to 5th grade. Additionally, they moved beyond music class periods to integrate with Scarborough’s Language Arts curriculum to create a multi-grade performance showcasing the String Ensemble, 3rd grade art students, and 5th grade English classes. They used poems by Shel Silverstein and set them to melodies the musicians learned throughout the year, decorating the stage with artwork and sets created by the 3rd graders.

This program both increased collaboration across the school and highlighted all of the artistry happening on campus. Mercury worked closely with the Art Teacher, Band Teacher, Librarian, and school administration. The school’s community was able to engage in and celebrate all of the arts activities happening on campus.



*TAKE THE STAGE (GORDON EDUCATION INITIATIVES FOR THE PA) AT WHARTON DUAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY*

Take the Stage collaborated closely with 6th Grade Teacher Erika Valles Martinez to ensure classroom curriculum objectives were met and that the residency aligned with her classroom goals.

The process of writing the script and performing it increased students' comfort with speaking Spanish, as well as taught them how to use Spanish as a creative outlet. They were excited to share their movies with their parents, and their parents were proud of their children and commented on how impressed they were with what they accomplished.

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*Arts Action Fund: Take the Stage at Wharton Dual Language Academy*



Arts Action Fund: Houston Healthy Hip-Hop at Shearn Elementary

## SEED

In total, 36 organizations received \$224,000 through approved Seed grants. Programs included arts experiences, arts instruction and arts integration, and covered all arts disciplines (creative writing, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts).

Continue reading for program highlights.

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## PARTNERSHIP PROFILES

### *PERFORMING ARTS HOUSTON AT CLIFTON MIDDLE SCHOOL*

This was the first year Clifton Middle School has offered a dance class and many students were beginners, so this residency offered students more dance instruction to build skills and confidence in the art.

*“[My biggest takeaway from the program is that] arts integration would be beneficial in all classrooms to help students who are having difficulty in class.”*

*Arielle Rojas, Clifton’s Dance Teacher*

## NIA'S DAUGHTERS MOVEMENT COLLECTIVE AT JONES HIGH SCHOOL

This pilot program covered not only dance instruction but also creative arts and social practice at large with the aim of reaching the whole child.

Throughout the residency, students looked both inward and outward, exploring their own selves as well as the history of dance and social justice.

*"I witnessed students that don't normally interact get involved. Additionally, I observed students that shy away from conversation and get angry easily begin to view situations differently per the SEL support through dance. Scholars made a huge transition in a short time and made great progress with their coping skills."*

*Nakeia Pittman, Jones' Wraparound Resource Specialist*

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## HOUSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY AT NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

The Melody Program provided both individual and group instrument instruction as well as exposure to the possibilities of a profession in music.

*"Through this targeted instruction, these students were able to vastly improve their personal skills as well as influence others through peer teaching and demonstration. It has also inspired and encouraged some to consider pursuing a career in music."*

*David White, Northside's Symphony  
Orchestra Director*

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## THE ALLEY THEATRE AT YOUNG WOMEN'S COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

*"[My students] had a sense of purpose that they don't always have in class... I KNOW that they will be able to use the new skills to help them create a more polished [college] application... I definitely did not know the video skills, so it was wonderful to learn those as well! I will definitely be incorporating this into my teaching tool box and utilizing a similar unit next year!"*

*Teresa Ragland, Young Women's College  
Preparatory Academy's Theatre Teacher*

The Alley brought Young Women's College Preparatory Academy their BETA (Building Exceptional Theatrical Art) Project, an innovative residency that partners technology with the fundamentals of storytelling.



ASIA SOCIETY TEXAS CENTER AT ED  
WHITE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Asia Society's goal with this program was to increase students' understanding of East Asian Culture and build cross-cultural empathy. Many students found connections to their own family traditions and strengthened their interest in learning about different cultures.

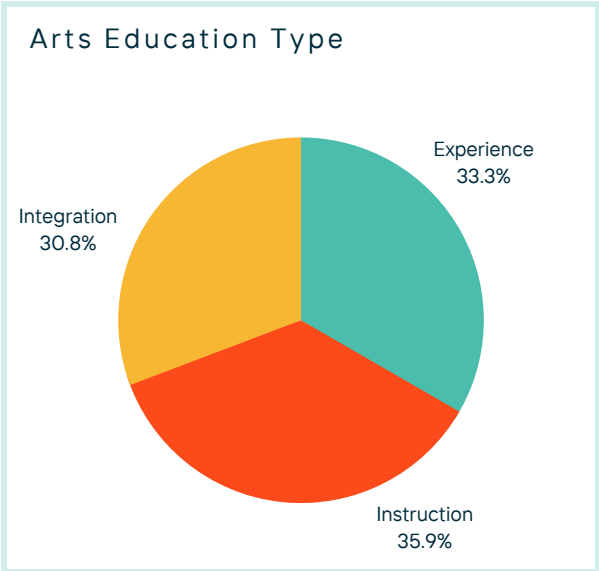
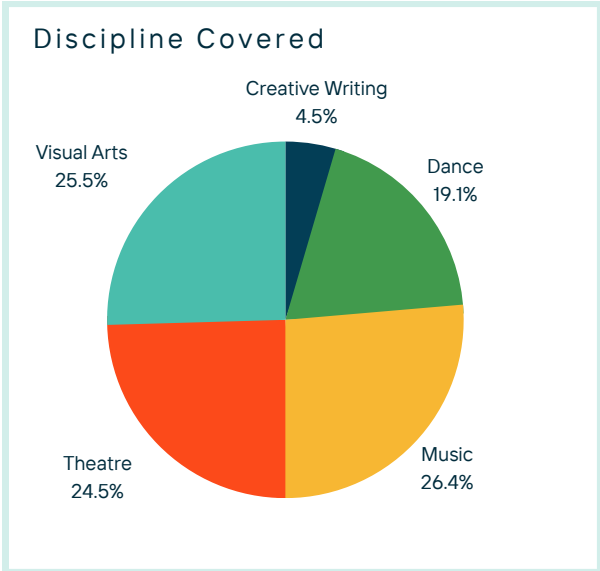
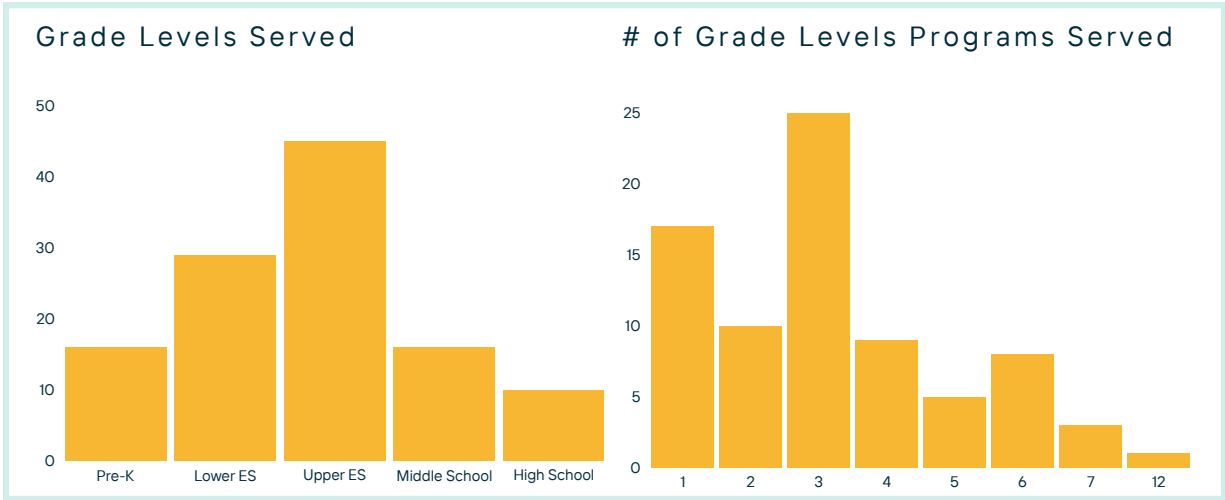
*"[This program] really helps our students and community gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for each other's cultural differences. I firmly believe this will also plant a seed for many of our young students to be global learners in the future."*

*Hsiao-chuan Tend, Ed White's Music Teacher,  
SEL Liaison, and School Culture Committee Chair*

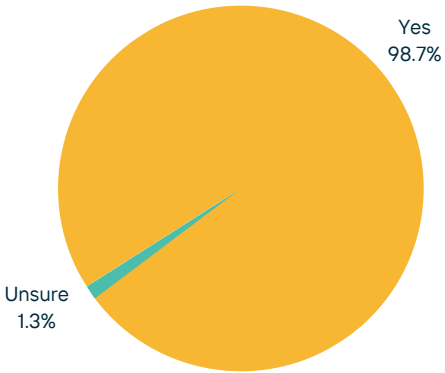


Arts Action Fund: Asia Society at Ed White Elementary

SEED GRANTS BY THE NUMBERS



Do you hope to work with this school in the future?





Arts Action Fund: Houston Contemporary Dance Company's District-Wide program

## CONCLUSION

Across Learning, Innovation and Action and Seed grants,

# 39

ARTS & CULTURE PARTNERS  
PROVIDED

# 2,892

HOURS OF DIRECT STUDENT  
LEARNING TO

# 22,391

STUDENTS AT

# 67

SCHOOLS ACROSS HOUSTON ISD

We are excited to announce that, with the conclusion of the 2022-2023 Arts Action Fund, the Arts Action Fund has now invested over

# \$1 MILLION

in Houston ISD, directly supporting in-school arts learning, arts integration, arts experiences, and professional development.



# ARTS AFTER SCHOOL

## OVERVIEW

The Arts After School Initiative was a collaboration between Arts Connect Houston, the Houston ISD Wraparound Department, and Houston ISD’s Student Support Services. The aim of Arts After School was to deliver after-school programming during the Spring 2023 semester to Title I Houston ISD campuses to 1) address gaps in arts education on campuses that have historically not had access to arts programming and 2) provide diverse arts experiences for students in the after-school setting to support deeper engagement and student learning throughout their school experience.

The Wraparound Department and Student Support Services selected 22 schools to receive programming from nine Arts and Culture Partners. All Arts and Culture Partners were eligible to propose programming, under the following criteria: 1) the proposed partnership was with an HISD Title I campus that has not received Arts Action Fund support in previous years, 2) the proposal marked a new partnership between the partner organization and the campus, and 3) the proposal addressed gaps in disciplines on a campus.

Programs were also required to have a culminating project or event in which all campus students, families, and local community members were invited to join.

Overall, Arts After School supported partnerships between 21 schools and eight partners with \$63,348 in funding. Two grants were initially approved with two Houston ISD campuses and one Arts and Culture Partner but were then canceled due to scheduling issues. Approved programs covered all arts disciplines (creative writing, dance, fine arts, theatre, and visual arts).



Arts After School: Community Artists' Collective at Burrus Elementary

## PARTNERSHIP PROFILES

### *DACAMERA AT BRISCOE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL*

DACAMERA partnered with Dinky Drum Company to conduct a percussion after school program at Briscoe Elementary School. Students were introduced to basic rhythm and drumming techniques, fundamental music concepts, and the history of music. The residency also placed emphasis on behavioral health activity and building skills such as teamwork and leadership. Between eight and 12 students each day received instruction across 10 days for a total of 10 hours. DACAMERA shared that the program was a success, and that all parties were excited about it. They even noted that principals and teachers stopped by often and wanted to participate with the students. The students, DACAMERA told us, were attentive, motivated, and committed to the activities. The Arts After School initiative helped DACAMERA grow into out-of-school hours learning.

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### *DIVERSITY IN THE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT AT GRISSOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL*

Diversity in the ARTS & Entertainment brought their Musical Theatre Creativity Workshop to Grissom Elementary School this year through Arts After School. The program was an introduction to the fundamentals of musical theatre that allowed students to produce a body of work from conception to completion. The program also has a focus on creativity, imagination, character, leadership, teamwork, and self-confidence.



Diversity in the ARTS & Entertainment spent 12 days on campus for a total of 30 hours, working with 20 to 35 students each day.

Diversity in the ARTS & Entertainment reported that, although Grissom Elementary is new to theatre, the campus was willing to learn and accommodate their work. They also shared that the Arts After School initiative gave them more time to establish relationships with the students and staff, adding that this allowed them to better understand how their program can be individually effective for each student. For example, they said, they were able to address some behavioral issues that arose because they had built a relationship and respect with the students.

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# HOUSTON ISD SUMMER ENRICHMENT

## OVERVIEW

In the Spring of 2022, the Houston ISD Student Support Services office approached Arts Connect Houston to request arts education programming for Houston ISD campuses participating in 2022 summer school. The Houston ISD Summer Enrichment Initiative focused its work on ensuring students experienced the arts in addition to their core curricular support, adding depth and breadth to Summer Enrichment opportunities. Participating campuses had the opportunity to review and select program proposals submitted by interested Arts and Culture Partners.

The initiative supported 10 partnerships with 10 different Houston ISD campuses and 7 Arts and Culture Partner organizations. One grant was canceled due to scheduling conflicts.

Arts Connect Houston continues to be interested in supporting summer opportunities within Houston ISD, but will continue focusing our strategic efforts on opportunities during school hours.



*Arts Action Fund: Contemporary Arts Museum Houston at Westside High*

# TRANSFORMATION/ RISE ARTS INITIATIVE

## OVERVIEW

The Transformation/RISE Arts Initiative came about in partnership with the Houston ISD Fine Arts department. Utilizing ESSER funding, the Initiative was designed to bolster arts education on RISE (Redesign, Innovate, Support, Empower) campuses, 24 of Houston ISD’s most underserved and underperforming schools.

The 2022-2023 school year marks the first of three years of funding for this initiative. The Transformation/RISE Arts Initiative will be split into three stages, the first of which took place this year:

- Stage One focused on in-school programming to support “gaps” where an existing full-time certified Fine Arts teacher was not present in one of the four state recognized arts disciplines (dance, music, theatre, and visual arts), as well as family, weekend, and after-school opportunities
- Stage Two will focus on direct programming opportunities to further what current Fine Arts educators are teaching
- Stage Three will offer Fine Arts educators to identify and receive funding for emergency needs on their campus.

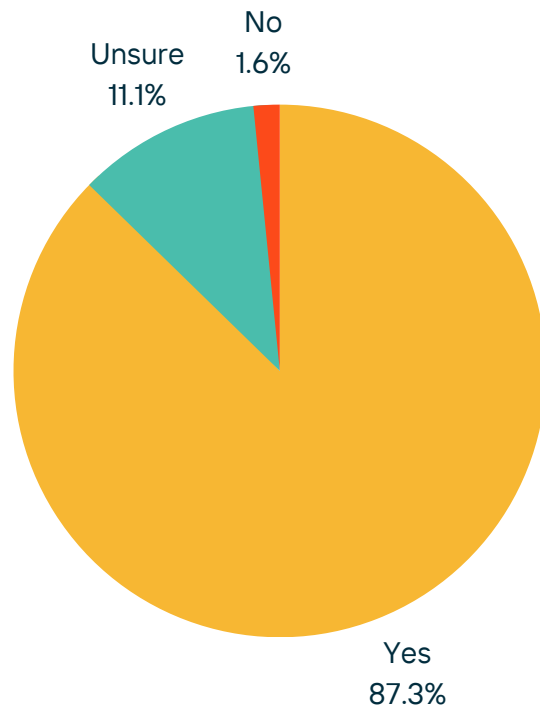
Thank you to our Task Force members who supported this initiative's strategy development:

- Taylor Bush, Arts Connect Staff Lead
- Stacey Allen, Nia’s Daughters
- Jorge Garza, Garza Studios
- Wenden Sanders, Houston ISD Fine Arts
- Denisea Woodard, RSA Dance and Performing Arts
- Sarah Wilkins, Alley Theatre

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## PARTNER POST-PROGRAMMING REPORT

Was the campus environment you witnessed or experienced conducive to an arts experience for students?



## STAGE ONE, DIRECT PROGRAMMING

In October 2022, Taylor Bush met with representatives of each of the 24 Transformation/RISE campuses, gathering information on what fine arts disciplines were unrepresented on campus, and where their greatest needs were for programming. Following these meetings, a summary of each campus' needs were provided to Arts and Culture Partners, who subsequently applied to provide programming to meet said needs. Schools then selected the programming they wanted to bring to their campus, and partnerships commenced.

During the 2022-2023 school year, 64 in-school, after-school, and family/weekend engagements occurred. In total, \$172,300 was invested into direct arts programming on Transformation/RISE campuses during Stage One.

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## SYSTEMIC LARGE-SCALE SUPPORTS

In addition to direct programming, two arts-centered events were available to Transformation/RISE campuses.

In total, \$4,084.78 was invested into direct arts programming on Transformation/RISE campuses during the Stage One systemic large-scale support. We look forward to expanding the UH Art Tours in the future and hosting more Family Art Nights during the 2023-2024 school year.

## UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ART TOUR DAY

Smith Elementary School, Key Middle School, Wheatley High School, and Marshall Elementary School elected to participate in the event but the Tour Day included students from Smith and Marshall Elementary. Students and their families were invited to an arts tour day of the UH public art system, the Blaffer Museum, and the School of Theatre and Music on Saturday, April 29th. Over 30 students, family members and teachers attended the UH Art Tour.

## FAMILY ART NIGHT

Arts Connect Houston partnered with Highlights Heights ES to host our first Family Art Night. This event was offered to all Transformation/RISE campuses; however, our goal was to pilot the concept with one interested campus. Taylor Bush, Arts Connect's Associate Director, discussed the campus' interests with Highland Heights principal Bettina McKinney to determine which partners would best support their campus for Family Art Night. The campus partnered with Diversity in the ARTS and Entertainment for visual arts, Houston Grand Opera for music, MECA for dance, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston for visual arts, and WITS for creative writing. Each Arts and Culture Partner presented their program for 20 minutes throughout the two-hour event and engaged with over 50 students and their family members.





Transformation/RISE Arts Initiative: ARTreach at C. Martinez Elementary

## PARTNERSHIP PROFILES

### *HOPE STONE, INC. AT C. MARTINEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL*

Martinez Elementary and Hope Stone’s relationship began in 2019, and continued this year with the help of the Transformation/RISE initiative. Typically, Hope Stone works with Martinez Elementary for 10 weeks each semester. Through this initiative, they were able to extend their work to 16 weeks in the spring. Over the course of the program, 155 students received dance instruction in a variety of styles. Hope Stone shared they saw huge growth in their students this year, especially in the Pre-K and Kindergarten classes whose behavior and engagement drastically changed over the course of the year. The students at Martinez Elementary call Wednesdays “Hope Stone Day,” and the funding the program received from this initiative helped add depth to Martinez Elementary and Hope Stone’s relationship.

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### *PRELUDE MUSIC FOUNDATION AT SHEARN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL*

Shearn Elementary School welcomed Prelude Music Foundation to their campus this year through the Transformation/RISE initiative. Pre-K classrooms received music classes each week, and Prelude also provided professional development and mentorship throughout the year to the Pre-K teachers. The program concluded with a field trip to the Miller Outdoor Theatre to see live music performances from organizations including the Houston Symphony, Apollo Chamber Players, and Mercury Chamber Orchestra. Prelude shared that it was a joy to work with the students and teachers at Shearn, adding that their Music

Specialist often walked into a classroom where a teacher was singing or dancing with their students. Prelude saw a great amount of growth in their students this year, especially in terms of students' enthusiasm, participation, and emerging music competency.

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*ARTREACH AT NORTHLINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL*

ARTreach brought their mural workshop to Northline Elementary with support from the Transformation/RISE initiative. With input from staff and students, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students worked hands-on after school to create a mural on their campus. ARTreach relayed that Northline's students were hands-on learners and the campus was a rich learning environment. They also shared that their students were eagerly waiting every day of the program, excited to create beyond their one art class during the school day.

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**HOW WILL THIS INITIATIVE MOVE FORWARD?**

For the 2023-2024 school year, the new administration at Houston ISD has reorganized the district's campuses into geographic regions as well as classified several feeder patterns into a new organizational structure: New Education System (NES) and New Education System-Aligned campuses (NES-A). Houston ISD is no longer implementing the Transformation/RISE designation.

This year, Arts Connect will continue to work with campuses that were identified as RISE during the 22-23 school year. If campuses are not able or no longer wish to be a part of the Transformation Arts Initiative, we will bring this opportunity to other Title 1 campuses with a high need for fine arts access.

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*Transformation/RISE Arts Initiative: Houston Grand Opera at Whidby Elementary*

# CONCLUSION

During the 2022-2023 school year, the partnership between Houston ISD and Arts Connect Houston achieved the most significant direct impact on students of the last five school years through a variety of responsive action initiatives, data collection, capacity building sessions, and collective growth.

***As changes continue to take place in Houston ISD, our collective remains committed to ensuring all students have equitable access to high-quality arts education.***

Our collective's commitment to strategic responsive action initiatives continues to be based on research and data that shows that a student's experience in school and beyond is positively impacted when they are exposed to high-quality arts education as a part of their complete education.

***We look forward to our partnership with Houston ISD in the 2023-2024 school year.***

Thank you to Houston ISD, its leadership, the Houston ISD Fine Arts Department, the Wraparound Services Department, and the Community Partnerships Department for their continued partnership. We also want to thank the members of our collective. We could not accomplish the responsive action work shared here without our 95 Arts and Culture Partners, our Leadership Committee, Board Members, and the Arts Connect Houston team.



*Arts Action Fund: Houston Ballet at Lawson Middle*



# APPENDIX

## ARTS ACTION FUND GRANTS

### LEARNING, INNOVATION AND ACTION

School	Organization	Program Title	Granted	Status
Blackshear ES	Community Artists' Collective	Photography and Art Practice	\$ 10,000	Complete
Yolanda Black Navarro MS	Contemporary Arts Museum Houston	Teaching Artist in Classroom	\$ 10,000	Complete
High School Ahead Academy MS	Ensemble Theatre	Shakespeare Ahead	\$10,000	Complete
James H. Law ES	Foundation for Modern Music	Arts Grow Hearts: Recording Studio DJ Initiative	\$10,000	Complete
Westbriar MS	Houston Contemporary Dance Company	Multicultural Dance Residency	\$ 6,000	Complete
Scarborough ES	Mercury Chamber Orchestra	Huskies String Ensemble	\$10,000	Complete
Wharton Dual Language Academy	Take the Stage (Gordon Education Initiatives for the PA)	Spanish Filmmaking Residency	\$10,000	Complete

SEED

School	Organization	Granted	Status
Alcott ES	Open Dance Project	\$ 3,200.00	Complete
Arabic Immersion Magnet School	Loop 38	\$ 3,436.00	Complete
Atherton ES	Houston Grand Opera	\$ 1,475.00	Complete
Atherton ES	Alley Theatre	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Baylor College of Medicine at Ryan MS	Ensemble Theatre	\$ 3,436.00	Complete
Benbrook ES	Diversity in the ARTS and Entertainment	\$ 2,605.00	Complete
Blackshear ES	FotoFest Inc.	\$ 2,960.00	Complete
Blackshear ES	Fashion Museum of Texas	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Bonner ES	Houston Grand Opera	\$ 2,125.00	Complete
Briscoe ES	Diversity in the ARTS and Entertainment	\$ 2,456.00	Complete
Bruce ES	Diversity in the ARTS and Entertainment	\$ 2,605.00	Complete
Burnet ES	MECA	\$3,500	Complete
Clifton MS	Open Dance Project	\$3,200.00	Complete

Clifton MS	Performing Arts Houston	\$ 1,000.00	Complete
Codwell ES	Alley Theatre	\$ 2,000.00	Complete
Crockett ES	Aperio, Music of the Americas	\$ 1,473.00	Complete
Daily ES	Express Children's Theatre	\$ 3,450.00	Complete
Debakey HS	ARTreach	\$ 3,436.00	Complete
East Early College HS	Alley Theatre	\$ 1,500.00	Complete
Ed White ES	Art League Houston	\$ 2,909.00	Complete
Ed White ES	Asia Society Texas Center	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Eliot ES	Mercury	\$ 500.00	Complete
Eliot ES	Ars Lyrica	\$ 1,250.00	Complete
Eliot ES	Houston Center for Photography	\$ 1,800.00	Complete
Emerson ES	FotoFest Inc.	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Emerson ES	Houston Grand Opera	\$ 2,525.00	Complete
Felix Cook ES	Texan-French Alliance for the Arts	\$ 3,338.00	Complete
Fondren ES	Diversity in the ARTS and Entertainment	\$ 2,605.00	Complete



Fonville MS	Open Dance Project	\$ 3,200.00	Complete
Fonwood ECC	Prelude Music Foundation	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Franklin ES	FotoFest Inc.	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Franklin ES	Alley Theatre	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Garcia ES	Diversity in the ARTS and Entertainment	\$ 2,009.00	Complete
Halpin ECC	Prelude Music Foundation	\$ 2,750.00	Complete
Hartman MS	FotoFest Inc.	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Harvard ES	Main Street Theater	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Harvard ES	Houston Center for Photography	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Heights HS	Alley Theatre	\$ 2,000.00	Complete
High School Ahead Academy MS	The Printing Museum	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
HISD District-Wide Dance Programs	Houston Contemporary Dance Company	\$ 2,500.00	Complete
Hobby ES	Rising Stars Academy of Dance & Performing Arts	\$ 3,436.00	Complete
Jane Long Academy	Art League Houston	\$ 2,909.00	Complete
Kashmere Gardens ES	Art League Houston	\$ 3,394.00	Complete

Lamar HS	Contemporary Arts Museum Houston	\$ 2,500.00	Complete
Lantrip ES	Houston Center for Photography	\$ 1,800.00	Complete
Las Americas Newcomer School	Art League Houston	\$ 3,394.00	Complete
Lawson MS	Houston Ballet	\$ 869.00	Complete
Lewis ES	MECA	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Lockhart ES	Express Children's Theatre	\$ 3,495.00	Complete
Lockhart ES	Express Children's Theatre	\$ 3,150.00	Complete
Madison HS	Musiq4	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Marshall Middle Academy of Fine Arts	Art League Houston	\$ 3,394.00	Complete
Meyerland PVA MS	AFA	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Moreno ES	MET Dance	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Moreno ES	MET Dance	\$ 3,000.00	Complete
Moreno ES	Houston Center for Photography	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Nathaniel Q. ES	A.D. Players	\$ 2,550.00	Cancelled
Northside HS	Houston Youth Symphony	\$ 3,500.00	Complete

Oates ES	Diversity in the ARTS and Entertainment	\$ 2,232.00	Complete
On-Time Grad Academy on the campus of Jones HS	Nia's Daughters Movement Collective	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Ortiz MS	Performing Arts Houston	\$ 2,500.00	Extension
Patterson ES	Houston Grand Opera	\$ 2,600.00	Complete
Patterson ES	Houston Center for Photography	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Pershing MS	AFA	\$ 2,000.00	Complete
Piney Point ES	Houston Grand Opera	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Piney Point ES	DA CAMERA chamber music & jazz	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Pugh ES	MECA	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Raúl Martínez ES	Mercury	\$ 500.00	Complete
Revere MS	Frame Dance Productions	\$ 2,400.00	Complete
Scroggins ES	Diversity in the ARTS and Entertainment	\$ 1,488.00	Complete
Scroggins ES	Open Dance Project	\$ 3,200.00	Complete
Shearn ES	Main Street Theater	\$ 1,000.00	Complete



Shearn ES	Houston Healthy Hip Hop	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Shearn ES	Houston Grand Opera	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Stevenson MS	WindSync	\$ 2,000.00	Complete
Thompson ES	MET Dance	\$ 1,900.00	Complete
Valley West ES	DA CAMERA chamber music & jazz	\$ 2,596.00	Complete
Westside HS	Contemporary Arts Museum Houston	\$ 3,500.00	Complete
Wharton ES	Express Children's Theatre	\$ 3,450.00	Complete
Young Women's College Preparatory Academy	Alley Theatre	\$ 3,500.00	Complete

ARTS AFTER SCHOOL GRANTS

School	Organization	Program Title	Granted	Status
Memorial ES	ARTreach	Stewards of the Earth - Environmental Art Workshop Series	\$2,300	Complete
Burrus ES	Community Artists' Collective	Photography and Art Practice	\$4,000	Complete
Codwell ES	Community Artists' Collective	Photography and Art Practice	\$4,000	Complete
Kennedy ES	DACAMERA	Rhythm Residency with Sam Dinkins	\$4,000	Complete
Briscoe ES	DACAMERA	Rhythm Residency with Sam Dinkins	\$4,000	Complete
Fondwood ECC	DACAMERA	Rhythm Residency with Sam Dinkins	\$4,000	Complete
Wesley ES	Diversity in the ARTS and Entertainment	Visual Arts Creativity Workshop	\$3,000	Complete; Moved to summer
Valleywest ES	Diversity in the ARTS and Entertainment	Visual Arts Creativity Workshop	\$3,000	Complete
Kashmere Gardens ES	Diversity in the ARTS and Entertainment	Lights! Camera! Action! Musical Theater Creativity Workshop	\$3,000	Complete

Grissom ES	Diversity in the ARTS and Entertainment	Lights! Camera! Action! Musical Theater Creativity Workshop	\$3,000	Complete
Pleasantville ES	Diversity in the ARTS and Entertainment	Lights! Camera! Action! Musical Theater Creativity Workshop	\$3,000	Complete
Crockett ES	Houston Boychoir	HBC In the Schools	\$1,900	Complete
Gregg ES	Houston Boychoir	HBC In the Schools	\$1,900	Program shifted to Crockett ES
Mistral ECC	Main Street Theatre	After School Play Creation	\$3,350	Canceled
Young ES	Main Street Theatre	After School Play Creation	\$3,350	Canceled
Fondren ES	Take the Stage	Take the Stage in the Classroom	\$4,000	Complete
Reynolds ES	Take the Stage	Take the Stage in the Classroom	\$4,000	Complete
Pack ES	The Ensemble Theatre	Rhyme and Reason (A Poetic Theatrical Experience)	\$3,000	Complete
Windsor Village ES	The Ensemble Theatre	Rhyme and Reason (A Poetic Theatrical Experience)	\$3,000	Complete



Eliot ES	Writers in the Schools	WITS Creative and Performance for After school	\$3,524	Complete
Mitchell ES	Writers in the Schools	WITS Creative and Performance for After school	\$3,524	Complete

HOUSTON ISD SUMMER ENRICHMENT GRANTS

School	Organization	Program Title	Granted	Status
Kolter ES	AIR Project	Arts of Love	\$825	Complete
Elrod ES	AIR Project	Arts of Love	\$825	Complete
Lockhart ES	The Ensemble Theater	Br'er Rabbit	\$800	Complete
Reynolds ES	The Ensemble Theater	Br'er Rabbit	\$800	Canceled
Cunningham ES	Express Children's Theatre	Aztec Princess	\$495	Complete
Gregg ES	Express Children's Theatre	Aztec Princess	\$495	Complete
Meyerland MS	Gordon Education Initiatives for the Performing Arts	Acting and Film Residency	\$400	Complete
Hamilton MS	Houston Ballet	Ballet Talks	\$0 (free program)	Complete
Jane Long Academy	Open Dance Project	Dance Theater Performance Workshop	\$250	Complete
Navarro MS	Segundo Barrio Children's Chorus	Summer Music Camp Intensive	\$8,110	Complete

TRANSFORMATION/RISE ARTS INITIATIVE GRANTS

School	Organization	Program Title	Granted	Status
Deady MS	Alley Theatre	Literacy On Its Feet	\$9,600	Complete
Williams MS	Alley Theatre	Alley All Access	\$2,100	Extension
Highland Heights ES	Art League Houston	Artbound!	\$4,000	Complete
Seguin ES	Art League Houston	Artbound!	\$4,000	Complete
Sugar Grove Academy MS	Art League Houston	Artbound!	\$4,000	Complete
Thomas MS	Art League Houston	Artbound!	\$4,000	Extension
Key MS	ARTreach	Mixed-Media Visual Arts Workshop	\$2,550	Complete
Smith ES	ARTreach	Mixed-Media Visual Arts Workshop	\$2,550	Complete
C. Martinez ES	ARTreach	Mixed-Media Visual Arts Workshop	\$2,700	Complete
Edison MS	ARTreach	Mixed-Media Visual Arts Workshop	\$2,700	Complete
Northline ES	ARTreach	Mixed-Media Visual Arts Workshop	\$2,700	Complete

Williams MS	ARTreach	Mixed-Media Visual Arts Workshop	\$2,700	Complete
Edison MS	The Ensemble Theatre	Performance Experience	\$2,350	Complete
C. Martinez ES	The Ensemble Theatre	Arts Education/Integration Residency	\$10,200	Complete
Northline ES	The Ensemble Theatre	Arts Education/Integration Residency	\$8,500	Complete
Seguin ES	Express Children's Theatre	Rhyme and Reason	\$1,590	Complete
Seguin ES	Express Children's Theatre	Maria's Magical Music Adventure	\$0	Complete
Thomas MS	Express Children's Theatre	Rhyme and Reason	\$1,590	Complete
Thomas MS	Express Children's Theatre	Maria's Magical Music Adventure	\$0	Complete
Ashford ES	Express Children's Theatre	Rhyme and Reason	\$795	Complete
C. Martinez ES	Express Children's Theatre	Rhyme and Reason	\$795	Complete
Highland Heights ES	Express Children's Theatre	Rhyme and Reason	\$795	Extension
Key MS	Express Children's Theatre	Rhyme and Reason	\$795	Complete



Osborne ES	Express Children's Theatre	Rhyme and Reason	\$795	Complete
Rucker ES	Express Children's Theatre	Rhyme and Reason	\$795	Complete
Smith ES	Express Children's Theatre	Rhyme and Reason	\$795	Complete
Sugar Grove Academy MS	Express Children's Theatre	Rhyme and Reason	\$795	Extension
Wheatley HS	Express Children's Theatre	Rhyme and Reason	\$795	Extension
Williams MS	Express Children's Theatre	Rhyme and Reason	\$795	Complete
Young ES	Express Children's Theatre	Rhyme and Reason	\$795	Extension
Deady MS	Express Children's Theatre	Maria's Magical Music Adventure	\$795	Extension
Edison MS	Express Children's Theatre	Maria's Magical Music Adventure	\$795	Complete
Isaacs ES	Express Children's Theatre	Maria's Magical Music Adventure	\$795	Extension
North Forest HS	Express Children's Theatre	Maria's Magical Music Adventure	\$795	Complete
Osborne ES	Express Children's Theatre	Maria's Magical Music Adventure	\$795	Complete
Robinson ES	Express Children's Theatre	Maria's Magical Music Adventure	\$795	Complete

Smith ES	Express Children's Theatre	Maria's Magical Music Adventure	\$795	Complete
Young ES	Express Children's Theatre	Maria's Magical Music Adventure	\$3,450	Complete
Isaacs ES	Fashion Museum of Texas	Fashion 003	\$3,500	Complete
Rucker ES	Fashion Museum of Texas	Fashion 003	\$3,500	Complete
Isaacs ES	Fashion Museum of Texas	Fashion 003	\$3,500	Complete
Marshall ES	Fashion Museum of Texas	Fashion 003	\$3,500	Complete
Fleming MS	Fashion Museum of Texas	Fashion 003	\$3,500	Complete
R C Martinez ES	FotoFest	Literacy Through Photography	\$3,480	Complete
C. Martinez ES	Hope Stone, Inc.	The Hope Project	\$8,000	Complete
Rucker ES	Houston Ballet	Dance to Learn	\$0	Complete
Deady MS	Houston Ballet	Adapted Dance	\$0	Canceled
Edison MS	Houston Ballet	Adapted Dance	\$0	Canceled
Isaacs ES	Houston Ballet	Adapted Dance	\$0	Canceled
Osborne ES	Houston Ballet	Adapted Dance	\$0	Complete
Robinson ES	Houston Ballet	Adapted Dance	\$0	Complete

Smith ES	Houston Ballet	Adapted Dance	\$0	Canceled
Sugar Grove Academy MS	Houston Ballet	Adapted Dance	\$0	Complete
Wheatley HS	Houston Ballet	Adapted Dance	\$0	Complete
Key MS	Houston Ballet	Learning from the Masters	\$0	Complete
Isaacs ES	Houston Contemporary Dance Company	COINCIDE Performance	\$5,000	Complete
Whidby ES	Houston Grand Opera	Sing! Move! Play!	\$3,360.86	Complete
Young ES	Houston Grand Opera	Opera To Go!	\$625	Canceled
Whidby ES	Houston Metropolitan Dance Center	Dance Discovery	\$4,000	Complete
Marshall ES	Loop38	Send in the Musicians!	\$1,980	Complete
Fleming MS	Musiqa	Musiqa Masterclasses	\$8,750	Complete
Northline ES	Open Dance Project	ES Creative Movement and Contemporary Dance Residency	\$10,000	Complete
Ashford ES	Open Dance Project	Staging Stories	\$3,600	Complete

Highland Heights ES	Open Dance Project	Staging Stories	\$3,600	Complete
Marshall ES	Open Dance Project	Staging Stories	\$3,600	Complete
Edison MS	Orange Show Center for Visionary Art	Art Bike Mural	\$3,500	Complete
Rucker ES	Partnerschools	Songwriting Workshop	\$3,500	Complete
Williams MS	Performing Arts Houston	Collaborative Arts Project	\$1,000	Complete
Shearn ES	Prelude Music Foundation	Music Residency	\$2,750	Complete
Attucks MS	Take the Stage	Filmmaking Residency	\$3,500	Complete
Fleming MS	Urban Souls Dance Company	Art Therapy: Finding Me Through the Arts	\$20,000	Extension
Rucker ES	Writers in the Schools	WITS Creative and Performance	\$3,624	Complete



Arts Connect Houston 2022-2023 initiatives managed by Taylor Bush, Director of Strategic Initiatives with support from Mandy Whited, Operations Manager.

**Report written and designed by Mandy Whited with oversight by Taylor Bush.**

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