



Children and the Importance of Arts Education

The Arts and Education Council invests its resources in approximately 70 unique nonprofit arts and arts education organizations in order to build arts awareness, audience, participation, and education for spectators or participants representing our region's diverse population.

Many of our region's cultural treasures would not exist today if not for the leadership and strategic guidance provided by the Arts and Education Council. Donations to A&E provide thousands of benefits – impacting our youth, connecting people and neighborhoods, adding to our economy, stabilizing and advancing quality arts organizations, and building the next generation of performers and audience members – all for the betterment of the entire region.

Arts education is a vital element in ensuring that today's children become tomorrow's leaders. Arts education strengthens student problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, adding to overall academic achievement and school success. A 2010 study by the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education across Missouri public schools found that districts with higher arts participation also have:

- Higher scores in math and communications arts standardized tests
- Higher graduation rates
- Lower rates of disciplinary problems

Studies have also shown the correlation between exposure to the arts and student success. Students who consistently participate in school arts programs are:

- Four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement
- Three times more likely to be elected to class office within their schools
- Four times more likely to participate in a math and science fair
- Three times more likely to win an award for school attendance
- Four times more likely to win an award for writing an essay or poem

Arts education provides opportunities for parental and community involvement with schools, helps students develop a positive work ethic and works to level the learning field across socio-economic boundaries.

Management of the Centene Center for Arts and Education is an important component of the Arts and Education Council's mission. The Center, located in the Grand Center cultural district, is an excellent example of innovation, collaboration and service to our community. The Center provides low-cost, capacity building technology along with office, rehearsal and meeting space to 18 nonprofit arts groups. Many of these organizations conduct free outreach programming in arts education to area youth at the Center. By reducing expenses, these groups have increased resources for arts programming and outreach, and the infrastructure needed for long-term health and growth.

For more information about how you or your organization can join with the Arts and Education Council to keep art happening, please contact Terri Leyton, director of development, at 314.289.4003 or Terri-L@KeepArtHappening.org.