"Arts Education Coordination between
Not-for-Profit Arts Organizations and K-12 Public Schools"

Client:
Americans for the Arts, Office of Field Services: Arts Education

Americans for the Arts is the nation's leading not-for-profit organization for advancing the arts in America. With more than 40 years of service, they are dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. For more information visit [www.artsusa.org](http://www.artsusa.org).

Advisor: TBD

Background:
Many studies have been done on arts education in the United States (or portions of it). Despite the fact that research consistently proves the benefits of arts education, it is nonetheless neglected at the policy level. Simultaneously, many cultural organizations are increasing their involvement in arts education in public schools with support from local foundations, corporations, and community leaders. Little research has been done to quantify this level of involvement that not-for-profit cultural organizations have in K-12 arts education. That’s where we come in.

About the Project:
Our focus is researching how and to what extent the cultural community is impacting teachers (and therefore students) through professional training and involvement in curriculum.

To achieve a national baseline of the level of involvement by the cultural community in arts education, the project will attempt to quantitatively capture K-12 public school curricular enhancement by the cultural community. This includes:

- Teacher capacity increases (e.g. in-service trainings)
- Curriculum enhancement: in-school residencies by artists or arts organizations
- Curriculum enhancement: off-site (e.g. field trips),

Each of these areas will be counted in terms of time provided (e.g. hours/week) or expenses (e.g. $/year) depending the feasibility of each measure. Questions that will be asked of each area of teaching capacity or curriculum enhancement listed above are:

- To what extent is the cultural community supplying this service?
- How are each of the elements are funded and by whom (districts, foundations, organizations, etc.)

Project Goals:

- Establish a national baseline for the cultural community's involvement in arts education by identifying a representative sample of school districts and quantifying their data.
  - In-school residencies by local artists and arts organizations
  - Out-of-school curriculum elements (site visits, trips to performances, etc)
  - Other measures of the cultural community's contribution to K-12 arts education
  - How are each of the elements are funded and by whom (Districts, foundations, organizations, etc.)
  - And some qualitative data from arts teachers about the experience of collaborating with arts organizations in and out of the classroom
- To methodologically be repeatable, so as to function as a benchmark
- Identify commonalities among the methodologies used to assess local and state-level research that has aimed to quantify the cultural community’s contribution to arts education in public schools.
• Recommend next steps to creating national standards or otherwise unifying the influence of the cultural community on arts education

**Project Benefits:**

• Results will be of interest to cultural organizations and arts education funders in addition to advocates for better arts education policies
• Manageability of quantifying teaching capacity and the cultural community’s role in arts education nationally
• Avoids duplication of the diverse set of curriculum and assessment research that exists.

**Advisory Board:**
Several arts education experts have been consulted during the development of this project. We are hopeful that these individuals will join the advisory board for this project.

• Bob Morrison, The Music for All Foundation
• Gerri Spilka, OMG Research
• Sarah Tambucci, The Arts Education Collaborative and the Arts Education Council of Americans for the Arts

In addition to these individuals, we will approach leaders of cultural organizations involved in arts education, community and foundation leaders interested in arts education, and local arts education teachers in order to take advantage of the expertise of professionals from all relevant fields.

**Project formulated by:**
Brad Carlin (MAM '06), Laura Yarborough (MAM '07), and Alison Anderson (MAM '07) in consultation with John Abodeely, Manager of Arts Education at Americans for the Arts.