



Arts



Education

Building skills for
school, work
and life

Arts Education Connects:

the individual,
the community
and jobs



Here in the West we take great pride in raising our children to be thoughtful individuals who can successfully make their way through a constantly changing world while retaining the basic values that are so important to us. We want them to be comfortable anywhere in the world, but especially here at home in the Rocky Mountain region. Is this really possible?

The answer is yes, through arts education. This is supported by recent research showing that arts education programs develop those skills and values we say we prize most: individual initiative and self-sufficiency, job skills and an appreciation for our communities and quality of life.

Contributes:

social, emotional
and intellectual
development
- helping
students realize
their individual
potential

People learn in many different ways. The arts provide a wide variety of ways to successfully learn, increasing student self-confidence and the potential to learn more. This helps keep young people in school.

Frankly we ought to all become music entrepreneurs, music appreciators, because by appreciating music, by participating, the quality of our lives goes up exponentially . . . and I have to say that . . . to be able to write music . . . has been one of the most uplifting beautiful things in my whole lifetime.

- U. S. Senator Orrin G. Hatch, UT

The arts require that students learn self-discipline and self-motivation that they apply to other courses. The arts encourage students to aim high and achieve excellence in all academic subjects through performance and production in music, drama, dance, visual art and creative writing programs.



My daughter struggles at school with all of her subjects, but art is her port of entry for learning.

- Eastern Montana parent

Studies show that the arts actually stimulate neurological development which is important to learning in all areas of study.

Research shows that important thinking and learning skills are taught through the arts, including how to solve problems, how to make decisions, how to ask questions and analyze information, how to evaluate and how to figure out the next step in a project.

The arts teach creativity, a skill needed in all areas of living and working.

Communication skills are enhanced through arts education as students learn to write creatively, speak and perform in public, and discuss ideas represented in art forms.

Students learn about themselves and their communities through the arts, gaining an understanding of who they are and what they value.

Studying art forms from a variety of times, cultures and places helps students learn that there are many ways to see the world and understand it.

The ability to enjoy and learn from arts experiences can be a source of pleasure for life. The arts restore and refresh the spirit, delight and instruct, console and entertain.

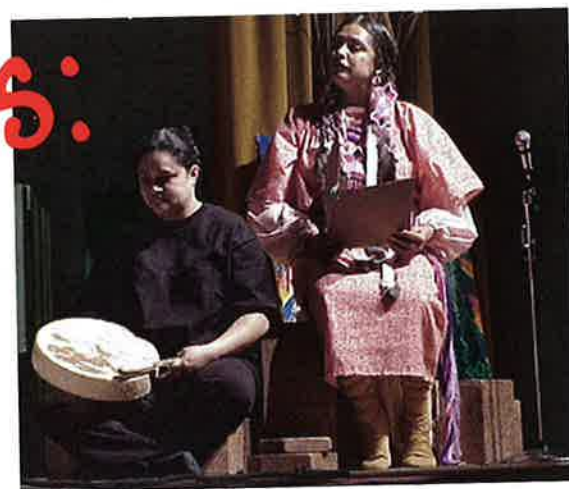
**Provides:
a means for
connecting
students
with their
community**



Everyone in a community can share the Arts. Arts education provides opportunities for students to learn from parents and grandparents and to share creative experiences together.

The arts can be a part of a solution to promote and teach appropriate choices among youth who have made unhealthy life decisions.

*Cathy Sher,
Youth At Risk Consultant, ID*



A community's quality of life is measured, in part, by its arts and its support of arts education activities for all ages.

An education in the arts helps children experience their own cultural heritage and traditions, and those of others in their community, connecting them with the past in ways that will help in the future. Arts education trains students to design and plan, make things beautiful, entertain, care for the environment, teach others, learn ways to present ideas and how to see ideas grow into actual products. These are important skills for maintaining our communities.

The arts are a source of economic vitality. Communities that encourage student participation in arts education provide a means for potential economic growth in the future.

Builds: skills that are important in the job market

Success in the arts, like success in the workplace, hinges on initiative and high standards. Students are inspired to achieve excellence in performance and production through arts education.

Arts education teaches students to work cooperatively, as a team, dealing with different points of view, as students work together on a play, concert, dance, mural or writing project together.



Making art requires that students solve problems and make decisions. This requires skills to analyze, evaluate and make connections between different pieces of information. Research shows that companies are looking for people who can think creatively and are able to look at problems from unusual perspectives. Students who study arts practice these skills.

Through the arts, students develop flexibility and a willingness to learn. These skills are important in a time when careers can become obsolete overnight and technology changes on an almost daily basis.

Art education is important because so many dimensions of life are accessible only through the arts.

How sterile life would be without the arts and the insights they provide.

- Peter Maxfield, Lawyer, Laramie, WY

Arts education requires the mastery of knowledge and skills, including performances and production, and this takes persistence on the part of students, teaching them responsibility and reliability. Students who gain an understanding of other cultural traditions in their communities, through arts education, better understand the demands of a global marketplace.

The visual, performing and literary arts come together in the form of technology. Students in the arts learn how to use many tools, including technology, to produce and enhance their work.



I have always been more of a math and a English man. I left the artsy stuff to my wife. My oldest son had a very difficult time with math in school, but excelled in creative writing and music. I have to admit, I was a little concerned for him at the time, but it turns out that the arts are what saved him in school. He ended up getting a bachelor's degree in fashion design and is working in an executive position at an internationally known clothing company. My other two children also work in the arts as an arts administrator and an industrial designer.

I believe that the core of education should be math, English, history, science. But as I witnessed in my children, the arts are of vital importance in their learning and self-being. I am reminded of the value in art every time I listen to music, walk into a building, drive my car, and share in my children's success. All of this would cease to exist without the arts.

- T. Nguyen, FBI, Salt Lake City, UT



Art is something that passes on through a community boosting our spirits and our thinking. Our community needs art like everything.

You can't be a loner in the art world. Art means sticking together to make a difference.

- Haynes Hansen, 5th grade, Gallatin Gateway School, MT

Asking if we need Arts Education is comparable to asking if we need oxygen. Just look at how adults, teens, and children gravitate toward music and movies. Our task as professionals is to use our profound knowledge of teaching and learning which includes the critical importance of arts education. Only then will we fully develop our students' interests, talents, and learning. Students need that development to feel successful.

*- Marilyn Vercimak
Curriculum Director
Carbon County School District #1,
Rawlins, WY*

Art is a subject where you share your thoughts and ideas with others.

*-Emilee Gailey,
Lomond View Elementary, UT*

The arts in our Wyoming schools have helped our children learn the process of preparation and teamwork which leads to confidence and skill which in turn leads to success. This basic principle can be applied throughout their lives to the benefit of whatever occupation they chose. In no other area of learning is this pattern so evident than when they prepare for a play and hear the applause for a job well done, or see their music performance become a symphony.

*- Greg and Barb Jordan,
Parents, Laramie, WY*

The Snapshots Project made me realize that I like to take pictures, and I just might look into photography when I go to college. I also realized that photography brings out the inner beauty of a lot of things and it makes you think about all the wonderful things that are beyond Idaho. Photography motivates me to want to travel and to take pictures the rest of my life.

- Ashley, Work To Learn Student, ID



*It brings the real world
into the classroom.*

It is hands on.

*- Elementary Teacher,
Sheridan, MT*



*As a graduate of Wheatland
High School, I was
involved in band, drama and
journalism. Through the
combination of the three
programs, I was able to find
my creative spirit and
use it in pursuit of my
professional career in
journalism and public relations.*

*- Amy E. Geringer,
Journalist-Laramie Daily Boomerang,
Wheatland & Laramie, WY*



*This year I join the countless crying
seniors that have been present
at every final concert throughout
my childhood.*

*This year I desperately try to grab
hold of the intangible emotions
that make me a CDT dancer.*

*This year I leave a part of myself
in the eyes and hearts of each
second grader who has just
begun to feel the joy of dance.
But this year I have realized
that the joy of dance will
never leave my life, and
the experiences of CDT will
always be a part of me.*

- Alex Lee,

*Children's Dance Theater,
UT, and freshman
at Boston University*

*Through their art
work, students will
be able to communicate their
vision, dreams, hopes,
and aspirations in a
language that is
universal and potent.*

- Bernadette Sexton, Teacher, ID

*When I heard that we
were doing dances,
I was not happy.
Now, I like it a lot. I never
thought it was so fun. It's like
a big secret that
has been wanting to explode.
Now that it has,
I love dancing.*

*- Donald Fleiner, 5th grade,
Helena, MT*



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Montana Arts Council
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Wyoming Arts Council
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Wyoming Alliance for Arts Education

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Utah Arts Council 801.236.7555

Wyoming Arts Council 307.777.7742



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The Utah Arts Council (UAC), like the Utah State Office of Education (USOE), is a division of state government. The UAC was created by the Utah Legislature in 1899, to "advance the interests of the fine arts, [and] develop the influence of art in education . . ." The Arts Education Program of the UAC is charged with "facilitating life-long learning in the arts for all Utahns." State funding is supplemented with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and we support a mutual goal to make the arts basic in the education of K-12 students. It is our goal to "connect youth and adults with professional artists and works of art." Works of art include the visual, literary, and performing arts—traditional, classic and new.

UTAH *arts* COUNCIL

Arts Education Program

What do we do?

The Utah Arts Council Arts Education program meets its goals and objectives through some of the following strategies:

1. **Providing** statewide leadership in arts education by:
 - a) **partnering** with Utah State Office of Education in the following activities:
 - Arts Education Networking Conferences
 - Infinity Programs that provide teachers access to major works of art and related professional development
 - Reading, Arts and Math (RAM) Pilot Programs that support the teaching of reading and math through dance, music, theatre and visual art
 - USOE/UAE leadership retreats for arts education leaders, teachers and administrators
 - quarterly district arts coordinators' meetings and other joint workshops
 - b) **servicing** on various boards and advisory bodies such as:
 - Utah PTA, Utah Center for Families in Education, Utah Alaskan Native/American Indian Education Plan Advisory Committee
 - c) **advocating** for Utah interests in regional and national arenas such as:
 - National Endowment for the Arts
 - National Assembly of States Arts Agencies Arts Education Taskforce
 - Arts Education Partnership quarterly meetings
 - d) **developing** new initiatives such as:
 - Goals 2000 Leadership Fund initiative for higher education and the development of Coalition for Arts in Utah Schools
 - PTA Reflections categories in dance, theatre and film/video
 - dance education research initiatives
 - Infinity Programs and Reading, Arts and Math (RAM)
2. **Informing** schools, communities, decision makers and arts organizations about national arts education initiatives and best practices, arts education research and studies, e.g., local boards of education, Utah Legislature, secondary and elementary principals associations, Utah State Board of Education, etc.

(MORE)



3. Conducting workshops as requested about the efficacy of arts education for groups such as:

- Utah PTA
- Utah Victims Assistance Association
- Utah Office of Child Care (early childhood education)

4. Funding arts education activities by giving grants to schools, art organizations, hospitals, juvenile facilities, museums, parks and recreation programs, senior centers and other eligible nonprofit organizations.

5. Applying for grants to National Endowment for the Arts (Arts Learning, Basic State Challenge America) and other national and regional refunding sources to support arts education efforts in Utah schools and non-profit organizations.

6. Facilitating partnerships and collaborations that further arts education:

- artistic companies such as Utah Opera/Symphony, Children's Dance Theatre, Springville Museum of Art, Repertory Dance Theatre, Sundance Institute, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, Art Access/VSA arts of Utah
- organizations such as Utah Family Center, Hispanic Festival, Golden Rule Foundation, Utah High School Film Festival

7. Supporting arts education professional development organizations:

- Utah Arts Education Association and the Utah Music Education Association
- University of Utah Drama Day for teachers and students
- Sundance Film Festival screening and labs for teachers and students
- Individual support for "teachers as artists" and "teachers as muse"
- Utah Dance Education Organization

8. Providing technical assistance to schools, community organizations, arts organizations, and artistic companies in arts education strategic planning, program development, grantsmanship, program evaluation and assessment.

9. Disseminating program materials through print and website:

- website – www.arts.utah.gov/ae (Artists' Roster, grant applications, links to national arts education sites and other artistic and education resources)
- arts education in-house library
- advocacy brochures
- publications – The Sky is Green: True Stories of Artists and Teachers of Children With Disabilities, A Guidebook for Artists Working in Prisons



Who Are We?



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

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