

The logo features a purple square with the number '25' in white, where the '5' is stylized with a horizontal line.

# ARTS

EDUCATION  
PARTNERSHIP

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



2020

ANNUAL  
REPORT

[aep-arts.org](http://aep-arts.org)

# GREETINGS

## FROM AEP DIRECTOR, JAMIE KASPER

AEP partners, affiliates and colleagues,

Wow. What a year 2020 was for all of us. Like most of you, AEP staff members in both the Denver and D.C. offices transitioned suddenly to working from home. We had to figure out how to communicate — both internally with staff and externally with partners — without access to the ubiquitous coffee meeting. We had to redefine our system for collaborating on materials. We were assisted by having project management software but needed to commit some time reconfiguring how our work got done. And during it all, D.C. staff moved all their things out of the offices in WeWork and into a new dedicated office suite in a building down the street.

2020 wasn't all about the COVID-19 pandemic for us, though. It was also the 25th anniversary of AEP's founding, and Education Commission of the States successfully recomputed to remain the home of AEP. We were still able to connect with over 400 attendees — more than twice the usual attendance at the in-person annual convening — when we hosted our virtual gathering in September. In concert with the virtual gathering, we released "**Reflecting Back and Projecting Forward: 25 Years of the Arts Education Partnership.**" This history document, chronicling the people and policies that led to AEP's founding in 1995, was the result of work by numerous people who played critical roles in those early years. I am so proud of the document and thankful for the work of the authors and contributors, as well as the designers from the ECS team who made our vision a reality. I'm also grateful for the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and U.S. Department of Education throughout those 25 years, including increased funding for each of the past three years.

AEP adopted a new **strategic mission** at the beginning of last year, focusing our work on building leadership capacity and knowledge for arts and education leaders. AEP staff members helped to build leadership capacity by responding to information requests, providing technical assistance and connecting partners and affiliates to the people and information they need to do their best work. I feel like we were successful in our role as a connector this year, despite all the challenges.

One of our team members recently heard the phrase "I'm doing my situational best." I will steal that phrase to say that in 2020, the AEP team did their situational best, and we are extremely thankful we had the support and capacity to accomplish all we did last year.



# 2020 AEP BY THE NUMBERS

## ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



## ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



### WEBPAGE VIEWS

### TWITTER



## VIRTUAL GATHERING HIGHLIGHTS






# 2020 RESEARCH



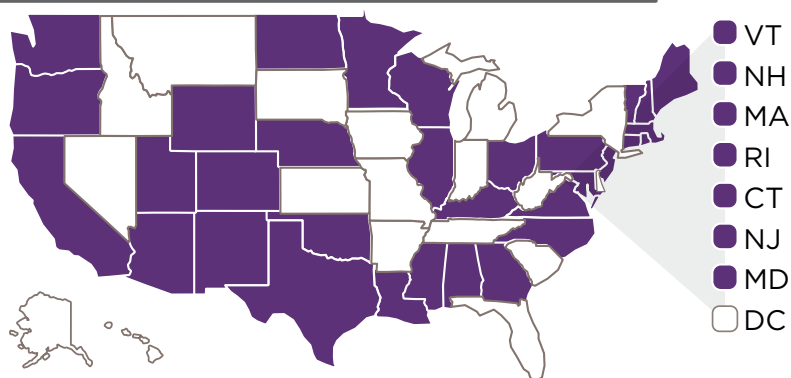
AEP collaborated with the State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE) — a partner organization — and policy staff members at Education Commission of the States to update ArtScan. This resource provides information about state policies supporting arts education in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Users can explore ArtScan through state-level profiles for all policy areas and several types of 50-state reports. AEP released **2020 ArtScan at-a-Glance** in March and worked with SEADAE to revise the ArtScan update process.

In 2020, these states ...

-  Had already established policy
-  Adopted new policy
-  Did not establish a policy

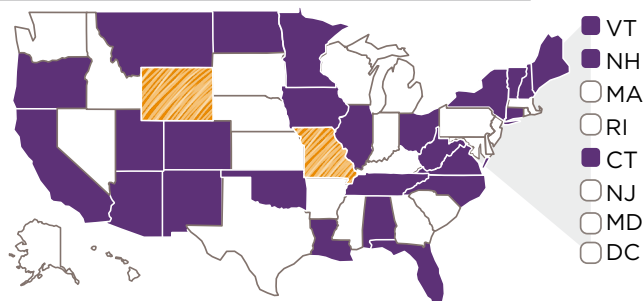
... in these policy areas.

## Arts as a **Core** Academic Subject

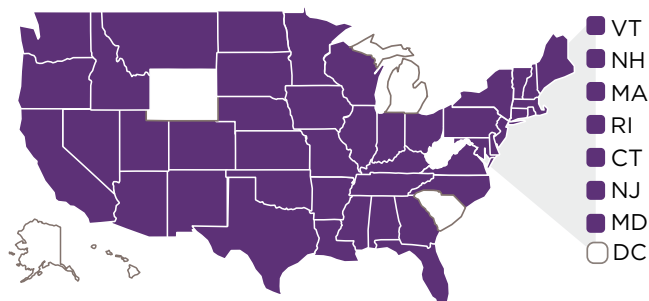


## LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

### Licensure for Non-Arts Teachers

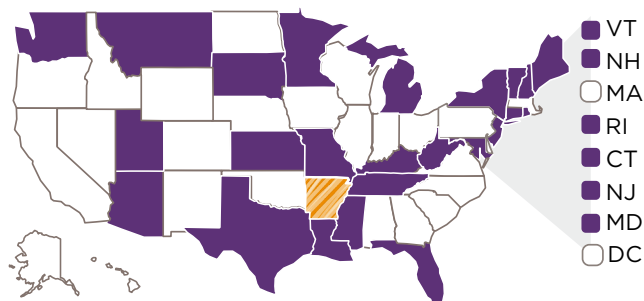


### Licensure for Arts Teachers

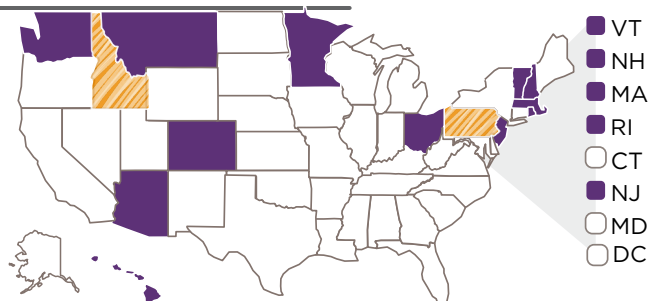


## ARTS EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

### High School Graduation



### Assessment



# ArtsEdSearch

ArtsEdSearch is AEP's research database, compiling more than 300 studies and indexing them to improve searchability. ArtsEdSearch users can search for studies by keyword or by choosing criteria such as outcomes, age levels, arts disciplines and research types. In 2020, AEP completed an internal ArtsEdSearch review and convened a new ArtsEdSearch task force for the purpose of improving this popular resource.


Upon recommendation of the ArtsEdSearch Review Panel, AEP added 16 new studies to the database this year.

## Spring 2020

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[Dramatic Pretend Play Games Uniquely Improve Emotional Control in Young Children](#) 

[Can Guided Play and Storybook Reading Promote Children's Drawing Development?](#) 

[Investigating Causal Effect of Arts Education Experiences: Experimental Evidence From Houston's Arts Access Initiative](#) 

[Improvisational Theater Classes Improve Self-Concept](#) 

[The Effectiveness of a Music and Dance Program on the Task Engagement and Inclusion of Young Pupils on the Autism Spectrum](#) 

[Music Education, Academic Achievement and Executive Functions](#) 

[Selection Into, and Academic Benefits From, Arts-Related Courses in Middle School for Low-Income, Ethnically Diverse Youth](#) 


[The Effects of Arts Integration on Long-Term Retention of Content and Student Engagement](#) 


[Music and Juvenile Justice: A Dynamic Systems Perspective](#) 

## Fall 2020


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[Using Multi-Genre Arts Programming to Support Creative Engagement and Social and Emotional Learning in Middle-School Students with Autism](#) 

[Increased Engagement of the Cognitive Control Network Associated With Music Training in Children During an fMRI Stroop Task](#) 

[The Effectiveness of Performative Aerial Practice on Mental Health and the Love of Movement](#) 

[Museums as Classrooms: The Academic and Behavioral Impacts of "School in the Park"](#) 

[The Development of Musical Skills of Underprivileged Children Over the Course of One Year: A Study in the Context of an El Sistema-Inspired Program](#) 

[A Vision of Civically Engaged Art Education Teens as Arts-Based Researchers](#) 

[Neural Correlates of Accelerated Auditory Processing in Children Engaged in Music Training](#) 



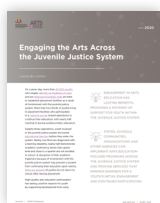
# 2020 REPORT

## Reports

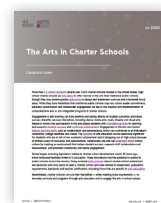
AEP published five reports, five information requests, eight blog posts and one success story in 2020. AEP's higher education working group collaborated with staff members to launch a blog series focused on arts integration as a follow-up to the group's 2017 book, "**Preparing Educators for Arts Integration: Placing Creativity at the Center of Learning.**"



**Opportunities for STEAM Education Through ESSA and Perkins V** [↗](#)



**Engaging the Arts Across the Juvenile Justice System** [↗](#)



**The Arts in Charter Schools** [↗](#)



**Dance Counts** [↗](#)



**Expanding the Arts Across the Juvenile Justice System** [↗](#)

## Ed Note Blog Posts

- Engaging the Arts in 2020's Top Education Policy Priorities
- AEP Focuses on Leadership Capacity, Partnerships to Inform Arts Ed Policy
- New to ArtScan? Here's What You Need to Know
- Integrating the Arts to Ensure All Students Can Engage in Learning
- Embracing an Enriched Literacy Approach in Quarantimes
- Supporting Student Wellness Through the Arts
- Dance Counts: How Policymakers Can Support Access to Quality Arts Education
- ArtsEdSearch: 300 Studies and Counting

## Information Requests

- Arts Integration and COVID-19 Accommodations
- Impacts of Arts Instruction on Student Engagement
- Media Arts in State Policy
- Reopening Guidance from Community-Based Arts Education Organizations
- State Reopening Plans and the Arts

## Success Story

- Priority Area I: Raise Student Achievement and Success: **Arizona State Arts Proficiency Seal**

# 2020 COUNSEL

## Presentations

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AEP's presentations took on a different form this year; beginning in March, all presentations occurred virtually.

**January 22: STEM POLICY BRIEFING**

U.S. Department of Education,  
Washington, D.C.

**April 13: VIRTUAL LEARNING SESSION**

Arts Education in the Urban Setting  
City College of New York, New York

**April 14: VIRTUAL LEARNING SESSION**

Arts Advocacy  
Students at George Mason University,  
Fairfax, Virginia

**April 16: VIRTUAL LEARNING SESSION**

Michigan-area arts executive directors

**May 1: VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT SESSION**

VH1 Save the Music Foundation for arts  
administrators

**June 8: WEBINAR**

Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators

**June 15: VIRTUAL PANEL DISCUSSION**

"Role of Arts in School Reopenings"  
University of Wyoming Art Museum

**October 22: FACEBOOK LIVE EVENT**

Live conversation with AEP and  
Performing Statistics

**November 2: VIRTUAL LEARNING  
SESSION**

Arts education policy  
Millersville University

**November 14: VIRTUAL KEYNOTE**

Arizona Department of Education Fine  
Arts event

**November 20: VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

Grantmakers for Education 2020  
Annual Conference

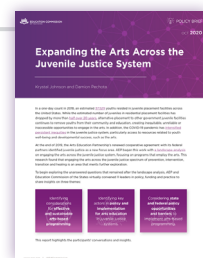
In addition to presentations, AEP invited partners and affiliates to engage in brainstorming sessions. Participants brought ideas to these sessions for workshopping with staff members. Local Learning: The National Network for Folk Arts Education and State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education took advantage of this counsel opportunity.

# 2020 CONVENE

AEP brings arts and education leaders together to **INTERACT**, **COLLABORATE** and **LEARN** from each other. In 2020, “convene” took on a new meaning as in-person interactions moved to a virtual space.

## Juvenile Justice Thinkers Meeting

AEP hosted a series of sessions for the Juvenile Justice Thinkers Meeting in July, converting what has traditionally been an in-person event to an online format. AEP convened 11 researchers, practitioners and policymakers from arts, education and juvenile justice contexts for three small-group sessions and one whole-group session. Staff members synthesized findings from pre-meeting surveys and the four sessions into a report, **Expanding the Arts Across the Juvenile Justice System**.



## Virtual Gathering

The AEP Virtual Gathering replaced the Annual Convening and occurred on September 9, 11, 15 and 17. AEP staff members worked closely with the ECS Convene team and consultants from Cvent, MiMedia and LightWell Coaching + Consulting to adjust to a virtual event. Consultant Neon Rain provided additional support in preparing the AEP website to host archived event content.



The event featured 51 speakers and offered participants 81 office hours sessions. 641 individuals registered for the virtual gathering. Of the 641 registered attendees, 416 were active users, meaning they logged into the event website and engaged with the content in some way. All 50 states had at least one active user, in addition to users from five different countries (Austria, Morocco, Germany, South Africa and the United Kingdom).

The event opened with welcome videos from Mary Anne Carter, chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts, and Christopher Rinkus, deputy assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Education. Keynote speakers included Janel George, senior policy advisor at the Learning Policy Institute, and Paul Siefkin, president of Fred Rogers Productions. Sharing sessions focused on federal policy, arts education practice in schools and community spaces, juvenile justice, youth leadership and equity. Historical and current leaders presented a long conversation focused on the past and future of arts education, and Institute for the Future facilitated the final session focused on planning for a vision of arts education.



## Partner Webinars

AEP started a new quarterly partner webinar series in April. Partner webinars are designed to connect partners and affiliates both to AEP and to each other. A typical partner webinar starts with brief updates from AEP and its federal partners, with the bulk of the time spent in breakout sessions with partners and affiliates sharing their work.

Attendance at these webinars continues to grow. The first webinar in April hosted 34 attendees, while 59 people participated in the second webinar in July. November's webinar attendance was 37.

## Working Groups

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In 2020, AEP continued to convene the three existing working groups virtually.

### **EQUITY WORKING GROUP**

Chaired by Pam Breaux from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, this group re-formed as an inquiry-based professional learning community. Participants created inquiry questions related to equity and are working in small groups to investigate those questions, try out new ideas in their organizations and bring their learnings back to the group. The new [AEP Equity Working Group Resources](#) page on the website will feature ongoing information from this group.

### **ESSA WORKING GROUP**

Chaired by Heather Noonan of the League of American Orchestras and Narric Rome of Americans for the Arts, this group merged with the arts education working group of Americans for the Arts. The new group — the arts education policy working group — will focus on both federal and state policy.

### **HIGHER EDUCATION WORKING GROUP**

Chaired by Martha McKenna of Lesley University, this group collaborated with AEP on an arts integration blog series for the Education Commission of the States Ed Note blog. AEP published two posts in 2020; these posts will continue through 2021.

# 2020 COMMUNICATIONS

## ArtsEd Digest

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ArtsEd Digest, AEP's biweekly newsletter, has 5,923 subscribers. The average open rate for the newsletter was 18.1%, with a click-through average of 4.1%.

### 10 MOST-READ ARTICLES OF THE YEAR:

- AEP's Virtual Gathering Countdown Begins! (360 views)
- AEP Partner Resources Regarding COVID-19 (300 views)
- AEP Virtual Gathering Reflects on the Past and Future of Arts Education (299 views)
- New Release: Dance Counts (293 views)
- Registration Now Open for AEP's 2020 Virtual Gathering (281 views)
- New Policy Brief Unpacks Arts Expansion Within the Juvenile Justice System (241 views)
- Save the Dates! 2020 AEP Virtual Gathering (234 views)
- New Resource Released for Arts Education Leaders (215 views)
- New Jersey First State to Provide Educators with Formal Guidelines for Social and Emotional Learning and Arts Education (198 views)
- New Release: Engaging the Arts Across the Juvenile Justice System (193 views)

## Social Media

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We share topical information with our partner organizations and audiences across the arts education field through a variety of communications platforms, including Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

In 2020, we increased our outreach through these platforms, including active sharing of partner and affiliate announcements, as well as the introduction of custom digital content promoting new AEP resources and the 2020 AEP Virtual Gathering.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- AEP's Twitter account reached more than **8,968** followers.
- AEP's tweets made more than **1.5 million** impressions.

## Website

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Our website provides our partner organizations and other arts and education stakeholders with access to a comprehensive collection of research, reports and other resources exploring key issue areas across the arts education field, including state- and federal-level policies. In September, we launched a full redesign of our website, which features updated navigation and improved usability to increase utilization and searching of all our resources.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

#### AEP-Arts.org

Monthly average  
**VISITOR COUNT**

**7,949**

#### ArtsEdSearch.org

Monthly average  
**VISITOR COUNT**

**7,874**

- In 2020, the following web pages received high engagement:
  - COVID-19 resources: **32,953** views
  - Dance Counts resource: **956** views
  - What We Do: **710** views
  - AEP history: **669** views
  - Partner with AEP: **595** views
  - Equity Working group: **134** views

## Other Media

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- **A Breakdown of Arts Education Policy & How It Affects Everyone** – published in MediaPlanet's Investing in the Arts campaign
- **Pandemic takes a swipe at fine arts education, but might just prove how much it's worth** – published by Erie (PA) Times-News
- **This Week's ESSA News: How States Like West Virginia Can Strengthen Mental Health Supports Even Amid a Pandemic, How Districts Are Bracing for Budget Cuts, Why Arts Education Matters & More** – published by The 74
- **#WeAllDeserveArts: An Arts Education Policy Perspective** – published by Arts Education in Maryland Schools
- **A National Overview: How U.S. Arts Education Organizations Are Navigating COVID-19** – published by Creative Generation
- **We need to globally fund the arts** – published by The Asbury Collegian (UK)
- **Arts and Education Support During COVID-19** – published by Grantmakers in the Arts

# 2020 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

As part of its revised engagement strategy, AEP welcomed seven new partners and 16 new affiliates. “Affiliate” is a new category to welcome organizations working locally or in direct-service capacities; partners continue to reflect organizations working nationally or toward systems change.

## New Partners

- Arts Connect Houston
- Arts Every Day
- Education Through Music
- Foundations, Inc.
- Performing Statistics
- Rock and Roll Forever Foundation
- Thea Foundation



## New Affiliates

- 3 Looms
- Action 4 Media Education
- AIGA Houston
- Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program
- Crayon Collection
- Creative Generation
- Free Street
- Lansing Art Gallery & Education CenterLeaders of Tomorrow Youth Center
- Many Mini Musicians
- Media Arts Committee
- Minnesota Education Equity Partnership
- New Mexico Holocaust Museum and Gellert Center for Education
- Red House Arts Center, Inc.
- Slam Academy
- University of Minnesota Arts in Education Program



## Advisory Council

- Americans for the Arts
- Arts Education Collaborative
- Association of Art Museum Directors
- Dance/USA
- Educational Theatre Association
- John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
- League of American Orchestras
- Lesley University Creative Arts in Learning Programs
- Local Learning: The National Network for Folk Arts in Education
- National Art Education Association
- National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
- National Association for Music Education
- National Association of Elementary School Principals
- National Dance Education Organization
- National Endowment for the Arts

- National Guild for Community Arts Education
- National PTA
- OPERA America
- Perpich Center for Arts Education
- State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education
- The College Board
- The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- U.S. Department of Education
- Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts
- Young Audiences Arts for Learning

## ArtsEdSearch Review Panel

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### DECEMBER 2020 PUBLICATION:

#### **Amy Charleroy**

Director, Pre-AP Arts Curriculum and Instruction  
[The College Board](#)

#### **Donna Goodwin**

Assistant Professor, Arts Education  
[University of Northern Colorado](#)

#### **Rob Horowitz**

Arts Education Researcher and Consultant

#### **Kylie Pepler**

Associate Professor, Informatics  
[Donald Bren School of Information & Computer Sciences, University of California](#)

#### **Matt Sikora**

Director, Evaluation and Planning  
[Arts Education Collaborative](#)

#### **Sharon Sullivan-Rubin**

Department of Educational Leadership  
[Rowan University](#)

#### **Don Glass**

Research Manager  
[The Kennedy Center](#)

#### **Laura Reeder**

Artist and Teacher

#### **Elizabeth Hallmark**

Director, Research and Evaluation  
[Center for Creative Education](#)

#### **Patricia Mullaney-Loss**

Research Manager  
[National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](#)

### MAY 2020 PUBLICATION:

#### **Amy Charleroy**

Director, Pre-AP Arts Curriculum and Instruction  
[The College Board](#)

#### **Emily Cibelli**

Senior Data Analyst  
[Ingenuity](#)

#### **Don Glass**

Research Manager  
[The Kennedy Center](#)

#### **Donna Goodwin**

Assistant Professor, Arts Education  
[University of Northern Colorado](#)

#### **Ron Gubit**

Leadership Coach  
[Turnaround Arts](#)

#### **Rob Horowitz**

Arts Education Researcher and Consultant

#### **Laura Reeder**

Artist and Teacher

#### **Patricia Mullaney-Loss**

Research Manager  
[National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](#)

#### **Kylie Pepler**

Associate Professor, Informatics  
[Donald Bren School of Information & Computer Sciences, University of California](#)

#### **Lisa Rathje**

Executive Director  
[Local Learning: The National Network for Folk Arts in Education](#)

#### **Matt Sikora**

Director, Evaluation and Planning  
[Arts Education Collaborative](#)

#### **Sharon Sullivan-Rubin**

Department of Educational Leadership  
[Rowan University](#)



# ArtsEdSearch Task Force

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**Amy Charleroy**

Director, Pre-AP Arts Curriculum and Instruction  
[The College Board](#)

**Patti Curtis**

Robert Noyce/Ellen Lettvin STEM Education  
Fellow  
[U.S. Department of Education](#)

**Martha McKenna**

University Professor; Director,  
Creative Commons  
[Lesley University](#)

**Patricia Moore Schaffer**

Deputy Director, Office of Research & Analysis  
[National Endowment for the Arts](#)

**Yael Silk**

Executive Director  
[Arts Education Collaborative](#)

**Lynn Tuttle**

Director of Public Policy, Research & Professional  
Development  
[National Association for Music Education](#)

The Arts Education Partnership (AEP) was established in 1995 through a unique interagency agreement between the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Department of Education, an agreement that has continued unabated since that year. The founding organizations continue to provide support and promote AEP as the nation's hub for individuals and organizations committed to making high-quality arts education accessible to all U.S. students.



Arts Education Partnership

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