

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

A Year in Transition

Arts and education leaders navigated a maze of transitions in 2022 as the pandemic continued to reshape the education ecosystem. The Arts Education Partnership (AEP) experienced its own year of transition, moving from virtual to in-person events, onboarding new staff members and navigating priorities as we forged a path forward.

Transitions create opportunities for innovation and reimagination. AEP navigated the year's changes by innovating and reimaging its work within the strategic mission: **to build leadership capacity for arts and education leaders**. To manifest the strategic mission, AEP worked in three areas this year: **cultivating a strong network, promoting arts education**, and **elevating equitable and transformative practices**.

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AEP by the Numbers

Policy Highlights



5 Key Issues

- EQUITY
- HEALTH & WELLNESS
- ARTS & LITERACY
- JUVENILE JUSTICE
- STEAM



5 New Reports



8 Information Requests



16,000+ ONLINE RESOURCES
ACCESSED


Engagement Highlights

184
ENGAGEMENTS

3
NEW PARTNERS



30
NEW AFFILIATES




1400+ Total Meeting Attendees

29 Meetings Hosted

74,028 Visitors to ArtsEdSearch

66,309 Visitors to AEP-Arts.org





8 MEDIA MENTIONS

Annual Convening Highlights

179 Attendees

108 New Attendees



29 STATES REPRESENTED



56 SPEAKERS



21 SESSIONS



11 YOUTH PRESENTERS

Cultivating a **strong**
and **collaborative**
network of arts and
education leaders

Annual Survey

AEP conducted its first Annual Survey for partners, affiliates and other arts education leaders. This survey gathered honest feedback about AEP's work and relationship with stakeholders. **128 people** completed the survey during a two-month dissemination window.

2022

This year, AEP collaborated with external partners to host a variety of virtual events. Each event garnered a different audience of arts and education leaders – researchers, funders, teaching artists, local arts education supervisors and others – in all stages of their careers. These events offered opportunities for new relationships and connections across arts disciplines and organizations.

Experience with AEP.



69% outstanding or above average

AEP keeps them informed on state policy issues related to arts education.



67% agreed or strongly agreed

They feel connected to AEP's mission and vision.



64% agreed or strongly agreed

AEP cultivates a strong, effective and active network of partners and affiliates.



54% agreed or strongly agreed

most used

Respondents indicated the **resources** they used most were:

1. ArtsEd Digest
2. ArtsEdSearch
3. Annual Convening
4. Written Research
5. ArtsEd Amplified

most valuable

Respondents said the most valuable **resources** were:

1. Written Research
2. Annual Convening
3. ArtsEdSearch
4. Quarterly Partner Webinars
5. ArtsEd Digest

March

Research and Funders Policy Briefing

AEP hosted **115 participants** at the Research and Funders Policy Briefing in March. The goals of the event were to convene researchers, funders and practitioners to begin a dialogue around gaps in arts education research; motivate, connect and engage these groups to consider how to address these gaps; and discuss relationships between how new research and collaborations inform changes to policy and practice.

April

Our Shared Future: Imagining a New Landscape for Teaching Artists

In April, AEP supported Our Shared Future: Imagining a New Landscape for Teaching Artists event, first national convening for teaching artists. This virtual event drew **843 individual attendees from 48 states**, plus some international attendees. Our Shared Future was a collaboration among AEP, Teaching Artists Guild, National Endowment for the Arts, U.S. Department of Education and Hewlett Foundation.

August

National Town Halls for Local Arts Education Supervisors

AEP continued to coordinate a series of National Town Halls for Local Arts Education Supervisors with leadership from the Arts Education Policy Working Group. Two events held in April and August convened **over 100 supervisors** to discuss emergent topics and challenges in leading district arts programs, including: teacher shortages, budget challenges and funding sources, teacher recruitment and retention, alternative certification options and teaching artist certification pathways.

Working Groups

AEP convened three working groups throughout the year to engage partners and affiliates in learning about and acting on topics aligned with their work.

In the Annual Survey, 93% of respondents who were **involved in working groups** agreed or strongly agreed that their participation:

Equity Working Group

(52 Members)

Chairs:

Alysia Lee

(Baltimore Children and Youth Fund/
Sister Cities Girlchoir)

Ray Yang

(National Art Education Association)

The Equity Working Group evolved their work to alternate between full-group meetings and technical assistance sessions. Group members explored principles of equitable systems, including how those systems drive both internal organizational culture and external work.

Partnerships With Higher Ed: Policy, Programs and Research

(45 Members)

Chairs:

Jennifer Katona

(Educational Theatre Association)

Martha McKenna

(Lesley University)

This year, the Higher Education Working Group reimagined its vision, role and membership. As part of this expansion, the working group changed its name to Partnerships with Higher Ed: Policy, Programs and Research. With this name change, the group seeks to expand its membership and prioritize partnerships among organizations and higher ed programs.

Arts Education Policy Working Group

(47 Members)

Chairs:

Quanice Floyd

(National Guild for Community Arts Education)

Deborah Lugo

(Arts Connect Houston)

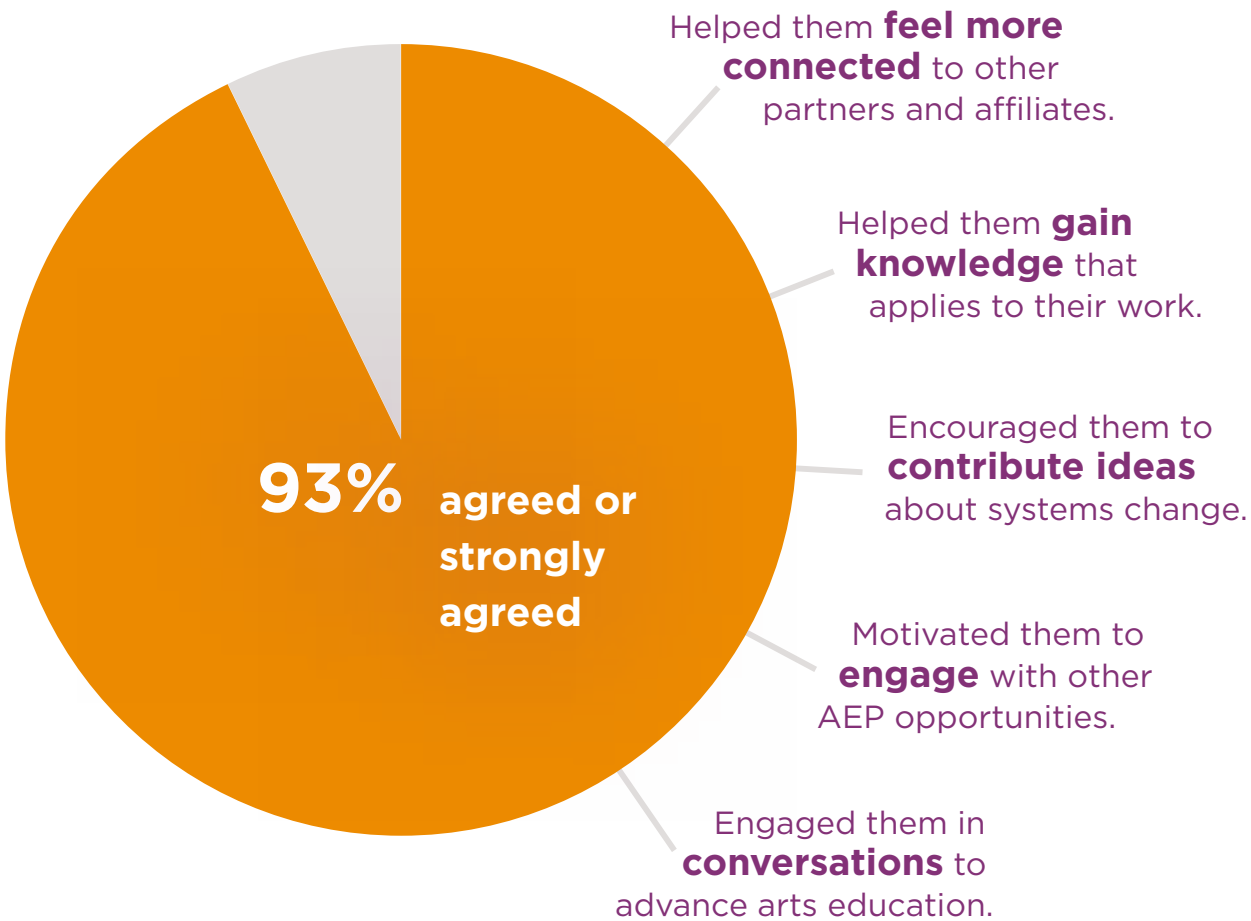
Mario Rossero

(National Art Education Association)

Lynn Tuttle

(American String Teachers Association)

The Arts Education Policy Working Group transitioned to a new model with three subcommittees focused on local, state and federal policy. Each subcommittee has one or two chairs, and these chairs together share responsibility for leading the overall working group. In addition to leading the town hall series for local arts education supervisors, working group members explored timely issues including teacher shortages, funding opportunities and social and emotional learning.

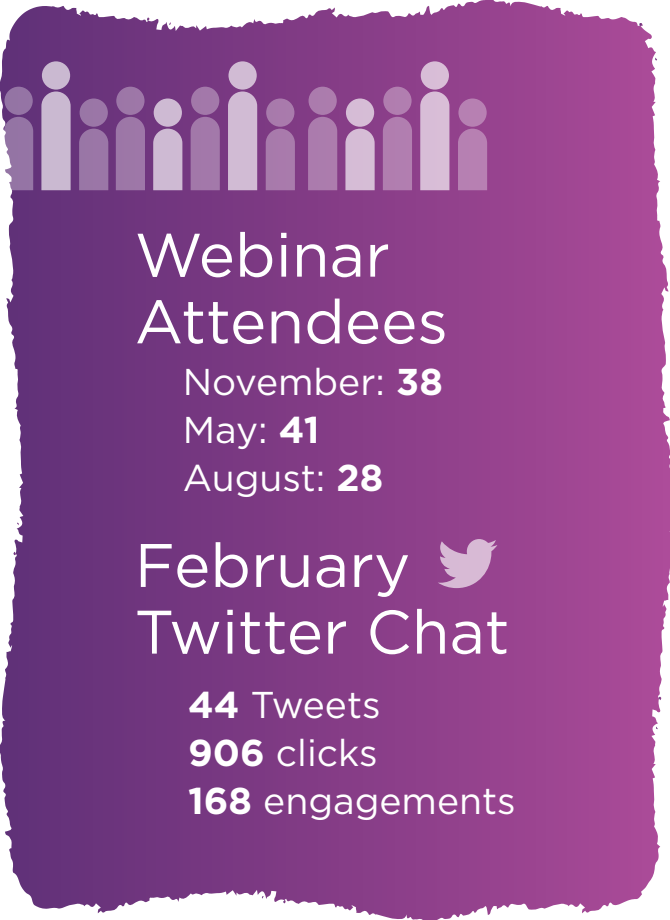


Partner Webinars

AEP continued to host quarterly partner webinars in November, May and August. Each webinar focused on creating opportunities for cross-organization connection. In place of the February partner webinar, AEP hosted its first Twitter Chat to engage with partners and affiliates in a new format.

In the Annual Survey, respondents chose reasons why they attended Quarterly Partner Webinars. In order of most chosen to least, participants indicated they attended to:

- 1 **Learn about the work** of other partners/affiliates.
- 2 **Connect** with other partners/affiliates.
- 3 **Be aware of AEP's work** and connect with AEP staff.
- 4 Learn about other **engagement opportunities**.



Promoting the **value of arts education** for every student across all educational environments

 **831** page visits

Juvenile Justice Series: Broadcasting Arts Experiences

After the intro post in ArtsEd Amplified last year, AEP continued work on Juvenile Justice: Broadcasting Arts Experiences. This five-part series focused on arts learning impact stories from youth in the care of juvenile justice facilities or those directly providing services to youth.

 **3,226** page visits

Theatre Counts

In November, AEP released Theatre Counts, the fourth installment in the Arts Counts series. This report documents the benefits and student outcomes of theatre courses for all learners. The featured studies, pulled from ArtsEdSearch, show theatre's positive impact on student success.

 **2,318** page visits

The Arts and Literacies

In December, AEP published The Arts and Literacies, an interactive and adaptive web-based resource. The resource captures insights and reflections of attendees who joined last year's thinkers meeting series. Through this resource, AEP expanded the definition of literacy beyond reading and writing text to include meaning made through interactions with sound, image and movement.

 **1,299** page visits

Components of an Arts Education and Student Wellness Ecosystem

In February, AEP released Components of an Arts Education and Student Wellness Ecosystem. This resource provides an overview of policies and actions at the local, state and federal levels that impact the health of this ecosystem and collaboration across agencies.

ArtScan **2,714** page visits 

In March, AEP published its annual update to ArtScan, a clearinghouse of the latest state policies supporting arts education from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This year's update included the addition of the Department of Defense Education Activity, which has 160 accredited schools spread throughout the Pacific, Europe and the Americas.



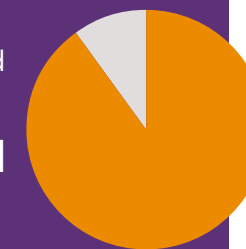
Student Health and Wellness Policy Academy

In May, Education Commission of the States convened teams from four states – Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina and Rhode Island – for an in-person policy academy in Denver, CO focused on student health and wellness. AEP supported planning and implementation and facilitated a team from North Carolina. The AEP team continues to support the North Carolina team on technical assistance related to their action plan.

STEAM Policy Academy

This year, AEP continued work started at the July 2021 STEAM Policy Academy by providing technical assistance for teams from South Carolina, Vermont and West Virginia. Through these technical assistance opportunities, AEP presented at STEAM forums, led strategic planning sessions with state STEAM teams and spoke at the Smithsonian Action Planning Institute.

90% who used ArtScan within the past year **agreed or strongly agreed** they use



ArtScan to feel informed about policy and pass information on to others.

52% agreed or strongly agreed

they use information from ArtScan to make local policy decisions.



Elevating **equitable** and **transformative** **practices** in arts education policy and leadership

 **331** page
visits

Centering Student Voices to Transform Educational Systems

In August, AEP published Centering Student Voices to Transform Educational Systems. This report serves as an update to AEP's 2013 research bulletin Preparing Students for the Next America and centers student voices in the conversation about transforming educational systems.

 **74,028** page
visits

ArtsEdSearch

Building on previous work to expand and make ArtsEdSearch more useful, AEP hosted a series of ArtsEdSearch Thinkers Meetings. AEP invited educators, artists, researchers and other stakeholders to inform a more inclusive process for identifying and adding studies to ArtsEdSearch.

In the Annual Survey, 98% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed they feel confident about and trust in the research from ArtsEdSearch. 92% indicated they use ArtsEdSearch to feel knowledgeable about arts education outcomes, and 88% use ArtsEdSearch to inform their work.

Studies with the most views

Arts Education in Secondary
Schools: Effects and
effectiveness (2000)

4,552 views

Does Musical Training Improve
School Performance? (2009)

3,849 views

SAT Scores of Students
Who Study the Arts: What
we can and cannot conclude about
the association (2000)

1,831 views

How Arts Integration Supports
Student Learning: Students
shed light on the connections (2002)

1,436 views

Third Space:
When learning matters (2005)

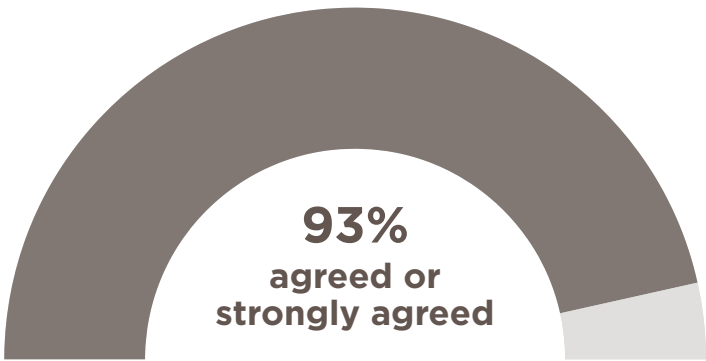
1,415 views

Annual Convening

AEP highlighted student voice in the planning for the 2022 Annual Convening. The Convening marked a return to in-person events for AEP, gathering 179 participants in Baltimore, MD from Sept. 14-15. AEP engaged Baltimore arts and education leaders and youth as part of a revitalized local planning committee. Through this collaboration, AEP centered Baltimore youth in the Convening's opening and closing plenaries as session planners and facilitators. The youth leaders set the tone for an energizing event.

The Annual Convening featured 56 speakers, 49 of whom were presenting for the first time at an AEP event. Sessions and plenaries highlighted innovations and key issues at the forefront of arts education policy and practices. Leading topics included arts education data, systems change for arts education and student health and wellness.

In the post-event survey, respondents indicated the event met their goals by:

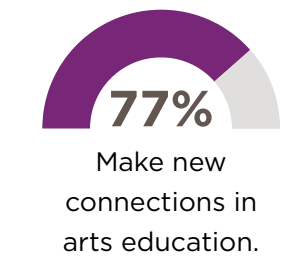
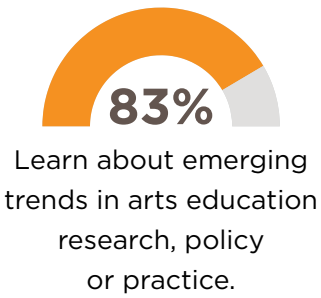


Helping them learn about emerging knowledge in arts education research.

Providing opportunities to meaningfully connect with other attendees.

Providing opportunities to listen and learn from the experience and knowledge of others.

Respondents said their reasons for attending were to:



Appendix

Communications

ArtsEd Digest:

ArtsEd Digest, AEP’s biweekly newsletter, ended the year with 5,884 subscribers. The average open rate for the Digest increased 7% from 2021 for a total of 19%. The average click-through rate decreased from 3.8% to 2.5%.

Social Media:

| | Tweets or Posts | Clicks | Followers or Fans |
|----------|-----------------|--------|-------------------|
| Twitter | 523 | 30k | 9,536 |
| Facebook | 391 | 13k | 2,465 |
| LinkedIn | 388 | 1.7k | 5,414 |

Website:

| | |
|--|---|
| www.aep-arts.org – 66,309 total visits | Pages with most visits: Theatre Counts – 3,226 views ArtScan – 2,714 views Who We Are – 2,574 views The Arts and Literacies – 2,318 views ArtScan State Profiles – 2,044 |
| ArtsEd Amplified – 27 total posts | Posts with most views: Learning From the Music for Social Change Field 490 views Power of the Arts: A COVID-19 silver lining 442 views Transforming a Traditional School into an Immersive Arts Integration School 422 views Restorative, Resilient and Therapeutic Artistic Actions 395 views What Do Personalized, Competency-Based Learning and Arts Education Have in Common? 279 views |

Other Media:

- [Children First: All About the Arts](#)
(published by ABC30 in Fresno, CA and California News Times in December 2021)
- [He doesn’t just teach students music. He also writes them songs.](#)
(published by 6 News Richmond, VA on March 11, 2022)
- [The Arts Deserve More Funding in Schools](#)
(published by The Hornet Newspaper at Delaware State University on March 15, 2022)
- AEP’s blog post guest-written by affiliate Sloka Iyengar was featured in the March 30, 2022 newsletter from the Congressional STEAM Caucus.
- [How can we advance arts education for all? This organization has some answers](#)
(published by EdNC on August 8, 2022)
- [How do North Carolina’s arts education policies compare to other states?](#)
(published by EdNC on August 9, 2022)
- [The Benefits of Arts Education for K-12 Students](#)
(published by U.S. News & World Report on August 30, 2022)
- [AEP Annual Conference looks toward the future of arts education](#)
(published by EdNC on September 26, 2022)

Information Requests

- [The arts in ESSER state plans](#)
- Teacher certification requirements
- Arts education data collection across existing federal and state-level platforms
- District-level arts education policy
- State policy actions related to alleviating teacher shortages
- Staffing ratios for arts education recommendations
- [Visual arts standards and educator certifications](#)
- Connections between elementary learners engaged in project-based STEAM learning

New Partners and Affiliates

Partners:

American String Teachers Association
Association of Arts Administration Educators
National Gallery of Art

Affiliates:

| | |
|---|--|
| Appell Center for the Performing Arts | Dr. Joleen Neighbours |
| Art 120 | Legit Productions |
| Chautaqua Institution | Lynne Pace Green |
| Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theatre | Missouri Alliance for Arts Education |
| Connecticut Arts Administrators Association | Nettrice Gaskins |
| Creative Action | Niesha Bentley |
| Crelata | North Carolina Music Educators Association |
| The Dancer Movement Corp | Rose Chu |
| Dawn M Ellis and Associates, LLC | Score More Foundation |
| EducationNC | Sister Cities Girlchoir |
| Erika Hawthorne | Sloka Iyengar |
| Hartford Performs | Sundog Theatre |
| HELP International School | ThinkBIG! Theater Arts, Inc. |
| Ivonne Chand O’Neal, PhD (MUSE Research LLC) | Winnie Mwamsamali |
| Jessica Polaniecki | Zanartts African School of the Arts |

Advisory Council:

| | |
|---|--|
| 3Looms Creative Education Consulting Jennifer Katona*, Founder and President | League of American Orchestras Heather Noonan, Vice President for Advocacy |
| American String Teachers Association Lynn Tuttle*, Executive Director | Lesley University Creative Arts in Learning Programs Martha McKenna*, Professor Emeritus |
| Americans for the Arts Tooshar Swain, Director of Public Policy | Media Arts Committee Dain Olsen, Media Arts Educator (Los Angeles Unified School District), Media Arts Writing Chair (National Coalition for Core Arts Standards) Aaron Knochel, Assistant Professor of Art Education (Pennsylvania State University) |
| Arts Connect Houston Deborah Lugo*, Executive Director | Michigan Assessment Consortium (Michigan Arts Education Instruction and Assessment Project) Heather Vaughan-Southard, Professional Learning Director |
| Baltimore Children and Youth Fund Alysia Lee*, President | Minnesota Education Equity Partnership Dr. Rose Chu, Senior Systems Fellow |
| City Lore Raquel Almazan, Director of Urban Explorers After School Program Sahar Muradi, Director of Education Programs Malini Srinivasan, Manager of School Partnership Programs | National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Pam Breaux, President and CEO |
| Dance/USA and OPERA America Tony Shivers, Director of Government Affairs | National Dance Education Organization Susan McGreevy-Nichols, Executive Director |
| Educational Theatre Association Jim Palmarini, Consultant | National Art Education Association Mario Rossero*, Executive Director Ray Yang*, Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (ED&I) and Special Initiatives |
| John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Jordan LaSalle, Vice President of Education Jeannette McCune, Director, School and Community Programs, Education | |

Advisory Council continued...

National Association for Music Education

John Donaldson, Director of Professional Development and Publications

Amanda Karhuse, Assistant Executive Director, Advocacy and Public Policy

National Endowment for the Arts

Denise Brandenburg, Arts Education Specialist

Nancy Daugherty, Arts Education Specialist

Ayanna Hudson, Acting Deputy Chairman, Programs and Partnerships

National Guild for Community Arts Education

Quanice Floyd*, Executive Director

Jasmine Huff, Learning and Engagement Manager

Jenina Podulka, Communications Manager

National Parent Teacher Association

Amy Lorenz, Deputy Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives

New Jersey State Council on the Arts

Samantha Clarke, Program Officer, Arts Education & Lifelong Learning, Multidisciplinary

State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education

Todd Shipley, President (Tennessee Department of Education)

Student/youth representative

Gillian Kim, Doctoral Student in Arts Administration, Education and Policy, Ohio State University

U.S. Department of Education

Bonnie Carter, Group Leader, Arts in Education and Literacy Programs

Jennifer Todd, Director, Well-Rounded Education Programs

Wallace Foundation

Porché Hardy, Arts Program Officer

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Jessica Mele, Program Officer in Performing Arts

Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts

Shannon Kelly, Senior Director of Government Affairs

Young Audiences Arts for Learning

David Dik, National Executive Director

*Working group chairs

Arts Education Policy Working Group:

Quanice Floyd, Deborah Lugo, Mario Rossero, Lynn Tuttle

Equity Working Group:

Alysia Lee, Ray Yang

Partnerships With Higher Ed Working Group:

Jennifer Katona, Martha McKenna

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