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 reimagining. AEP navigated the year’s changes by innovating and reimagining 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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Cultivating a strong and collaborative network of arts and education leaders.
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.

### 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.

### 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.

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

- Helped them feel more connected to other partners and affiliates.
- Helped them gain knowledge that applies to their work.
- Encouraged them to contribute ideas about systems change.
- Motivated them to engage with other AEP opportunities.
- Engaged them in conversations to advance arts education.

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.

Equity Working Group

(S2 Members)

Chairs:
- Alysia Lee (Baltimore Children and Youth Fund/Sister Cities Girkchoir)
- 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.

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)

This year, 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.

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 new name, the group seeks to expand its membership and prioritize partnerships among organizations and higher ed programs.

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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

Webinar Attendees

November: 38
May: 41
August: 28

February Twitter Chat

44 Tweets
906 clicks
168 engagements
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.
Elevating **equitable** and **transformative practices** in arts education policy and leadership

**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.

**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**

  - 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:

- Learn about emerging trends in arts education research, policy or practice.
- Make new connections in arts education.
- Learn about the work of others.

83% agreed or strongly agreed.
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:

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

Advisory Council:

3Looms Creative Education Consulting
Jennifer Katona*, Founder and President

American String Teachers Association
Lynn Tuttle*, Executive Director

Americans for the Arts
Tooshar Swain, Director of Public Policy

Arts Connect Houston
Deborah Lugo*, Executive Director

Baltimore Children and Youth Fund
Alysia Lee*, President

City Lore
Raquel Almazan, Director of Urban Explorers
After School Program
Sahar Muradi, Director of Education Programs
Malini Srinivasan, Manager of School Partnership Programs

Dance/USA and OPERA America
Tony Shivers, Director of Government Affairs

Educational Theatre Association
Jim Palmarini, Consultant

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Jordan LaSalle, Vice President of Education
Jeannette McCune, Director, School and Community Programs, Education

League of American Orchestras
Heather Noonan, Vice President for Advocacy

Lesley University Creative Arts in Learning Programs
Martha McKenna*, Professor Emeritus

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)

Michigan Assessment Consortium
(Michigan Arts Education Instruction and Assessment Project)
Heather Vaughan-Southard, Professional Learning Director

Minnesota Education Equity Partnership
Dr. Rose Chu, Senior Systems Fellow

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
Pam Breaux, President and CEO

National Dance Education Organization
Susan McGreevy-Nichols, Executive Director

National Art Education Association
Mario Rossero*, Executive Director
Ray Yang*, Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (ED&I) and Special Initiatives
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

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Quanice Floyd, Deborah Lugo, Mario Rossero, Lynn Tuttle
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Alysia Lee, Ray Yang
Partnerships With Higher Ed Working Group:
Jennifer Katona, Martha McKenna

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