Happy New Year, Friends of AEP!

As we begin another exciting and engaging year of activities in the arts in education, AEP looks forward to building upon the many successes and important work that took place across the field and the partnership this past year. In 2018, AEP continued to promote and advance the work of its partner organizations and other arts education organizations with 10 guest blogs and three new Success Stories.

Supporting our focus on providing timely and relevant research and resources, AEP released seven key publications — including updates to two core resources — added seven new study summaries to ArtsEdSearch and released the 2018 update to ArtScan. Check out more highlights from 2018 in our annual report.

This year, AEP is exploring two new focus areas in the arts in education — school choice and STEAM. We are pleased to embark on another rewarding year and continue our work together.

Want to share your success stories? Learn more about our Success Stories initiative, here.

2019 National PTA Reflections Program Showcases Art From Students Across the Country

The National PTA is accepting entries of original works of art across arts disciplines from students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade for this annual award program. Students can submit artwork through their local Reflections program, with selected winners receiving the opportunity to exhibit their artwork. The deadline to register to participate is Feb. 1.

New Grant Opportunity to Support Small and Rural Libraries

The Institute of Museum and Library Services’ Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries initiative seeks to support these libraries, as well as archives and related organizations, in
their work through grants of up to $50,000. IMLS will award grants across three categories, including Transforming School Library Practice. **Deadline to apply: Feb. 25.**

**Award Nominations Open: Americans for the Arts’ 2019 BCA Awards**

The **BCA 10: Best Businesses Partnering With the Arts in America** awards annually recognize 10 businesses for their work and engagement in enriching education, the community and the workplace through the arts. The awards also recognize their service across a variety of areas, including addressing community needs, leadership and long-term commitment. **Deadline to submit a nomination: Jan. 25.**

**Grant Helps to Increase Access to Arts Education in Rural California School Districts**

Rural school districts across Napa County will use the more than **$775,000 grant** — part of the state’s Federal IV program — to provide professional development in arts integration for teachers, purchase curriculum materials and host an arts and science summer camp for English language learners, among other activities. The grant will also support the Napa Valley Unified School Districts’ Arts Master Plan, which seeks to provide equitable access to arts education.

**New Online Directory Connects Indiana Stakeholders With Arts Education Opportunities**

Recently launched by the Arts Council of Indianapolis, this **free, open-access directory** enables teachers, arts organizations and parents to connect and explore arts education activities across central Indiana. Visitors to the website can search by several criteria, including arts discipline, program type and provider.

**Grants to Expand Access to Arts Education for Georgia Students**

Three rural school districts in the Coastal Empire received **stART grants from the Georgia Department of Education** to develop new or expand existing arts education initiatives. These grants are part of the department’s collective grant awards — $260,000 in total — and the state’s Partnership for Rural Growth initiative.

**CONVENINGS**

- **The 2019 NAMM Show**  

- **FAAE – Arts Integration Symposium and Restorative Justice**  
  Florida Alliance for Arts Education – Feb. 18, Jacksonville, Fla.

- **AFTA - The National Arts Action Summit**  
  Americans for the Arts – March 4-5, Washington, D.C.

If you are an AEP partner and would like to feature an upcoming event, please visit the **AEP Partner Calendar** page.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**
ArtsEdSearch

Students participating in an arts partnership program reported increased sense of ownership and control of their own learning, plus increased confidence to participate more fully in discussions and offer personal opinions. More

#ArtsEdSearch: Students in an #arts partnership program reported increased sense of ownership & control of their learning + confidence to participate more fully in discussions & offer opinions. bit.ly/2LWh1sJ #ArtsEd #StudentSuccess

ArtScan

Twenty-five states require arts education instruction in elementary, middle and high school and define the arts as a core or academic subject.

Explore arts education policies in your state using ArtScan.

Featured Resource

Review of Evidence: Arts Education Research Through the Lens of the Every Student Succeeds Act

This updated report from American Institutes for Research provides an overview of arts education interventions that meet the evidence requirements of ESSA and qualify for funding under this federal law.

The Arts Education Partnership at Education Commission of the States is established through a cooperative agreement between the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Department of Education. AEP serves as the nation’s hub for individuals and organizations committed to making high-quality arts education accessible to all U.S. students, improving arts education practice and researching how art influences and strengthens American education.

AEP’s efforts to communicate, collaborate, convene and connect policymakers, stakeholders and leaders across the arts in education field are supported by the following foundation partners: The Hewlett Foundation and The Wallace Foundation.

Have news to share?

Please submit a 100 word summary to cquillen@ecs.org.

Connect with our partners online!

Stay current on all of the arts education news from our partner organizations by subscribing to the AEP Partners Twitter list! You can also visit the member section of this list and follow all of our partners. If you are a member of AEP and don’t see your Twitter handle listed or if you have news to share on the AEP Twitter handle, please contact Cassandra Quillen at cquillen@ecs.org.