

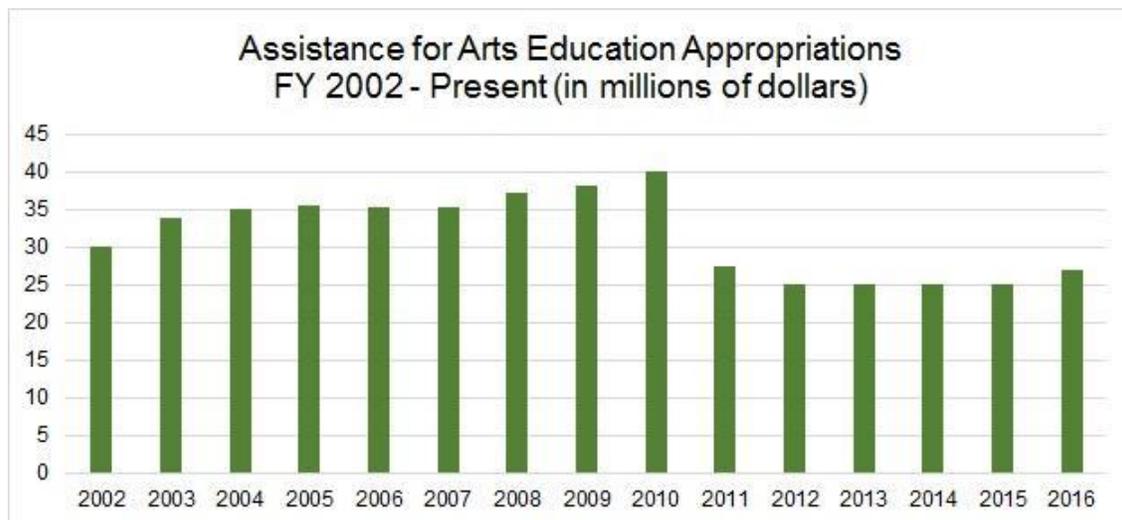
THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER AMERICA

FUNDING THE ASSISTANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IMPROVING ACCESS TO ARTS EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

ACTION NEEDED

We urge Congress to:

- Appropriate \$30 million for the Assistance for Arts Education (AAE) programs in the FY 2018 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. The Assistance for Arts Education program is authorized under Title IV of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA).



TALKING POINTS

- Student learning is strengthened through standards-based arts education and integration of arts instruction into other subject areas supported by **Arts Education Model Development and Dissemination (AEMDD) grants**. The program has funded a total of 185 projects, including rigorous evaluation of arts education strategies that can impact schools and communities nationwide.
- Innovative models to improve instruction for arts specialists and classroom teachers are supported by **Professional Development for Arts Educators (PDAE) grants**. The PDAE grants program has supported a total of 82 projects that serve as national models for effective arts education professional development.
- The impact of these federal investments is multiplied by the program's **Evaluation and National Dissemination** component. State and local education agencies can adapt these models to provide rigorous arts instruction for all students.
- National level, high-quality arts education projects and programs for children and youth, with special emphasis on serving students from low-income families and students with disabilities, are supported by a **National Program Competition**.

A reduction below the current level of Arts Education funding would result in under-funding multi-year projects that are midstream. Grant awards support projects over the course of up to four years. Cuts to funding would place these projects in extreme jeopardy.

TALKING POINTS (CONTINUED)

U.S. Department of Education directs grants through the Assistance for Arts Education program to strengthen the arts as part of a well-rounded education. Arts Education grants have served more than 230 congressional districts in 33 states, including these examples.

- Columbia College Chicago is partnering with the Evanston/Skokie School District on the MSEED Project. The project, an FY 2014 Model Development and Dissemination Project, expands the college's Arts Integration Mentorship Project (Project AIM) to include standards-based arts education into the core elementary and middle school curriculum and improve the academic performance of at-risk students in the arts, reading, writing, and mathematics. Through teaching artist residencies, teacher-artist collaborations, and sustained, intensive professional development, Project AIM integrates high quality instruction in media arts, music, dance, theater, and visual arts with other academic content areas with an economically diverse population of 1,200 students a year and 30 teachers in three project schools; the project will also indirectly serve approximately 650 additional students and 12-15 additional teachers.
- The Tennessee Arts Commission's four-year FY 2010 Model Development and Dissemination Grant of \$1 million to support the Arts360° program brought teachers together to improve instruction and impact student achievement by making arts-based and arts integrated learning a critical component of every child's educational experience, serving more than 1,000 students in four Knoxville pre-K–5 elementary schools.
- The Highline School District in King County, Washington is partnering with Art Corps to create the four-year \$1.7 million Highline Creative Schools Initiative, an FY 2014 Model Development and Dissemination Grant project that will serve a diverse population of 600 sixth-grade students in two high poverty middle schools. Expected outcomes include increased student achievement; increased literacy, visual arts, and theater arts learning; improved school engagement and middle school transition; and strengthened teacher capacity to deliver arts-integrated lessons and assessments.
- The most recent National Program Competition awarded a three-year grant to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to provide arts education programs and resources focusing on pre-K–12. The programs and resources are in three areas: Teaching, Learning, and Partnerships; Performances for Young Audiences; and Career Development for Artistically Talented Young People.

The U.S. Department of Education can maximize the impact of the direct federal investment in arts education by immediately disseminating information about the outcomes of projects funded by the Assistance for Arts Education grant programs.

BACKGROUND

The Assistance for Arts Education (AAE) program at the U.S. Department of Education is authorized under Title IV of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) and is a continuation of the programs previously authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as the "Arts in Education" program fund.

ESSA recognizes the arts as essential to a "well-rounded" education. The arts education programs have received consistent bipartisan support from Congress year after year—ultimately winning congressional support annually. Congress most recently approved a \$2 million increase in funding, approving \$27 million in support for the Arts Education program fund for FY 2016 and making possible a new round of competitive grants

THE NATIONAL **OPERA** CENTER **AMERICA**

The program is level-funded under the FY17 Continuing Resolution currently in place.