

cre· a· tiv· i· ty (kree-ey-tiv-i-tee)

n. The ability to transcend traditional ideas, rules, patterns, relationships, or the like, and to create meaningful new ideas, forms, methods, interpretations, etc.; originality, progressiveness, or imagination.

ad· vo· ca· cy (ād'və-kə-sē)

n. The act of pleading or arguing in favor of something, such as a cause, idea, or policy; active support.

You've heard us assert that our **Artistic Learning** programs help Bay Area students develop literacy skills, gain confidence in public speaking and collaboration, cultivate their creative minds and voices...the list goes on and on. Below are links that offer insights in the broader context for our work—and ways you can support us through your advocacy.

Educational Impact

*"Drama education can lead to increased skills in oral language, reading, writing, mathematics, critical thinking and decision-making, and constructed learning."*¹

¹"An Arts Education Research Compendium". *Highlights: FAQ on Arts Education, pages 6-15*

<http://www.americansforthearts.org/NAPD/files/12434/compendium.pdf>

Does arts education have an overall effect on achievement in other academic subjects?

Student achievement in non-arts subjects is heightened in schools with high quality arts education programs, especially in mathematics and reading.

Can arts education help motivate students to learn?

Students involved in the arts have been found to be motivated to learn more than those not involved in the arts, and tend to collaborate more with fellow students in a broad range of learning activities.

What is the status of arts education in California public schools?

A California Department of Education survey revealed, among other findings, that: music and visual arts are taught more frequently than dance and theatre, professional preparation for teachers to teach the arts is quite variable, implementation of the Visual and Performing Arts Framework is low, and limitations to arts curriculum implementation include insufficient funding, and shortages of space, supplies, and time.

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation: An Unfinished Canvas

<http://www.hewlett.org/Publications>

A landmark study from independent research institute SRI International, for the first time systemically examining the status of arts education in California, reveals that the vast majority of California's schools fail to meet state standards for teaching the arts, and that access to arts instruction varies widely among the state's schools.

Economic Impact

*"The best job candidates in the future will possess a creative ability that comes from working with different kinds of people on challenging projects."*²

"Reading, Writing, and Creativity"

Education guru Sir Ken Robinson talks about the importance of nurturing innovative solutions in the classroom -- indeed, in every aspect of modern life:

http://www.businessweek.com/innovate/content/feb2006/id20060223_167340.htm?chan=search

2" Creativity Comes to B-School"

As more institutions set up courses stressing innovation, students are learning all sorts of techniques to help them think outside the box:

http://www.businessweek.com/bschools/content/mar2006/bs20060326_8436_bs001.htm?chan=search

For more: go to www.businessweek.com and search "creativity"

Economic Impact for the Arts Fact Sheet: <http://www.cac.ca.gov/artsinfo/econtacts.php>

- Nonprofit arts generate millions of dollars in tax revenue — an impact totaling nearly \$300 million, as of this report.
- In California in 2004, there are more arts-related businesses (89,719) — including nonprofit organizations — and more people employed (516,054) in the creative industries than in any other state in the nation.
- Californians invest more than 10 million hours as volunteers for nonprofit arts organizations, valued at more than \$165.4 million.
- Philanthropic support — money received from foundations, individuals and corporations — plus government subsidies total \$1.06 billion and are vital to keeping the arts accessible and affordable to all Californians.

Advocacy

Arts Advocacy Toolkit for K-12 Education: www.californiaartstoolkit.com

Among other things, this page has:

- Sample Letters to the Editor
- Sample Resolution
- Outline for a Community Forum
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Arts Fact Sheet for Stakeholders
- Sample Letter to Lawmakers

The California Alliance for Arts Education Action Center: www.artsed411.org/advocate

Additional Resources and Advocacy Leaders

The following links will take you to information on current research about the arts and advocacy, plus links to valuable organizations in California and the United States.

California Arts Council: www.cac.ca.gov

California Alliance for Arts Education: www.artsed411.org

California Arts Advocates: www.californiaartsadvocates.org

Americans for the Arts: www.americansforthearts.org

National Endowment for the Arts: www.nea.gov

Critical Issues Facing the Arts in California: A Working Paper from the James Irvine Foundation:

http://www.irvine.org/assets/pdf/pubs/arts/Critical_Issues_Arts.pdf

This working paper, published by the Irvine Foundation and AEA Consulting, identifies the major challenges facing the arts and cultural sector in California, including arts education. It describes five key themes that, if not addressed, may threaten the health and well-being of the sector going forward.

So pick up the phone. Or a pen. Turn on your computer, turn to your neighbor, but whatever you do, start the conversation. The future writers, actors, scientists, athletes, artists, mathematicians, musicians, doctors, and teachers of California will thank you.

For more information on arts education resources, or how you can help, contact Tara Misra, Collaborations and Marketing Manager at tmisra@calshakes.org or 510.548.3422 x136.