

"Arts are crucial to a rigorous and high-quality education — and access to the arts in schools is an issue of equity for all of Boston's schoolchildren."

— Dr. Carol R. Johnson, Superintendent, Boston Public Schools

What is the BPS Arts Expansion Initiative?

- A multi-year effort to expand arts education within the Boston Public Schools with a focus on access, equity and quality arts learning experiences for BPS students:
 1. Expand direct arts instruction for students during the school day
 2. Build the capacity of the District to strengthen school-based arts instruction
 3. Improve coordination of partnerships with arts and cultural groups and higher education institutions to support arts programming in the schools
- Primary goals include:
 1. Increase to 100% of students through Grade 8 receiving the benchmark of once-weekly, year-long arts instruction by 2012 (2009 Baseline: 88% K-8 students, 73% K-5, 41% middle school students)
 2. Develop and employ targeted strategies to meet the varied needs and schedules of high school students
- The overall Expansion Initiative includes both the *BPS Arts Expansion Fund* and the *BPS Arts Expansion Initiative Planning Process*.

What is the BPS Arts Expansion Fund?

- The Arts Expansion Fund is a \$2.5 million local campaign over three years (February 2009-June 2012) aimed primarily at implementation of direct arts expansion in Boston Public Schools.
- To date, \$1.6 million dollars has been raised from local donors and nearly \$550,000 in grants distributed to expand arts instruction to more students, providing both district-level and school-based support for expanded arts.
- Donors to the Fund include the Barr Foundation, the Boston Foundation, EdVestors, Hunt Alternatives Fund, the Klarman Family Foundation, the Linde Family Foundation, and Jane's Trust, among others.
- Fifty-six grant applications were received to support school year 2010-2011 arts programming, grant awards totaling approximately \$700,000 will be announced June 1, 2010.

How Can I Get More Information and Get Involved? A full copy of the Year 1 progress report of the Arts Expansion Initiative can be found on EdVestors' website. For more information or to get involved, contact Marinell Rousmaniere, Arts Expansion Initiative Project Director at EdVestors, rousmaniere@edvestors.org.

What Will Happen Through the Planning Process?

- In collaboration with Boston Public Schools, EdVestors will conduct an 18-month planning process (November 2009-April 2011) to develop a long-term sustainable arts education plan for the District that will expand and raise the quality of arts education for BPS students.
- The planning process will focus on a number of key areas including: best practices in curriculum and instruction, professional development, and assessing quality; coordination of arts partners; communications; strategies to meet the unique needs of high school students; and ongoing data collection through the annual school arts survey.
- The planning process, simultaneous to the \$2.5 million local Fund, provides the opportunity to involve teachers, school leaders, arts and cultural institutions, foundations, higher education institutions, parents and youth in the long-term plan for arts in the Boston Public Schools.
- The Wallace Foundation has provided a \$750,000 grant through its "Arts for Young People" Initiative to support this planning process, allowing Boston to join a select group of cities involved in such an effort.

