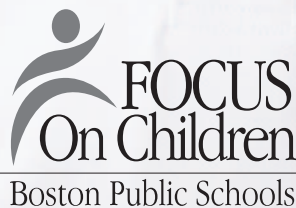


The Arts Advantage:
Expanding Arts Education in the Boston Public Schools
Year 1 Progress Report



February 2010

The Boston Foundation

The Boston Foundation, Greater Boston's community foundation, is one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the nation, with assets of almost \$700 million. In Fiscal Year 2009, the Foundation and its donors made \$86 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and received gifts of \$72 million. The Foundation is made up of some 900 separate charitable funds established by donors either for the general benefit of the community or for special purposes. The Boston Foundation also serves as a major civic leader, provider of information, convener, and sponsor of special initiatives designed to address the community's and region's most pressing challenges. For more information about the Boston Foundation, visit www.tbf.org or call 617-338-1700.

EdVestors

EdVestors, a unique education philanthropy, drives change in urban schools through smart, strategic private investment – funding school and district efforts to advance academic rigor and coordinating major collaborations such as the BPS Arts Expansion Initiative. In partnership with donors and education leaders, EdVestors accelerates improved results for urban schoolchildren. Since its launch in 2002 by a group of philanthropists and business leaders, EdVestors and its donors have directed over \$7 million to strategic school improvement efforts in Boston and Lowell, MA. For more information about EdVestors, visit www.edvestors.org or call 617-585-5740.

About the Boston Public Schools Arts Expansion Initiative

The BPS Arts Expansion Initiative is a three-year effort (2009-2012) to expand arts education within the Boston Public Schools with a focus on access, equity and quality arts learning experiences for all students. This multi-year effort is focused on expanding direct arts instruction for students during the school day while building the capacity of the District to strengthen school-based arts instruction and to coordinate partnerships with arts and cultural groups. The Initiative includes both a \$2.5 million BPS Arts Expansion Fund and the BPS Arts Expansion Initiative Planning Process. The Initiative is guided by the BPS Arts Advisory Board of local philanthropic, civic and public sector leaders chaired by Boston Superintendent Carol R. Johnson. The BPS Arts Expansion Initiative is supported by collaborating donors including the Barr Foundation, the Boston Foundation, EdVestors, Hunt Alternatives Fund, Klarman Family Foundation, and others, with additional support from The Wallace Foundation.

UNDERSTANDING BOSTON is a series of forums, educational events, and research sponsored by the Boston Foundation to provide information and insight into issues affecting Boston, its neighborhoods, and the region. By working in collaboration with a wide range of partners, the Boston Foundation provides opportunities for people to come together to explore challenges facing our constantly changing community and to develop an informed civic agenda.

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