

ARTS EDUCATION COMMITTEE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
Prepared for the New York City Cultural Plan
February, XX 2017

"Art is a nation's most precious heritage for it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves and others the inner vision which guides us as a nation. And when there is no vision the people perish."

*– Lyndon Johnson, 36th President of the United States,
upon the creation of the National Endowment of the Arts*

New York City can lead the State in aligning with national and state programs and best practices to ensure a high quality and sequential arts education for every child in every grade in our city's public schools. In order to achieve equity, access, and excellence in arts education for all of the City's 1.1 million students, we must understand the key needs of the field and support programs that efficiently and effectively deliver an equitable arts education.

Made up of experts in the field, the City Department of Education Panel on Education Policy's Arts Education Committee is committed to efforts to advance policy solutions for our students. The Committee makes the following policy recommendations to the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) for the City's first-ever comprehensive cultural plan:

- I. Strengthen sequential arts education in New York City**
 - a. Incentivize sequential arts instruction in all schools;
 - b. Formalize an arts education sequence across grades 6-8 that would:
 - i. allow interested students to receive more than the requisite one semester each of dance, music, theater or visual arts; and
 - ii. involve middle schools collaborating with elementary and high schools.
 - c. Encourage the State to revise instructional arts requirements for grades 7 and 8 to boost more arts education.
- II. Increase investment in research on citywide arts education**
 - a. Conduct a rigorous study of how much money it would take to implement State standards for arts education;
 - b. Institutionalize internal research efforts, begun by the Center for Urban Research at the City University of New York with the Department of Cultural Affairs, to assess regularly where there are and are not arts education services in order to improve service delivery citywide.
- III. Expand after-school offerings**
 - a. Strengthen existing and create new learning opportunities made available to students beyond school walls;
 - b. Expand partnerships with cultural groups that make these opportunities possible;
 - c. Engage parents in after-school programs in order to encourage them to become advocates for their children's ongoing arts instruction outside the classroom.
- IV. Establish an arts education fund at DCLA**
 - a. Partner with a for-profit ticket vendor to solicit donations for a DCLA-based arts education fund via an opt-in donation with every purchase on the vendor's site;

- b. Earmark the fund dollars specifically to support educational programming provided by NYCDOE-certified teachers and partnering cultural groups.