



ARKANSAS LEARNING *through the* ARTS



affiliated with the national Young Audiences Arts for Learning network
November, 2016

PARTNERS
IN
EDUCATION

ART IS NOT JUST FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED!

The goal for many 'gifted and talented' programs nationwide has often been to make sure that students who have exhibited "high potential or ability whose learning characteristics and educational needs [are provided with] qualitatively differentiated educational experiences and/or services."

The intent is to assure that high potential students learn at a pace that provides appropriate challenges and stimulation.

When students are so challenged, they develop skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research and communication. [paraphrased from Arkansas State Department of Education website, Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement]

The bigger issue is whether ALL students can respond to deeper learning experiences.

Many school districts are beginning to define success for all their students as:

- ♦ Staying in school and graduating
- ♦ Accessing further education in the field of their choice
- ♦ Finding work after they graduate that is meaningful and self-supporting.



ALTTA intends to provide arts-integrated experiences that engage young students early in their learning career so that these measures can be more easily attained.

Fortunately, many classroom teachers increasingly recognize that the ARTS are unique catalysts for learning for all their students, not just the exceptional. When students participate in an arts activity:

*they are more rapidly engaged in learning at a pace that makes them comfortable to learn,
they become more receptive to explore without constraint and more open to try new approaches, and
those that are non-traditional learners may respond to more experiential and participative activities.*

Additionally, studies have shown that students from backgrounds with limited means and cultural exposure exhibit the greatest response even to minimal levels of arts in the classroom.



One example was the experience of a school in Chula Vista, CA in an environment is rather similar to areas in Arkansas. Their diverse population found success with an innovative approach to building critical thinking, risk taking, and collaboration among their students.

Some characteristics of their population were:

10% special needs • 7% English-language learners • Over 60% non-white

They found that using arts integration in their regular curriculum was an effective approach to creating a richer context for learning and improving student engagement. Melissa Daniels, Director of High Tech Middle Chula Vista, reported that she saw students engaged in rich learning opportunities usually reserved for gifted and talented students. [post from Education Week, 11/2/2016 – Gifted and Talented? Deeper Learning Is for All Students]

Arkansas Learning Through The Arts is committed to:

- ♦ Bring high quality arts experiences to classrooms in Arkansas,
- ♦ Support Arkansas schools in providing engaging experiences that lead to deeper learning opportunities,
- ♦ Produce programs that motivate and engage students of all abilities and economic backgrounds and
- ♦ Provide a lasting model for creative teaching.

WHAT WE'RE DOING!

Dancing in Harmony Grove: As part of a residency grant from Arkansas Arts Council*, Arkansas Learning Through The Arts is bringing resident dance artist, Kathleen Marleneanu, to Harmony Grove School District in Haskell, Arkansas. For kindergarten through grade 3, the school has selected ALTTA workshops that integrate dance with literacy units including Wizard of Oz, Cinderella, Peter and the Wolf and Robin Hood. From Kathleen's perspective, *"For these students, as with anyone, dance is such a wonderful way to exercise not only their bodies, but also their minds and spirits."*



For grades 4 – 6, Kathleen Marleneanu introduces students to a variety of forms of dance in several sessions. Their culminating performance will be a 'flash mob' performed at a basketball half-time in January. Through this approach, students of all ages experience the joy of dance. According to Kevin Taylor, Harmony Grove Middle School Principal, *"Having Ms. Marleneanu on our campus has been an amazing experience for our students. Her instruction has offered our students an opportunity to express themselves in a manner in which many of them have never experienced nor would have had the opportunity to do so had we not taken advantage of this program through the Learning Through the Arts organization. To see our students interact with her and be a part of the learning experiences she offers has been very rewarding and we can't wait to see the final product they are preparing for us."*



*Other campuses participating in the Arts Council Residency Grant include, Bryant Elementary, Fountain

Lake Elementary, Hot Springs Intermediate, Jessieville Elementary, Langston Elementary, Oaklawn Elementary and Sequoyah Elementary in Russellville. Each school has selected artists who will work on their campuses in many exciting ways.

Scheduled for 2016-17 to date:

Hour-long workshop sessions: **512**

Participating schools: **8**

Estimated no. of students: **4315**

Estimated % free/reduced lunch: **70%**

Estimated minority population: **40%**

Participating Teaching Artists: **8**

Total Workshop Titles: **21**

Hot Springs poet, Kai Coggin, has joined the ALTTA roster and developed three workshops that she will be doing in Jessieville Elementary (pictured below) and Hot Springs Intermediate.



WE ARE THANKFUL!

At this time of year, there is much to be thankful for – most particularly for the opportunity to bring the young people of Arkansas new and exciting classroom experiences. We know that there are many worthy causes, but we hope you will consider Arkansas Learning Through The Arts when you plan your year-end giving this holiday season. Our young people everywhere need the opportunity to learn how to express themselves creatively and be introduced to all different aspects of our culture. So many of them have limited access to arts and cultural activities due to geography and economics restraints.

We invite you to become a new **FRIEND** or renew your **FRIENDship with Arkansas Learning Through The Arts**. You may donate by going to the SUPPORT EDUCATION page of the website which is www.altta.org. After you select your giving FRIENDship level, you are given the opportunity to make payment using PayPal or indicate that you will send payment by check. OR, you may cut out the form in this newsletter to send with your check.



What do **FRIENDS** mean to the program? Arkansas Learning Through The Arts offers programs for the schools at affordable rates. The production costs include the artists' expenses (at the Arkansas Arts Council rates for their Teaching Artist Roster), development and printing of Student Journals and teachers' Lesson Planning Guides, related books and all the logistics related to planning and delivering the workshops. Without external funding, schools would have to shoulder the entire expense. Most can manage a couple of workshops, but not necessarily for all grade levels. Some schools have government funding that helps, but others do not qualify.

The target for scheduling programming is to have two programs a year per grade level. Depending on whether the arts program is 2, 3 or 4 sessions (50 minutes), the cost could vary from \$200 to \$350 per classroom session, generally for 25 students. The target for ALTTA is to provide some form of external funding that can defray at least half the cost. Here is an example of what your support can provide for students (if schools pay half the cost):

Picasso:	\$100	Provides a classroom 2 sessions of an arts program	25 students
Joplin:	\$300	Provides 3 classrooms 2 sessions of arts programs	75 students
O'Keefe	\$500	Provides 5 classrooms 2 sessions of arts programs	125 students
Beethoven:	\$1,000	Provides 10 classrooms 2 sessions of arts programs	250 students
Shakespeare:	\$3,000	Provides 30 classrooms 2 sessions of arts programs	750 students

Schools have been enthusiastic about the programs and are eagerly scheduling as many programs as they can afford. They have been inventive in search of available funding within their budgets, but they need your support.

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A FRIEND

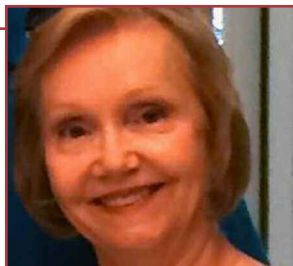
AS YOU CONSIDER YOUR ALTERNATIVES FOR GIVING PRIOR TO THE END OF THE YEAR!

Arkansas Learning Through The Arts is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization.

VOLUNTEERS are the backbone of any non-profit organization. Arkansas Learning Through The Arts profusely thank three volunteers who fulfill very important roles.



Mary Eliades, Publicity



Sue Spurgin, Human Resource



Carol Welle, Facebook

To become a volunteer, please contact with Martha Smither {501-922-2743} or Craig Welle {214-676-0222}

BECOME A FRIEND OF Arkansas Learning Through The Arts AND SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN!

Name _____ Street Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ E-mail _____

I want to be a friend at the following level:

Individual \$15 _____	Family \$25 _____	Van Gogh \$50 _____	Picasso \$100 _____
Joplin \$300 _____	O'Keefe \$500 _____	Beethoven \$1000 _____	Shakespeare \$3000 _____
Michelangelo \$5,000 _____	Other \$ _____		

Contact me about Volunteering! _____

SEND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Arkansas Learning Through the Arts, 4501 N. HWY 7, SUITE 8, #315, HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, AR, 71909

Your membership is entirely tax deductible.

ALTTA is designated as a 501(c)(3) organization under IRS regulations.



**4501 N. HWY 7, SUITE 8, #315
HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, AR 71909**

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