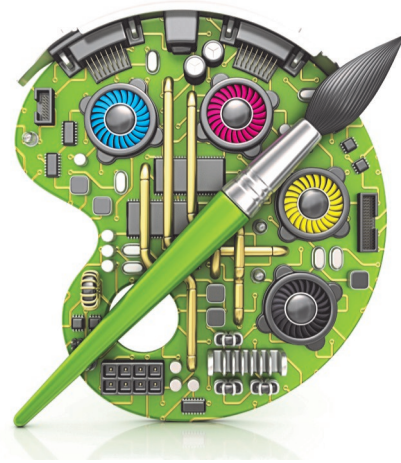


# arts

catalyst  
innovation  
inspire  
education  
expression  
create  
spark  
painting envision  
conceptualize dance  
tomorrow  
design idea  
music  
visionary knowledge  
imagination  
poetry  
technology  
theater



Dear Friends,

The New Year has arrived, marking the mid-point of ArtsEd Washington's fiscal year. For us, the last six months have been packed full of activities. We're pleased to share some of the highlights of our ongoing efforts with you in this mid-year report.

The roll over to 2012 also marks our organization's 30<sup>th</sup> year of incorporation, and as I reflect on how the world has advanced over these last three decades, the lightning speed at which society has progressed is both startling and amazing. From a rotary phone to an interactive smart phone, innovations are changing the ways in which we communicate and create daily.

Yet in the midst of this massive evolution, support for education – which our state Supreme Court has deemed paramount and which is vital to the future success of all children – is stalled and the impacts, particularly those that affect the delivery of arts education, have the potential to significantly influence our culture.

The late Steve Jobs said, "... *what made the Macintosh great was that the people working on it were musicians and poets and artists and zoologists and historians who also happened to be the best computer scientists in the world.*"

The arts inspire creativity and imagination – and both are essential for innovation. The arts have inspired some of the most cutting-edge technologies that we rely on today.

The arts inspire our future.

Thank you for your resolve to take action and make the arts part of the education conversation. By lending your support and your voice to ArtsEd Washington, you're keeping creativity alive in our schools, and you become part of the movement to ensure the arts are provided to every student in every school across Washington State.

Sincerely,

  
Executive Director

## **Seattle Public Schools:**

### **Developing a district-wide arts learning plan**

When Seattle Public Schools (SPS) was awarded a \$1M grant from the Wallace Foundation—as part of the Foundation's nationwide arts-learning initiative focused on reversing the decline of arts instruction—the district reached out to ArtsEd Washington, contracting with us last fall to help facilitate the development of their district *arts learning plan*. As the key partner for the *School Leadership* strand of the grant, we have already begun leveraging the expertise and best practices of our own *Principals' Arts Leadership* (PAL) program. We're currently conducting a district-wide principals' needs assessment, and are recruiting a powerful focus group of principals and administrators to address the findings and review the student arts access data. We're excited to see the results of this effort and to take what we learn into the next phase of plan development.

## **WSPTA Partnership:**

### **Engaging parents across the state with the arts**

Thanks to a grant from the Washington State Arts Commission, ArtsEd Washington has the opportunity to collaborate with Washington State PTA to create and distribute an arts education advocacy handbook that will be made available to parents of children in K-12 schools across the state. With a goal to continue building on our existing partnership with WA State PTA, this new handbook will be a source of easy-to-use arts advocacy tools, giving parents the resources and confidence to articulate their expectation that the arts be provided to all students.

## **School Board Elections:**

### **Keeping arts education in front of the candidates**

In partnership with the Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Seattle Arts Commission, we initiated a local school board candidate survey last fall. We carefully designed the survey to allow voters to gain an understanding of where candidates stood on the issue of arts education. The request was well-received by candidates and results were widely shared with the public as well as posted on our website, at [www.artsedwashington.org](http://www.artsedwashington.org), where they are still available for viewing. To ensure the arts continue to be at the forefront of future school board elections, we're planning an expansion of this survey effort in 2013.

## **Empowering principals:**

### **Creating a community of support and mentorship**

Last month, we held another of our *Principals' Arts Leadership* (PAL) peer workshops. In addition to a session on race, equity, and the arts facilitated by Arts Corps, the day was a chance for principals to learn from one another. One participant noted that the informal discussion on the successes and challenges of their School Arts Plans was "the most valuable part of the day," while other principals arranged to visit each other's schools to see arts learning in action. It's exciting to see the intent of PAL being actively realized as principals grow as arts leaders, learn from one another, and create a community of support for their efforts.

