

## About the Center for Arts Education

**T**he Center for Arts Education is a not-for-profit organization committed to restoring and sustaining arts education in the New York City public schools. We identify, fund, and support exemplary partnerships and programs that demonstrate how the arts contribute to learning and student achievement; we are also dedicated to influencing educational and fiscal policies that will result in the restoration of arts education in all of our city's public schools.

The Center was formed in 1996 to address the removal of the arts from most of New York City's public schools during the fiscal crisis of the 1970s. In March 1996, the Annenberg Foundation awarded a five-year, \$12 million challenge grant to fund the New York City Annenberg Challenge for Arts Education and establish the Center for Arts Education. We are in the process of raising \$24 million from public and private sources to meet this challenge. The New York City Board of Education, the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the United Federation of Teachers collaborate with the Center on this public-private partnership to promote school improvement through the arts.

The cornerstone of the Center for Arts Education is our grants program. This program supports the multiyear arts education partnerships that schools establish with cultural organizations, colleges, and universities, as well as with community-based organizations. Each of the partnerships funded through the Center's grants program has a team that creates an arts education plan tailored to meet the needs of their particular school. The Center is currently funding partnership programs in all five boroughs. The partnership grants are supplemented by our "Parents as Arts Partners" grants. Supported by the Department of Cultural Affairs, the parent grant program connects families with cultural resources and builds long-term support for arts education.

The Center has recently launched its Career Development Program for high school students. Connecting students with the world of work in New York's arts industry is its goal. We also provide professional development opportunities, conferences, and workshops for participants in the Center's programs, and for educators and others interested in arts education. The Center is also increasing its focus on public awareness and advocacy that demonstrates how arts education supports student achievement and provides a powerful tool for school change.

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