



## THE CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION

October 2, 2009

Parents know the value of the arts in their children's lives. While research supports the social and academic benefits that music, visual arts, drama and dance provide as essential ingredients in a quality education, people sometimes ask us why arts education is so important.

**That is why to celebrate October as Arts Education Month we are asking you to "Share Your Story" to build a collection of experiences that support the personal impact that arts learning has had on you and your children.**

[Please share your story with us.](#)

**Arts education can transform the lives of everyone it touches**, from those at risk of becoming disengaged from school and ultimately dropping out, to students with special needs struggling with their courses, to the future Beethovens or Einsteins waiting to blossom (it is said that Einstein worked out the theory of relativity while practicing his violin).

**There are so many stories, each compelling in a special way:** a child who tuned into math class after counting rhythm and musical notes in band practice; the classmates who learned teamwork and discipline by working together in a school play; a nonverbal child who found her voice through drawing.

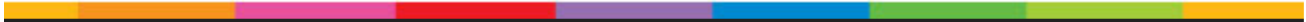
The Center for Arts Education is leading the effort to restore quality arts education for New York City's more than one million public school students. **We need your help to build a library of personal stories that we can post on our web site and share with elected officials and policymakers to advocate for positive arts education policy.**

Tell us how the children in your life reacted after their first trip to a museum, concert or theatrical performance. And reach into your own experience and tell us how that special arts teacher in your life helped you express yourself when no one else could.

[Share your story with us so that we can tell the world why arts education matters.](#)

Sincerely,

Kira Streets  
Director of Public Engagement



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