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Arts|Learning: Arts Education and School Support

Arts|Learning's significant leadership strengthens arts education across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Our work centers around four critical areas to support quality arts education and systemic school innovation:

1. *Engage, Guide, and Support school leaders and teachers to transform schools*

- 2010-2012: With representation of our executive director, a state commission made recommendations for the development of the **"Creative Challenge Index"** for Massachusetts schools to **ensure all K-12 students may develop creative and innovative work** through the arts and all other subject areas
- A|L has launched the **"School Arts Leader" program** in MA, based on the successful models in CA and WA. The program focuses on the key leverage point in effecting systemic change from within—school principals—and assists them in developing arts-centered curricula and programs to **increase student learning and creativity outcomes.**

2. *Launch and Support model arts-centered programs and schools*

- 2010-2012: Collaborated with the Boston Public Schools and other partners to **design an innovation schools arts pathway**, grades pre K-8, in the Roxbury section of Boston
- Current partner with the MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) to create the **Arts Authentic Connections Team (AACT)** of educators to **provide intensive professional development** to educators of all subjects on the integration of the arts across the curriculum at DESE conferences as well in school districts around the state
- **Developing partnerships with local teachers' unions in gateway city districts** to design and implement arts-centered Innovation, Horace Mann charter, and Pilot schools

3. *Develop effective assessment tools for evaluating the impact of arts education on student learning*

- 2011: **Introduced CT Common Arts Assessments** to MA legislators and educators at annual Arts|Learning symposium and awards
- 2011-12: Funded by Hunt Alternatives Fund to **implement statewide arts education assessments** in collaboration with the MA DESE, the MA Cultural Council (MCC), the Boston Public Schools, and the CT State Department of Education, training 360 educators via 3 symposia and 2 webinars.

4. *Advocate to preserve, restore, and expand arts education to ensure access and equity for every child*

- 2011-2013: **"Parents Unite for the Arts"** collaboration with Young Audiences/MA and MCC to **develop local parent arts support groups and statewide network**, funded by Hunt Alternatives Fund
- 2012-present: Partner with MCC to host an annual **"e-Showcase" of student art work and performances** in celebration of Youth Arts Month, March of each year
- 2012-present: Arts|Learning & MassCreative launch joint advocacy campaign to **establish a one-year high school performing or visual arts credit as an admission requirement** into the MA State University system, through ongoing funding by The Boston Foundation
- Ongoing: A|L is an **umbrella organization** uniting all professional arts education organizations representing dance, drama, media arts, music, and visual arts; and a **"watchdog"** to ensure that **the arts maintain a central place as a core-curricular subject** in public schools