

Support Arts Learning Opportunities for Youth in Seattle

Supporting arts learning for young people *IS* supporting young people

- **Research demonstrates the arts close the achievement gap and prepare our youth for college and career.**

“The College Board’s National Task Force on the Arts in Education recommends that, ‘Greater access to arts education can serve as an effective tool in closing the achievement gap, increasing the number of underserved students that achieve at the highest level in education.’”

The College Board, 2009, *Arts at the Core: Recommendations for Advancing the State of Arts Education in the 21st Century*.

In his 2009 book, *Doing Well and Doing Good by Doing Art*, researcher James Catterall writes of his 12-year longitudinal study of 12,000 students: “The most dramatic evidence of *doing well*, evidence suggesting that **high involvement in the arts during secondary school pays off for low-SES [socio-economic-status] students, shows up as success in college** – completing four-year college programs and higher likelihood of earning degrees at all levels by age 26.” Catterall’s research also shows that greater involvement in the arts in middle and high school associates with higher levels of achievement and college attainment, volunteerism and political participation.

Catterall, James, *Doing Well and Doing Good by Doing Art*, Los Angeles: Imagination Group, 2009.

- **In several national studies over the past decade, students at risk of dropping out cite participation in the arts as their reason for staying in school.**

“Research has also shown that arts education has had a measurable impact on at-risk youth in deterring delinquent behavior and truancy problems while also increasing overall academic performance.”

“Arts cut across learning styles and language barriers and engage students who might otherwise be uninterested in school and on a path to dropping out.”

Staying in School: Arts Education and New York City High School Graduation Rates, a report by the Center for Arts Education, October 2009

- **For information about the Arts Education Partnership**, a multi-year collaboration between the Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Seattle Arts Commission and Seattle Public Schools to put the arts back in education for all students, visit: <http://www.seattle.gov/arts/education/partnership.asp>.
- **For information about Youth Arts funding**, visit: http://www.seattle.gov/arts/funding/youth_arts.asp.