

In 1994, a group of students established their own art studio in Scotland's Caol Primary School. Their idea-based upon the question "How old do you have to be to be an artist?-caught fire. Fast forward, there are now over 90 studios worldwide, including studios in India, South Africa, United Kingdom, Asia and other locales. Inspired by this youth art movement, Light Bringer Project introduced Room 13 to America in 2008.

The Room 13 studio model is based upon 4 cornerstones of learning: creative expression, exploring ideas, sharing ideas and business enterprise.

About the Business Enterprise:

Each Room 13 encourages students to build their own a "micro-business"—in other words, a business based on what participants like to do / make / sell. Its creative product can be portrait photography, jewelry, crafts, greeting cards, silkscreen t-shirts, drawings, paintings, or artistic services like banner painting, design, and, even, face painting.

Room 13 participants decides how to spend their income. They may buy new supplies, pay for a trip to the museum, a sketching outing, etc.. Students in some Room 13s have contributed to extending studio hours.

Leadership development is an important part of the Room 13 learning experience which the microbusiness can help to cultivate. While everyone in the studio has a say, students elect a management team that helps them move their goals and group activities forward. Beyond their own artmaking projects, this can be an exciting process for them. Students get to be creative in a new way. In the end, they realize that their art has intrinsic value and, in supporting studio needs, it also serves their common interests.

Like most produced art, Room 13 also interacts in the real world. Events like Altadena Farmers Market, holiday sales at Hoopla Emporium, in Altadena, and Light Bringer Project's "ArtNight Pasadena" at Day One, offer students fun opportunities to sell, exhibit and receive positive feedback from community members.

While we encourage every student to display their most treasured piece of art, they are NOT encouraged to sell any artworks unless they want to. Students, often, like to keep their “breakthrough” or “highly valued” work.

In the studio, we also encourage students to display as much of their art as possible. Having artworks displayed for the school community to see is even a bigger plus. This also reinforces their shared learning and, of course, is a huge confidence builder. And we have the practice of photographing artworks for safekeeping and portfolios. Hopefully, one day we’ll have an online gallery shared by all the Room 13 artists worldwide.

More Specifics on Room 13 / Eliot Arts

Room13 / EliotArts is supported by Light Bringer Project, a Pasadena-based arts organization. The organization provides for Artist-in-Residence, Liane Shih, who has worked with Eliot students for three years. Currently we are open Tuesday's and Thursday's from 2:30pm-5:30pm. Room 13 is open to all students at Eliot Arts and all art materials are provided for their use. There is no grading or formalized curriculum, but lots of great art-making, learning, idea-making, sharing and fun!

Light Bringer Project opened five Room 13's in local PUSD schools, and continue to fundraise to keep them thriving and even expand their hours of opportunity on each campus.

Anyone wishing to support Room13 / EliotArts can contact:

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Go to our website at www.lightbringerproject.org
For more information on Room 13 Internationally, go to:
www.room13international.org