BOE Agenda Item Executive Summary
Date: September 12, 2022

Topic: Arts Partners (Annual)

Background Information:
Arts Partners cultivates the creativity of youth in Pre-K to 12th grade as the next generation of innovative problem solvers by recruiting, training and deploying over 30 artists and through partnerships with over 26 local arts and cultural orgs. Since 1998, Arts Partners has presented arts-in-education programs that integrate visual, performing and literary arts into early childhood through high school curriculum through artist-led workshops, residencies, performances, and field trips. Arts Partners expanded options for schools to receive programs: in person, live videoconference, or pre-recorded. Arts Partners will provide programs for students as well as professional development for teachers to self-selected partnership schools. Arts Partners services are available to any school in the district.

New for 2022-2023:

Arts Partners was the first organization in Kansas to receive the Department of Education Arts-in-Education grant for $1.9 million over 5 years to strengthen literacy and social emotional learning through arts integration that will piloted in 7 Title 1 WPS schools and expanded to three additional districts across the state.

Arts Partners convened the Just Add Arts Symposium: strengthening literacy and social emotional learning through arts integration for 100 educators from across the state. More than 50% from WPS staff.

Arts Partners provided STEAM programs at WPS Elementary summer camp reaching 2,184 students.

Arts Partners hired a STEAM Education Program Manager. The new STEAM manager, earned his Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Wichita State University. He holds two Bachelor's degrees one in Mechanical Engineering and the other in Electrical Engineering. He works with professional artists to develop and implement STEAM programs for Preschool-12th grade students that focus on academic improvement and community development.

Arts Partners created a new position and hired a Content and Community Outreach Coordinator to promote its programs and activities.

Arts Partners also implemented a new professional development opportunity for local artists and educators, Artists to Authors Fellowship. This fellowship resulted in Arts Partners' publication of 5 children's books focused on ELA standards, SECD standards and the Social Determinants of Health.

Arts Partners piloted an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) project for WPS. Arts Partners piloted intergenerational programs for senior citizens.

Arts Partners collaborated with the Safe Streets coalition and West HS JAG program on a project to advocate for healthy communities through photography, mural making and displayed at Library Big Read event. Arts Partners combined art and engineering to help students address food deserts.

Project based learning and mixed abilities classrooms at Mead MS created a community garden.

Update from 2021-2022:
Arts Partners has invested in professional development for teaching artists to provide online instruction delivery and enhance their ability to deliver trauma informed arts learning that is responsive to students who have been impacted by the social isolation, uncertainty and learning loss created by the pandemic. All Arts Partners programs align with Kansas SEL and Character Development Standards to build essential social and emotional skills in the students we reach.

Arts Partners collaborated with the USD259 Native American Indian Education Program to bring the Native American Storytelling tradition to the stage through student workshops with professional performing artists and costume designers. The culminating performance featured a cast of Native American USD259 students on November 13 and 14 at AMAC Auditorium.

Arts Partners hired a new education program manager. The new program manager was a teacher for 12 years and an instructional coach for 3 years with extensive experience in school transformation and curriculum alignment. She is working with teaching artists to align programs to tracked and critical concept standards with an emphasis on Arts and Literacy, addressing learning loss and trauma informed approaches.

ONGOING
Professional Development for Educators: Designed to explore the multiple ways of utilizing the arts to strengthen social emotional learning and literacy.

Direct Services and Programs for Students: Arts Partners works with teachers at schools that have elected to use the arts for enrichment and learning. Students' skills in reading, writing, math, social studies and science as well as the arts disciplines are enhanced. This is accomplished through student participation in arts-in-education activities in-person and online including artist workshops, artist residencies and performances.

New Program Development: Arts Partners continues to work with artists and curriculum specialists to develop SECD and arts-infused programs that reinforce learning in the arts, as well as across all areas of PreK-12 curriculum, including reading, writing, math, social studies and science in a format that can be delivered in-person and online.

Kansas Wolf Trap Early Learning Through the Arts: Kansas Wolf Trap teaching artists provide seven-week residencies at early childhood centers designed to provide professional development for the teacher as well as arts experiences that enhance emergent literacy for 3 to 6-year-olds. The goal is to provide collaborations between the artists and early childhood professionals that improve children's academic abilities in the critical early years. Baby Artsplay! provides children ages 12-36 months, and their teachers/caregivers/parents, with an early childhood music, movement, and drama program designed to support the children's intellectual, language/emergent literacy, social, emotional, and physical development.

Generation STEAM: Generation STEAM prepares students for college and career by empowering them with the creative and technical skills to plan and prototype solutions that respond to the CDC's Social Determinants of Health. Arts Partners engages subject matter experts, including professional artists, engineers, scientists, business professionals, service organizations, and college students to support USD259 students in the development of their art-based community project. Through an art and engineering design competition, the most viable student-driven solutions are implemented through funding raised by Arts Partners.