Appendix 6

BOE Agenda Item Executive Summary
Date: August 28, 2023

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 50 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.

Update for 2023-2024:

LITERACY + SECD

In October 2021, 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. The grant funds professional development, curriculum development and program implementation. After a year of planning and curriculum development, Arts Partners had the following outcomes:

- 36 hours of training to WPS teachers and Arts Partners teaching artists including the **Just Add Arts Symposium: strengthening literacy and social emotional learning through arts integration**, for 100 educators from across the state hosted at Wichita State University. More than 50% of attendees were from WPS staff.
- the development of instructional resources including the publication of 5 children's books by local artists and educators focused on ELA standards, SECD standards and the Social Determinants of Health. Hard copies of books were given to each pilot teacher and made available online for students in pilot schools. 913 online reads were documented. The production of 10 videos broadcast on PBS and in pilot schools.
- Grant-funded Teaching artists residencies in 7 pilot elementary schools reaching 1,549 K-2nd grade students.
- Educators noted increased student engagement and decreased behavior challenges were a direct result of this program. Teacher feedback also included development of listening and comprehension skills. Students were interested, invested in and proud of their work. Educators observed students being eager and excited to share their work and applying their newly acquired knowledge. Students showed retention! The lessons were described as productive and engaging.
- Currently, Arts Partners is finalizing 3rd-5th grade books, videos, and music for the pilot. The books will be published by Arts Partners and the videos will be broadcast on PBS and in the classrooms in pilot schools. Arts Partners will use the books as the launching point for the development of 3rd-5th curriculum and program implementation that will focus on "Arts-based Service Learning" in 5 pilot schools.

STEAM Programs

Arts Partners developed curriculum and provided STEAM programs at WPS Elementary summer program reaching 3,000 students. Arts Partners delivered a STEAM Day at PBS Studios. Students tackled problems like environmental quality in a design challenge. Artists, engineers, scientists, and service organizations supported student ideas. Arts Partners selected a winning student design from Gordon Parks Academy. This summer interns at Spirit Aerospace

ESOL – Newcomers Program

Arts Partners developed and delivered arts integrated programs for elementary, middle and high school students in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Newcomer program. These students are just arriving to Wichita from around the world. Among the programs provided were Harlem Renaissance
poetry, art, fashion, film, and music as well as self-portraiture about
the talents students' bring to their new community. Student work was
displayed at WAM.

Community Partnerships

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 created Two Together Wichita Keeper statues, the first with
Jardine "The Keeper of Planeview", the second with Stucky MS, the "Stormkeeper".
Arts Partners collaborated with the Kansas Aviation Museum to deliver a winter camp for 5th grade students (music, mural painting, dance, African American history, poetry) that culminated in a permanent student mural incorporated into the museum's Black Aviators Exhibit.

Operations

Arts Partners created a new position and hired a Content and Community Outreach Coordinator to promote its programs and activities. A Program Coordinator was hired to support the summer programs and will continue this school year as full-time staff.

ONGOING

Generation STEAM: Generation STEAM prepares students for college and career by empowering students to improve the quality of life in their community with a focus on using creativity to address 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.

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.

PROGRAMMING FOR FY2023-24:

Arts Partners offers schools the option to book arts-integrated programs:

(1) in-person,
(2) a hybrid of in-person and online interactive live streaming,
(3) fully online - interactive live streaming or pre-recorded.

Arts Partners will provide programs for students and professional development for teachers at self-selected partnership schools that have chosen to increase their involvement with arts-integrated education. Arts Partners was awarded a Department of Education Arts-in-Education grant to serve 5 Title 1 pilot elementary schools to increase literacy and SECD. Any other school that wishes to book individual programs outside of the partnership agreement with Arts Partners may do so. All Arts Partners programs incorporate Social Emotional and Character development and are aligned to curriculum standards. Utilizing the arts for learning gives students the opportunity to reach a higher level of understanding by doing and demonstrate their learning in ways that teachers can grade using the standards-referenced grading system.