



Arts Education in Maryland Schools

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2022

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

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Patrick O'Reilly, Policy & Operations Assistant

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CONTACT INFORMATION

www.aems-edu.org

info@aems-edu.org

410-779-1287

     @artsedmaryland

190 W. Ostend Street, Suite 200

Baltimore, MD 21230

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Dear Arts Education Family,

Since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020, the phrase “in these unprecedented times” has been used to the point of parody; yet I find myself tempted to use it here as I acknowledge the challenges facing Maryland’s public school arts educators, fine arts supervisors, and teaching artists today. As the shockwave of COVID-19’s impact on schools, pedagogy, and human life continues and will continue to ripple through the nation, AEMS is so grateful for the determination and resilience of Maryland’s arts educators through each new challenge that has emerged.



The arts shine through these uncertainties as a source of comfort, support, and strength. Without the dedication and service of Maryland’s arts educators, how many students would be lost? AEMS will continue working hard to ensure that the conversation around the arts stays focused on the gains, both to accessing arts programming and to the experiences of Maryland’s students, while working to proactively address the setbacks.

AEMS’ Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022) was a time of great transition for AEMS. We welcomed two new full-time employees to the team and one fellow through Baltimore Corps’ Public Ally program, followed by the departure of Executive Director Quanice Floyd at the end of 2021. As I stepped in to serve as Interim Executive Director, AEMS began the pre-planning process for organizational strategic planning, undertook the first cohort of the AEMS/MCA Arts Educator / Artist Campaign School, and inaugurated the Advocacy 101 tutorial series.

Letter from the Interim Executive Director

Finally, after much reflection, deliberation, and the convening of an Arts Education Data Steering Committee, AEMS decided to exit its contract with Ingenuity and conclude its pilot of the Artlook Maryland data platform, even as we remain committed to bringing arts education data transparency to the state of Maryland.

In AEMS's governing leadership, we also experienced numerous transitions: longstanding board member and former board chair Lyn Frankel, and board member and former AEMS employee Laura Malkus both transitioned off of the board. We thank them both for their tremendous service to the organization. AEMS welcomed another former AEMS employee J'aime Drayton, currently Executive Director of the Baltimore Family Alliance, onto the board in June 2022.

Shortly after the end of our Fiscal Year 2022, we hired our Public Ally Fellow as a full-time employee and secured our new Executive Director. We couldn't be more delighted to welcome Rachel McGrain, formerly AEMS's Development Director, back to the organization as the new leader. As someone who started working at AEMS only a few months after Rachel did, it has always been a pleasure and a privilege to work with her and I am certain that she will continue the transformative legacy of past Executive Directors and help AEMS to achieve even more for the arts educators and school communities of Maryland. We look forward to accomplishing even more with your help and support.

Yours in community,



Peter Dayton

Director of Operations

FY22 Interim Executive Director

ABOUT AEMS

Vision

We envision a public education system in Maryland that supports, cultivates, nurtures, and uplifts ALL students' creativity through a robust arts education experience so that they can thrive in a healthy society.

Mission

AEMS is committed to ensuring that all students in the state of Maryland have access to high quality arts education by mobilizing power to communities through advocacy programs, professional and leadership programs, and resource building and sharing.

Values

Community

We believe that the community is the most important part of our advocacy efforts. We want to illuminate and highlight the power communities have to make systemic changes.

Creativity

We believe that creativity is critical for humans to thrive. It is what makes humans human.

Growth

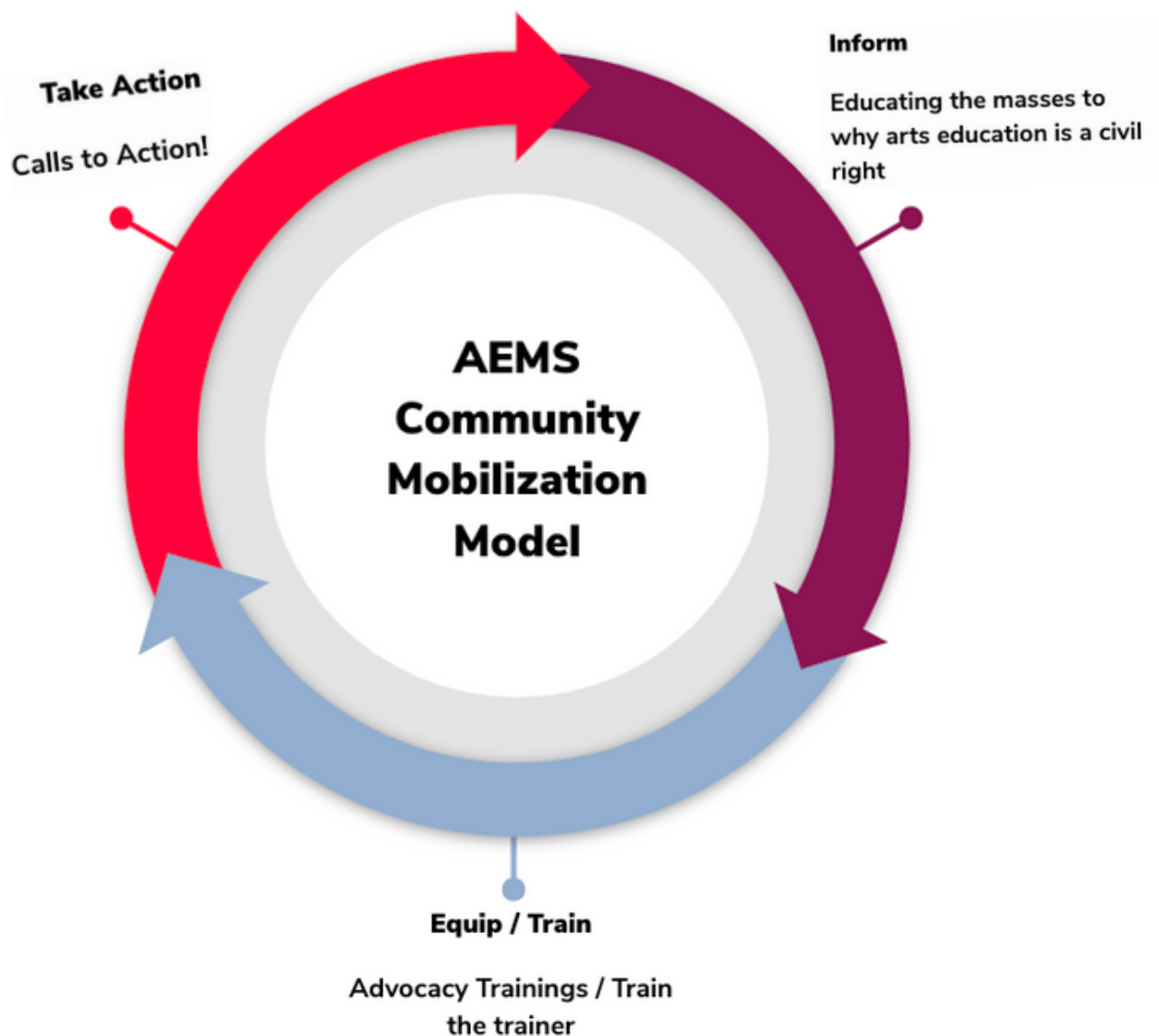
We believe that growth is the most important aspect of learning. We are invested in the growth of our constituents, board, and staff through professional and leadership development.

Values cont.

Racial Equity

We understand the history and impact of educational policies on our most historically resilient communities and we commit to addressing this through our work. Our work is rooted in anti-racism and we believe that arts education can be a tool to create systemic change within education.

Community Mobilization Model



ADVOCACY

HB1469 - The McIntosh Arts Centers Bill

Sponsored by Delegate Ben Barnes, this bill establishes the Maggie McIntosh School Arts Fund with an annual allocation of \$250,000, meant to provide funding to arts programs around Baltimore City. Uses for this fund include arts supplies and expanded curricula. The funding mechanism within the bill includes reallocated Maryland State Lottery earnings and interest accrual.

In collaboration with Arts Every Day and the Maryland Education Coalition (MEC), AEMS was able to support the passage of this bill, through testimony provided during the Appropriations Committee hearing including the voices of educators, administration, and advocates.

HB678 - The Arts Equity in Education Bill

Sponsored by Baltimore County Delegate Michele Guyton, this bill would have budgeted \$25M annually to be added to existing grants to school districts to increase compliance with the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), which requires students have arts experiences in all five fine arts disciplines. This money would have been distributed through existing grant processes with an aim to increase equity in arts access across school districts. Districts with fewer resources would receive more funds from this bill than well-resourced districts.

The bill did not make it out of Committee, despite robust testimony within the Ways and Means Committee hearing and individual meetings with many of the committee members. Since the McIntosh Arts Centers Bill passed, we will be monitoring the rollout of that bill as a possible template for establishing similar funding mechanisms statewide.

Maryland Education Coalition (MEC)



AEMS continued to serve as an active member of the Maryland Education Coalition, which represents parents, civil rights, & special student population groups, by attending meetings during legislative session, signing on to testimony, and helping to move forward both the reimagining education committee and MEC strategic planning. For over 40 years, MEC has advocated for adequate, equitable policies and funding and systematic accountability for the estimated 900,000 students in Maryland's public schools, regardless of their academic, cultural, economic, geographic, racial or other demographic status. This includes students of color, those identified as lower income, special needs, limited English, homeless, foster care, Gifted & Talented or within the Juvenile Service systems.

AEMS has also continued to be an active member of the Blueprint Coalition, a coalition of statewide arts education advocates who supported the passage of the landmark Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation and are now monitoring the implementation of this legislation.

Baltimore Arts Education Initiative (BAEI)



Baltimore City Public Schools in partnership with Arts Every Day launched the Baltimore Arts Education Initiative (BAEI) in Fall 2017 in response to the decline of arts education access districtwide. AEMS served on the policy and advisory committees for BAEI, drafting budget guidelines to propose to Baltimore City Schools to ensure that arts education access is sustained.

PROFESSIONAL & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Bloomberg Arts Internship

From July 12 through August 20, 2021, AEMS hosted Estefanny Medellin-Ruiz, a brilliant intern and rising high school senior, through the summer Bloomberg Arts Internship program facilitated by Arts for Learning Maryland. In addition to summer work, AEMS took part in the pilot year of a school-year-long internship program, extending our work with Estefanny from September 1, 2021 to May 28, 2022. Estefanny used her skills as a visual artist to create a new trifold informational flier for AEMS, design the AEMS Arts in Our Schools Month logo, and ended the internship drafting a short animated sequence making the case for the arts.



Arts Education Symposium on Anti-Racism

On November 13, 2021, AEMS hosted a virtual day of insightful and compelling experiences that deepened participants' understanding of anti-racism and abolitionist teaching in arts education. In addition to a keynote by award-winning author and scholar Dr. Gloria Ladson Billings, the symposium included breakouts on race and equity sponsored by Baltimore Corps, learning and healing affinity spaces, and applying abolitionist principles to the various arts disciplines and classrooms presented by state and national representatives.



The Symposium was a successful event, with 183 attendees. Participant surveys we received were overwhelmingly positive: “Thank you for a marvelous event. Exceptional programming. Effective and efficient facilitation.” AEMS lowered financial barriers to entry for Maryland arts educators for the symposium, making the event free for classroom arts educators and teaching artists.

Arts Educator / Artist Campaign School

In FY22, AEMS piloted the first cohort of a collaborative program with Maryland Citizens of the Arts (MCA): the Arts Educator / Artist Campaign School. This 6 month-long cohort was designed to introduce arts educators and independent artists to the core concepts of mounting a local, state, or federal campaign for elected office. AEMS believes that arts educators and artists are best informed to represent the interests of arts education and the arts sector in policy decisions. This program was designed to equip members of our ecosystem with the information necessary to win seat at the policy-making tables.



The first Campaign School concluded in early 2022 with 10 cohort members. The majority of exit survey respondents said that they felt more informed about campaign organizing and about canvassing and community engagement, with nearly half of the respondents being willing to present to a future cohort. Feedback included the following: “I have gained a better sense of how campaigns are run. I have identified at least three other ways in which I can be more civically engaged in my community... educating young people and their families on the power of being civically engaged.” This is a non-partisan program.

Maryland Arts Summit 2022

Presented by Maryland Citizens for the Arts: The Maryland Arts Summit, hosted at UMBC, is a statewide conference presented by and for the Maryland arts sector, which includes, but is not limited to arts advocates, arts educators & teaching artists, independent artists, arts organizations, youth, community stakeholders, arts and entertainment districts, county arts agencies of Maryland, public



Maryland Arts Summit 2022 cont.

artists, Boards of Directors, and folklife artists. AEMS presented a summary of our programming from this past fiscal year, soliciting arts sector feedback to ensure that our direction continues to be centered in community need. While extenuating circumstances (a power outage in the entire city of Catonsville, MD) created some disruption to the Arts Summit activities, AEMS was still able to collect valuable input and learn more about the current needs of the arts education ecosystem.

RESOURCE BUILDING & SHARING

National Arts in Education Week

For the annual national celebration of arts in education, AEMS conducted a number of public engagement activities. AEMS published both its 2020-2021 Community Meetings report and its Community Stakeholder Reports during this week. Both reports are available on the [AEMS website](#).



AEMS also hosted two Facebook Live panel discussions. The first panel presented a discussion of the Community Meetings report with then-MSDE Coordinator of Fine Arts Alysia Lee, AEMS board co-chair Anita Lambert, and two Maryland arts educators. The subsequent panel was a discussion of why the arts matter for all children, regardless of their future careers, with Alysia Lee, AEMS Ambassador Ashlee McKinnon, and three adult arts practitioners.

AEMS also announced its Campaign School cohort members, celebrating Maryland arts educators and artists who are learning how to engage more directly in our state and local decision-making processes through electoral participation.

Advocacy 101 Webinars

AEMS Arts Advocacy 101 tutorials are dedicated to empowering students, families, educators, and community members to be able to effectively advocate for arts programming in Maryland schools. AEMS released a total of five Advocacy 101 videos during FY22, with topics including “How to Talk to Principals” and “Bringing your A.G.A.M.E.”, presented by topic experts from Maryland’s arts education ecosystem. AEMS is also continuously gathering feedback through a survey attached to the videos about ways to make these videos better serve our audience’s engagement styles. [Explore AEMS’s Advocacy 101 videos here.](#)

National Arts in Our Schools Month

Annually in the month of March, schools celebrate student art, music, dance, and theatre in our Schools Month. AEMS celebrated in 2022 by engaging and elevating arts educators. With the collaboration of local Fine Arts Supervisors, AEMS created 16 "teacher feature" thank you videos, personally celebrating excellence in education and arts promotion among Maryland's arts educator workforce. AEMS also released two new Advocacy 101 videos, hosted an Arts Educator Townhall, and held weekly fundraisers for Maryland's four arts educator professional associations (MAEA, MDEA, MMEA, and MTEA).



HEATforce (Higher Education in the Arts Taskforce)

Under the leadership of chair Vanessa Jackson (Coppin State University), AEMS continued to convene the HEATforce through this period of transition and continues to maintain relationships with arts education representatives in higher education.

FISCAL AGENCY ACTIVITIES

Maryland Center for Creative Classrooms (MC3)

In the summer of 2021, Maryland Centers for Creative Classrooms provided 130 hours of virtual professional learning for the Maryland arts education community. These sessions were presented in collaboration with the MSDE Fine Arts Office, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, and the MSDE Professional Learning Office.

Registered participants included 949 arts educators and community teaching artists from 21 local school systems. Ninety nine percent of participants reported that they strongly agree or agree that the offerings were helpful for their teaching and learning practice and their personal creative practice. The facilitators were praised for “advocating and presenting frameworks for studio practice in public school settings” and “creating powerful tools to support metacognitive learning practices and for opportunities to collaborate with colleagues.”

The three weeks of programming included arts experiences that center the Maryland State Fine Arts Standards Arts Integration training that centered the Maryland Creative Process Map and collaborative work focused on Racial Justice in arts learning spaces.

- Arts Integration Week:
 - Classroom educators developed personal creative habits followed by arts-discipline specific instruction in theatre, music and visual art. All sessions were led by master teachers and taught in studio environments to awaken the artist in each participant.

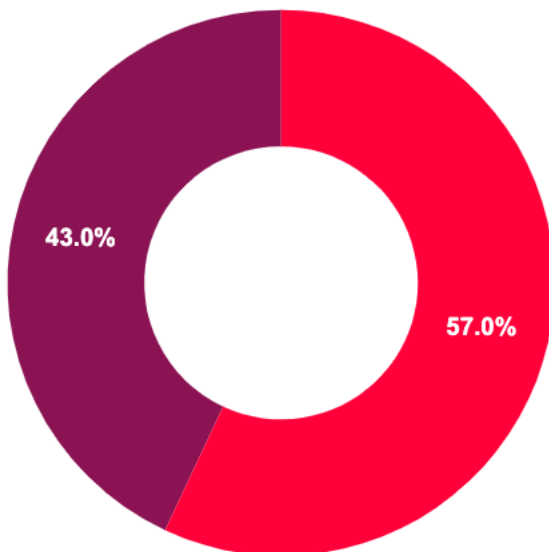
Maryland Center for Creative Classrooms (cont'd)

- Community Teaching Artists participated in “Learning through The Creative Process,” a three-day course to reflect teaching and making methods and gain a deeper understanding of the Maryland State Fine Arts standards, and “Fine Arts Professional Learning Framework,” a deeply reflective session exploring the Professional Learning Framework from the MSDE Fine Arts Office as a tool to guide learning and growth.
- Arts Education Studio Week
 - For the first time ever, the Arts Education Studio included pathways in all five arts disciplines: music, theatre, dance, visual art, and media arts. Participants were led by master artists in studio environments to explore the Maryland Creative Process Map and Liz Lerman’s Critical Response Process.
- Racial Justice in the Arts Week
 - The Racial Justice & the Arts Seminar was presented in collaboration with the Delaware Department of Education. During the two-day seminar, participants explored anti-racist classroom strategies that elevate student achievement and deepen learning in the arts. National experts led dynamic and courageous workshops exploring decolonizing music, theatre, dance, and visual/media arts.

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

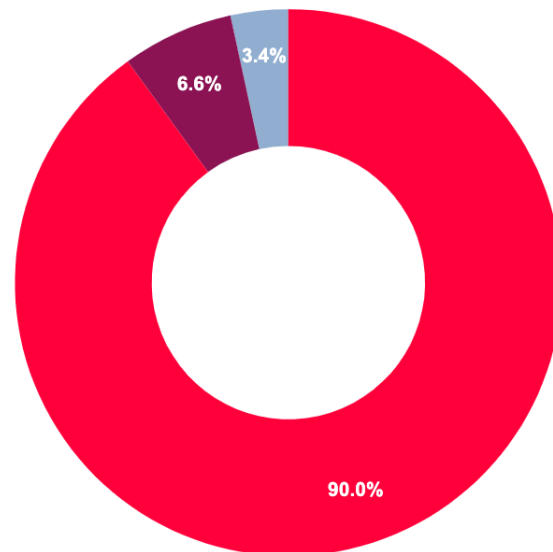
In FY22 our fundraising efforts allowed AEMS to provide professional and leadership development opportunities and new resources at no cost to Maryland arts educators. Our advocacy is more critical now than ever with seismic shifts to education caused by the pandemic, changes in state leadership, and implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. With an FY22 operating budget of roughly \$775,000, AEMS was able to expand and strengthen programming and staff even amidst a global pandemic thanks to generous support from government, foundations, corporations, and individual donors. We are grateful for everyone who contributed their time, treasure, and talents to our mission this past year.

Expenses



● Programs ● Administration

Contributions & Grants Breakdown



● Government ● Foundation/Corp ● Individuals

Thanks to our generous supporters! Your financial contribution is an investment in our children. Every child in Maryland will have a better chance at receiving the arts education they deserve because of your donation.

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS: \$10,000+

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Maryland State Arts Council
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COLLABORATORS

Thanks to our collaborators at the Maryland State Department of Education's Fine Arts Office, the Maryland State Arts Council, and Maryland Citizens for the Arts! Our work together to strengthen the arts sector in Maryland helps uplift our children's creativity and thrive in a healthy society.