



Arts Education in Maryland Schools

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2020

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Arts Education Family,

At the beginning of our 2019-2020 fiscal year, we could have never imagined what has come to pass. We were and still are enduring a global pandemic that transformed anything and everything we do, challenging us in immeasurable ways.



First, AEMS extends a very special show of gratitude to our Maryland district fine arts supervisors and arts educators who were able to adapt to each new world we have collectively faced. They continue to fight on behalf of our children and our families, often putting their work before anything else. On behalf of the 900,000 students in the Maryland Public School System, we are grateful to have you all as tireless arts advocates in your schools and districts.

At Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS), the pandemic has confirmed for us the critical nature of our work. In a time where we are not able to connect to one another in person, we have been able to connect with one another using the arts (see: M:BRACE and Virtual Learning Library). From binging Netflix shows, to taking virtual dance classes, to watching virtual concerts live, the entire world depended on arts participation and arts learning to be the thread that kept our humanity intact.

The power of the arts and arts education has never been more evident.

Letter from the Executive Director

Over the past year, the staff at AEMS has continuously advocated on behalf of the 900,000 students in the state of Maryland to ensure that they have access to arts education in all communities regardless of race, socioeconomic status, ability, or any other factor. AEMS has become clearer about who we are and what we do. We have been transitioning into the organization that puts humanity first. In addition to the initiatives outlined in this report, we have updated our mission and vision and launched a new community mobilization cycle. I completed my first full year as Executive Director of AEMS, and we hosted Kate Lynch as our Baltimore Corps fellow to contribute to our organizational development and manage our arts education data infrastructure project. We also hosted two Baltimore City high school students, Ariel and Kariq, as our interns through the Bloomberg Arts Internship program, and we hosted Jennifer-Rae Lucas as our Urban Arts Leadership fellow to support our communications efforts from February through June.

So I invite you all to support and join AEMS on our journey to center people first, build courage, create bridges to access arts education, and create solidarity amongst the arts education community. Your voice is welcomed and valued. We need your insight to ensure that we are moving forward towards ensuring every single student in the state of Maryland has access to arts education. #WeAllDeserveArts

Quanice Floyd
Executive Director



Our 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.

Our 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.

Our 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

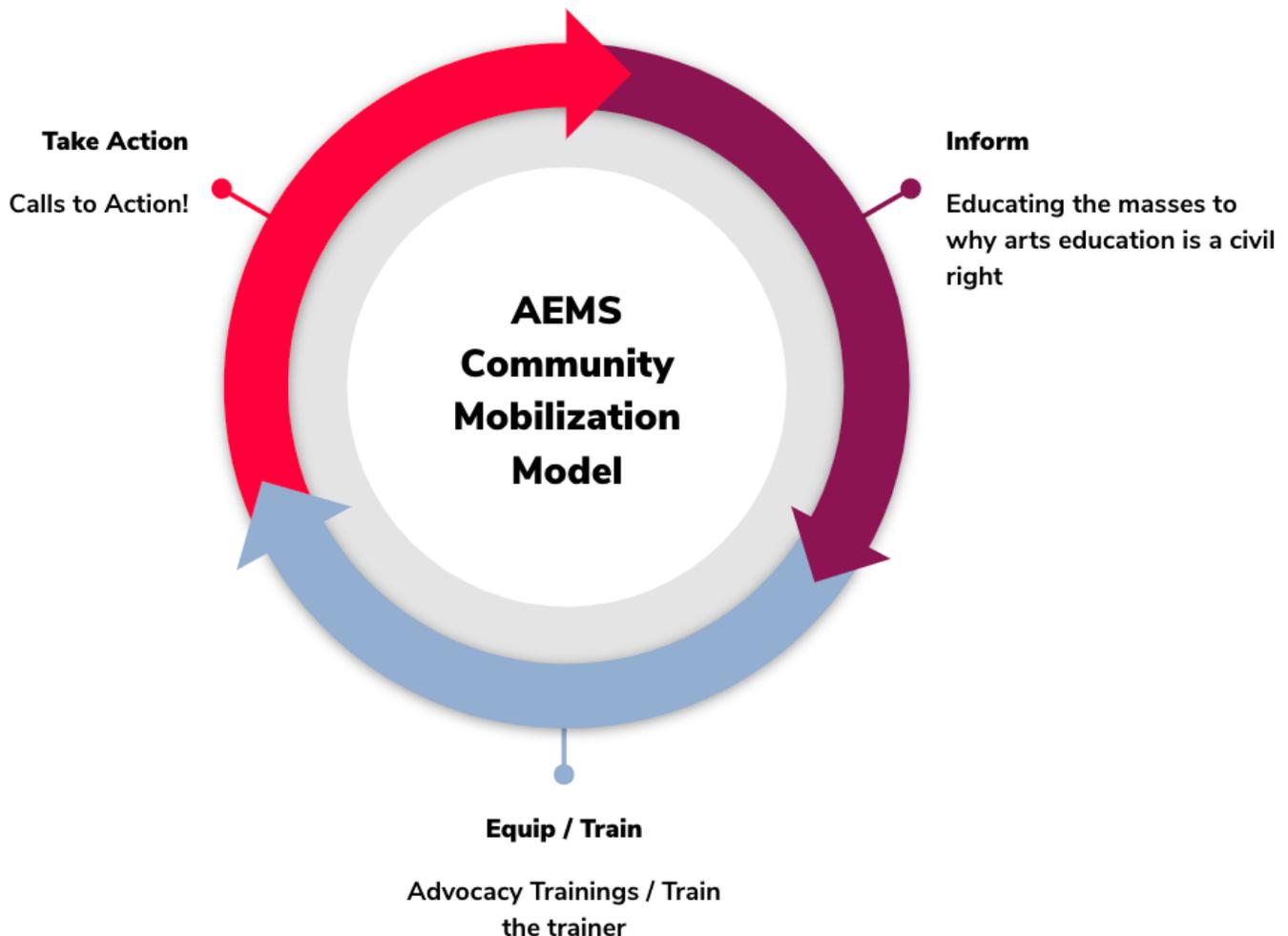
We believe that growth is the most important aspect of learning. We are invested in the growth of our constituents, board, and staff through professional and leadership development.

Our Values (cont'd)

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.

Our Community Mobilization Model



Review of FY20: Advocacy Programs

Blueprint Coalition

AEMS continued to play an active role in **The Blueprint Coalition**. The Coalition is a large group of education



BLUEPRINT
for Maryland's
FUTURE

advocates working to pass House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000. This legislation is a chance to transform Maryland's public education system. AEMS testified in Annapolis and supported Coalition events. We also sent many updates and action alerts to our network.

Maryland Education Coalition (MEC)

As long term members of the **Maryland Education Coalition**, AEMS works with education advocacy organizations from around the state to promote successful education outcomes for all students, regardless of jurisdiction, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, English language learner status, or disability. The coalition believes that Maryland must fully fund public education programs to realize its constitutional guarantee that all children in the state have access to a "a thorough and efficient system of public education.

M:BRACE Podcast

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, AEMS and the MSDE

M:BRACE
intersections of art & wellness
THE PODCAST



Fine Arts Office created the M:BRACE series. M:BRACE: Intersections of Arts & Wellness offered wellness sessions to Maryland's arts educators

Review of FY20: Advocacy Programs

M:BRACE Podcast (cont'd)

starting in the spring of 2020. AEMS also **created a podcast** that interviewed the M:BRACE instructors. Topics included the importance of the arts during COVID and COVID coping strategies. In total, AEMS interviewed over a dozen artists and Maryland arts leaders.

Professional & Leadership Development Programs

Bloomberg Arts Internship

From July 8th through August 28th, AEMS hosted two interns through the **Bloomberg Arts Internship** program. The BAI program is facilitated by Young Audiences of Maryland. Our interns were Ariel Balbossa, a rising senior at Baltimore City College High School, and Kairiq Jones, a rising senior at Mergenthaler Technical High School. They worked together to create and facilitate activities for an arts education booth at Artscape. They also worked together to interview students, educators, and elected



"Art gives me a way to express myself"
-Kairiq Jones



#BloombergArtIntern

Check us out @ArtsEdMaryland on Twitter and Instagram and @Aemsalliance on Facebook



Review of FY20: Professional & Leadership Development Programs

officials about the importance of arts education. Through this process they gained confidence, communication skills, and organization strategies. They also drew on their artistic talents to create social media posts about each interview. You can check out their products on the AEMS website [here!](#)

Maryland Arts Integration Network (MAIN)

AEMS offered an Arts Integration workshop to Frederick County educators. “A Dramatic Approach to Reading and Science” took place over two days in July 2019. Arts

Integration specialists Lenore Blank Kelner and Susan Denver designed and led the sessions. The workshop took place at Butterfly Ridge Elementary School. It helped teachers understand how to combine theater with reading



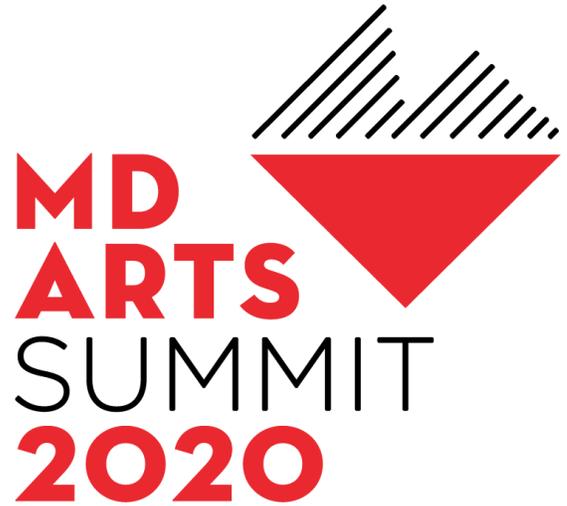
skills and science information. An average of 24 teachers attended the sessions. The workshop was a success: 88% of surveyed teachers rated the learning experience “excellent.” The workshop was free, thanks to grant money from the Delaplaine and Ausherman family foundations.

Virtual Maryland Arts Summit

AEMS worked with its other statewide partners to produce a virtual Maryland Arts Summit in May 2020. The summit focused on future visions for the Maryland arts community. AEMS helped select

Review of FY20: Professional & Leadership Development Programs

presentations, run sessions, and signal-boost the event. Over 1,000 people from across Maryland and out of state attended. The Summit had lots of positive feedback. An attendee described their session as “incredibly informative and well thought out. Beautifully presented.”



Arts Integration Conference

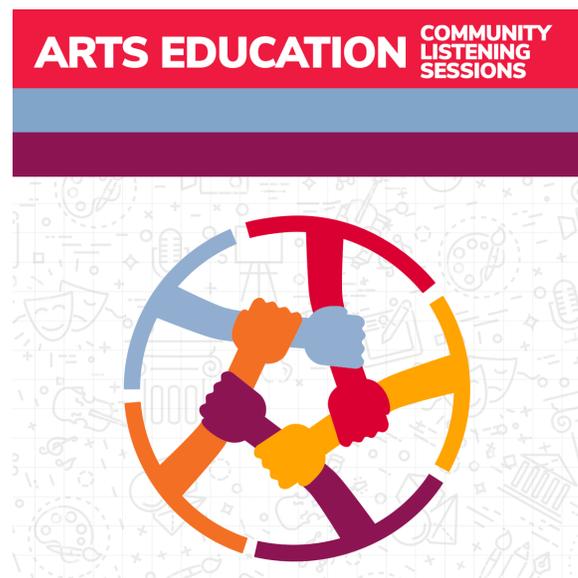
Every year, AEMS works with UMBC to produce a conference on Arts Integration. The 2020 conference took place on Leap Day, February 29, 2020. The conference’s theme was “Take the Leap” into Arts Integration. The day’s events included over a dozen workshops and a keynote speech by Dr. Colby Tofel-Grehl. Workshops covered a wide range of subject areas. Over 200 educators attended.

Resource Building & Sharing

AEMS Arts Education

Community Listening Sessions

AEMS held meetings for arts educators to learn about how we could better support their work. After COVID-19 closed schools, these meetings became virtual events. During these listening sessions we heard from educators about their



Review of FY20: Resource Building & Sharing

HEATforce

AEMS created the Higher Education in the Arts Taskforce (HEATforce) out of its Deans' Roundtable meetings. The HEATforce convenes representatives from Maryland's 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities. The taskforce discusses, researches, and acts on developments in the field of education. In FY20, AEMS worked with the HEATforce to create a report on the 2018 (FY19) Third Decennial Deans' Roundtable. The HEATforce had drafted a full report when COVID-19 disrupted their activities. AEMS intends to finalize and release the full report soon.

Fiscal Agency

Maryland Center for Creative Classrooms (MC3)

Maryland Masterclass Series

MSDE founded the Maryland Masterclass Series in 2018. The series presents artistic experiences for Maryland arts teachers. Teachers work with world-class, master artists to hone their skills. The 2019 Maryland Masterclass took place over October 25 and October 26. Community College of Baltimore County, Essex Campus hosted the workshops. The master artist for the masterclass was Eduardo Vilaro. Vilaro is the CEO and artistic director of Ballet Hispánico. Both public school educators and community dance instructors took part. The outcome of the masterclass included a public

Review of FY20: Fiscal Agency

Maryland Center for Creative Classrooms (MC3) (cont'd)

Maryland Masterclass Series (cont'd)

performance. Local dance students also performed at the public sharing event. Students from Sudbrook Magnet Middle School and St. Paul's Dance Conservatory took part.

Summer Studio

Summer Studio is a summer professional arts learning program. The program has serves arts teachers, arts integration teachers, and arts leaders. MC3 roster artists guide the participants in developing their creative habits. Three different tracks are available to serve the participants' needs. The courses take place in a studio environment to awaken the artist within.

M:BRACE

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, AEMS and the MSDE Fine Arts Office created the M:BRACE series. M:BRACE: Intersections of Arts & Wellness offered wellness sessions to Maryland's arts educators starting in the spring of 2020.

COMPASS

COMPASS is an MSDE Fine Arts professional development program. The program serves local school systems and community arts partners. COMPASS provides one day-sessions to help teachers navigate the Maryland State Fine Arts Standards and the Fine Arts Office Creative Process Maps.

Review of FY20: Fiscal Agency

Maryland Micro-Credentials (#mcreds)

Maryland Micro-Credentials is part of the MC3 professional development series. Each competency-based course focuses on helping teachers develop specific skills. Teachers learn about how to better meet the needs of different groups of learners. School arts teachers and community teaching artists are welcome. The courses are applicable to all five arts disciplines. Teachers who take part produce creative artworks as part of the course.



Best of Maryland Arts Education Festival

MSDE holds an annual festival that celebrates student artists from across Maryland. The 2020 Festival was a virtual event that showcased visual art and student performers.



Maryland Public High School Dance Showcase

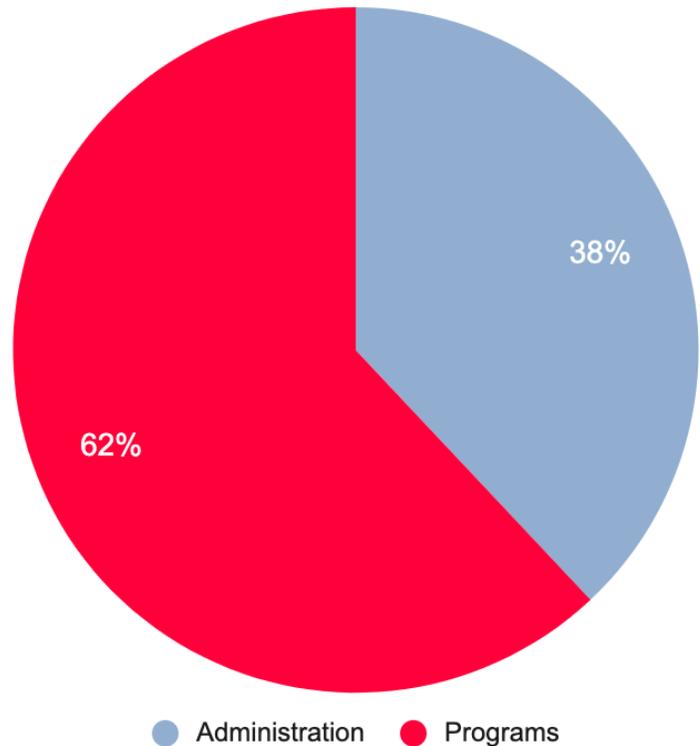
MSDE holds an annual celebration of dance in Maryland's public high schools. The 2020 showcase took place at Goucher College in January.

Financial Breakdown

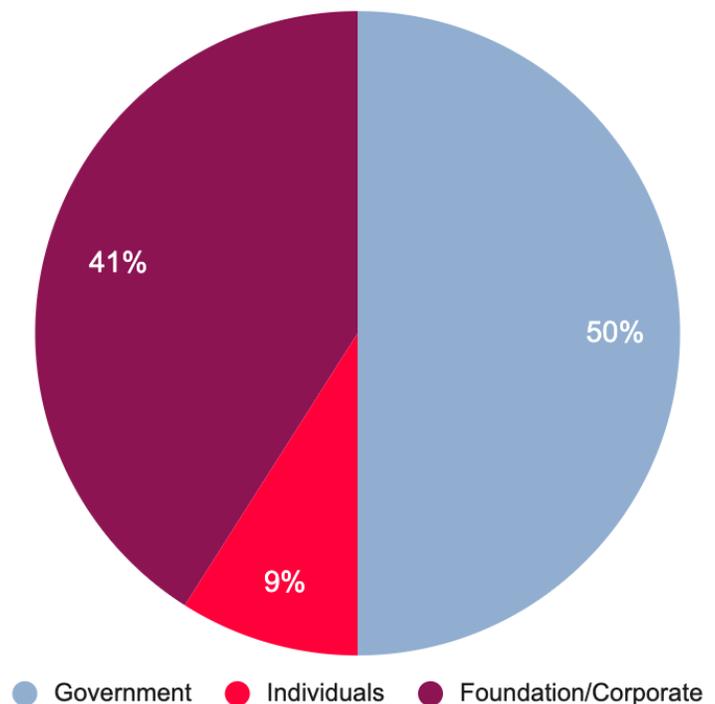
Our fundraising efforts allow AEEMS to provide professional and leadership development opportunities and new resources at no cost to educators. Our advocacy is more critical now than ever with seismic shifts to education caused by the pandemic and increased state funding for education expected from the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Bill.

With an FY20 operating budget of over \$600,000, AEEMS was able to expand 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



Contributions & Grants Breakdown



Acknowledgments

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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Toure Bridges

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.



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