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Rachel McGrain, Development Director
Peter Dayton, Programs & Operations Manager
(Interim Executive Director as of 12/10/21)
Kate Lynch, Special Projects Manager
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Contact Information
www.aems-edu.org
info@aems-edu.org
410-837-5500
facebook, instagram, twitter @artsedmaryland
190 W Ostend Street, Suite 210
Baltimore, MD 21230
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Calls to Action!

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Review of FY21: Advocacy Programs

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Review of FY21: Professional & Leadership Development Programs

Bloomberg Arts Internship (cont'd)

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Virtual Maryland Arts Summit
June 3rd and 4th saw the third Maryland Arts Summit, a convening of the entire Maryland Arts sector, presented by the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Citizens for the Arts, the Fine Arts Office of the Maryland State Department of Education, and AEMS. The well-attended event included curated presentations, affinity group space-holding, long conversations, and performances by Maryland Artists.

Arts Integration Conference
The 2021, 15th Annual Arts Integration Conference, hosted jointly by UMBC and AEMS, took the form of an exciting virtual series of professional development opportunities to help educators make connections between diverse academic disciplines to stay connected with their students. The series began with a virtual kickoff keynote by MSDE Fine Arts Office Supervisor Alysia Lee on March 4, followed by a schedule of arts integration webinars in March with follow-up sessions in May to help clarify and solidify the learning in the March sessions. The conference also included a virtual community event that toured public art in Baltimore City.
Resource Building & Sharing

National Arts in Education Week
In September 2020 AEMS hosted powerful and insightful conversations with arts educators from all five Maryland arts disciplines during National Arts In Education Week. These hour-long discussions brought valuable insight into the experiences of arts educators in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Facebook Live discussions were recorded and are available for viewing on AEMS’s YouTube page. You can also watch a culminating video of this week made by the Summer 2021 Bloomberg Arts Interns.

Arts Education Community Listening Sessions
Starting in FY19, 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 experiences. We listened to the challenges they face and heard about the ways the arts change their students’ lives. We collected this information and have created a report from it. The report lays this information out in a clear and accessible manner, organized...
Review of FY21: Resource Building & Sharing

Arts Education Community Listening Sessions (cont'd)
information and the actions needed to support arts educators going forward. We published the report in early FY22 and it is available for reading on our website.

Website Relaunch/artlook® Maryland
While AEMS did a rebrand and launched a new website at the end of our 2018 Fiscal Year, in October 2020 we created and published new advocacy resources to inform and equip our constituents to advocate for arts education, whether they be families, arts educators, or administrators. Check out our website to view these and other great resources!

Another important resource that went live in October was artlook® Maryland! The platform is a special initiative owned and managed by Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS) that advances AEMS’s mission of increasing equitable access to the arts by facilitating resource building and sharing within communities and by providing the information necessary to make data-driven advocacy recommendations.

Educator Council and Ambassador's Council Wrap-up
Throughout the year, two groups of dedicated volunteers (members listed here) met quarterly to advise and support AEMS to help us work towards our mission. The final meetings for each of these groups
Review of FY21: Resource Building & Sharing

Educator Council and Ambassador's Council Wrap-up (cont'd)

included generative brainstorming about the types of support and programming AEMS can provide to better support our constituents and create meaningful impact. We are excited about implementing these ideas in FY22.

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. After many years of service as the chair of AEMS's Higher Education in the Arts Taskforce, UMBC professor Kathy O'Dell, Special Assistant to the Dean for Education & Arts Partners, stepped down. The HEATforce elected Coppin State University dance professor Vanessa Jackson as the new chair.

National Arts in Our Schools Month

AEMS executed a highly successful campaign of information and advocacy training activities throughout the entire month of March, modeled on the themes of our Community Mobilization Cycle. With expert panels, guest blog entries, advocacy resources, and ways to take

#ArtsInSchoolsMD
#WeAllDeserveArts
Review of FY21: Resource Building & Sharing

National Arts in Our Schools Month (cont'd)
action, this month-long campaign engaged thousands of constituents online! Check out our comprehensive wrap-up of the month on our blog.

Fiscal Agency

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, 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. 99% 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.
Maryland Center for Creative Classrooms (MC3) (cont'd)

**Arts Integration Week**

**For Classroom Educators: 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 while providing a deep investigation of the Maryland Creative Process Map.

**For Arts Educators & Community Teaching Artists: Reflection Week**

Two offerings were available. The #mcreds: Learning through The Creative Process is a three-day course to reflect teaching and making methods and gain a deeper understanding of the Maryland State Fine Arts standards. The second offering, Fine Arts Professional Learning Framework, was 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. Additionally, participants met daily in multi-disciplinary teams to explore Liz Lerman’s Critical Response Protocol.
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.
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+**

- Maryland State Department of Education
- Maryland State Arts Council
- Anne Cook Charitable Fund
- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- Clayton Baker Trust
- Lockhart Vaughan Foundation
- Roche Family Foundation
- Sylvan-Laureate Foundation
- T. Rowe Price Foundation
- The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company
- Ausherman Family Foundation (carryover from FY20)
- Delaplaine Foundation (carryover from FY20)

**Institutional Donors: $1,000-9,999**

- 4.0 Schools New Normal Fellowship
- Abell Foundation
- Harry L. Gladding Foundation
- Mr. & Mrs. F. B. Harvey Fund
- Linehan Family Foundation
- Mark & Patricia Joseph, The Shelter Foundation
- Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Charitable Funds
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Karen Footner
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Acknowledgments

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Between January and April 2021, AEMS conducted a dynamic arts integration series Dramatic Moves! ELA, Math, and Science Come to Life through Drama and Dance, sponsored by the Frederick County-based Ausherman and Delaplaine Family Foundations.

Designed and led by arts integration specialists Lenore Blank Kelner and Kimberli Boyd, the workshop led K-2 educators through effective lesson plans and strategies to incorporate drama with English language and reading comprehension and to incorporate dance with math or science. With schools and districts operating on different timelines for bringing students back into classrooms, the course was designed to use equally effective techniques for virtual/hybrid or in-person instruction. Participants who completed the entire experience and additional assignments received 1 Continuing Professional Development credit.

A comment AEMS received from the final session sums up the whole experience for attendees: “Incorporating performing arts will take my lessons up a few notches. This will make learning more exciting and interesting for my students. It is sure to engage students and brighten up my Zoom meetings.” Thank you again to Lenore and Kimberli for your hard work and expertise!
Virtual Maryland Arts Summit

June 3rd and 4th saw the third Maryland Arts Summit, a convening of the entire Maryland Arts sector, presented by the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Citizens for the Arts, the Fine Arts Office of the Maryland State Department of Education, and AEMS. The well-attended event included curated presentations, affinity group space-holding, long conversations, and performances by Maryland Artists.

Arts Integration Conference

The 2021, 15th Annual Arts Integration Conference, hosted jointly by UMBC and AEMS, took the form of an exciting virtual series of professional development opportunities to help educators make connections between diverse academic disciplines to stay connected with their students.

The series began with a virtual kickoff keynote by MSDE Fine Arts Office Supervisor Alysia Lee on March 4, followed by a schedule of arts integration webinars in March with follow-up sessions in May to help clarify and solidify the learning in the March sessions. The conference also included a virtual community event that toured public art in Baltimore City.
National Arts in Education Week

In September 2020 AEMS hosted powerful and insightful conversations with arts educators from all five Maryland arts disciplines during National Arts In Education Week. These hour-long discussions brought valuable insight into the experiences of arts educators in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Facebook Live discussions were recorded and are available for viewing on AEMS’s YouTube page. You can also watch a culminating video of this week made by the Summer 2021 Bloomberg Arts Interns.

Arts Education Community Listening Sessions

Starting in FY19, 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 experiences. We listened to the challenges they face and heard about the ways the arts change their students’ lives. We collected this information and have created a report from it. The report lays this information and the actions needed to support arts educators going forward. We published the report in early FY22 and it is available for reading on our website.
Website Relaunch/artlook® Maryland

While AEMS did a rebrand and launched a new website at the end of our 2018 Fiscal Year, in October 2020 we created and published new advocacy resources to inform and equip our constituents to advocate for arts education, whether they be families, arts educators, or administrators. Check out our website to view these and other great resources!

Another important resource that went live in October was artlook® Maryland! The platform is a special initiative owned and managed by Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS) that advances AEMS's mission of increasing equitable access to the arts by facilitating resource building and sharing within communities and by providing the information necessary to make data-driven advocacy recommendations.

Educator Council and Ambassador's Council Wrap-up

Throughout the year, two groups of dedicated volunteers (members listed here) met quarterly to advise and support AEMS to help us work towards our mission. The final meetings for each of these groups included generative brainstorming about the types of support and programming AEMS can provide to better support our constituents and create meaningful impact. We are excited about implementing these ideas in FY22.
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. After many years of service as the chair of AEMS’s Higher Education in the Arts Taskforce, UMBC professor Kathy O’Dell, Special Assistant to the Dean for Education & Arts Partners, stepped down. The HEATforce elected Coppin State University dance professor Vanessa Jackson as the new chair.

National Arts in Our Schools Month

AEMS executed a highly successful campaign of information and advocacy training activities throughout the entire month of March, modeled on the themes of our Community Mobilization Cycle.

With expert panels, guest blog entries, advocacy resources, and ways to take action, this month-long campaign engaged thousands of constituents online! Check out our comprehensive wrap-up of the month on our blog.
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, 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.

99% 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

For Classroom Educators: 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 while providing a deep investigation of the Maryland Creative Process Map.
For Arts Educators & Community Teaching Artists:

Reflection Week

Two offerings were available. The #mcreds: Learning through The Creative Process is a three-day course to reflect teaching and making methods and gain a deeper understanding of the Maryland State Fine Arts standards. The second offering, Fine Arts Professional Learning Framework, was 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. Additionally, participants met daily in multi-disciplinary teams to explore Liz Lerman's Critical Response Protocol.

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.
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.

Finances

Financial Breakdown

Our fundraising efforts allow AEMS 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, AEMS 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.
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.

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Collaborators

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