



Arts Education in Maryland Schools

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2021

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Published 1/31/22

Board of Trustees

Lyn Frankel, Chair	Kristin Cox
Brian Sullam, Co-Vice-Chair	Christen Cromwell
Jane Coffey, Co-Vice-Chair	Nigel-Ray Garcia
Chris Dietze, Treasurer	Martin Knott
Martin Knott, Secretary	Anita Lambert
Mary Ann Mears, Founder	Veronica Thomas
Carole Alexander	Danita Beck Wickwire

AEMS Staff

Quanice Floyd, Executive Director
Rachel McGrain, Development Director
Peter Dayton, Programs & Operations Manager
(Interim Executive Director as of 12/10/21)
Kate Lynch, Special Projects Manager
Susan Burton, Bookkeeper (part-time)

Contact Information

www.aems-edu.org
info@aems-edu.org
410-837-5500

   @artsedmaryland

190 W Ostend Street, Suite 210
Baltimore, MD 21230

Table of Contents

Letter from the Interim Executive Director...	1-2
About AEMS.....	3-4
Review of FY20.....	5-12
Advocacy Programs.....	5-6
Professional & Leadership	
Development Programs.....	6-8
Resource-Building and -Sharing.....	9-10
Fiscal Agency Activities.....	10-12
Finances.....	13
Donor Acknowledgments.....	14-18

Letter from the Interim Executive Director

Dear Arts Education Family,

AEMS would like to thank, first and foremost, the hard work and resilience of Maryland's fine arts supervisors, arts educators, and teaching artists. The continued uncertainties and reverses of this past fiscal year, which encompassed



both pre-vaccine and post-vaccine phases of our current global pandemic have been a strain on educators, families, and especially students. The past fiscal year also saw a surge of conversations and action around racial justice in light of racist police violence during the summer, highlighting another need AEMS has tried to meet through our organizational positioning and programming. Led by the brilliant Executive Director Quance Floyd, AEMS piloted valuable and dynamic programming including: our first annual Arts Education Symposium on Anti-Racism; developing of an AEMS organizational anti-racist statement; piloting the Anti-Racist Educators in the Arts Learning Lab professional learning community in collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education fine arts office; executed a robust campaign celebrating Maryland's arts educators during National Arts in Our Schools Month; completed our final suite of arts integration professional developments; worked with Bloomberg Arts Interns to created advocacy and casemaking videos; and launched the arts education data platform artlook® Maryland, among many other

activities and initiatives. In addition to this programming and further advocacy for the override of the governor's veto of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, AEMS experienced a transformation of its board leadership, with several longtime board members retiring, joining the newly-created AEMS Emeritus Board status, and with four new additions to the board: Christen Cromwell, Nigel-Ray Garcia, Anita Lambert, and Kristen Cox. Staff member Kate Lynch also left the team at the end of the fiscal year, after being an integral figure in AEMS's arts education data efforts. In a chaotic time, we are so grateful to the combination of staff, board, donors, friends, and allies that made AEMS's activities and impact possible.

Please join AEMS on our journey and support us as we continue center people first, build courage, create bridges to access arts education, and create solidarity amongst the arts education community. Our work is predicated on and dedicated to serving community need. We value all feedback and conversation that can improve our work. #WeAllDeserveArts

Peter Dayton

Interim 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

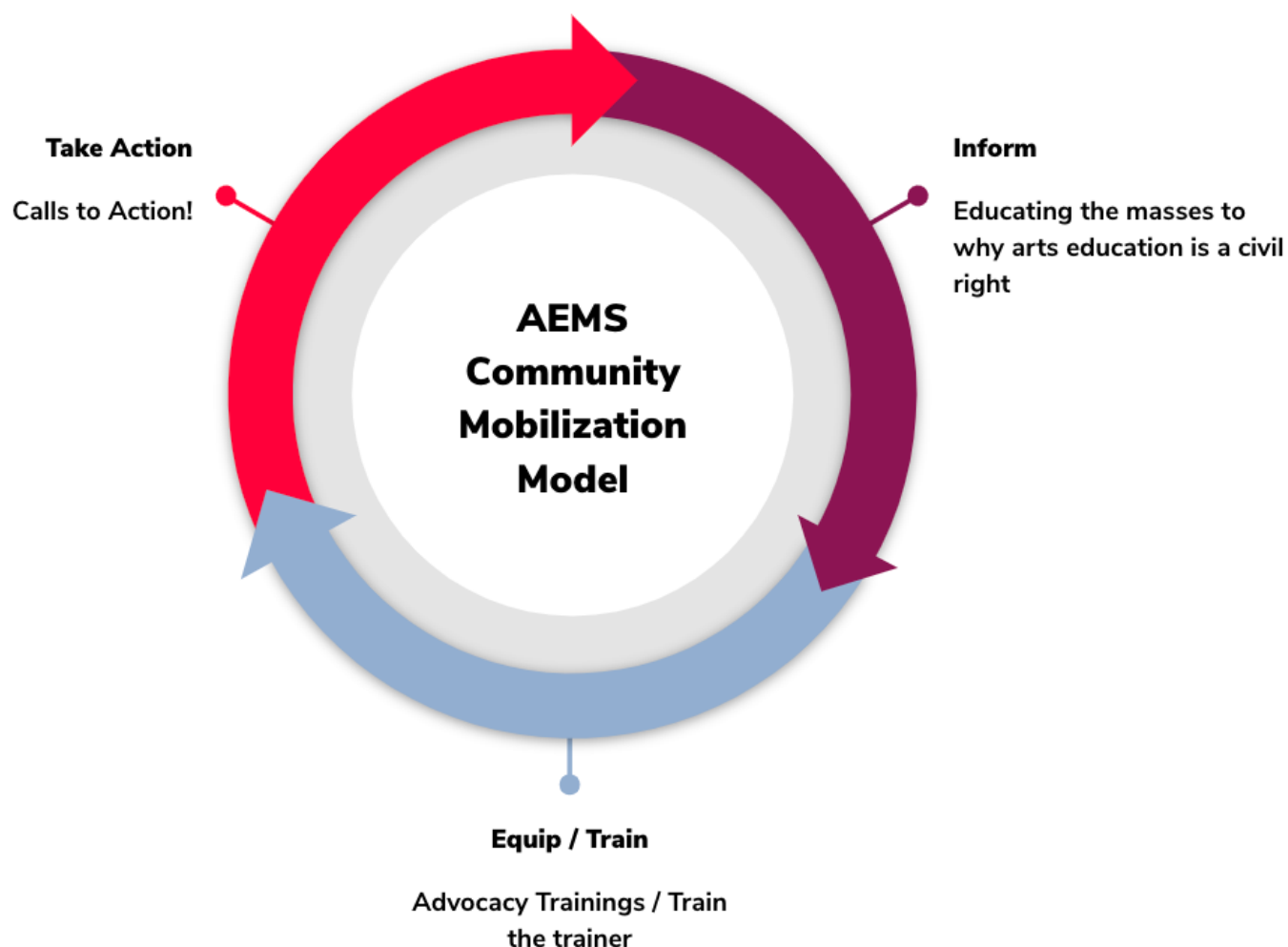
We believe that growth is the most important aspect of learning. We are invested in the growth of our constituents, board, and staff through professional and leadership development.

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 FY21: 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, which worked to pass House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000: The Blueprint for Maryland's Future. The bill was passed by the General Assembly in the Spring of 2020 but was vetoed by the Governor. AEMS successfully worked with the Blueprint Coalition to push the General Assembly to override the Governor's veto and pass Blueprint 2.0.

Blueprint 2.0 was a technical companion bill, which modifies implementation timelines, updates funding allocations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, establishes guidelines for use of federal funds, and strengthens the language of the Blueprint. Here are some of victories from this coalition push, as collated by our fellow advocates Arts Every Day:

- **Increases foundational per-pupil funding** to address technology needs, including **broadband, devices, and IT staff**. Amount progressively increases from \$7,991/student in 2022 to \$12,365/student in 2033.
- **Immediate access to Judy Center funding**, which increased from \$275,000 to \$330,000 per center.
- **Speeds up the timeline** for delivery of per-pupil grants for community schools which qualify for a **Concentration of Poverty Grant**.

Review of FY21: Advocacy Programs

- Eliminates SY20-21 enrollment data from funding formula calculations to account for unusual enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Inclusion of Fine Arts in the allowable use of Per Pupil Foundational Formula and Concentration of Poverty Grants.

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.

Baltimore City Fine Arts Surplusses

In May 2021, along with Baltimore City Public Schools Fine Arts Supervisor Chan'nel Williams,



Arts Every Day, the Baltimore Arts Education Initiative, and Baltimore City parents and families, AEMS was part of a chorus of voices to demand that 13 arts educator positions be preserved in the upcoming school year. In response to overwhelming public outcry, Baltimore City Public Schools reversed the planned “surplusses” (which would eliminate those arts educator positions). This was an enormous victory

Review of FY21: Advocacy Programs

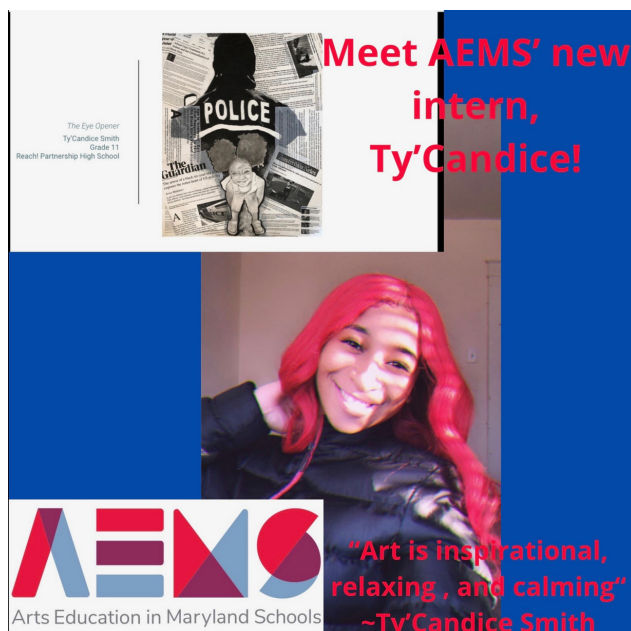
Baltimore City Fine Arts Suppluses (cont'd)

for the educators of Baltimore City Public Schools and for the students of those Baltimore City Public Schools. You can learn more about this effort from an article contributed to the AEMS blog by Arts Every Day Executive Director Julia Di Bussolo. [Read it here.](#)

Professional & Leadership Development Programs

Bloomberg Arts Internship

From July 20th through August 26th 2020, AEMS hosted two brilliant interns through the **Bloomberg Arts Internship** program. The BAI program is facilitated by Young Audiences of Maryland (now Arts for Learning Maryland). Our interns were Ty'Candice Smith, a rising senior at the REACH! Partnership High School, and Jannah Muhammad, a rising senior at Western High School. They worked together to interview students, artists, parents, educators, elected officials, and arts leaders about the importance of arts education. Through this process they



Review of FY21: Professional & Leadership Development Programs

Bloomberg Arts Internship (cont'd)

gained confidence, communication skills, and organization strategies. They also drew on their artistic talents to produce a video that compiled their interviews. You can find their video on AEMS's YouTube channel or can use this link [here!](#)

Arts Education Anti-Racist Symposium

On Saturday, November 21, 2020 AEMS hosted a day of exciting, 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 **Dr. Bettina Love**, the symposium included breakouts to apply abolitionist

principles to the various arts disciplines and classrooms. With 153 tickets sold for the Symposium, this event was a high-point for attendance at AEMS events for FY21! Feedback about the Symposium was overwhelmingly positive: “the level of conversations in fostering imaginative freedom, black joy to dismantle systemic racism was profound.”



Review of FY21: Professional & Leadership Development Programs

Anti-Racist Educators in the Arts Learning Lab (A-REALL)

The Arts Education Anti-Racist

Symposium also served as the kick-off event for the first cohort of the MSDE

Fine Arts Office-AEMS collaborative



professional learning community: A-REALL (Anti-Racist Educators the Arts Learning Lab) for arts educators, teaching artists, and arts integration classroom teachers committed to anti-racism in learning spaces. With regular meetings that started in January 2021, cohort members met bimonthly and completed arts-based assignments to synthesize their learning about:

- learning and reconciling history and the root causes of educational and art world disparities,
- working collaboratively to address procedures, policies, and practices that lack cultural competency,
- developing teaching and learning resources for the field, and
- developing facilitation skills for brave dialogue about race with students and stakeholders.

The first cohort's meetings concluded at the beginning of June with a special breakout session with internationally-renowned poet Nikki Giovanni. Stay tuned for future A-REALL cohort opportunities starting in 2022!

Review of FY21: Professional & Leadership Development Programs

Maryland Arts Integration Network (MAIN)

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!

Review of FY21: Professional & Leadership Development Programs

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

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

Powered by **artlook**

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.

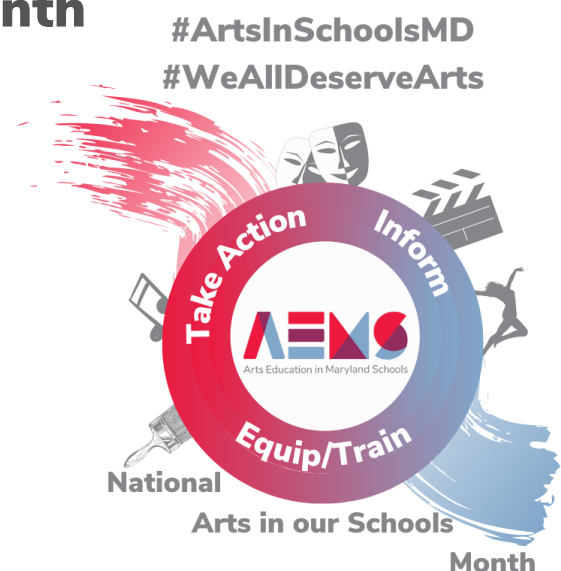
HEATforce

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



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.

Review of FY21: Fiscal Agency

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

Acknowledgments

Institutional Donors: \$1,000-9,999 (cont'd)

Richman Family Foundation

M. Sigmund & Barbara K. Shapiro Philanthropic Fund

Wolman Family Foundation

Individual Donors: Founder's Circle (\$1,000+)

Robert E. Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker

Christine & Frank Bonanno

Jane Coffey

Kristen Cox

Mary Ann Mears and Robert Embry

Quanice Floyd

Lyn Frankel

Bart Harvey

Martin Knott

Susan Magsamen

Dan & Carla McGrain

Arnold & Alison Richman

Brian Sullam

Veronica Thomas

Sustainers (\$500-999)

Carole Alexander

Karen Footner

Nigel-Ray Garcia

Anita Lambert

Acknowledgments

Sustainers (\$500-999) (cont'd)

Lesley Malin

Scribner & Mary Jo Messenger

The Amy Schuerholz Metz Memorial Fund for Charitable Giving

Sheila & Richard Riggs

Marguerita VillaSanta

Supporters (\$250-499)

Karen Carroll

Christen Cromwell

Peter Dayton

Nancy Dorman

Barbara Himmelrich

Dan Mueller (in memory of Sara Mueller)

Friends (\$150-249)

Danita Beck-Wickwire

Jaime Drayton

Carol Trawick

Sarah Edelsburg

John Burton

Steve & Gail Shawe

Mr. & Mrs. Tony & Ellie Carey

Alexander Baer

Grassroots donors (\$1-149)

Dr. Regina Anderson & Dr. James Campbell

Acknowledgments

Grassroots donors (\$1-149) (cont'd)

Sandra Billups

Mariama Boney

Lee Boot

Marlo Castillo

Richard Coleman

Emily Cory

Lisa Dayton

Camille Delaney-McNeil

Julia DiBussolo

Exelon Foundation

MeLinda Ford

Pete Frassrand

Ilana Ginsberg

Irvin Greif, Jr.

Casey Hegarty

Ellen Stutts

Eryn Johnson

Lenore Blank Kelner

Andrew Kent

Michelle La Perriere

Megan Lovely

Brittney Lynn

Anand Macherla

Laura Marchese

Acknowledgments

Grassroots donors (\$1-149) (cont'd)

Asia Maxton

Sally McCann

Ashlee McKinnon

Nate Miller

Alexa Milroy

Katie Morris

Kathy O'Dell

Jessica Padgett

Jen Retterer

Scott Rudes

Lauren Ruffin

April Ryan

Marci Shegogue

Virginia Sherman

Rosanne Singer

Jill Warzer

Gerrod Williamson

Paulette Wilson

Miriam Woito

Karen Zepp

Acknowledgments

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.





Arts Education in Maryland Schools

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2021

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Published 1/31/22

AEMS FY21 Board & Staff

Board of Trustees

Lyn Frankel, Chair	Kristin Cox
Brian Sullam, Co-Vice-Chair	Christen Cromwell
Jane Coffey, Co-Vice-Chair	Nigel-Ray Garcia
Chris Dietze, Treasurer	Martin Knott
Martin Knott, Secretary	Anita Lambert
Mary Ann Mears, Founder	Veronica Thomas
Carole Alexander	Danita Beck Wickwire

AEMS Staff

Quanice Floyd, Executive Director
 Rachel McGrain, Development Director
 Peter Dayton, Programs & Operations Manager
 (Interim Executive Director as of 12/10/21)
 Kate Lynch, Special Projects Manager
 Susan Burton, Bookkeeper (part-time)

Contact Information

www.aems-edu.org

info@aems-edu.org

410-837-5500






 @artsedmaryland

190 W. Ostend Street, Suite 210
 Baltimore, MD 21230

Table of Contents

Letter from the Interim Executive Director 1-2

About AEMS 3-4

Review of FY20 5-17

 Advocacy Programs 5-7

 Professional & Leadership
 Development Programs 8-11

 Resource-Building and Sharing 12-14

 Fiscal Agency Activities 15-17

Finances 17

Donor Acknowledgments 18-22

Dear Arts Education Family,

AEMS would like to thank, first and foremost, the hard work and resilience of Maryland's fine arts supervisors, arts educators, and teaching artists. The continued uncertainties and reverses of this past fiscal year, which encompassed both pre-vaccine and post-vaccine phases of our current global pandemic have been a strain on educators, families, and especially students. The past fiscal year also saw a surge of conversations and action around racial justice in light of racist police violence during the summer, highlighting another need AEMS has tried to meet through our organizational positioning and programming.



Led by the brilliant Executive Director Quanice Floyd, AEMS piloted valuable and dynamic programming including:

- our first annual Arts Education Symposium on Anti-Racism;
- developing of an AEMS organizational anti-racist statement;
- piloting the Anti-Racist Educators in the Arts Learning Lab professional learning community in collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education fine arts office;
- executed a robust campaign celebrating Maryland's arts educators during National Arts in Our Schools Month;
- completed our final suite of arts integration professional developments; worked with Bloomberg Arts Interns to created advocacy and casemaking videos;
- and launched the arts education data platform **artlook**® Maryland, among many other activities and initiatives.

Letter from the Interim Executive Director

In addition to this programming and further advocacy for the override of the governor's veto of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, AEMS experienced a transformation of its board leadership, with several longtime board members retiring, joining the newly-created AEMS Emeritus Board status, and with four new additions to the board: Christen Cromwell, Nigel-Ray Garcia, Anita Lambert, and Kristen Cox. Staff member Kate Lynch also left the team at the end of the fiscal year, after being an integral figure in AEMS's arts education data efforts. In a chaotic time, we are so grateful to the combination of staff, board, donors, friends, and allies that made AEMS's activities and impact possible.

Please join AEMS on our journey and support us as we continue center people first, build courage, create bridges to access arts education, and create solidarity amongst the arts education community. Our work is predicated on and dedicated to serving community need.

We value all feedback and conversation that can improve our work.

#WeAllDeserveArts

Peter Dayton



Interim Executive Director

About AEMS

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.

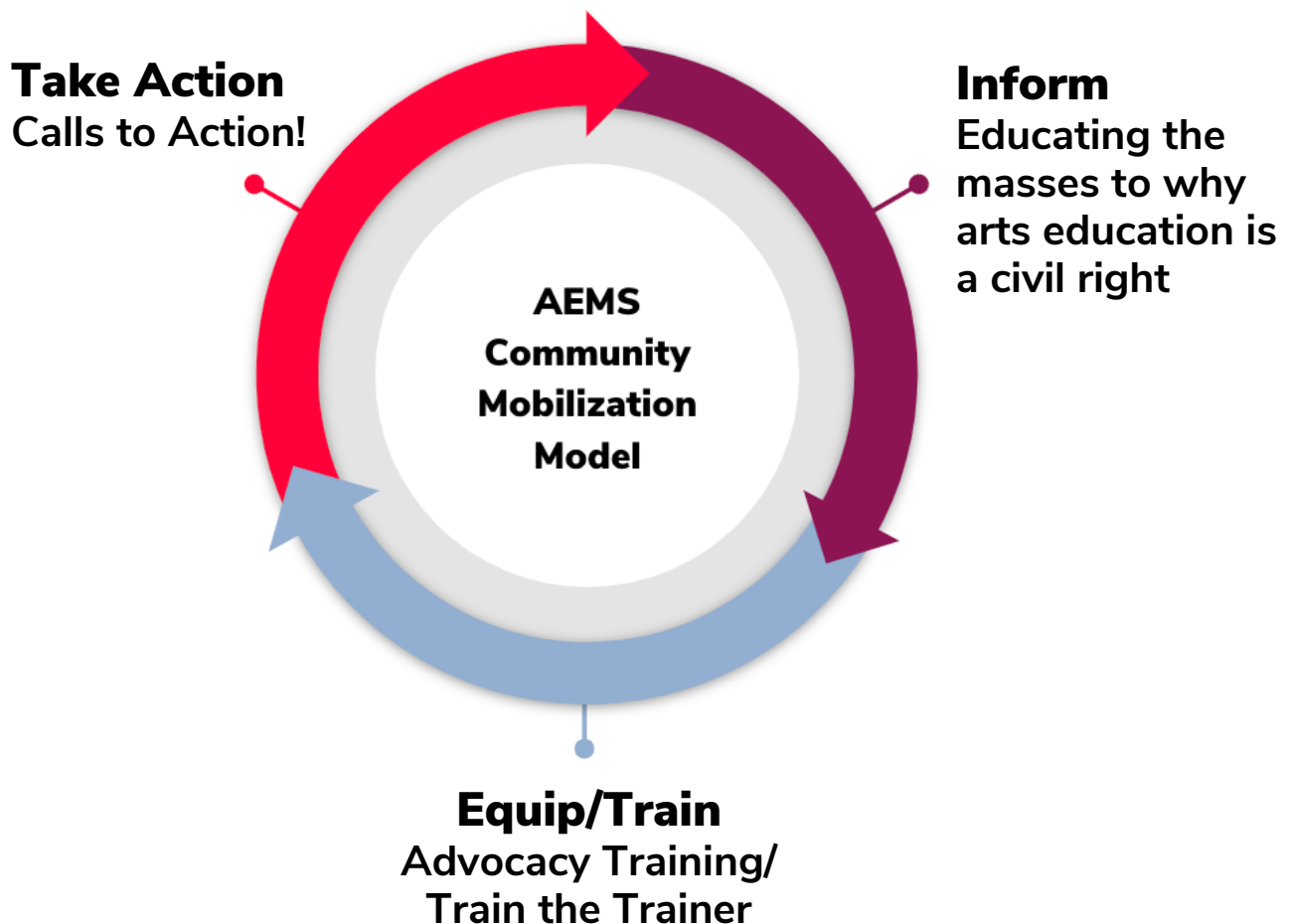
About AEMS

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 FY21: Advocacy Programs

Blueprint Coalition



AEMS continued to play an active role in The Blueprint Coalition.

The Coalition is a large group of education advocates, which worked to pass House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000: The Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

The bill was passed by the General Assembly in the Spring of 2020, but was vetoed by the Governor. AEMS successfully worked with the Blueprint Coalition to push the General Assembly to override the Governor's veto and pass Blueprint 2.0.

Blueprint 2.0 was a technical companion bill, which modifies implementation timelines, updates funding allocations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, establishes guidelines for use of federal funds, and strengthens the language of the Blueprint.

Here are some of the victories from this coalition push, as collated by our fellow advocates Arts Every Day:

- **Increases foundational per-pupil funding** to address technology needs, including **broadband, devices, and IT staff**. Amount progressively increases from \$7,991/student in 2022 to \$12,365/student in 2033.
- Immediate access to **Judy Center funding**, which increased from \$275,000 to \$330,000 per center.
- **Speeds up the timeline** for delivery of per-pupil grants for community schools which qualify for a **Concentration of Poverty Grant**.
- Eliminates SY20-21 enrollment data from funding formula calculations to account for unusual enrollment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Review of FY21: Advocacy Programs

- Inclusion of Fine Arts in the allowable use of Per Pupil Foundational Formula and Concentration of Poverty Grants.

Maryland Education Coalition



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 thorough and efficient system of public education.

Baltimore City Fine Arts Surplusses



In May 2021, along with Baltimore City Public Schools Fine Arts Supervisor Chan'nel Williams, Arts Every Day, the Baltimore Arts Education Initiative, and Baltimore City parents and families, AEMS was part of a chorus of voices to demand that 13 arts educator positions be preserved in the upcoming school year. In response to overwhelming public outcry, Baltimore City Public Schools reversed the planned “surplusses” (which would eliminate those arts educator positions). This was an enormous victory for the educators of Baltimore City Public Schools and for the students of those Baltimore City Public Schools. You can learn more about this effort from an article contributed to the AEMS blog by Arts Every Day Executive Director Julia Di Bussolo. [Read it here.](#)

Review of FY21: Advocacy Programs

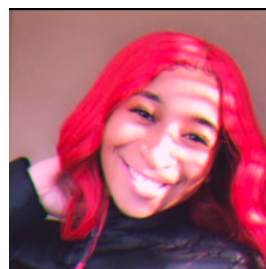
Baltimore City Fine Arts Suppluses (cont'd)

for the educators of Baltimore City Public Schools and for the students of those Baltimore City Public Schools. You can learn more about this effort from an article contributed to the AEMS blog by Arts Every Day Executive Director Julia Di Bussolo. Read it [here](#).

Professional & Leadership Development Programs

Bloomberg Arts Internship

From July 20th through August 26th 2020, AEMS hosted two brilliant interns through the **Bloomberg Arts Internship** program. The BAI program is facilitated by Young Audiences of Maryland (now Arts for Learning Maryland). Our interns were Ty'Candice Smith, a rising senior at the REACH! Partnership High School, and Jannah Muhammad, a rising senior at Western High School. They worked together to interview students, artists, parents, educators, elected officials, and arts leaders about the importance of arts education. Through this process they



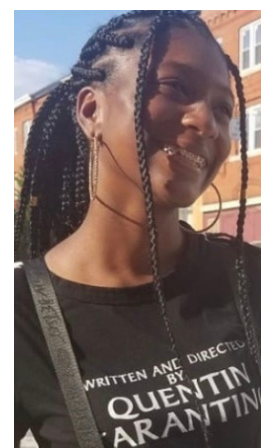
AEMS INTERN
Ty'Candice
Smith

"Art is
inspirational,
relaxing, and
calming."



AEMS
SUMMER
INTERN
Jannah
Muhammad

"My art
explains
how I feel."



Review of FY21: Professional & Leadership Development Programs

Bloomberg Arts Internship (cont'd)

gained confidence, communication skills, and organizing strategies. They also drew on their artistic talents to produce a video that compiled their interviews. You can find their video on AEMS's YouTube channel or can use this link [here!](#)

Arts Education Anti-Racist Symposium

On Saturday, November 21, 2020, AEMS hosted a day of exciting, 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 Dr. Bettina Love, the symposium included breakouts to apply abolitionist principles to the various arts disciplines and classrooms.



With 153 tickets sold for the Symposium, this event was a high-point for attendance at AEMS events for FY21!

Feedback about the Symposium was overwhelmingly positive: “the level of conversations in fostering imaginative freedom, black joy to dismantle systemic racism was profound.”

Review of FY21: Professional & Leadership Development Programs

Anti-Racist Educators in the Arts Learning Lab (A-REALL)

The Arts Education Anti-Racist Symposium also served as the kick-off event for the first cohort of the MSDE Fine Arts Office-AEMS collaborative professional learning community: A-REALL (Anti-Racist Educators the Arts Learning Lab) for arts educators, teaching artists, and arts integration classroom teachers committed to anti-racism in learning spaces.



With regular meetings that started in January 2021, cohort members met bimonthly and completed arts-based assignments to synthesize their learning about:

- learning and reconciling history and the root causes of educational and art world disparities,
- working collaboratively to address procedures, policies, and practices that lack cultural competency,
- developing teaching and learning resources for the field, and
- developing facilitation skills for brave dialogue about race with students and stakeholders.

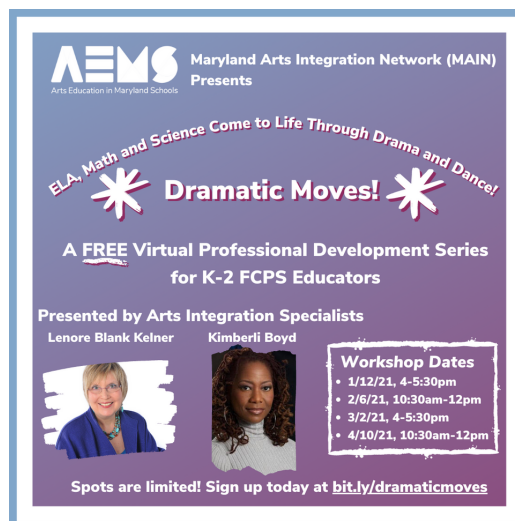
The first cohort's meetings concluded at the beginning of June with a special breakout session with internationally-renowned poet Nikki Giovanni.

Stay tuned for future A-REALL cohort opportunities starting in 2022!

Review of FY21: Professional & Leadership Development Programs

Maryland Arts Integration Network (MAIN)

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!

Review of FY21: Professional & Leadership Development Programs

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.



Review of FY21: Resource Building & Sharing

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 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**.



Review of FY21: Resource Building & Sharing

Website Relaunch/artlook® Maryland

While AEMS did a rebrand and launched a new website at the end of our 2018 Fiscal Year,

Powered by **artlook**

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.

Review of FY21: 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. 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.



Review of FY21: 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.

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.

Review of FY21: Fiscal Agency

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.

Review of FY21: 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.



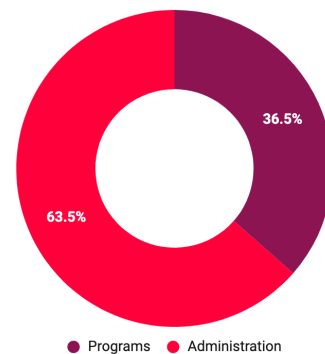
Finances

Financial Breakdown

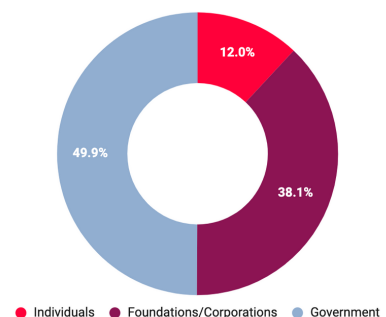
Our fundraising efforts allow AEMS to provide professional and leadership development opportunities and new resources at no cost to educators. Our advocacy is more critical now than ever with seismic shifts to education caused by the pandemic and increased state funding for education expected from the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

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+

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)
Henry and Ruth Blaustein Rosenberg Foundation

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

4.0 Schools New Normal Fellowship
Abell Foundation

Acknowledgments

Institutional Donors: \$1,000-9,999 (cont'd)

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
 Richman Family Foundation
 M. Sigmund & Barbara K. Shapiro Philanthropic Fund
 Wolman Family Foundation
 Macht Philanthropic Foundation
 Sylvan-Laureate Foundation Foundation Shelter

Individual Donors: Founder's Circle (\$1,000+)

Robert E. Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker
 Christine & Frank Bonanno
 Jane Coffey
 Kristen Cox
 Mary Ann Mears and Robert Embry
 Quanice Floyd
 Lyn Frankel
 Bart Harvey
 Martin Knott
 Susan Magsamen
 Dan & Carla McGrain
 Arnold & Alison Richman
 Brian Sullam
 Veronica Thomas

Acknowledgments

Sustainers: \$500-999

Carole Alexander

Karen Footner

Nigel-Ray Garcia

Anita Lambert

Lesley Malin

Scribner & Mary Jo Messenger

The Amy Schuerholz Metz Memorial Fund for Charitable Giving

Sheila & Richard Riggs

Marguerita VillaSanta

Supporters: \$250-499

Karen Carroll

Christen Cromwell

Peter Dayton

Nancy Dorman

Barbara Himmelrich

Dan Mueller (in memory of Sara Mueller)

Friends: \$150-249

Danita Beck-Wickwire

Jaime Drayton

Carol Trawick

Sarah Edelsburg

John Burton

Acknowledgments

Friends: \$150-249 (cont'd)

Steve & Gail Shawe

Mr. & Mrs. Tony & Ellie Carey

Alexander Baer

Grassroots Donors: \$1-149

Dr. Regina Anderson & Dr. James Campbell

Sandra Billups

Mariama Boney

Lee Boot

Marlo Castillo

Richard Coleman

Emily Cory

Lisa Dayton

Camille Delaney-McNeil

Julia DiBussolo

Exelon Foundation

MeLinda Ford

Pete Frassrand

Ilana Ginsberg

Irvin Greif, Jr.

Casey Hegarty

Ellen Stutts

Eryn Johnson

Lenore Blank Kelner

Acknowledgments

Grassroots Donors: \$1-149 (cont'd)

Andrew Kent	Jessica Padgett
Michelle La Perriere	Jen Retterer
Megan Lovely	Scott Rudes
Brittney Lynn	Lauren Ruffin
Anand Macherla	April Ryan
Laura Marchese	Marci Shegogue
Asia Maxton	Virginia Sherman
Sally McCann	Rosanne Singer
Ashlee McKinnon	Jill Warzer
Nate Miller	Gerrod Williamson
Alexa Milroy	Paulette Wilson
Katie Morris	Miriam Woito
Kathy O'Dell	Karen Zepp

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.



Arts Education in Maryland Schools

www.aems-edu.org

info@aems-edu.org



@artsedmaryland

190 W. Ostend Street, Suite 210

Baltimore, MD 21230

410-837-5500