



Newsletter | December 2023

Read how we have brought learning to life this month!

### ArtsNOW Principals' Network Conference

Please join us for our Principals' Network Conference on February 8-9, 2024, in Greenville, South Carolina. This conference was designed to provide principals with the space, connections, resources, and ideas for arts-integrated learning to return to school inspired and energized. Save your spot today!

[Register Now](#)

### Aiken, SC: Joyful Connections with Visual Arts

Joy exuded from students and teachers alike as ArtsNOW Visual Arts Consultant Katy Betts facilitated a full day of demonstration lessons and professional learning at East Aiken School of the Arts. Katy connected 3rd grade multiplication to create mosaics. In 2nd grade, she integrated informational texts, animal adaptations, and art elements of line, shape, and texture. 4th graders created abstract art to illustrate the three branches of government with color and lines.

Teachers created a mobile sculpture during professional learning to depict sequences aligned to their grade-level standards.



### Barrow County, GA: Demonstration of Learning Day

ArtsNOW's partnership with the Barrow County School System was highlighted and celebrated at a recent Demonstration of Learning event. Visitors from several school systems in Georgia and South Carolina had the opportunity to learn from a panel of Barrow County ArtsNOW Teacher Leaders before visiting the ArtsNOW consultants and teachers involved in the Center for Innovative Teaching residency. Teacher Leaders in the Arts and Innovation Program also opened their classrooms to demonstrate the impact of ArtsNOW and arts integration in their magnet program.





## Newberry, SC: Dancing in Newberry

A cohort of teachers from six schools across the Newberry school district came together for a full-day professional learning session led by ArtsNOW Dance Consultant Whitney Snuggs and Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC). Our partnership supports growth in teachers' confidence in using arts-integrated strategies to impact student engagement positively.

Whitney modeled how to integrate dance across the curriculum and facilitated a time for teachers to reflect on their observations. New ideas and strategies inspired teachers to bring learning to life in their classrooms.



## Andrews, SC: Where Math Comes to Life

Theatre Consultant Susie Spear Purcell guided students through a lesson in division utilizing a strategy called "character grounding." Students used their voice and body to create the characters for math, including the dividend, divisor, and quotient. Students used voice pitch and facial expressions to bring these math characters to life. At the end of the lesson, students created an equation utilizing their bodies as numbers and symbols.

Susie then used the theatre strategy of tapping to allow the characters to come to life and tell what part of the equation they were portraying and their mathematical purpose. All students were engaged in this lesson, which led to a deeper understanding of division!

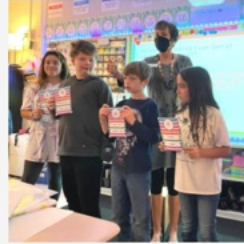


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## Hall County, GA: Arts Integrated Learning at Lula Elementary

The work of ArtsNOW continues in Hall County, Georgia, at Lula Elementary. Earlier in the year, Susie Spear Purcell shared theatre integration strategies. Regional Director Shawn Williams led professional learning focused on the purpose and impact of Process Boards.

Most recently, Music Consultant Maribeth Yoder-White led professional learning and demonstrated many music integration strategies that focused on literacy standards, such as call and response and rhythmic speech. Students created lyrics and chants to identify the main idea of a story and performed their compositions.



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## Hephzibah, GA: Diving Deep with Digital Arts

Long-time partner school Hephzibah Elementary embraced the world of digital arts and enjoyed integrating it into their classrooms! ArtsNOW Consultant Shannon Green guided teachers through a hands-on professional learning session on creating stop-motion animation, then facilitated conversation about bringing it into the classroom.

She also led demonstration lessons in all grade levels, incorporating various digital art forms such as the Autodraw website, Chatterpix app, and more! Thanks to generous funding from the Chestnut Family Foundation, ArtsNOW continues to have a rich partnership with Hephzibah Elementary School in Augusta, Georgia.



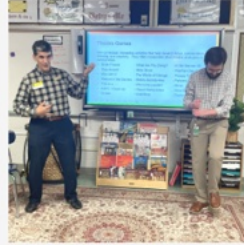
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## Beaufort, SC: Bringing Social Studies to Life in Middle School

ArtsNOW Theatre Consultant Barry Stewart Mann spent three days with social studies teachers at Beaufort Middle School. Barry facilitated a professional learning session with teachers to share vocabulary and theatre strategies. He also collaborated with teachers to plan upcoming arts-integrated lessons.



Barry returned the following day to teach theatre-integrated lessons to each grade level. He helped students bring history to life by giving them opportunities to portray different characters from historical events. Students collaborated and improvised to tell stories of those characters, which required them to think deeply about the period and react to the events of the time.



## SAIL Principals' Retreat

ArtsNOW Leadership and principals of the STEM + the Art of Integrated Learning (SAIL) grant schools gathered for the annual Principals' Retreat. The group spent valuable time reflecting on the grant's first two years and began preparing to deepen its impact. Principals shared ideas for supporting teacher leaders and sustaining the work beyond the life of the grant.

Project Coordinator Jaffia Royes facilitated activities that captured the essence of the grant work and gave principals ideas to share with their faculties. At the end of our time together, everyone involved was eager to take the following steps in our SAIL journey.



## REALAI Supplying Arts Materials

ArtsNOW's Reimagining and Accelerating Literacy through Arts Integration (REALAI) grant supplied teachers with arts-related supplies! As part of the grant, grade levels in all six REALAI schools had the opportunity to customize their supply lists.

East Clayton Elementary was thrilled with Boom Whackers and various percussion instruments to create soundscapes with their reading. JC Lynch Elementary teachers are excited to receive Model Magic to make sculptures related to their reading stories.

All supplies will support literacy in each art form, whether visual arts, music, drama, or dance.





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## Winder, GA: ArtsNOW Team Meeting

As the first half of the school year came to a close, ArtsNOW's dynamic consultant team gathered for a day of learning and reflection. As veteran consultants led the group, consultants became students through fun and engaging strategies to activate learning. The team also looked closely at academic standards to find the natural connections between the content and the arts.

The dialogue and collaboration will continue into the new year as we work together to positively impact the teachers, students, and school communities we partner with.

The ArtsNOW team wishes you a happy New Year!



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