

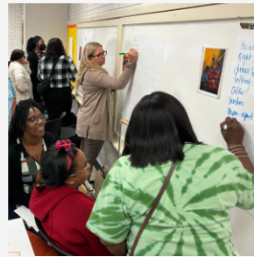


Newsletter | November 2024  
We bring learning to life every month!



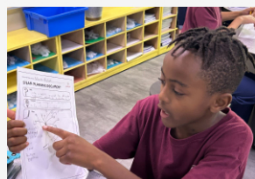
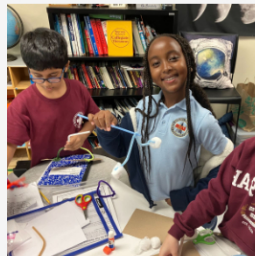
### Savannah, GA: Equipping Teachers with Innovative Literacy Strategies

ArtsNOW Project Manager Kim Mercer and Curriculum and Instruction Specialist Katy Betts presented at Thrive, a teacher training hosted by Savannah Chatham County Public Schools. Their session introduced Harvard Project Zero's Artful Thinking to enrich K-12 education through visual literacy. Participants learned to enhance critical thinking and engagement across content areas, incorporating theater techniques like tableau and creative music methods such as found sounds and body percussion.



### Marietta, GA: Full STEAM Ahead

Science teachers and students at the Marietta Center for Advanced Academics used the Engineering Design Process to design, plan, and build a balanced sculpture inspired by Alexander Calder. Students in 5th grade also created models of plant and animal cells using various materials. This session concluded the Learn4Life Bright Spot project that allowed ArtsNOW to work in four schools in Clayton County, Fulton County, and Marietta City.

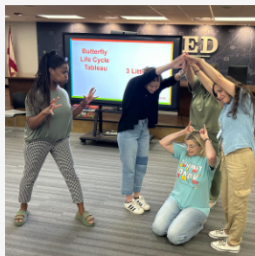
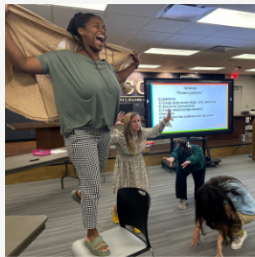




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## Birmingham, AL: Engaging New Teachers with Arts Integration

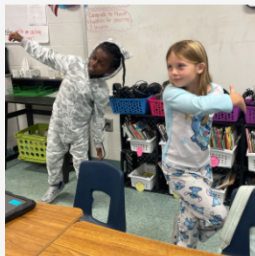
Regional Directors Regi Strickland and Shawn Williams introduced new teachers at **Bryant Park** and **Minor Community Schools** to the foundations of arts integration. Teachers explored strategies in all four art forms to enhance classroom learning. Regi led music-based sessions, using steady beat and rhythm to support literacy and boomwhackers to integrate music with math. Shawn demonstrated visual thinking strategies and guided teachers using movement and dance vocabulary to teach literacy standards. The day concluded with teachers creating tableau to retell a story.



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## Walterboro, SC: Story Dances

Students and teachers at **Cottageville**, **Forest Hills**, and **Northside Elementary Schools** explored storytelling through dance. Dance Consultant Simone Liberty guided them to use movement to express themes, settings, and plots from literature. Students embraced dance vocabulary, embodying concepts like rolling streams, school settings, and friendship. Smiles filled the room as students and teachers discovered how dance movements can convey powerful messages, retelling stories without a single word.

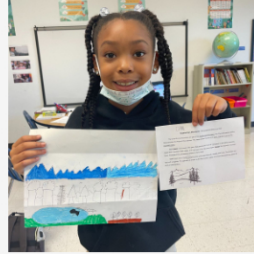


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## Sandy Springs, GA: Getting Our Hands Dirty

Students at **Ison Springs Elementary** explored the creative possibilities of oil pastels. Younger students drew a seed to demonstrate the life cycle of a plant while practicing positional words. Third graders blended colors to create scenic pictures inspired by nonfiction texts about landforms. Older students designed Character Portraits, filling heads with symbolic images to represent historical figures. Students discovered new techniques, experimented with blending, and

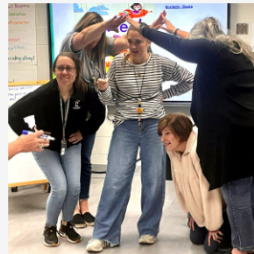
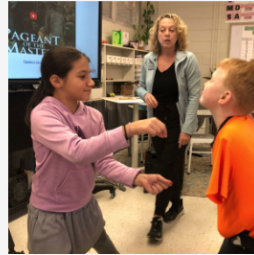
enjoyed the process of getting their hands dirty!



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## Spartanburg, SC: Theatre Takes Center Stage

At New **Prospect Elementary** in Spartanburg District 1, Theatre Consultant Barry Stewart Mann guided first graders to solve problems using animal adaptations, like designing a bike helmet inspired by a turtle shell. Fifth graders illustrated energy transfer in ecosystems through tableau. At **Holly Springs-Motlow Elementary** in Spartanburg 1, Theatre Consultant Susie Purcell worked with Ms. Murph's fourth graders to explore Revolutionary War events like the Stamp Act and Boston Tea Party using tableau. At **Cannons Elementary** in Spartanburg 3, students and teachers created scripts and performances, bringing historical events to life through creative expression.

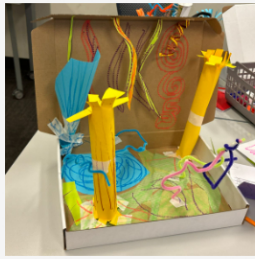


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## Atlanta, GA: 3D STEAM Camp Brings the Rainforest to Life

Led by SAIL Grant Teacher Leader Megan Leatherwood, students at the Georgia Tech CEISMC camp engaged in an immersive STEAM experience. They built 3D rainforest models using manipulated paper and 3D pens, portrayed rainforest animals through theater techniques, and created soundscapes for their models using Soundtrap. As the first CEISMC camp of the year at Georgia Tech's Atlanta campus, it was an inspiring start, sparking creativity and joy among all participants.

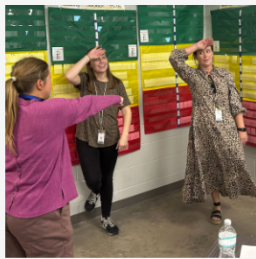
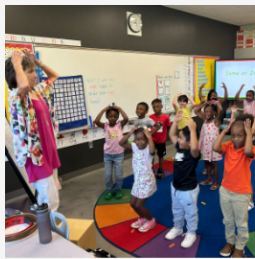




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## Birmingham, AL: Moving and Making Music

ArtsNOW Consultants Dr. Maribeth Yoder-White and Melissa Joy collaborated with teachers and students at **Bryant Park Elementary** across a three-day rotation. Teachers explored strategies in music and dance integration, focusing on steady beat and its connection to fluency in reading. Students applied these strategies by using spoken word choreography to illustrate their understanding of seasons and plant parts. Teachers also planned lessons with the consultants, gaining tools to integrate the arts into their classrooms effectively.



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## Anderson & Greenville, SC: Cultivating Creativity in the Upstate

In upstate South Carolina, ArtsNOW Consultants integrated the arts into academic lessons to foster creativity and engagement. At **Calhoun Academy of the Arts** in Anderson 5, Dance Consultant Melissa Joy taught third graders counterbalances, exploring how body weight and force create balance through partner movements. Visual Arts Consultant Stephanie Lancaster guided first graders at **Centerville Elementary** in Anderson 5 in using play dough to explore 2D and 3D shapes, incorporating hands-on math by "smashing" the dough for addition and subtraction. At **Ellen Woodside Elementary** in Greenville, Theatre Consultant Susie Purcell led fourth and fifth graders in portraying historical artifacts and characters from the Revolutionary War using the "10-second object" technique.

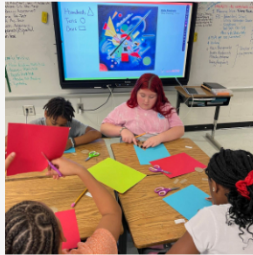




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## Augusta, GA: Customized Arts Integration Coaching

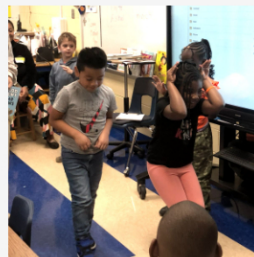
Long-time partner **Hephzibah Elementary** is taking its arts integration experience to the next level! One teacher from each grade level worked 1-on-1 with Visual Arts Consultant Katy Betts to plan a lesson, then co-taught it in their classroom the next day. This approach allowed teachers to see the strategies in action while fully immersing themselves in the process. Students explored creative lessons like using arrays to craft collage mosaics, drawing illustrations to sequence beginning/middle/end, and designing abstract art to represent place values. The visit wrapped up with a debrief session to reflect and plan for the future.



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## Georgetown County, SC: Unlocking the Power of Theatre Integration

**Andrews Elementary** and **Sampit Elementary** in Georgetown County embraced arts integration through theatre. ArtsNOW Theatre Consultants Susie Purcell and Barry Stewart Mann equipped teachers with strategies like storytelling and hot seating to enhance learning and creativity. Hot seating engaged students in exploring character motivations, perspectives, and plot details by stepping into the roles of characters or authors. These strategies not only supported literacy development but also fostered empathy, critical thinking, and joy in the learning process.



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Register: **Demonstration of Learning Days**

Registration is now open for  
ArtsNOW Demonstration of Learning Days for 2024-2025.

Visit ArtsNOW Leadership Schools and see arts-integrated lessons in action during one of our eight dates to showcase different types of schools in Georgia and South Carolina.

[Register Now](#)

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