



Newsletter | April 2025
 We bring learning to life every month!



Douglasville, GA: Making Meaning through Music

At Youth Villages Inner Harbor in Douglasville, GA, ArtsNOW Consultant Lyn Koonce used music strategies to connect learning with empowerment. Middle and high school students celebrated Women's History Month by analyzing songs from influential female artists, then used Hear, Think, Wonder to reflect and write their own empowering lyrics. Elementary students explored plant needs and tree impact through rhythmic speech with steady beats. Other classes created soundscapes to demonstrate their understanding of biomes. These lessons sparked creativity while reinforcing science, literacy, and self-expression.



Greenville, SC: Moving, Learning, and Creating Across the Curriculum

At Berea Elementary, Theatre Consultant Susie Spear Purcell introduced students to statues and tableau strategies to explore plant parts and animal adaptations. Dance Consultant Melissa Joy made math active by guiding students to form parallelograms with elastic bands and choreograph fraction sequences. At League Academy, middle schoolers learned dances from the World War II era and created routines based on mean, median, and mode. Across Greenville County, movement and creativity made lessons dynamic, memorable, and fun.



Winder, GA: Creating Vibrant Communities with the Georgia Council for the Arts

ArtsNOW and two Barrow County schools were awarded Vibrant Communities

Grants from the Georgia Council for the Arts. At **Yargo Elementary**, teachers participated in a Professional Learning Residency, working with ArtsNOW Consultants to integrate the arts into math, reading, and science. At **Holsenbeck Elementary**, more than 800 students contributed to a collaborative hallway art installation. They explored color, line, and texture to create three-dimensional collages for a sensory wall inspired by the museum Meow Wolf. These projects celebrated creativity while enriching learning across the schools.



Colleton County, SC: **Finding Our Rhythm**

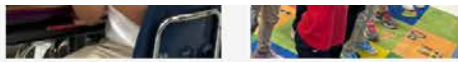
As part of the Reimagining and Accelerating Literacy through Arts Integration (REALAI) grant, students and teachers in **Colleton County, South Carolina** found their reading rhythm. With smiles all around, students worked to fit main ideas and sentence details into eight-beat phrases. When Music Consultant Dr. Maribeth Yoder-White added a backbeat on her cajon, heads started nodding and bodies moved to the rhythm. Across the school, students used rhythmic speech to express story themes, retell passages, and summarize main ideas. This is one strategy teachers are eager to use again.



Savannah, GA: **Connecting Content Through Creativity**

At **Garden City Elementary**, music strategies energized K-2 classrooms through a partnership with ArtsNOW. Music Consultant Dr. Maribeth Yoder-White guided students and teachers in using rhythmic speech, soundscapes, and the Hear, Think, Wonder routine. Students blended academic content with music vocabulary in fun and creative ways. Teachers noted how the strategies boosted focus, participation, and learning. The result was classrooms filled with movement, music, and meaningful engagement.





Aiken, SC: East Aiken Hosts First Demonstration of Learning Day

At East Aiken School of the Arts, guests from across South Carolina gathered to celebrate a three-year partnership with ArtsNOW. Principal Lisa Fallaw and Regional Director Regi Strickland welcomed visitors with reflections on the school's growth. Guests explored classrooms where kindergartners rewrote song lyrics about the chicken life cycle and third graders analyzed fine art to inspire writing. Process Boards highlighted integration across content areas. The day ended with a preview of East Aiken's arts-themed field day and a collaborative debrief session. Participants left with new ideas and inspiration for their own arts integration journeys.



Augusta, GA: Musical Connections at Garrett Elementary

At Garrett Elementary School, Music Consultant Dr. Rue Lee-Holmes led a two-day music integration experience that sparked creativity across all grade levels. Fifth graders responded to Vivaldi's music through expressive writing, third graders explored symmetry using rhythmic patterns, and kindergartners used instruments to distinguish long and short sounds. Teachers participated in professional learning sessions focused on strategies for integrating music into daily instruction. Throughout the visit, music served as a powerful tool for building understanding across math, science, and ELA while enriching both teaching and learning.



Midlands, SC: Where Language Meets Sound

At Logan Elementary (Richland District 2), Theatre Consultant Susie Spear Purcell guided upper elementary Montessori students in exploring forest ecosystems through drama. Students embodied animals and stayed in character while answering questions, reinforcing the ELA standard of point of view. At Midway Elementary in Kershaw County, Music Consultant Dr. Rue Lee-Holmes led second graders in a lively listen-and-draw activity focused on onomatopoeia. Students identified "sound" words and sang songs to reinforce their learning. These joyful lessons helped students connect academic content to music and movement while building creativity and confidence.





Savannah, GA: **When Movement Meets Middle Grades**

At Hesse K-8 in Savannah, Georgia, Dance Consultant Simone Liberty partnered with teachers and students to bring movement into the classroom through engaging dance strategies. Middle schoolers explored how to connect social studies and science content with choreography, deepening understanding through physical expression. As students embodied key ideas, they also strengthened critical thinking, communication, and creativity. Teachers explored new ways to integrate dance into their instruction, discovering how movement can enrich academic learning. This dynamic approach made lessons more meaningful and memorable for all involved.



Upstate, SC: **Creative Connections**

At Inman Elementary, Dance Consultant Chris Crabb helped first graders explore geometry by creating body shapes in small groups. At Centerville Elementary, Theatre Consultant Barry Stewart Mann integrated pantomime and ELA, encouraging empathy and comprehension as students predicted story outcomes. At Homeland Park Primary, students experienced two arts-integrated lessons. Visual Arts Consultant Tandy Krajec linked art elements to math and reading, while Theatre Consultant Susie Spear Purcell introduced tableau and story whoosh to explore plant life and desert habitats. Each lesson sparked engagement, imagination, and deeper understanding.



Atlanta, GA: **Blending Art, Science, and Engineering in Fiber Art**

In partnership with GA Tech CEISMC Atlanta, ArtsNOW Teacher Leader Kristen Alvarez guided students through a creative fiber art project that blended art, science, and engineering. Students explored Jackson Pollock's Abstract

Expressionism, experimenting with texture and layering techniques using paint and texture combs. They developed basic stitching skills on cardboard, creating unique designs using a template. Incorporating basic circuitry into their artwork added an innovative twist. Throughout the process, students reflected on their creative choices and artistic journey, deepening their understanding of both the artistic and technical elements. It was a fantastic learning experience for everyone involved!



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