



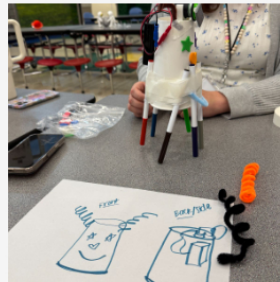
Newsletter | August 2025

We bring learning to life every month!



Pelzer, SC: Ellen Woodside Builds STEAM with ArtBots

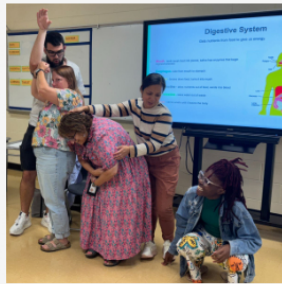
Ellen Woodside Elementary kicked off the year with a burst of creativity as staff built ArtBots. As part of the new federal Educational Advancement through STEM Engagement (EASE) grant in partnership with National Young Audiences Arts for Learning, the school is deepening its commitment to STEAM learning. Led by ArtsNOW staff and teacher leaders, staff explored artful thinking strategies, the engineering design process, and circuit building. Working in teams, they brainstormed, designed, and built their own ArtBots, then set them loose to create original works of art. The experience sparked collaboration, innovation, and hands-on problem-solving, setting the tone for a year of creative teaching and learning.



Georgetown, SC: Educators Energized by Arts Integration

Educators at Brown's Ferry Elementary and Carvers Bay Middle STEAM Academy kicked off the year with dynamic professional learning focused on STEAM and project-based learning. At **Brown's Ferry**, we opened the day with a session on unit planning. ArtsNOW consultants led workshops across all four art forms, guiding teachers in designing units that integrate dance, music, theatre, and visual arts into core content. At **Carvers Bay**, teachers extended summer learning through visual arts strategies tied to geometry, ancient civilizations, and Japanese Notan design, building inquiry-driven units that connect academics to students' lives and community.





Atlanta & Savannah, GA: ArtsNOW and Georgia Tech Team Up for STEAM Camps

This summer, ArtsNOW and Georgia Tech CEISMC partnered to deliver hands-on STEAM camps in Atlanta and Savannah, sparking innovation, creativity, and real-world learning. At both sites, students explored the exciting intersection of technology, art, and design through project-based experiences.

In **Savannah**, students participated in Make It, Wear It!, led by ArtsNOW Teacher Leader Hollie Kinlaw from Heard Elementary. They explored upcycling, sewing, and embroidery to design custom outfits, then used STEAM journals to plan and prototype. Students added circuitry with LED lights and programmed mini speakers to play music, bringing their one-of-a-kind designs to life on the runway.



In **Atlanta**, SAIL grant teacher leaders guided students through artistic engineering challenges. They designed wearable electronics using sewable circuits and created abstract art using programmable robots as paintbrushes, drawing inspiration from artist Wassily Kandinsky. From fashion tech to robotic painting, students experienced the power of integrating science, technology, engineering, arts, and math to fuel curiosity and creative expression.



Piedmont, SC: Starting the Arts Integration Journey

ArtsNOW is thrilled to partner with **Sue Cleveland Elementary School**, thanks to support from the South Carolina Arts Commission. In a high-energy kickoff session, ArtsNOW introduced the foundations of arts integration and guided teachers through creative strategies. Staff collaborated on 3D sculptures to explore relationships, experienced tableau to integrate theatre and literacy, and participated in an "invasion of the brain" activity to spark engagement. They

also reflected on the difference between arts enhancement and arts integration. With a year of professional learning and demonstration lessons ahead, Sue Cleveland is ready to deepen learning through the arts.



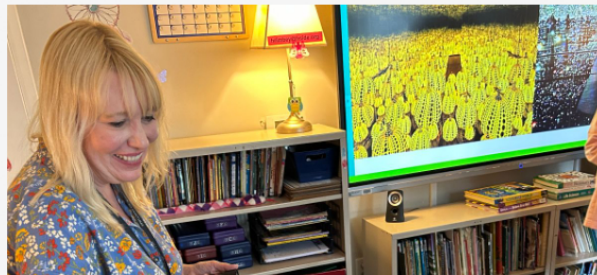
Johns Island, SC: Little Learners, Big Connections

ArtsNOW is excited to continue our partnership on Johns Island with a new name and focus: Angel Oak Primary, serving PreK through 1st grade. ArtsNOW guided teachers through early literacy strategies grounded in arts integration. Educators explored Visual Thinking Strategies and engaged in routines such as “See, Think, Wonder” and “Step Inside” to develop analysis and empathy. They also collaborated to create tableaus showing the beginning, middle, and end of a story. With movement and imagination leading the way, teachers discovered creative tools to bring foundational literacy skills to life.



Atlanta, GA: Summer RAISE

This summer, students at Hillside Conant School explored Greek mythology and visual storytelling through two RAISE residencies. With Theatre Consultant Susie Purcell, students created costumes, masks, and set pieces to bring mythological characters to life in a lawn performance. Visual Arts Consultant Shannon Green guided students in building kaleidoscopes using flowers from her summer garden and creating personal collages. The residencies concluded with a collaborative mural that celebrated each student and staff member. Through drama and visual arts, students expressed their ideas, built connections, and explored the power of community.





Waltersboro, SC: Spreading Smiles One Book at a Time

Reimagining and Accelerating Literacy through Arts Integration (REALAI) celebrated the start of the school year at **Forest Hill Elementary's** open house. ArtsNOW welcomed over 300 students and their families with the first REALAI book distribution of the year. Each student received two new books, a Creativity Task Card with grade-level arts activities, and materials to complete them. Families left with smiles, excitement, and tools to make reading fun at home. Laughter filled the hallways as students connected with stories in creative ways. ArtsNOW looks forward to more joyful literacy celebrations throughout the year.



North Charleston, SC: Writing Their Story through the Arts

ArtsNOW launched another year of partnership with **North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary**, focusing on customized strategies to support literacy through the arts. During the kickoff, teachers explored how reading and writing can be strengthened through dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. Fine arts teachers also collaborated with ArtsNOW consultants to identify ways to elevate literacy in their own classrooms. This interdisciplinary approach ensures students encounter language and literacy across subjects, building strong foundations through creativity and connection.



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