



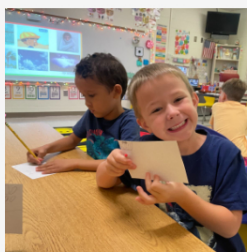
Newsletter | September 2025

We bring learning to life every month!



Alpharetta, GA: Sounds Like a New Partnership

A new partnership with **Alpharetta Elementary** created meaningful connections between music and academic content this September. Guided by Consultant Dr. Rue Lee-Holmes, all grade levels integrated music with science and social studies. Younger students explored push/pull and weather through rhythm and movement. Second graders used drums and shakers while studying Georgia's Native American cultures. Fourth graders composed data sonification pieces about the planets, while fifth graders turned cell parts into musical compositions. From steady beats to creative melodies, students used music to deepen understanding and bring classroom concepts to life.



Charleston, SC: Two Powerful Approaches

At **North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary**, arts integration happens in two ways—classroom teachers bring in the arts, and arts specialists connect content to their art form. Dance Consultant Simone Liberty recently worked alongside the school's dance teacher to integrate literacy into dance instruction. Students explored story elements, sequencing, and vocabulary through movement, deepening comprehension in active, memorable ways. This collaborative approach shows how creativity can energize instruction and strengthen academic learning.





Roswell, GA: **Curtain Up on Creative Learning**

ArtsNOW recently brought theatre integration to **Vickery Mill Elementary**, leading teachers through engaging, hands-on professional learning. In curriculum mapping sessions, educators planned integrated units and explored a range of arts strategies. Theatre Consultant Barry Stewart Mann modeled how tableau can support story structure and how readers' theatre builds understanding of character, plot, and theme. On the final day, teachers reflected on their learning and mapped next steps, expanding their toolkit for dynamic, arts-integrated literacy instruction.



Birmingham, AL: **Equipping New Teachers**

ArtsNOW Regional Directors Regi Strickland and Shawn Williams led a full day of professional learning with new teachers at **Bryant Park Elementary** and **Minor Community School** in Jefferson County. Several fine arts teachers from across the district also joined the session. Educators explored the shared foundations of arts integration, practiced strategies and activators, and engaged in hands-on learning. Teachers left inspired and equipped with practical ideas for integrating all four art forms across the curriculum.



SCAC in Upstate, SC: **Sparking Creativity**

Classrooms in Upstate South Carolina are coming alive with imagination. At **Berea Elementary**, Consultant Barry Stewart Mann guided kindergarteners in exploring the weather and helped first graders make text-to-self connections through movement. At **Cannons Elementary**, Consultant Susie Spear Purcell led teachers through strategies like mirroring, Drama Circles, and Hot Seating —modeling each approach in action. Students identified character traits through mirroring and deepened their understanding by stepping into character roles to answer questions. ArtsNOW also kicked off a three-year partnership with **Woodmont Middle**, funded by Arts Grow SC, to support impactful arts integration across classrooms.



Atlanta, GA: **Learning on the Move**

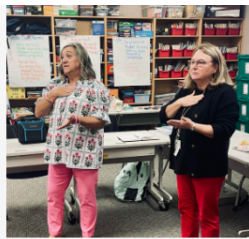
Hope Hill Elementary, with support from the Zeist Foundation, stepped into the school year with dynamic dance integration led by Consultant Julie Galle Baggenstoss. Teachers participated in professional learning using strategies like the one-handed dance. First, it served as a focusing activity. Then, it became a tool to explore character emotions. In demonstration lessons, students explored math place value through levels, spun through science content like landforms and energy, and choreographed movement sequences about plant parts. Teachers and students experienced how dance can connect movement to meaning, creating powerful, memorable learning opportunities across subjects.



SCAC in Anderson County, SC: **From Inspiration to Action**

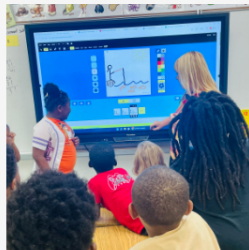
Supported by Arts Grow SC, teachers at **Centerville Elementary** and **Homeland Park Primary** are building confidence and creativity through arts-integrated professional learning. At Centerville, Consultant Lyn Koonce guided teachers through music vocabulary and activators before planning music-integrated lessons for their students. At Homeland Park, Consultant Shannon Green led visual arts integration, modeling artful thinking strategies such as See, Think, Wonder and Step Inside. Teachers created their own artwork, then collaborated to design meaningful lessons using those same strategies. With support, supplies, and fresh ideas, educators are igniting student learning through the arts in both classrooms and school communities.





Hephzibah, GA: Connecting through Digital Arts

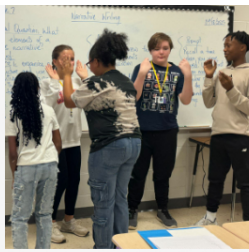
At **Hephzibah Elementary**, students and teachers explored digital arts with Visual Arts Consultant Shannon Green. Kindergarteners studied Paul Klee's *Castle in the Sun* and created digital art concepts using shapes and colors in Autodraw. Fourth graders animated patterns with BrushNinja, while fifth graders illustrated the cattle drive and wrote first-person journal entries. Teacher leaders and grade-level teams debriefed with Shannon to reflect and plan next steps. The visit highlighted how digital tools can spark creativity, deepen engagement, and open new pathways for students to explore, create, and connect through visual art and technology.



SCAC in Midlands, SC: Stories, Sounds, and Steps

ArtsNOW consultants are sparking creativity across the South Carolina Midlands. At **Logan Elementary**, Music Consultant Rue Lee-Holmes guided students in sequencing songs and exploring vibrations. At **Newberry Middle**, Music Consultant Lyn Koonce led sixth graders in writing raps to explain energy transfer and helped seventh graders analyze lyrics before performing rhythmic speech. At **Saluda River Academy for the Arts**, Dance Consultant Simone Liberty supported students as they retold stories through dance. Across all grade levels, students connected academic concepts with rhythm, sound, and movement, turning classrooms into spaces of discovery, collaboration, and creative expression.





Savannah, GA: Collaborating, Moving, Learning

ArtsNOW Dance Consultant Simone Liberty partnered with teachers and students at Hesse K-8 to bring learning to life through movement. Teachers explored dance strategies and vocabulary and began planning lessons that connect dance with science and social studies. In classrooms, students worked together to create and perform dance sequences that reflected academic content. They made claims, asked questions, and used evidence from both dance and subject-area vocabulary. The experience sparked creativity and engagement, helping students express understanding in new ways while strengthening connections across content.



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