



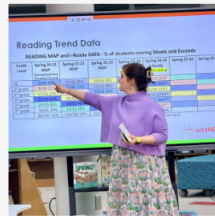
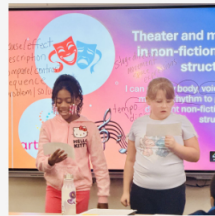
Newsletter | April 2026

We bring learning to life every month!



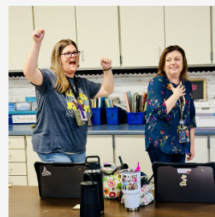
Spartanburg, SC: Demonstrating Learning Through Arts

At **Cannons Elementary School**, educators from across South Carolina and Georgia experienced arts integration in action during an ArtsNOW Demonstration of Learning Day. Classrooms came alive as students created artwork inspired by illustrators and used movement to sequence stories. Student musicians welcomed guests, setting an energizing tone. Throughout the day, engagement was visible as students demonstrated understanding through creative processes. The visit concluded with reflection and a spirited school song performance, leaving attendees inspired by the impact of arts integration on student learning.



Upstate, SC: Arts Across Classrooms

Across partner schools, students explored learning through multiple art forms. At **Berea Elementary School**, Music Consultant Dr. Rue Lee-Holmes guided students in understanding vibration through music. At **Inman Elementary School**, Dance Consultant Simone Liberty delivered lessons focused on shapes and movement. At **Woodmont Middle School**, Theatre Consultant Barry Stewart Mann led students in creating persuasive commercials and improvising historical scenes. These experiences strengthened connections across subjects and gave students new ways to communicate ideas through the arts.



Atlanta, GA: Books and Creativity Shared

Students at **M. Agnes Jones Elementary School** celebrated a joyful book distribution thanks to a grant from The Lewis H. Beck Foundation. Each student received a book, Creativity Task Card, and art supplies, including scarves, instruments, and visual arts materials. The cards encourage families to explore

theatre, dance, music, and visual arts together. This experience extended learning beyond the classroom and supported creativity at home. The celebration brought together students, teachers, and families, reinforcing the role of arts integration in building excitement for reading and creative expression.



San Diego, CA: National Connections Grow

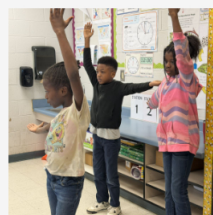
ArtsNOW leadership participated in the Magnet Schools of America National Conference, joining district and school leaders from across the country who are advancing magnet programs centered on arts integration and STEAM. Throughout the week, the team built meaningful relationships with educators committed to innovative teaching and learning. These conversations reflected a shared focus on expanding access to engaging, arts-integrated instruction and on the growing need for high-quality professional learning to support sustainable implementation.

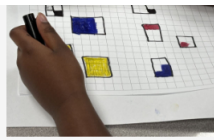
During a well-attended session, ArtsNOW shared proven strategies and data-driven insights to support magnet schools. Participants explored practical approaches to strengthening arts integration and STEAM, focusing on increasing student engagement, improving academic outcomes, and enhancing school culture. ArtsNOW looks forward to continuing these connections and supporting schools nationwide in advancing impactful, arts-integrated learning!



Lowcountry, SC: Thinking Through Movement and Art

Students across partner schools explored new ways to think and express understanding through arts integration. At **Kingstree Middle School**, students modeled equations through movement and defended their choreography with evidence. At **Hendersonville Elementary School**, students analyzed dance photography to represent geometric angles. At **Greeleyville Elementary School**, Visual Arts Consultant Stephanie Lancaster connected math, science, and ELA through the Elements of Art. These experiences supported deeper inquiry and helped students communicate ideas with clarity and confidence.





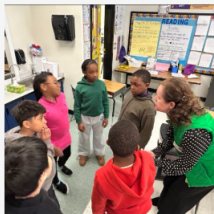
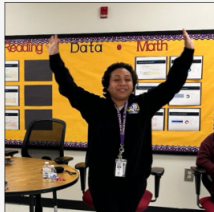
Newberry, SC: Expression and Connection

Across partner schools, students explored communication and creativity through the arts. At **Boundary Street Elementary School** and **Reuben Elementary School**, Theatre Consultant Susie Purcell used mirroring to reinforce vocabulary. At **Newberry High School**, Dance Consultant Simone Liberty guided students in exploring relationships through movement. At **Newberry Middle School**, Visual Arts Consultant Shannon Green guided students in transforming descriptive text into original artwork. These experiences strengthened expression and helped students connect ideas across content areas.



East Point, GA: Storytelling Through Dance

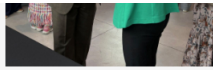
At **Hamilton E. Holmes Elementary School**, Dance Consultant Julie Baggenstoss facilitated students in choreographing movement to retell stories. Students sequenced events and demonstrated understanding of main ideas and key details through dance. Teachers used dance vocabulary to guide instruction and deepen comprehension. Students also compared and contrasted movement across different performances. This approach strengthened literacy skills while encouraging creative expression, helping students communicate meaning in ways that extended beyond words.



Birmingham, AL: Arts Integration in Focus

ArtsNOW team members joined leaders from across the state at the Alabama Arts Alliance Summit to share the impact of arts integration. ArtsNOW co-presented a session with Shelly Bailey from Jefferson County Schools, highlighting the partnership with the district and demonstrating how arts strategies strengthen teaching and learning. Participants explored practical approaches and gained a clear understanding of how arts integration supports student success. The strong engagement during the session reflected growing interest in this work and opened the door for future collaboration across districts and arts organizations.





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