

# Learn4Life

Pamela Walker, artsNOW CEO and President  
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**“Arts integration has significant effect on all kinds of students...They become better thinkers, develop higher-order skills, and deepen their engagement and inclination to learn.**

**Integrated arts represents a serious strategy for [school] improvement and change.**

**It works because it keeps the focus of change on learning, which is where it belongs.”**

Rabkin, N. (2004). Learning and the Arts. In N. Rabkin & R. Redmond (Eds.), *Putting the Arts in the Picture: Reframing Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (p. 8)

**Integrated Learning is Powerful Learning**



## MISSION

The mission of ArtsNOW Learning is to transform lives through customized solutions to meet educational needs utilizing arts-integration and innovative strategies.

## VISION

ArtsNOW Learning is the leading professional learning organization for resourceful and innovative approaches which engage students, equip educators, and grow school communities for meaningful impact on the future.

We bring learning to life!



## *Visual Arts*



## *Drama*



## *Music*



## *Arts Integration*



## *Digital / Media Arts*



## *Dance*



# *Arts Integration and ELA*

- Compare / contrast
- Conflict / resolution
- Beginning / middle / end
- Symbolism
- Citing evidence, making inferences with supporting details
- Vocabulary development
- Characters / setting / plot
- Digital storytelling
- Point of view
- Expression
- Patterns
- Fluency
- and many more!

*Integrated Learning is Powerful Learning!*



# Proven Model

*Does it work?*



# Our Impact:

ArtsNOW Learning was the lead partner with Cobb County Schools for a Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) Innovation Grant called KickstART Cobb (2016-2018). The focus was Early Literacy, preK through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and yielded highly positive results.

- As a result of successful completion of a two and a half year implementation grant, KickstART was a “spotlight” featured in the 2018 Innovation Fund Annual Report with documentation to support both teacher and student growth. The report states that “as teachers gained confidence and strengthened their instructional practices, students’ reading performance also improved.”
- Powder Springs Elementary, an ArtsNOW Leadership School, was recognized by L4L last year as a “bright spot.”
- ArtsNOW KickstART project schools (Cobb County Elementary Schools) significantly outperformed comparison schools on the 2018 state English/Language Arts Assessment, both overall and in Writing with a 9.4% increase in number of students passing ELA.
- 96.4% of students involved in an arts integration / literacy grant increased their Lexile, compared to 91% of the comparison group. Students in the control group ended with an average score of 562, while the comparison group ended with an average of 534.



# Our Impact:

**ArtsNOW Learning was the lead partner for a USDOE arts integration / literacy grant (AEMDD) where the external evaluator documented:**

- ArtsNOW project schools receiving training in arts integration significantly outperformed the comparison schools on the state English/Language Arts assessment. When controlling for students' prior ELA scale score, there was a significant difference in the ELA scale score favoring project students. Results showed the percentage of project students demonstrating proficiency on the state annual English/Language Arts assessment increased significantly over baseline.
- Results from a Primary Grades Writing Assessment indicated a 61% improvement in 1<sup>st</sup> grade; 57% improvement in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; with a 59% total improvement.
- All project schools increased their school climate ratings.

**We bring learning to life!**



# **Our Impact:**

**ArtsNOW is a proven practice for teacher effectiveness and student performance.**

-With a focus on teacher effectiveness, ArtsNOW yields positive return on investment with documented longitudinal results showing that:

- 1) teachers collaborate with each other more often;
- 2) teacher confidence is enhanced; and,
- 3) teachers are more engaged in their work.

This leads to increased teachers effectiveness, development of teacher leaders, teacher retention, teacher satisfaction, and sustainability of practices that become exponentially beneficial to school-wide practice and student performance.

-Data also shows that:

- 1) students feel more engaged in their work;
- 2) students have a greater sense of community and collaboration; and,
- 3) student self-esteem is enhanced.



# Our Impact:

**Research has shown that structured coaching and opportunities for practice are effective ways to prepare teachers to use new strategies that lead to improved student performance.**

**ArtsNOW's support involves a combination of ongoing professional learning events and job-embedded support that includes, but is not limited to: demonstration lessons that model arts-based literacy strategies, one on one digital or in-person coaching, arts integrated / literacy residencies, planning sessions, and observations where ArtsNOW team members can observe teachers' use of strategies and provide constructive feedback.**



# Scalable

*Can it work in other places?*



# Our Reach:

- Having served 293 schools in over 30 districts, ArtsNOW has facilitated professional learning resulting in more than 29,000 educator contacts and nearly 321,000 student interactions.
- Growth to date has been a direct result of word of mouth referrals which has allowed us to deepen and broaden our partnerships beyond metro Atlanta.
- Direct example of successful scaling has been the recent award of a new federal grant, entitled SmART Literacy, that replicates the previous Cobb County arts integration / literacy grant (KickStART) into Savannah, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina.

We bring learning to life!



# Growing our Reach:

In the past five years, ArtsNOW has seen a growth trajectory of 277%.

Newly approved 3-year strategic plan with the following organizational priorities:

- 1) to increase awareness of, and engagement with, ArtsNOW;
- 2) to advance our programs and services to ensure effectiveness and scalability;
- 3) to expand our footprint and drive organizational growth and evolution; and,
- 4) to strengthen financial model and organizational structure to support evolution and growth.

Working with L4L is in direct alignment to, and in support of, our strategic plan and vision, and will allow ArtsNOW to further impact teacher effectiveness across metro Atlanta!

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# Equitable

*Will it help close the achievement gap?*



# Closing the Achievement Gap:

- Serving mostly Title One schools, ArtsNOW external evaluation reflected the impact of arts integration on students in the economically disadvantaged subgroup was substantial.
- Specific to reading, economically disadvantaged students scored 36% more in “exceeds” category than their peers.
- In addition, ESOL students increased their performance on the ACCESS test from 54.1% to 74.0%.
- ArtsNOW responds to school community needs and works collaboratively to provide experiences for students in underserved communities.

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# Thank you!

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