




We, the arts and creative community of the Pikes Peak region, DECLARE that...

The arts foster creativity, innovation, and life skills and are essential to being human. We commit to supporting **HIGH-QUALITY ARTS EDUCATION** and access to arts experiences for every student across the region.








OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN REACH:

KEY:  IMPLEMENTATION TACTIC

 EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION FOCUS

1. Support programs to increase access to the arts for local educators and students, like arts passports, family engagement initiatives, and more.
2. Improve student and teacher awareness of traditional and nontraditional arts opportunities available in the community.
 -  a. Develop and distribute information through school networks about arts learning opportunities for K-12 students offered outside of school by the arts community. Include information that reduces barriers, such as transportation, fees and scholarships, translation, etc.
3. Create a pre-approved roster of teaching artists that work in schools to augment arts education inside the classroom.
 -  a. Explore collaboration with Think360 Arts for statewide connections and training.
4. Convene arts representatives from each of the 17 school districts with artists and creatives who work in arts education to share successes and challenges and to continue to work towards greater access to arts education for all K-12 students in the region.
5. Expand scholarships, sliding fee scales, and free offerings for students to participate in arts educational programs.
 -  a. Establish a regional arts scholarship fund.

OPPORTUNITIES TO REACH FOR:

-  1. Hire an arts education expert to oversee regional research, coordination, information-sharing and program development.
-  2. Research the access, variety, and quality of arts education offerings across school districts. Use this information to direct advocacy, funding, partnerships and programmatic opportunities to those students with the least access to arts education.
3. Building on the success of the existing regional student art exhibition for Congressional District 5, create additional opportunities for students across the region to showcase their creativity.
 -  a. Create an awards program that recognizes students working in nontraditional art forms (like digital media, spoken word, music production, video, etc.)
4. Benchmark and share how schools can use the arts in service of teaching non-art subjects (like math and science), and how the arts can advance DEI work with students.
5. Encourage young creatives to stay in the region after graduation (both high school and college) by introducing them to available networks of support and career opportunities.
 -  a. Expose K-12 students to arts and creative career opportunities, and ensure arts are included in career education and represented at career fairs.
 -  b. Expand opportunities for students interested in the arts to connect with creative careers and working artists in the region.
 -  c. Develop more mentorship or apprenticeship programs connecting secondary students to working artists and creatives.
 -  d. Expand artists in residence programs and ensure the visiting artists connect with students across the region.
6. Support the creation of BFA or MFA degree programs and continued improvement and expansion of higher education arts facilities.