



TURNAROUND:ARTS

creating success in schools

About the President's Committee

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH), of which First Lady Michelle Obama is Honorary Chair, is an advisory committee to the White House on cultural issues. It works with federal agencies and the private sector to initiate and support key programs in the arts and the humanities, particularly in education. Members of PCAH include public figures and presidentially appointed private individuals. Further details are available at www.pcah.gov.

About Turnaround Arts

Turnaround Arts is a national program by the President's Committee, in coordination with the White House, the U.S. Department of Education, and several foundations, to bring arts education programming and resources to high-poverty elementary and middle schools across the country. It is based on the premise that high-quality and integrated arts education can strengthen school reform efforts, boost academic achievement, and increase student engagement in schools facing some of the toughest educational challenges in the country.

During a two year pilot phase, Turnaround Arts worked with a group of the country's lowest performing middle and elementary schools across the country to provide intensive arts resources that support broad school turnaround goals. Evaluation results from this pilot phase show that participating schools demonstrated improved academic performance, increased student and parent engagement, and improved culture and climate. As a group, they outperformed comparable schools in their city and state in academic achievement over the three years of the program. In the spring of 2014 and again in 2015, Turnaround Arts expanded the program, bringing in local program partners to work in clusters of high-poverty, low-performing schools in their region. There are currently 50 Turnaround Arts schools in 27 school districts and 14 states and the District of Columbia.

As part of Turnaround Arts, PCAH and its local partners provide these schools with an array of arts education services, resources, and materials designed to increase their chances of success, engage their community, and raise the visibility of their achievements. Key to these efforts is building arts education programming that is rigorous, effective, and integrated into the school, as well as strategically used to target larger school challenges. The program works closely with each of the schools throughout the program to help them plan and implement their arts-based transformation and ensure its impact.

Each school in the Turnaround Arts network receives:

- The designation of a high-profile artist who will work with the school over the length of the program to increase student and community engagement and promote local visibility for the school;
- Arts supplies, musical instruments, the rights to perform musicals, and additional materials and resources provided by Turnaround Arts;
- Parameters for program practice in using the arts to aid school improvement, including best practices, program requirements, accountability expectations, and staff responsibilities;
- A national summer conference for school teams to plan, receive training, and build a professional learning community among participants;
- Opportunities for in-school professional development in arts integration during the school year;
- Facilitation of partnerships with community arts education, cultural organizations, and potential funders to expand the school's ability to offer arts programming;
- Support for and coordination of public arts events at the school.

TURNAROUND ARTISTS: Individuals currently serving as Turnaround Artists include Paula Abdul, Marc Anthony, Elizabeth Banks, David Blaine, Chuck Close, Citizen Cope, Misty Copeland, Cameron Diaz, Carla Dirlikov, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Frank Gehry, Macy Gray, Josh Groban, Herbie Hancock, Elton John, Jack Johnson, Rashida Jones, Nigel Lythgoe, Yo-Yo Ma, Kerry James Marshall, Irvin Mayfield, Thom Mayne, Mike McCready, Jason Mraz, Edward Norton, Sarah Jessica Parker, Kal Penn, Tracy Reese, Tim Robbins, Doc Shaw, Jake Shimabukuro, Silk Road Ensemble, Russell Simmons, Chad Smith, Trombone Shorty, Kerry Washington, Bernie Williams, Forest Whitaker, Damian Woetzel, Alfre Woodard, and John Lloyd Young. Each "adopts" one or more Turnaround Arts schools and participates in events, master classes, and community events with their school over the course of the term.

NATIONAL PARTNERS: U.S. Department of Education, National Endowment for the Arts, AOL, Crayola, the Ford Foundation, the Herb Alpert Foundation, JCPenney Cares, the Keith Haring Foundation, Little Kids Rock, Music Theater International, the NAMM Foundation, the Rauschenberg Foundation, the Rosenthal Family Foundation, and the Steve and Alexa Cohen Foundation. The program is administered in partnership with Americans for the Arts.

LOCAL PARTNERS: Academy of Urban School Leadership, Chicago, IL; Bridgeport Public Schools, Bridgeport, CT; Broward County Public Schools, Fort Lauderdale, FL; DC Public Schools, Washington, D.C.; Des Moines Public Schools, Des Moines, IA; Fund for Public Schools, New York City, NY; Hawai'i Arts Alliance, Honolulu, HI; Perpich Center for Arts Education, Minneapolis, MN; ReNEW Schools, New Orleans, LA; and Turnaround Arts: California, Los Angeles, CA.

SCHOOLS: Participating schools were competitively selected by local partners according to national guidelines. Criteria for selection included demonstrated need and opportunity, strong school leadership and district support, and a commitment to arts education. Turnaround Arts schools represent elementary and middle schools from across the country and encompass a diversity of student demographics and urban and rural settings.

For more information, see <http://turnaroundarts.pcah.gov>.