

Any Given Child: The Transformation of Arts Education in Jacksonville

Background/Historical Information

Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child is a Collective Impact model originating at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In 2013, the Cathedral Arts Project, Duval County Public Schools and the City of Jacksonville applied and were accepted as the 14th site to host this community-wide initiative. Jacksonville now joins cities like Austin, Sacramento and Portland, all of whom have reaped social, cultural and economic benefits as a result of this program. The local chapter of Any Given Child (AGC) is working with local arts organizations, the mayor's office, the school district and civic and business leaders to create a long-range, sustainable plan to provide greater, more equitable access to quality arts education for all K-8 students in Duval County Public Schools.

Why is this relevant? Why should others in the community care?

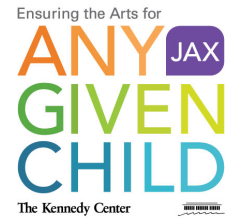
Recent research reveals that children who have a high level of involvement of in the arts are more likely to: have school absences, have less disciplinary issues, have better grades in all subject matters, have higher SAT scores, graduate from high school, attend college, vote, volunteer, and become industry innovators and entrepreneurs. These advantages are most significant with low-income students and therefore their implementation in public schools is critical.

Common Questions:

What topics does "Arts Education" cover? Music, Visual Art, Dance, Theatre, and Media Arts (film, graphic design, etc.)

Where is Jacksonville on this issue in comparison with the rest of the country? Surprising we are leaps and bounds ahead of many cities. IN the past few years, DCPS has focused not only on our Arts Magnet schools but in providing visual art and music instruction in every elementary school. We also have a plethora of Cultural Organizations – Museums, Theatres, Orchestras, Ballets, etc. that provide great services to schools.

How will you know when you have succeeded? When every child has access to a multitude of quality experiences and choices in the arts from Kindergarten through their high school years. Also when organizations like AGC do not need to exist just to advocate for the arts – they become part of the accepted norm for education – on par with math and reading.



Important Resources

The Kennedy Center – Any Given Child: www.kennedy-center.org/education/anygivenchild/

The Cathedral Arts Project – Any Given Child Jacksonville: capkids.org/agcjax/

Get Involved:

- Parents can inquire about the state of arts education at their local schools and request augmented arts education for every child.
- The community can reach out to local, state and federal government organizations and voice support for arts education.
- VOTE for arts education advocates.
- Visit capkids.org/agcjax to find out about future events and volunteer opportunities with Any Given Child – Jacksonville.
- Attend local cultural events with families and friends.

Session Leaders

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