



## White House Study - Art Raises Math and Reading Achievement

Page ▾

[Discussion](#)

[History](#)

[Notify Me](#)



### Study from White House: Arts integration in schools raises achievement in reading, math

By the Associated Press

*Published in the Washington Post*

5/6/11

**WASHINGTON — A study by the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities says arts education is an effective tool for school reform, even as arts education funding has declined.**

**The “Reinvesting in Arts Education” study being released Friday examined recent data from schools in Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Chicago and New York City. It finds integrating the arts with other subjects is particularly effective at raising achievement in math and reading**

**In the report, Education Secretary Arne Duncan writes that data demonstrates arts education improves achievement in other subjects. Visual arts instruction improves reading, and learning to play a musical instrument can improve math skills. Students engaged in the arts also had higher attendance rates.**

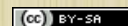
**The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation funded the report.**

Read the report: below [↗](#)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[About](#) · [Blog](#) · [Pricing](#) · [Privacy](#) · [Terms](#) · [Support](#) · [Upgrade](#)

Contributions to <http://svteach.wikispaces.com> are licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike 3.0 License](#).



Portions not contributed by visitors are Copyright 2011 Tangient LLC.

[Home](#)

Loading...

[Home](#)

Loading...

[Turn Off "Getting Started"](#)



Home » News » PCAH Releases Landmark Arts Education Study

## News

Archive

# PCAH Releases Landmark Arts Education Study

During the [Arts Education Partnership](#) meeting in early May, the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities (PCAH) introduced its newly released landmark report, *Re-Investing in Arts Education: Winning America's Future*. On-hand for the introduction were Melody Barnes, Domestic Policy Adviser and the Director of the Domestic Policy Council at the White House, and President's Committee Vice-Chair Mary Schmidt Campbell followed by a panel of business, education and government leaders, including former President of AOL, internet entrepreneur and investor Ted Leonis, Acting Chancellor of DC Public Schools Kaya Henderson, PCAH Co-Chair Margo Lion and moderator, Gene Wilhoit, Executive Director, Council of Chief State School Officers.



According to a new report by the President's Committee, arts education is more than helping students find their undiscovered talents, it is an effective tool for fixing some of the nation's biggest educational challenges.

The panelists provided a context for the new report by demonstrating how integral the arts and humanities are to a complete education that gives young people the capacity to innovate and meet the challenges of a global marketplace. Melody Barnes underscored this point in her opening remarks saying "education without the arts is an incomplete education." Kaya Henderson enumerated the many ways that the arts build the necessary skills and habits to succeed. Among them, lower truancy rates because the arts engage students and a stronger work ethic because the arts demand repeated practice to master different skills. The arts aren't just a vital part of the classroom they also shape entrepreneurs and companies. Ted Leonis offered examples of two companies driven by an artistic vision—Apple and Groupon. These companies are typical of the future marketplace and businesses that are driven by, in his words, "the creative class engine", which enables the U.S. to compete with other countries.

In her introduction, Barnes outlined the genesis of the report, which began with President Barack Obama's 2008 Arts Policy Campaign platform, which argued for reinvesting in American arts education and reinvigorating the American hallmarks of creativity and innovation. She pointed out that it had been more than a decade since any federal entity comprehensively examined arts education data in the United States. During that time, there had been important developments in arts education research, as well as major shifts in the landscape of American education—including the impact of "No Child Left Behind" and increasing economic pressure.

Barnes thanked the President's Committee for taking on this challenge by conducting an in-depth review over the last 18 months of the current challenges and opportunities facing arts education. During the review, the President's Committee sought out educational leaders around the country, visited schools, surveyed recent research, and talked to stakeholders all over the country working in this area.

The results from this process of firsthand observation and research clearly showed the effect of arts education on student academic achievement and creativity. Schools are improving test scores and fostering their students' competitiveness in the workforce by investing in arts education strategies, even in the toughest neighborhoods.

It also became clear that arts education provides a critical benefit to the private sector. To effectively compete in the global economy, business leaders are increasingly looking for

## Related Items

- [White House Blog: Re-investing in Arts Education](#)
- [PCAH\\_Reinvesting\\_in\\_Arts\\_ED.pdf](#)
- [PCAH Arts ED Report Summary & Recommendations.pdf](#)

employees who are creative, collaborative and innovative thinkers. A greater investment in the arts is an effective way to equip today's students with the skills they will need to succeed in the jobs of tomorrow.

The value of arts education is often phrased in enrichment terms—helping kids find their voice, rounding out their education and tapping into their undiscovered talents. This is true, but as the President's Committee saw in schools all over the country, it is also an effective tool in school-wide reform and in fixing some of the nation's biggest educational challenges.

The report sets out a series of strategies to achieve the over-arching conclusion from this 18-month study. To realize the potential of arts education, the report argues for a seamless marriage of arts education strategies with overall educational goals. To accomplish this requires a dynamic collaboration between arts specialists, classroom teachers and teaching artists to create creative environments that allow each child to reach his or her potential, using all the tools available to reach and engage students in learning.

View the [panel](#) on the NEAarts Ustream channel.



### About Us

- Chairmen
- Chairmen Letter
- Members
- Members Blog
- Staff

### News

- Archive

### Resources

- Publications
- Arts & Humanities Findings

### PCAH Initiatives

- Education
- Cultural Exchange
- Creative Economy
- Special Events

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 526 Washington, DC 20506  
Phone: 202-682-5409 | Fax: 202-682-5668 | E-Mail: [pcah@pcah.gov](mailto:pcah@pcah.gov)

[Contact Us](#)