

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Baltimore Arts Education Initiative

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(Baltimore, MD)—Baltimore City Public Schools and the Baltimore Arts Education Initiative are hosting a town hall about the new fine arts strategic plan for the district on May 14, 2018, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at Dorothy I. Height Elementary School (2011 Linden Ave, Baltimore, MD 21217).

The plan is designed to ensure equity and access to comprehensive arts education for all City Schools students and support the district in

- meeting new Maryland State Department of Education fine arts standards and regulations
- equipping school leaders and educators with a roadmap for building arts rich schools
- defining guidelines for quality school and community partnerships, out-of-school time and summer arts programming.

The plan was developed during the past six months by the BAEI, a collaborative process led by Baltimore City Public Schools and Arts Every Day with support from the T. Rowe Price Foundation and a \$50,000 *Art Works: Collective Impact* grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. With the planning support of Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance, Maryland Out of School Time Network, and Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle, over 100 educators, arts and community organizations, parents, students, and school and district administrators worked together on several committees to create the plan. Listening sessions about arts education were facilitated by the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts' Youth Arts Council in several locations around the city, providing opportunities for youth and community members to contribute to the process. The plan is scheduled to be presented to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners at the meeting on May 22.

"The arts are an essential part of the full, well-rounded education we want all our students to experience, and we are excited to work with our partners in Baltimore's arts community on this plan to bring the arts more fully into our classrooms," said City Schools CEO Sonja Brookins Santelises. "Painting,

music, drawing, and all the fine arts not only give students powerful and creative ways to express themselves, they capture students' interests and motivate them to succeed."

"The new arts education strategic plan will result in increased opportunities for all City Schools students to develop their skills in visual and performing arts, enable classroom teachers to use the arts to make learning in any subject more dynamic, and assist schools in improving positive parent involvement, school climate, student attendance and achievement." said Arts Every Day Executive Director Julia Di Bussolo. "We've seen significant, positive results in the 40 plus schools we have worked in over the past 10 years. Now is the time to ensure that all schools and students in the district can experience the positive "impact" of comprehensive arts education."

About Arts Every Day

Arts Every Day (AED) is proud to be a driving force in building and sustaining a Baltimore City that values public education through creativity, art, and culture. A 501(c) 3 founded in 2006 as one in only eight organizations originally funded by the Ford Foundation, AED works to ensure all Baltimore City Public Schools students have access to the arts every day through arts education, arts programming, and arts-integrated instruction. Arts Every Day works toward this goal through the forging of partnerships with schools and the arts and cultural community over the long-term to inspire lasting change. For more information, visit www.artseveryday.org.