



Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education

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## Characteristics of arts partnerships in education ...

### 1) Require long-term relationships...

If the world of the arts is going to be a real part of whole school improvement, long term relationships between art organizations and schools are essential.

### 2) Require capacity building...

The arts organizations must move from a “delivery” mode, in which they visit productions to or provide programs for schools and do things to children, to a partnership mode, in which they create programs *with* schools for children. This requires moving from a marketing model to a capacity building model. The focus moves from service delivery to kids to the on-going professional development of teachers and artists.

### 3) Draw in multiple voices...

The most productive innovations in educational improvement are generated by a “mixed table”- a collaboration between teachers, principals, artists, arts specialists, administrators, parents, and community members stimulating each other by their varied frames of reference.

### 4) Take an integrated approach to the whole curriculum...

The arts are important both as stand-alone subjects and as content and processes woven across interdisciplinary teaching and learning. CAPE focuses specifically on developing models for integrating the arts across the curriculum.

### 5) Treat the arts as a challenging element in the pedagogic mix in the classroom...

The arts are one of the most effective avenues for engaging students in authentic, challenging learning. The arts, when well integrated into instruction, require learners to take responsibility for their choices and to reflect seriously upon their work. The arts provide a connecting thread across learning experiences, creating a sense of meaning and coherency across multiple opportunities to generate and represent knowledge.

### 6) Rest on the principle of democratic access...

The arts are for all children, not just the “artistic” or the talented. Learners that benefit from the arts the most (students who have special needs and students who are alienated from school) often have the least access.

### 7) ...and connect to the assets of the community.

Arts Education Partnerships connect the cultural resources of the community to the lives of children in schools.