

"The arts are probably the most glorious manifestation of human civilization. They exalt the human spirit. They are an integral part of every ritual in every culture."

- Paul Lehman,  
Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan

For more advocacy resources and links, visit our website at [www.artsedcollaborative.org](http://www.artsedcollaborative.org) or visit any of these links for more information.

Americans for the Arts  
[www.americansforthearts.com](http://www.americansforthearts.com)

American Alliance for Theatre and Education  
[www.aate.com](http://www.aate.com)

ARTSEGE  
[www.artsedge.kennedy-center.org](http://www.artsedge.kennedy-center.org)

Arts Education Partnership  
[www.aep-arts.org](http://www.aep-arts.org)

Educational Theatre Association  
[www.edta.org/advocacy/](http://www.edta.org/advocacy/)

Connect For Kids  
[www.connectforkids.com](http://www.connectforkids.com)

MENC: The National Association for Music Education  
[www.menc.org](http://www.menc.org)

National Art Education Association  
[www.naea-reston.org](http://www.naea-reston.org)

National Dance Association  
[www.aahperd.org/nda](http://www.aahperd.org/nda)

National Endowment for the Arts  
[www.arts.endow.gov](http://www.arts.endow.gov)

National PTA - Program Area  
[www.pta.org/programs/cultrini.htm](http://www.pta.org/programs/cultrini.htm)

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts  
[www.artsnet.org/pca/](http://www.artsnet.org/pca/)

President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities  
[www.pcah.gov](http://www.pcah.gov)



# Arts Advocacy



ARTS EDUCATION  
COLLABORATIVE

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# Ten Things You Can Do!

1. **Start a Parent-Teacher Arts Advocacy Group** at your school to make the arts part of your regular parent-teacher group meetings.

2. **Create an Arts Education & Advocacy email list** and distribute it to parent-teacher groups and school administrators. Include information about recent research, findings, and activities that support arts education.

3. **Review the current arts offerings in your school** and answer the following questions:

**A.** Do you have a quality program for all students and by what measures do you define "quality?"

Compare your programs to other districts. Do your programs meet the state standards?

**B.** Do you have all of the necessary resources - enough teachers, materials, staff development opportunities?

**C.** What areas of yours need improvement?

**D.** What are the funding needs?

4. **Spread the word to your local government.** Meet with your local and state officials to tell them about your arts education successes and needs for the future.

5. **Meet with the superintendent or principal of your school** to request the arts be included in the budget.

6. **Make presentations to the Board of Education/Supervisors** and invite the press. Talk to them about your arts education successes, the value of the arts, and needs for the future.

7. **Join coalitions advocating for the arts** and invite them to speak at council meetings. Get the issue of arts funding on the agenda and into the budget.

8. **Invite elected officials and their families to school performances and exhibitions.**

Invite the press to have an eyewitness account of the events of the evening.

9. **Be an active advocate** and speak

to anyone and everyone about arts education. Tell them about success stories and needs for the future to put the arts on the forefront of the minds of your community.

10. **Be informed and do your homework!**

Before taking any action, do your research and find out what is happening nationwide, statewide, and locally concerning arts education. Learn about past decisions of the Board of Education and superintendent regarding arts in your school. Be prepared to combat arguments from the opposition.

**"The quality of civilization can be measured through its music, dance, drama, architecture, visual art, and literatures. We must give our children knowledge and understanding of civilization's most profound works."**

***Dr. Ernest L. Boyer, former president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching***



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The Arts Education Collaborative is part of  
the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh.

The Arts Education Collaborative is a regional initiative to foster creativity and student achievement in, with and through the arts. We are confident that the AEC will help to continue to strengthen and support quality arts education.