



# artsNOW

Integrated learning solutions

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**Newsletter | October 2021**

Read how we have brought learning to life this month!

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## **Centennial Academy Charter School in Atlanta Public Schools**

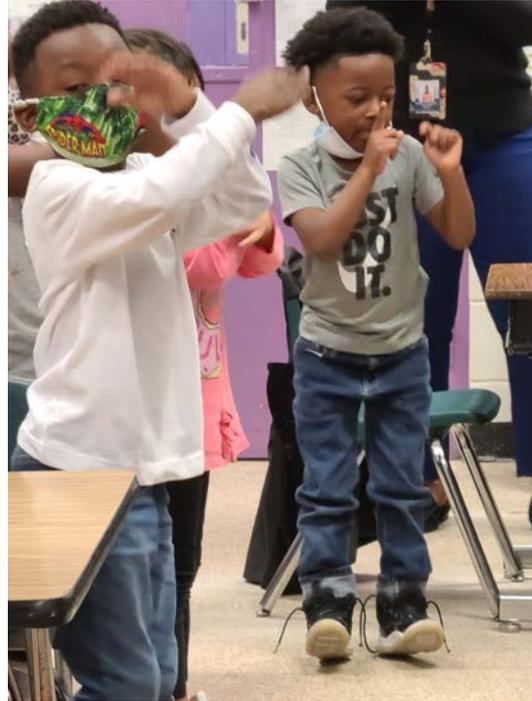
**ArtsNOW presented arts integrated strategies for the new teachers of Centennial Academy.** We are so excited to continue our partnership with the staff, and are even more excited to be able to work in person. We had a great day of presenting the pedagogy, research, and impacts of arts integration and innovative learning. Teachers learned the differences between arts for arts sake, arts enhancement, and arts integration. As well, they participated in hands-on learning and gained deeper understanding of 21st Century Skills (communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking).



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## Chestnut Family Foundation Continues Supporting Schools in Hephzibah, GA

**October was a very busy month in Richmond County.** Dr. Maribeth Yoder-White was at Hephzibah Elementary School at the beginning of the month, and at Willis Foreman Elementary School towards the end of the month. We worked with teachers to plan upcoming PBL units, lesson ideas, and units of study. As well, we worked with students in their classrooms as they participated in music integrated lessons. Teachers process observed demonstration lessons so that they can modify the strategies and integrate more music into their daily instruction.

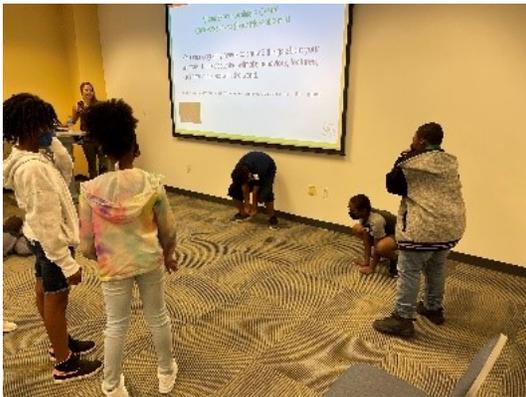
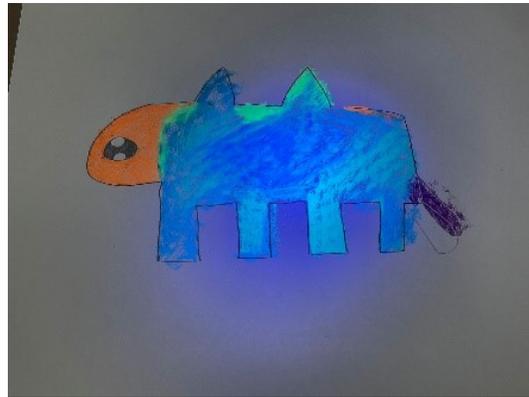


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# ArtsNOW and Georgia Tech Savannah CEISMIC Collaborate for STEAM Saturdays

ArtsNOW and Georgia Tech's Center for Education Integrating Science,

**Math, and Computing (CEISM)** designed a collaborative STEAM Saturday, October 9, 2021. Over 45 students in grades 3 through 8 were able to design and then create a “Superhero Animal” at the Georgia Tech Savannah campus. The students rotated through sessions of coding, dance, and visual arts to bring their creation to life. During the visual arts session they designed their animal and then painted it with oil pastels. In the dance session, students created movements to ensure their animal was able to adapt to its environment. In the coding session, they built their animal and then coded circuit playgrounds for their animal to fend off predators using light and sound. The next STEAM Saturday is November 13<sup>th</sup> where participants will learn how music is made, build and code their own instrument, and create a work of art expressing their musical interest.



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## **ArtsNOW and Hillside Complete the Mural and Teachers Participate in Drama Integration**

**As promised in the previous newsletter, we are sharing images of the completed mural at Hillside.** Shannon Green worked with students as they designed their stairwell's new look, and then each student had a part in painting the created images. During October, Barry Stewart Mann also provided drama

integration strategies as part of the teachers' professional learning days. Our partnership with Hillside is longstanding, and it is always so rewarding to be on campus with the students and staff.



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## Gadsden Elementary and Garden City Elementary Schools in Savannah-Chatham County

**ArtsNOW's partnership with Gadsden Elementary and Garden City Elementary** in Savannah, Georgia continued during October. Both schools were able to send a team to Savannah's Foundational Seminar this summer, and then, Pamela Walker met with each grade level for the initial kick-off of professional learning. The professional learning for each school continued during October as Shannon Green conducted visual arts demonstration lessons for all grade levels at Garden City Elementary followed by a debrief and planning session. Melissa Dittmar Joy presented dance demonstration lessons for all grade levels at Gadsden Elementary followed by a debrief and planning session. Students and teachers were active participants during the demonstration lessons. ArtsNOW is so excited to continue our journey with both schools after being awarded a USDOE Innovative Approaches to Literacy grant titled "STEM + the Art of Integrated Learning".



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## Clayton County's 4th-8th Grade Math and Fine Arts Teachers Participate in Professional Learning with ArtsNOW

During the month of October, ArtsNOW was able to work with each of our grant schools, thanks to the PDAE grant extension provided by the USDOE. Our arts consultants provided student demonstration lessons using drama and dance integration strategies while meeting the math standards of grades 4-8. These days are full of activities that teachers can immediately take back to their classrooms and integrate using other math standards. During the months of November through March, we will rotate through all five art forms. These are great days of job-embedded professional learning!



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## North Metro Academy of Performing Arts in Gwinnett County

**Music integration was alive and well at NMAPA this month!** Students in kindergarten through fifth grade participated in demonstration lessons that were integrated with literacy, math, social studies, and science standards. Teachers were involved and learned many useful strategies. It was a great few days at North Metro Academy of Performing Arts!





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## **ArtsNOW and Barrow's Arts and Innovation Magnet Were Awarded a Vibrant Communities Grant from Georgia Council for the Arts**

**The Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) has awarded the Arts and Innovation Magnet (AIM) Program, in Barrow County, a \$5,000 Vibrant Communities Grant. The grant supports a variety of arts programming opportunities in communities.**

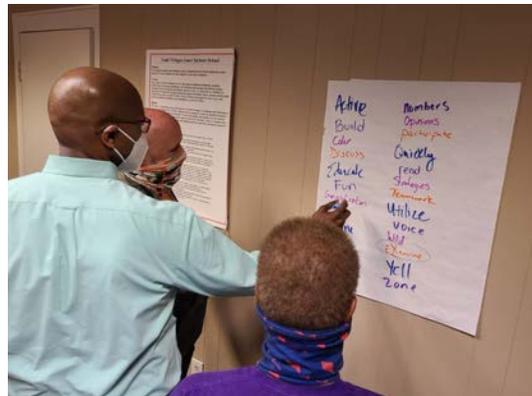
With the grant funds, AIM and ArtsNOW will partner for a "Musical Sculpture" project at the Center for Innovative Teaching (CFIT) and involve 6th and 7th grade AIM students and teachers. Principal Shawn Williams says, "This project will allow students to engage in music lessons and make connections between music, visual arts, engineering, and technology while using 21st century skills such as collaboration and communication. The project will further the mission and vision of CFIT in bringing the arts to the area."

The project will span several weeks in April and May 2022. ArtsNOW visual arts consultant, Shannon Green, and music consultant, Dr. Maribeth Yoder-White, will explore music and 3D art with students and teachers. They will create a sculpture using objects in their environment and then compose an original piece of music.



## Teachers from Youth Villages Review Arts Integration and Participate in Professional Learning

**ArtsNOW** has had a long standing partnership with **Youth Villages**, and part of the leadership's vision is to offer refresher courses regarding authentic arts integration. We kicked the day off with ABC Relay and dove right into integration strategies within each of the five art forms. Teachers were engaged, and the learning was electric. Participants left the session with ideas to immediately implement in their classrooms.



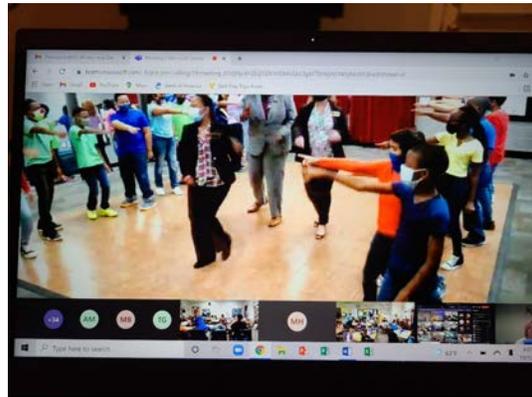
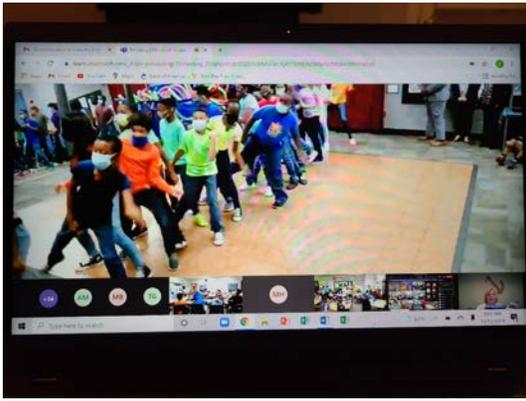


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## Virtual Demonstration of Learning Days in Cobb County and Savannah-Chatham County

**We would like to thank our partner schools across two different districts for supporting** teaching and learning through virtual Demonstration of Learning Days. Powder Springs Elementary School, in Cobb County, has been an ArtsNOW leadership school for several years. Due to the ongoing impacts of Covid-19, we made the decision to transition our highly anticipated Demonstration of Learning Days to a virtual platform. As well, we used this same method for our grant partner schools in Savannah: Heard Elementary, Marshpoint Elementary, and Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts. Schools across Georgia and South Carolina were invited to log in via Zoom, and observe arts integrated lessons presented by teacher leaders with students in their classrooms. These sessions were incredibly successful, and we appreciate everyone's flexibility as we are all still working under constraints of outside visitors being allowed in schools. Angel Oak Elementary, in Charleston SC, will host their Demonstration of Learning Day November 12th. It, too, will be virtual so please reach out if you would like access to the link.





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## Angel Oak Elementary School's Principal, Judith Condon, Earns Honor from Palmetto State Arts Education

Judith Condon made a decision to invest in the arts when she arrived at Angel Oak in 2017. That investment led to a range of opportunities for the students, and eventually, recognition for the school at the state level.

Condon is the 2021 Palmetto State Arts Education (PSAE) Arts Administrator of the Year Award.

The honor goes to administrators who demonstrate a commitment to arts programs, make a difference in the lives of South Carolina's students, and uphold the mission of the PSAE to advance learning in and through the arts for all students.

"I am honored to receive this recognition," explained Condon. "Our arts-integrated model at Angel Oak continues to be a driving force that supports overall school improvement, student engagement, and achievement. This award also recognizes the hard work of the teachers, staff, students, and families at our school as they work to think differently about curriculum, instruction, and assessment in order to serve this new generation of learners".

In 2018, ArtsNOW was the recipient of a federal SmART Literacy Grant (over 2.1 million dollars) to support arts integration professional learning for teachers, artist residencies, and arts experiences for students for a

four-year period. Angel Oak is one of four schools that are partnering with ArtsNOW for this grant. In this final year of grant implementation, the school will host "Demonstration of Learning Days" to share effective practices and impactful academic data supporting this model. Teacher portfolios have been recognized by ArtsNOW as exemplars in showcasing the implementation of the grant.

## Why ArtsNOW?

- Integrated learning is powerful learning.
- For over 20 years, ArtsNOW has been leading the way in reshaping pre-K–12 education by integrating the arts with all core subjects.
- We're setting the stage to encourage teacher confidence and improve student engagement for greater academic and personal achievement.
- Teachers are champions and students are heroes.
- We're not just teaching. *We bring learning to life.*



*Please share this newsletter with an educator or administrator who may not know about ArtsNOW!*

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