Arts Connect is building a future in which every child thrives because they have a complete education that includes the arts.

By maximizing change through collective impact, Arts Connect ensures that the entire community understands the fundamental necessity of the arts for all children. Using data, advocating for change, building capacity, and opening avenues for strategic funding, the initiative creates new pathways for students, schools, and districts to embrace high-quality arts education. With over 80 partners, the collective aligns seven primary stakeholder groups including local arts and culture organizations, Houston ISD, the City of Houston, the Houston Arts Alliance, the local philanthropic community, state and national partners, and community members.

**Vision.** To realize the tremendous potential of every student by ensuring the arts as essential to a complete education, recognizing that when students prosper, our community thrives.

**Mission.** To unite the Greater Houston community to ensure access to high-quality arts education in creative writing, dance, music, theater, and the visual arts for every student, beginning with the Houston ISD.

“As an organization, Arts Connect fills a new space in Houston. Collectively, we work towards creating the right conditions for lasting systems change so that every student, in every school, in every classroom has access to the arts without regard to family income or where they live.”

Deborah Lugo, Executive Director

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**Arts Action Fund**

$730,000 strategically invested and leveraged thus far on arts education opportunities for students in Houston ISD

**Arts Action Fund Impact, since 2018**

- 65,494 students participated in diverse arts partnership opportunities in 1,970 classrooms through 316 direct partnerships with over 192 Houston ISD campuses.

- Programs delivered in a variety of formats including virtual, in-person, and multi-modal

- Arts disciplines include creative writing, dance, music, theater, and visual arts via arts experiences, integration, and instruction
Our Leadership

Board of Directors
Brenda Peters Chase, President
Enterprise Products

Lauren Anderson
Houston Ballet

Caroline Goeser
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Craig Massey
Merrill Lynch

Jack McBride
Writers in the Schools

Judy Nyquist
Community Volunteer

Leadership Committee
Jack McBride, Chair
Writers in the Schools

John Abodeely
Houston Arts Alliance

Cathy Bencivenga
Alley Theatre

Rachel Hampfield Dickson
The Ensemble Theatre

Dr. Rick Cruz
Houston ISD

Caroline Goeser
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Harrison Guy
Fifth Ward Community
Redevelopment Corporation
Urban Souls Dance Company

Craig Hauschildt
Houston ISD

Deborah Lugo
Arts Connect Houston

Janette Garza Lindner
Veritas Total Solutions

Debbie McNulty
Arts and Culture Leader

Wenden Sanders
Houston ISD

Our Partners

District
Houston ISD

State and National Partners
Arts Education Partnership
Ingenuity, Inc.
The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
MINDPOP
Texas Cultural Trust
Texans for the Arts

City of Houston
Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs
Mayor’s Office of Education

Funders
Houston Endowment
National Endowment for the Arts
The Powell Foundation
Texas Women for the Arts at Texas Cultural Trust

Arts and Culture Partners

Ad Deum Dance Company
AFAPA
ALR Project
Alley Theatre
Alta Arts
Aporia, Music of the Americas
Apollo Chamber Players
Ars Lyrica
Art League Houston
Arts Público Press
ARTeach
Asia Society Texas Center
Aurora Picture Show
Bay Area Houston Ballet & Theatre
Campbell Learning Center
Carya String Quartet
Community Artists’ Collective
Community Music Center of Houston
Contemporary Arts Museum Houston
Culture Arts Initiative, Inc.
Da Camera of Houston
Dance the Dream
Diversity in the Arts and Entertainment
Edison Arts Foundation
EnActe Arts Inc.
The Ensemble Theatre
Exalted Arts
Express Children’s Theatre
Fashion Museum of Texas
FotoFest Inc.
Foundation for Modern Music
Frame Dance Productions
Friends of Africa
Hearts In Motion
Heritage Society
HITS Theatre
The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts
Hope Stone

The Houston Arts Alliance is Arts Connect’s supported organization and operating home.

For more information, contact Deborah Lugo, Executive Director, at deborah@artsconnecthouston.org.