

Organizing Peer Learning Networks



National Guild for
Community Arts Education
November 2017

Session Objectives & Agenda

Objectives

- Hear perspectives from facilitators of peer learning networks in different cities, learning how they developed peer learning communities in their communities.
- Explore issues around creating peer learning networks related to collaboration, professional development, and demonstrating program impact.
- Share and discuss existing or desired peer learning networks in your community, exploring possible ways to encourage sharing of best practices and group learning.

Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Peer Learning Network Examples
 - Youth Arts Impact Network (Boston)
 - Philadelphia Music Alliance for Youth
 - The Creative Advantage (Seattle)
 - Cities for a Creative Future
- III. Discussion and Open Forum
- IV. Small Group Work
- V. Final Thoughts





Youth Arts Impact Network

Boston, MA

Youth Arts Impact Network

Goal: Strengthen local youth arts community and build capacity of the larger field, resulting in youth arts organizations ultimately serving youth better and maximizing their impacts.

Who? More than 55 youth arts organizations in Greater Boston area, facilitated by EdVestors

What?

- Technical support
- Professional development
- Peer Learning Community

Why?

- Listening and responding to grantee feedback
- Improve organizations' ability to gather and utilize relevant data, to inform their practices and ultimately to serve youth better
- Field building

Youth Arts Impact Network (How?)

- **Group Convenings:**
 - Topics based on feedback from network
 - Hosted by network member
 - Presentation by peer organizations (BYAEP- Boston Youth Arts Evaluation Project)
 - Guest speakers
 - MIT Media Lab: Data Storytelling and Analysis for the Arts
 - Harvard Graduate School of Education: Youth Artivism Project: Unpacking Civic Learning Pathways in the Arts
- **Smaller cohort learning**
 - Logic Models
 - Data Systems subcommittee and data systems work
- **Office hours**
- **Website** (<https://sites.google.com/site/bostonyouthartseval/>)
- **Connect with national conversation**

Raw Art Works and Youth Arts Impact Network

By being involved, we...

- increase our **knowledge of the challenges and successes** of other CYD programs.
- see benefits of learning from **guest speakers and our own presentations.**
- gain **resources and feedback** from one another in sharing tools, evaluation systems, and annual reports



Example of Youth Arts Impact Network

Guest Speaker: Rahul Bhargava (below information garnered from a presentation of his)

Using Data



Improving Operations

Use data inside your organization to assess operational efficiency and measure impact.



Spreading Your Message

Use data in your marketing and outreach materials to communicate the impact of your work.



Bringing People Together

Use data to gather people from different sectors together and strengthen partnerships.

Resources

datatherapy.org

databasic.io





philadelphia music
alliance for youth



The Philadelphia Orchestra
Yannick Nézet-Séguin Music Director

PHILADELPHIA
SINFONIA
Educating Musicians. Creating Artists.



440



Settlement
MUSIC SCHOOL



Center for the Performing
and Cinematic Arts
Boyer College of Music and Dance





Convening in July 2015

Question: What does PMAY care about and how can we have an even greater impact?

Music Education for All: A Citywide System



The Problem: Music education is essential to a well-rounded education, but not all children in Philadelphia receive it in their formative years and/or have equitable access to it through their school careers.

The Vision: A sustainable citywide system for sequential music education that supports all children.

**Two projects emerged from our
work together.**

Project #1: PMAY Artists' Initiative

- Subset of 10 PMAY organizations
- A new multi-year project that will support current 5th-12th graders from underrepresented communities with whatever they might need to pursue their dream of becoming a professional classical musician.

THE
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artists' initiative

PMAY Artists' Initiative

- Started with the premise that we cannot solve the problems all on our own as individual organizations
- We must change the ecosystem in Philadelphia



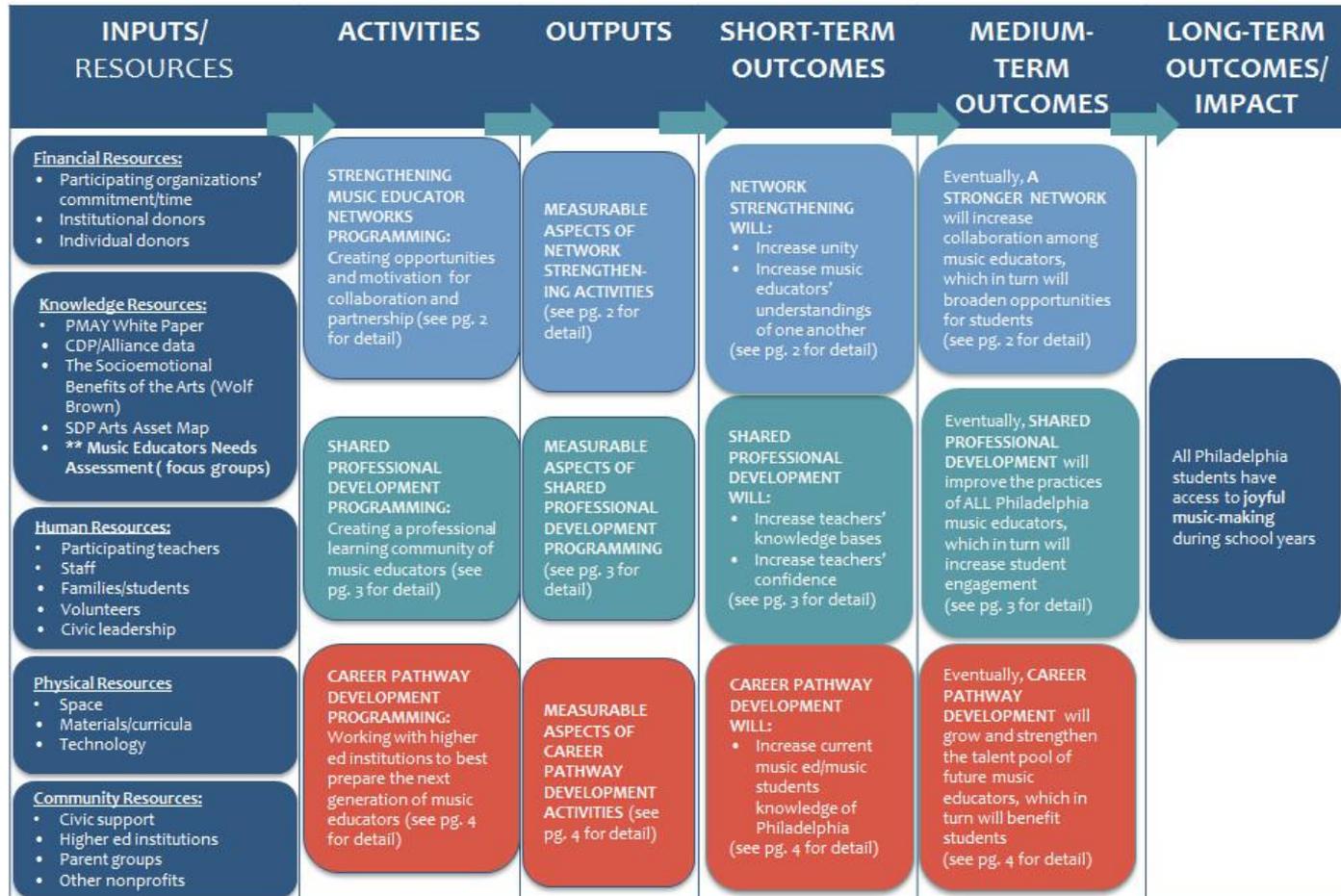
Project #2: Social Impact Collaborative



Key ingredient to make the vision possible: **Music Educators!**



SUPPORTING PHILADELPHIA'S MUSIC EDUCATORS



Question:

How can we most successfully support our music educators?

Qualitative Analysis: Teacher Focus Groups

- ✓ School District of Philadelphia Teachers
- ✓ Charter and Independent School Teachers
- ✓ Out-of-School-Time and Community-Based Organization Teachers



**Music Teachers =
Most Resourceful
People You'll Ever
Meet**

Quantitative Analysis: Teacher Survey

TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR UPCOMING YEAR

1. Where/how will you teach during the 2017-2018 school year? *Please select as many responses as are appropriate.*

- For the School District of Philadelphia
- In a Philadelphia charter school
- In an Archdiocese of Philadelphia school
- In an independent or other religious school in the Philadelphia region
- In an out-of-school-time music program (afterschool program, non-profit organization, etc.)
- By teaching individual students (i.e. private lessons) for an organization
- By teaching private lessons in my home
- Other: _____

2. What will your PRIMARY role be as a music educator during the 2017-18 school year? *Please do your best to select one response (we recognize that many teachers have multiple jobs they consider "primary").*

- General music, group instruction
- Specialist in a subject, group instruction (i.e. choir, band, jazz band, group lessons, etc.)
- Individual lessons/private teaching
- Other: _____

Next Steps

- ✓ Creating a **guide** to supporting young musicians
- ✓ Sharing the **entrepreneurial thinking** of our amazing music teachers
- ✓ Connecting music educators to provide **meaningful opportunities** for collaboration

Next Steps:

A unique “un-conference”
designed and led exclusively by
music teachers



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The Creative Advantage

Seattle, WA

The Creative Advantage

Seattle's city-wide initiative to establish equitable access to arts education for each and every student in Seattle Public Schools.

Approach: Professional Development Partnership

Who: Teaching artists, arts specialists and classroom teachers, arts program managers and administrators

What: Summer Arts Partner Institute; Winter/Spring Professional Learning Series

Why:

- Provide transformative experiences and skill building opportunities
- Highlight collaboration in action & build community
- Provide space for personal reflection & growth
- Show that high quality teaching & learning depends on including student voice and perspective

The Creative Advantage (How?)

Mentor Artists: Partnership with STAN (Seattle Teaching Artists Network)

- Teaching Artists + Arts Specialists
- Arts experiences
- Events by discipline
- Skill building and reflection

Professional Development Advisory

- Teaching Artists, Classroom Teachers, Program Managers and Administrator
- PD Institute and Series Planning

PD Areas of Focus

- Racial and Social Justice; Culturally Responsive Teaching & Learning; Social Emotional Learning, ELL and the Arts, Re-teaching Gender & Sexuality, Arts Integration, 21st Century Skills Development, Arts Education Advocacy



Cities for a Creative Future

Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Seattle

Cities for a Creative Future

- National coalition of four cities (Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Seattle) engaged in similar citywide efforts around arts education.
- Self-organized, meeting 1-2 times per year since 2012.
- Meetings follow a specific problem of practice protocol.



Discussion & Open Forum

Guiding Questions

- How did you determine your community's readiness for collaboration?
- What are the ingredients (attributes) that made this peer learning network possible?
- How did you select who was part of your peer learning network?
- What challenges does your peer learning network face?
- How have you benefited from being a part of this peer learning community?

Small Group Work

- Describe your community with your partner(s) and any existing peer learning networks
- What kind of peer learning networks could exist?
- Who do you need to connect with?
- What will you do to facilitate the formation of a peer learning network in your community?

Thank you!

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