



Guest Artists in Schools Update

To: Program and School Services Committee

Date: 12 April, 2023

Report No.: 04-12-4505

Strategic Directions

- Transform Student Learning
- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students
- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being
- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs
- Create a Culture for Student and Staff Well-Being

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Guest Artists in Schools Update be received.

Context

The Toronto District School Board believes that all forms of arts education are essential for students and provide numerous benefits, including heightened academic achievement, developing higher-level thinking skills, and teaching transferable skills. The Ontario Curriculum, The Arts, 2009, states, “Education in the arts is essential to students’ intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth and well-being.” The Board believes that arts education is inclusive and helps all students succeed. It also believes that the arts teach self-discipline, build self-confidence, and teach empathetic responses to others. The Arts Department welcomes partnering with artists to expand arts learning opportunities for all students. Accessing guest artists would be best supported with a multi-pronged approach of utilizing various operational practices and resources. The Board expects all arts programs to follow Ontario Ministry of Education policies and to be taught by knowledgeable teachers using teaching methodologies that build positive relationships among all students and the school community. The Board is committed to ensuring that opportunities are created for every student to participate in and develop an appreciation of all the arts.

This Guest Artists in Schools Update Report is in response to the Board Resolution in March 2023: “That the Director present a report to the Program and School Services Committee in the spring 2023 cycle of meetings on: I. The Current Operation of the Partnership and Guest Artist Process, II. Streamlining the on-boarding process for guest artists, mentors and education partners, III. The feasibility of including outreach calls for submissions, engaging with universities, colleges, specialized staff, trade unions, the private sector, notable Canadians and musicians; IV. The feasibility of a centrally-supported strategy to activate areas of curriculum through the use of guest artists, and V. Implementing a process to evaluate and grow the breadth of genres and identities represented by artists, mentors and partners.

This report provides an update on the current operation of Partnerships and engagement of Artists in the Schools. The Board recognizes and encourages the educational value of learning experiences in the world beyond the classroom and acknowledges that Arts excursions, Arts partnerships, and Artists in schools should be an integral part of every student's school experiences.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Work with Partnerships and engaging Artists in our schools continues to support student enrichment for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond.

Resource Implications

Maintaining current processes does not have any resource implications, but if new procedures are developed, there could be additional staffing budgets associated with them.

Communications Considerations

The Guest Artists in Schools Report Update will be shared with the Program and School Services Committee.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

Policy P.005 CUR: Arts Foundation

Policy P017: Purchasing

Policy P024: Educational Programming Partnerships

Policy P033: Excursions

Policy P037: Equity

Policy P100: Student Interest Programs

Procedure PR589: Vetting External Presentations (Interim)

Procedure PR667: Educational Programming Partnerships

Procedure PR700: Educational Programming Partnership Criteria

Appendices

- Appendix A: Guest Artists in Schools Update Report, April 2023

From

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