



Remember the right brain. It's not an education without it.

- The arts are at the heart of our future, yet our schools struggle to find resources to include the arts in the curriculum. Without creativity, our children's education withers, our economy falters, our culture languishes. **The Right Brain Initiative** is a collaborative effort that will bring arts education experiences to every K-8 student in the Portland metropolitan area.
- Through a powerful synergy of schools, business, artists, governments and arts and cultural organizations, The Right Brain Initiative places core emphasis on equitable access to holistic learning—nurturing an innovative approach to integrated arts education across the region.
- In 2009, 10,000 children and their teachers will be served at 20 schools across four school districts (Gresham-Barlow, Hillsboro, North Clackamas, and Portland).
- The Regional Arts & Culture Council is the managing partner of this initiative. Young Audiences of Oregon and SW Washington is the primary implementation partner.

Background

- Numerous studies have demonstrated the benefits of integrating the arts into our children's education. When the left brain and the right brain work together, something magical happens – kids connect, achieve, aspire, and succeed.
- Since February 2007, community members have been working to ensure that every child has equal access to arts education experiences that make them better learners. This effort was formerly known as the Portland Metro Arts Partners Initiative.
- Much inspiration and support comes from Big Thought, a highly successful arts integration model in Dallas, Texas, which has successfully integrated the arts into every classroom in the Dallas Independent School District. Big Thought has been mentoring RACC to develop a similarly comprehensive arts education solution here in the Portland metropolitan area.
- More than 250 community members have actively participated in the development of this program – including parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, artists, arts organizations, business leaders, elected officials, funders, and other stakeholders.
- An estimated 10,000 children and their teachers will be served in 2008-09, and the program is expected to double in size each year until every K-8 student in the tri-county region is served.
- The Right Brain Initiative is currently working to provide professional development training for participating artists and teachers, and to raise the balance of funds needed for the delivery of services, which will begin in February 2009.

The Right Brain Initiative: Frequently Asked Questions

- *Question: Aren't other groups already working to provide arts education in our public schools?*

Answer: Many nonprofit organizations, school systems, and PTAs are doing what they can to restore arts learning in our schools, but too many children aren't getting enough arts education – and some aren't getting any. The Right Brain Initiative is the only region-wide partnership that focuses on an equitable, systemic approach that can bring arts education experience to **every** K-8 student in the tri-county region.

- *Question: What impact will The Right Brain Initiative have on existing and successful arts programs already in place in some schools?*

Answer: The Right Brain Initiative is not designed to replace existing arts programs or arts specialists working in schools. Instead, the partnership offers a systemic approach for strengthening the arts as part of the core curriculum, improving student academic performance, and providing teachers with new instructional tools and approaches to learning. Teachers, artists and arts specialists will work together as a team to integrate the arts and other core academic subjects.

- *Question: Many arts organizations in our community are supported by corporations and private foundations. Will funders decide to give to The Right Brain Initiative in lieu of contributing to individual arts organizations?*

Answer: The viability of the community's arts organizations relies upon the continued support of existing donors. The Right Brain Initiative will emphasize to private sector funders the critical importance of their ongoing support of those arts organizations. Their additional funding of The Right Brain Initiative will support the infrastructure necessary for the initiative's implementation. Once local support is in place, The Right Brain Initiative is positioned to leverage contributions from national foundations that have already expressed interest in this regional effort.

- *Question: How will the success of The Right Brain Initiative be measured?*

Answer: Outside evaluators will assist in developing the project's assessment and evaluation plan. An Assessment and Evaluation Committee is charged with identifying outcomes for student learning and determining the indicators of overall program effectiveness.

The Right Brain Initiative is a program of the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC), a 501(c)(3) arts service organization serving Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties. A governing committee of individuals who represent key stakeholders has primary responsibility for program oversight.

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