



Arts Every Day strengthens learning by making arts education and cultural experiences an integral part of the education of all Baltimore City Public Schools students, with an emphasis on middle grades, through facilitation of collaborations among the arts, educational, cultural, and leadership communities.



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Action Alert: Fine Arts Coordinator Cut From Baltimore City Schools - PLEASE DISTRIBUTE

If You Support Arts in City Schools, Please Act Now -- Fine Arts Coordinator Cut From 2009-2010 School Budget

The proposed Budget and Organizational Chart for Baltimore City Schools has **NO** position listed to support the fine arts on a system-wide level. **The Coordinator of Fine Arts position is scheduled to be eliminated on June 30, 2009. We must act now.**

Please join Arts Every Day in advocating for a position to lead the visual and performing arts programs in City Schools. In line with other core subject areas and with other districts, we believe strongly that this position should be a Director.

A Director of Fine Arts:

1. Provides quality control for instruction in the arts through evaluations and visits to ensure high-quality instruction; develops system-wide activities, including festivals and exhibits, to showcase the instruction to the public and peers
2. Facilitates and supports professional development for more than 300 fine arts teachers across the system to improve teaching practice for children
3. Creates and sustains partnerships with outside arts and cultural organizations and teaching artists that provide enrichment opportunities in the arts for children who wouldn't otherwise have that experience
4. Secures and manages grant funds in the fine arts to provide additional opportunities and supplies (i.e. instruments) for students to experience the arts
5. Develops and implements a strategic plan for teaching and learning in the arts so that all children have access to arts education, arts experiences, and arts integration

Arts Every Day urges you to do the following:

1. **Write a letter to the Board of School Commissioners to advocate for a Director of Fine Arts**, 200 E. North Avenue, Baltimore 21201 or e-mail to schoolboard@bcps.k12.md.us. Send a copy of your letter to Dr. Andres A. Alonso, CEO, at the above address or by email to aalonso@bcps.k12.md.us. Please e-mail a copy of your letter to info@artseveryday.org so we can track the effort.
2. **Come to the next Public Hearing on the budget to be held Thursday, March 19 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** in the 1st floor Board Room at North Avenue. If you wish to speak to voice your support for system-wide leadership in the arts, it is recommended that you arrive at 5:30 in order to sign up for a spot. A strong showing from the arts and cultural community will be a very powerful image. Please contact Arts Every Day at info@artseveryday.org to let us know if you will be attending.

To be most effective in our advocacy, we recommend that you use language that is proactive rather than judgmental. We also recommend that your language be child-centered. Discuss the importance of the arts to learning and development. Add personal stories to show that the benefits of the arts are life-long. We believe that a Director of Fine Arts is critical to ensure that all students in Baltimore City Schools have access to arts education, arts experiences, and arts integration. Successful schools have strong arts programs. Unsuccessful schools do not. To achieve strong arts program, we must have a Director of Fine Arts for Baltimore City Public Schools.

The Board will vote on the final budget at their April meeting so **we would like to receive copies of all letters no later than close of business on Wednesday, March 18th to info@artseveryday.org.**

Thank you for your support. Please help us in this critical effort for arts education.