

## Expanded Access to Arts and Creative Learning

Creative Learning Initiative (CLI) completed its fifth year, with MINDPOP as the managing partner, a system wide plan to expand the arts and creative learning for all Austin ISD (AISD) students, in and out of school, by 2023.

Worked with 90+ strategic arts partners to serve 55 schools, 3000+ educators and more than 39,000 students. All 55 campuses—almost half of the district schools—designed and implemented individualized Creative Campus Plans as a part of their Campus Improvement Plan.

Provided elementary dance and theatre education for at least one grade level at 55 campuses.

With the City of Austin, co-hosted four Creative Connections events that provided technical assistance to help arts organizations navigate the service contracting systems at AISD and the City.

[Convened quarterly meetings for arts partners to provide guidance to the collective impact leadership by generating solutions to the opportunities and challenges presented within the CLI.](#)

Conducted a three-hour retreat for CLI leaders to refine and update the collective impact goals and actions. Attendees included the superintendent of schools, associate superintendents, principals, City of Austin division managers, arts leaders, and corporate and philanthropic leaders.

Launched our first “Village of the Arts” partnership between the City, AISD, & MINDPOP that provides arts organizations office, rehearsal, and performance space while increasing access to arts education programming for schools, and activates neighborhoods lacking arts resources for



Created and distributed an Arts Partners Directory to help schools and arts organizations build strong educational partnerships to better serve students.

Awarded 210 Creative Learning Awards to leaders from 55 campuses at a district-wide event held at the Long Center.

## Increased Local, Statewide and National Knowledge Base

We continued to develop models and resources that give educators and artists the tools they need to effectively employ creative teaching strategies both in and outside the classroom. This year we expanded our reach nationally, with a new special education partnership.

MINDPOP, in collaboration with VSA Texas and Austin ISD's Special Education Department, was contracted by the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts to create a national model for teachers of Special Education in the use of creative teaching strategies.

Designed or co-designed 100+ differentiated professional development trainings which included creative teaching strategies based in drama, music, movement, and visual arts for elementary, middle, and high school teachers focusing on how, when, and why to use creative teaching strategies.

Developed and distributed professional development support materials for each individual training workshop, including content summaries and creative teaching strategy cards.

Created or revised five implementation manuals for principals, teachers, coaches, and specialists. Manuals included: Creative Teaching Handbook, Principals Guidebook, Sustaining a Creative Campus Guidebook, Coaching Guidebook, and Specialist Guidebook.

Developed educational frameworks, including a Creative Teaching Instructional Cycle and a Creative Teaching Rubric for teachers and instructional coaches.

Conducted a statewide research project for the Texas Cultural Trust, assessing students' access to the arts in 1700+ districts across Texas. Disseminated findings through ArtCan Texas website.



## Strengthened Educators' Knowledge and Skillsets

The Creative Learning Initiative provided professional development and technical assistance for thousands of general classroom teachers, specialists, teaching artists, and administrators.

With VSA Texas and AISD's Special Education Department, piloted 12 special education training modules for PK-5 teachers in multidisciplinary creative teaching strategies. Trained 38 special education professional development facilitators who trained 250+ teachers on 22 campuses.



Trained AISD CLI coaches and specialists and CLI teaching artists from 50+ arts organizations to facilitate 60+ professional development trainings.

Designed and led one three-day Creative Campus Leadership Academy, three Creative Campus Leadership Exchanges, and eight Creative Teaching Refreshers for 70 Creative Campus Leaders from 24 campuses to support the sustainability phase of the Creative Learning Initiative.

3000+ educators attended six half-day professional development trainings focusing on how, when, and why to use creative teaching strategies.

Collaborated with UT Austin's Drama for Schools to design and implement a pre-pilot STEAM project with three schools to develop a framework for rigorous and authentic STEAM learning.

600+ teachers received instructional coaching, grade level planning, and modeling of creative teaching techniques using the MINDPOP model. 1000+ teachers learned to design lessons using creative teaching strategies.

Trained 100+ administrators in designing Creative Learning Campus Plans, applications for creative strategies, and program implementation logistical support.

Provided technical assistance to AISD drama and dance specialists on 26 elementary campuses to provide arts integration lessons to elementary students.

## Engaged and Educated the Community

Our Partnership extended its professional development reach into the community by engaging and educating teaching artists, arts partners, students, and adults.

Conducted 9 FLASHDRIVE workshops for 200+ attendees, covering topics such as improving quality of and access to Spanish language programming and working with students of mixed abilities.

Supported 10 artists in the six-week Fellowship for Emerging Teaching Artists, which provides training and mentorship, access to year-round workshops, and assistance in gaining employment.



Continued efforts to train all instructional staff in 20 Austin Parks and Recreation sites and four cultural centers on how, when, and why to use creative teaching strategies. AISD classroom teachers are simultaneously learning how to align in-school and out of school time learning.

In March 2017, MINDPOP launched its free Distinguished Lecture Series with Eric Booth, international leader in the field of arts education.

Completed year five of the Student Fellowship for Creative Leadership program. 50 AISD seniors worked with a mentor for a summer internship at a leading Austin arts organization or creative business and participated in career training, took part in roundtables in creative fields, and received support on completing an individual project.

Introduced E4 Youth as a new Fellowship Program partner. E4Youth's mission is to provide young people with opportunities to explore careers in the arts and creative industries.

## Shared Expertise and Received Recognition on the National Scene

The Creative Learning Initiative shared its expertise and knowledge regionally and nationally in order to expand access to creative learning through education.

The National Endowment for the Arts awarded the Creative Learning Initiative its second prestigious Collective Impact grant.

MINDPOP was nominated for the 2017 Mission Capital Non-profit Excellence Award for Excellence in Collaboration and Non-Profit Executive Director of the Year by our colleagues.

We hosted numerous site visits from community leaders from Australia, Scotland and US cities.

We shared our successes and our challenges with colleagues across the nation in formal and informal ways, through site visits, phone calls, and conferences. Our leadership team has provided consulting services in San Antonio TX, Houston TX, Clear Lake TX, and New Orleans LA.

Members of our leadership team shared expertise at national events, including:



SXSWedu

Arts Education Partnership  
National Forum

Kennedy Center Partners in  
Education Institute

US Department of Education  
Forum

The Geraldine R. Dodge  
Foundation

Kennedy Center Any Given Child  
Exchange

Texans for the Arts Advocacy Day