



Partners in Education Fast Facts

About Partners in Education

Established in 1991, Partners in Education is a national network of partnerships between local arts organizations and school districts who work together to provide professional learning in the arts for K-8 teachers.

What, Who, How, and Why

What: A partnership at the local level, part of a larger national network

Who: School Districts and Arts Organizations, facilitated by The Kennedy Center

How: Create and maintain a long-term, sustainable partnership that supports the strategic plans of all partners involved. Work together to develop and implement professional learning experiences that provide teachers with resources and strategies to include the arts in their teaching.

Why: Achieve arts-education outcomes. Improve access and equity in arts education for all students. Increase artistic literacy of young people.

Participants

- teachers, art specialists, arts administrators, teaching artists, school administrators/principals, school district leadership
- 98 Partnership Teams in 41 states and D.C. (about 400 members)
- Impact: Annually, Partnership Teams provide more than **1,200 professional learning opportunities** (including arts-integrated and arts-focused workshops, as well as multi-session events and demonstration teaching) to over **30,000 teachers**.

Program Components

- **Partnership Agreements.** Every year, Partnership Teams develop an agreement for the school year ahead. Agreements identify strategies and goals for providing professional learning in the arts for teachers, and outline the responsibilities of each partner in achieving those goals.
- **New Team and New Member Orientation:** New Partnership Teams or new members to existing teams participate in an orientation with the Kennedy Center for Partners in Education.
- **Annual Meeting.** The February Partners in Education Annual Meeting is a national conference that brings Partnership Teams together for 2-3 days of keynotes, workshops, and performances. Attendees hear from experts in the field of arts education, discuss strategies and best practices, and renew professional associations with other Partnership Team members, teaching artists, and Kennedy Center staff. Partnership Teams are given time to strengthen their partnership and develop their Partnership Agreement for the coming year.
- **National Communities of Practice:** Quarterly sessions are held virtually for Partnership Teams across the network to share strategies and experiences around effective partnership development and sustainability.

Responsibilities

- ***Dues.** Partnership Teams pay \$500 annually to the Kennedy Center to cover membership fees. This fee is per team, not per organization or person. (*Dues have been waived until further notice due to the ongoing pandemic)
- **Partnership Agreements.** Due annually on May 1.
- **Annual Report.** Due annually on September 1.
- **Workshops for Teachers.** We recommend that Partnership Teams plan at least three workshops for teachers in one “season”, i.e. school year.
- **Annual Convening.** We recommend that Partnership Teams have representatives at 3 out of every 5 consecutive convening.

Benefits

- **Affiliation with the Kennedy Center.** Institutions can leverage their affiliation with the Kennedy Center for fundraising, branding, quality assurance, and connections with the media.
- **A Network of Peers.** The Partners in Education program includes hundreds of arts and education professionals who share the same goals, concerns, and challenges. The Kennedy Center connects members to colleagues within the network who share successful strategies for achieving desired outcomes. Partnership Teams are invited to attend regular Regional Meetings, facilitated by an Advisory Committee Member who offers guidance and acts as a liaison to the Kennedy Center.

- **Consulting Services.** The Kennedy Center has experienced teaching artists and Kennedy Center staff who are available to assist Partnership Teams with program and partnership development.
- **Visibility.** The Kennedy Center highlights partnerships' accomplishments through invitations to present at the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., and through recognition in the National Community Partnerships e-newsletter. Partnership Team Members who have been in the network for two or more years are eligible to serve on the national Advisory Committee for Partners in Education.
- **Kennedy Center Education Resources.** Partners in Education members have first access to Kennedy Center Education Resources. Up to 50% reimbursement is offered for up to two workshops presented by a Kennedy Center teaching artist. Partial reimbursement is offered for travel to Annual Meeting at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.