

ABOUT PCAH

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) is an advisory committee to the White House on cultural issues. First Lady Michelle Obama is the Honorary Chair, George Stevens, Jr. and Margo Lion are Co-Chairs, and Dr. Mary Schmidt Campbell is Vice-Chair. Members of PCAH include federal officials and presidentially-appointed private individuals. The Committee works with government agencies and the private sector to initiate and support key programs in the arts and the humanities, particularly in education. In May of 2011, PCAH released the first comprehensive federal report on arts education in over a decade, *Re-Investing in Arts Education: Winning America's Future Through Creative Schools*.

PARTNERS



Booz | Allen | Hamilton

<http://turnaroundarts.pcah.gov>

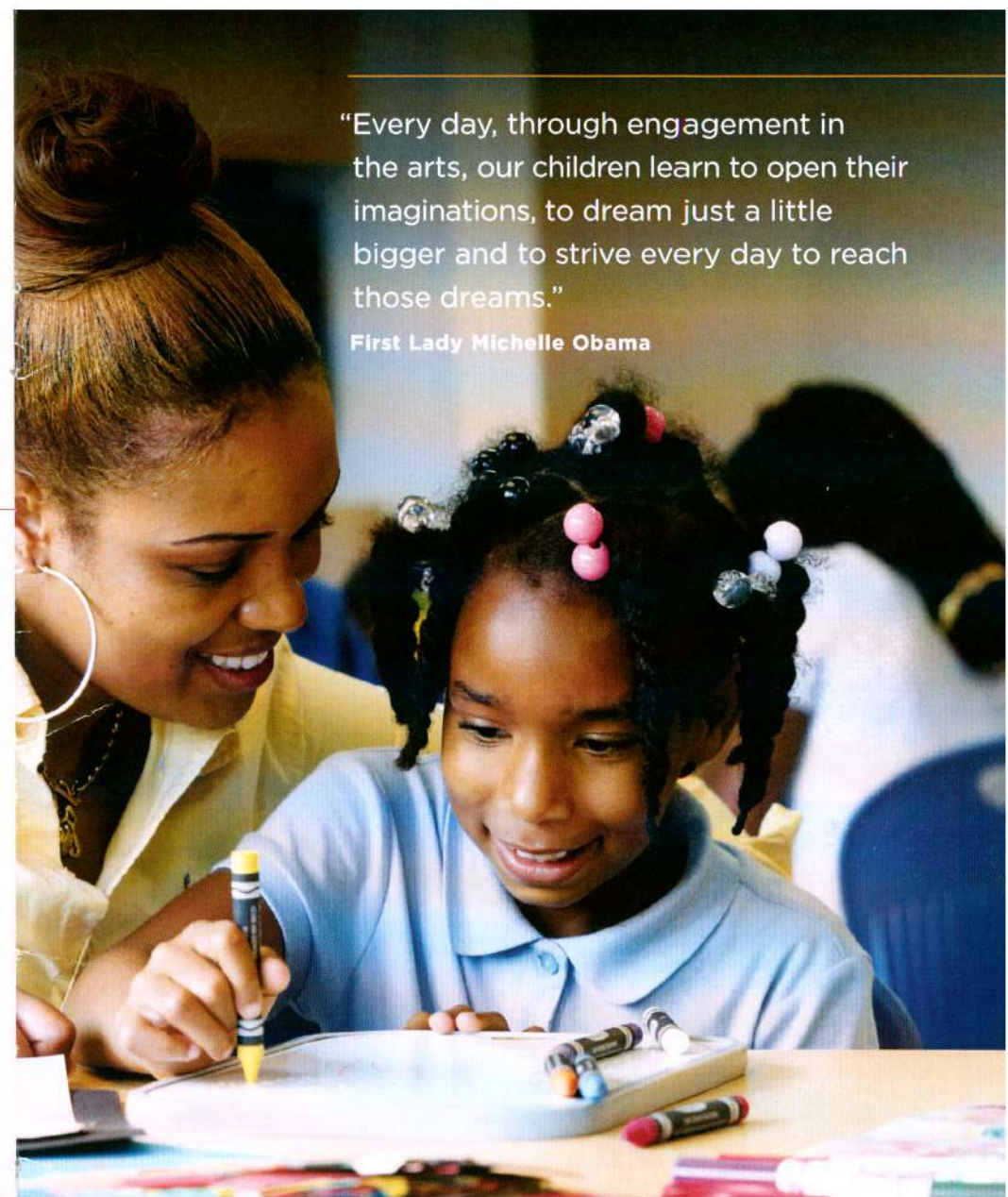
f [facebook.com/TurnaroundArts](https://www.facebook.com/TurnaroundArts) t twitter.com/TurnaroundArts

President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities

1100 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 526 | Washington, DC, 20506 | t: 202/682-5409

"Every day, through engagement in the arts, our children learn to open their imaginations, to dream just a little bigger and to strive every day to reach those dreams."

First Lady Michelle Obama



TURNAROUND: ARTS
creating success in schools

AT A GLANCE

What is Turnaround Arts?

Turnaround Arts is a program that uses arts education as a tool to help turn around America's failing schools. Led by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, it brings high-quality arts education resources to a group of the lowest-performing elementary and middle schools in the country.

What Does It Do?

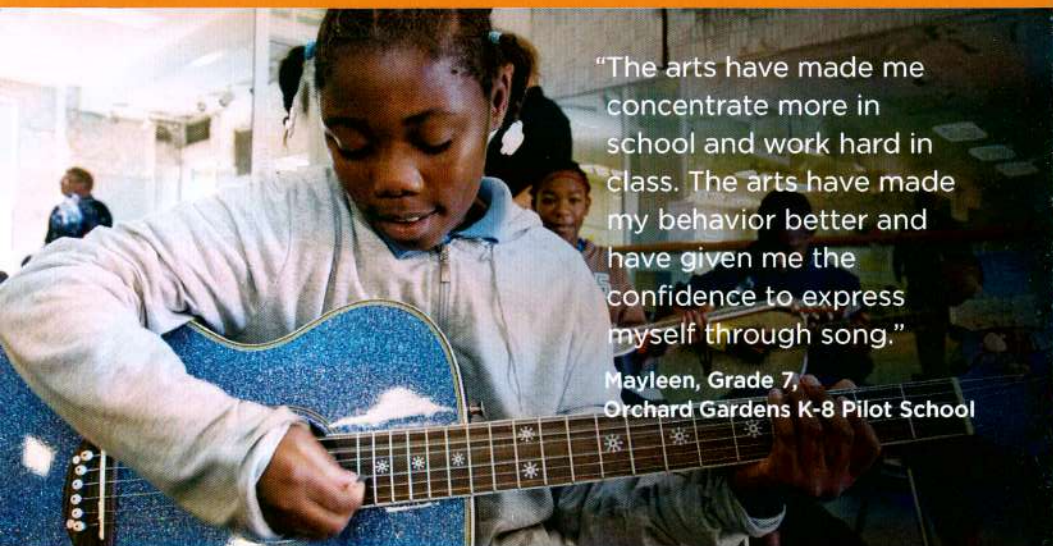
Turnaround Arts brings arts supplies, musical instruments, teacher training, strategic planning for principals and community arts partnerships into low-performing schools over a two-year period. In addition, Turnaround Artists—celebrated actors, artists, dancers and musicians—each adopt Turnaround Arts schools, visiting classrooms and working with students, parents, and teachers to bring energy, creativity and hope into the schools.

Who is Involved?

Partners include federal agencies, major foundations and leaders in educational reform such as the U.S. Department of Education, the Ford Foundation, the Aspen Institute, and the University of Chicago. President's Committee Members Yo-Yo Ma, Forest Whitaker, Chuck Close, Kerry Washington, Sarah Jessica Parker, Alfre Woodard and Damian Woetzel have all adopted Turnaround Arts schools.

What are the Benefits?

Immediate impacts include increased student engagement, reduced disciplinary actions, improved school environment and morale, and a learning climate that fosters creative and innovative learners. Long-term benefits lead to higher levels of academic success and a narrowing of the achievement gap.



"The arts have made me concentrate more in school and work hard in class. The arts have made my behavior better and have given me the confidence to express myself through song."

Mayleen, Grade 7,
Orchard Gardens K-8 Pilot School

EARLY RESULTS

In the first year of operation, our Turnaround Arts schools have already shown:

- » Improved test scores in key demographics
- » Improved student daily attendance rates
- » Improved enrollment numbers
- » Decreased number of student disciplinary referrals
- » Increased parent and community involvement

36%

Increase in test scores in Washington, DC

2X

Improvement in school attendance rates over the district average in Connecticut

20%

Increase in parent-teacher conference attendance in Iowa



WHAT EDUCATORS ARE SAYING

"A new program, the Turnaround Arts Initiative, is putting the arts back into the schools that need them most."

American Federation of Teachers

"I have been involved in Des Moines Public Schools for over 30 years and have witnessed many federal grants [...] during that time. I have to say that I have not witnessed a more immediate and positive impact than the Turnaround Arts Program."

Dick Murphy, President, Board of Directors, Des Moines Public Schools

"We have chosen to use the arts to dramatically change the school culture, rethink how we teach, and connect students and families to a richness and depth of learning in a community where the reserve of hope was on empty."

Patrick Pope, Principal, Savoy Elementary School, Washington, DC

"If what is happening at my school is happening at the other [Turnaround Arts] schools, we have changed the future. If the data and stories being collected proves that arts are a necessary part of the educational discussion nationwide, we have changed the world."

Leslie Goldberg, Music Teacher, ReNEW Cultural Arts Academy, New Orleans



"Art gives us a chance to explore what we want to be. It gives us a chance to be free."

Bella, Grade 4,
Findley Elementary School

WHY TURNAROUND ARTS?

- **15% of our nation's schools generate over 60% of our high school dropouts.** If we can move the needle in just a percentage of these lowest-performing schools, we can have a huge impact.
- **Decades of research show that students who are engaged with the arts have a higher likelihood of graduating high school and going on to college.** They have higher attendance records, higher GPAs, and are more likely to participate in a math program or science fair.
- **Arts education also gives struggling schools the tools that they desperately need**—tools to engage students and their parents, to motivate positive behavior and boost morale, and to literally change the way a school feels when students walk through the door.
- **The children who need it the most are getting it the least.** After decades of budget cuts and high-stakes testing, arts education is disappearing from our neediest schools. Almost 6 million high-poverty elementary and middle school students in America have no arts or music classes, as reported by the U.S. Department of Education.

"Today, more and more policymakers think it is the arts, after all, that can motivate kids, engage them and help them develop 21st-century skills such as teamwork and innovative thinking."

Washington Post

IMPLEMENTATION

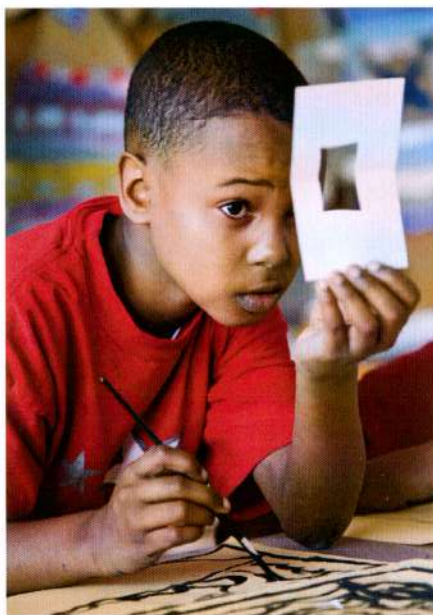
► **Launched in April 2012, Phase 1 Turnaround Arts is working in 8 school districts across the country.**

► **Each participating school receives:**

- » A summer institute for school leadership teams;
- » In-school professional development during the school year;
- » Partnerships with local community arts organizations;
- » Arts supplies and musical instruments;
- » PCAH Turnaround Artists working in the schools;
- » A public arts event in the school with students, parents, and community;
- » A research evaluation of the effects of arts learning on whole school turnaround.

"[A] shining example of how it is possible to ensure that demography is not destiny."

National Center on Time and Learning



ARTISTS

Celebrated artists work with one or more schools during the length of the program, leading master classes and working with students, parents and the school staff.



Chuck Close
Yo-Yo Ma
Sarah Jessica Parker
Kerry Washington
Forest Whitaker
Damian Woetzel
Alfre Woodard

"This is believed to be the first federal initiative to examine the role of arts in school reform and will also generate new research looking at how a robust arts program affects students"

Associated Press