ARTS FIRST FY 2013-2018
Strategic Action Plan

ARTS FIRST is a network of organizations that works collaboratively to support educational opportunities in, about, and through the arts and enhance the quality of learning for Hawai‘i’s youth.

ARTS FIRST partners are government and private non-profit agencies responsible for education through the arts across the state. ARTS FIRST partners include: Hawai‘i Arts Alliance; Hawai‘i Association of Independent Schools; Hawai‘i Department of Education, Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts; University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa College of Arts and Humanities; and University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa College of Education. ARTS FIRST also works with two affiliates: Honolulu Theatre for Youth and Maui Arts & Cultural Center.

ARTS FIRST is a mandated partnership of arts organizations initiated in 1999 by the Hawai‘i state legislature in ACT 80. At that time, ARTS FIRST was called to revise the state’s Fine Arts Standards and develop a strategic plan to support arts education statewide. In 2001, ACT 306 was passed into law, which officially tasked the partnership with promoting education in, about, and through the arts in the state of Hawai‘i.
ARTS FIRST MISSION

ARTS FIRST partners work collaboratively to create the conditions and culture that promise a comprehensive high-quality arts education – learning in, about, and through the arts – for every student in Hawai‘i.

ARTS FIRST FY2013-2018 strategic priorities emerged from conversations across the partnership, with legislative leaders and with community stakeholders.

Goal 1: ARTS FIRST advocacy strengthens public support, awareness, and funding of arts education.

Strategy: ARTS FIRST partners will advocate for every student in Hawai‘i to have the opportunity to learn in, about, and through the arts.

ARTS FIRST partners will participate in advocacy that effectively promotes the significance of arts education for Hawai‘i’s students.

ARTS FIRST partners will build on current relationships and establish new ones to continue to expand its community support base; circulate published materials that advance critical messages about the impact of arts education; and continue to engage in the legislative process to make the case for arts education. Connections with national advocacy organizations, Americans for the Arts and Kennedy Center, will continue to inform the statewide actions.

Goal 2: ARTS FIRST partners regularly conduct and disseminate research on the scope and impact of arts education in Hawai‘i.

Strategy: ARTS FIRST will continually assess the state of arts education in Hawai‘i to inform public policy and educational practice, and use results to prioritize and engage in targeted research projects.

ARTS FIRST will conduct comprehensive and pertinent, issues-based research that informs Hawai‘i’s communities about the impact of arts education on student learning, and which helps stakeholders, lawmakers and citizens make critical decisions about the future of arts education in Hawai‘i. ARTS FIRST will develop and disseminate reports, research studies and briefs (technical and policy).
Goal 3: Pre-service teachers, in-service teachers and teaching artists have access to ongoing and high-quality professional learning opportunities.

Strategy: ARTS FIRST advocates for comprehensive, evidence-based professional development opportunities for Hawai‘i’s teachers and teaching artists; partners also collaborate to develop and deliver each others’ programming to teachers.

ARTS FIRST partners will work together to ensure ample and high quality professional learning opportunities. ARTS FIRST will support the development of opportunities where they do not exist and enhance those that do by meaningfully integrating the arts with pedagogic practice at all levels of education. Partners will continue to work through each others’ direct service programs, such as the Artists-in-the-Schools program, promote the formation of certificate and capstone courses through University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, and direct current and future teachers to other arts-based professional learning opportunities.

Goal 4: All Hawai‘i students have access to a high quality formal and informal sequential arts education, which is inclusive of fine arts disciplines and enables proficiency in an art form.

Strategy: ARTS FIRST partners work collaboratively to support and enhance delivery of a comprehensive, quality arts education to Hawai‘i students.

ARTS FIRST will work to ensure that arts education programs in and outside the classroom are informed by the highest of standards. Partners will do this by using research to advocate for best practices in arts education programming; reviewing and revising Fine Arts Performance Standards to align with current best practices; and working through each others’ programs to deliver high quality programming to all students.
EXAMPLES OF ARTS FIRST PARTNER PROGRAMS

Artists-in-the-Schools
(Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, in collaboration with the Hawai'i Arts Alliance)

ARTS FIRST Summer Institutes
(Hawai'i Arts Alliance, Hawai'i Department of Education, the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and Maui Arts & Cultural Center)

Art Bento Program
(Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, in collaboration with the Hawai'i Arts Alliance)

Master of Education in Teaching
(University of Hawai'i Mānoa College of Education)

Page-to-Stage
(University of Hawai'i Mānoa College of Arts & Humanities)

Poetry Out Loud (Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and Honolulu Theatre for Youth)

Collaboration Residencies Program
(Hawai'i Department of Education, Honolulu Theatre for Youth, and Maui Arts & Cultural Center)

Essential Arts Tool Kit
(All Partners)

ARTS FIRST PARTNERS
Hawai'i Arts Alliance
Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools
Hawai'i Department of Education
Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Arts and Humanities
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education

AFFILIATES
Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Maui Arts & Cultural Center

RESOURCES ON ARTS EDUCATION

Americans for the Arts
ArtsEdge
Arts Education Partnership
ARTSCAN: Education Commission of the States
Center for Educator Development in Fine Arts
Center on Education Policy
Keep Arts in Schools
Kennedy Center: Alliance for Arts Education Network
Lincoln Center for Arts Education
National Art Education Association
National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
National Endowment for the Arts
National Guild for Community Arts Education
Partnership for 21st Century Skills
U.S. Department of Education: Arts in Education
September 2012

We, the members of the Hawai‘i Arts Education Partners aka ARTS FIRST Partners, affirm our belief in the value of arts education for all the keiki o Hawai‘i from pre-kindergarten through higher education and in our shared vision that the arts are central to the learning process:

ARTS FIRST, ARTS LAST: EDUCATE THE WHOLE CHILD!

On behalf of all the people of the State of Hawai‘i, we re-commit our support to the implementation of the ARTS FIRST: Hawai‘i’s Arts Education Strategic Plan FY2013-18 as mandated by Act 306/2001.

ARTS FIRST Partners

Hawai‘i Department of Education: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent

Hawai‘i Association of Independent Schools: Robert Witt, Executive Director

Hawai‘i Arts Alliance: Marilyn Cristofori, Chief Executive Officer

Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts: Eva Laird Smith, Executive Director

College of Arts & Humanities, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa: Peter Arnade, Dean

College of Education, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa: Donald Young, Dean

ARTS FIRST Affiliates

Honolulu Theatre for Youth: Becky Dunning, Managing Director

Maui Arts & Cultural Center: Art Vento, President & CEO
STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN: FY2013-2018

ARTS FIRST Partners

College of Arts & Humanities, University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa
College of Education, University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa
Hawai‘i Arts Alliance
Hawai‘i Association of Independent Schools
Hawai‘i Department of Education
Hawai‘i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

ARTS FIRST Affiliates

Honolulu Theatre for Youth
Maui Arts & Cultural Center
ARTS FIRST MISSION

ARTS FIRST partners work collaboratively to create the conditions and culture that promise a comprehensive high-quality arts education – learning in, about, and through the arts – for every student in Hawaiʻi.

AF Goal 1. ARTS FIRST advocacy strengthens public support, awareness, and funding of arts education.

AF Goal 2. ARTS FIRST partners annually conduct and disseminate research on the scope, impact and pertinent topics of arts education in Hawaiʻi.

AF Goal 3. Pre-service teachers, in-service teachers, and teaching artists have access to ongoing and high-quality professional learning opportunities.

AF Goal 4. All Hawaiʻi students have access to high quality formal and informal sequential arts education, which is inclusive of fine arts disciplines and enables proficiency in an art form.
Goal 1. ARTS FIRST advocacy strengthens public support, awareness, and funding of arts education.

**Inputs**

- **Suggested Co-Leads**: HAIS & Arts Alliance
- **Contributing Partners**: HIDOE, HSFCU, HTY, MACC, UH COAH, UH COE
- **Resources Needed**: Staff time for internal meetings, research, and composition.

**Strategy and Action Items**

**Strategy**: Advocate for every student in Hawaii to have the opportunity to learn in, through and about the arts.

**Action Items**:
1. Update targets of advocacy (elected officials and community)
2. Update State Arts Action Network (SAAN) database.
3. Circulate procedure/actions for advocacy as per Americans for the Arts, SAAN, and Kennedy Center.
4. Maintain and leverage existing relationships and build new strategic relationships.

**Outcomes**

1. Decision makers gain increased awareness of arts education issues.
2. Increase of arts education services in schools/communities.
3. Talking Points

**Resources**
- Americans for the Arts – Arts Action Center
- Kennedy Center Advocacy Toolkit
- National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Advocacy Tools
- Arts & Economic Prosperity Study IV
- Keep the Arts in Public Schools Toolkit

**Sample Evaluation Questions**
1. To what extent have the ARTS FIRST partners met the advocacy goals?
2. What impact have ARTS FIRST advocacy activities made on public policy?
3. How has the ARTS FIRST partnership enabled members to advance arts education?

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1 Co-Leads to be determined annually by AF partners. Co-Leads develop agenda items, convene meetings, suggest and identify action items, suggest implementation schedules, solicit the support of AF partners to accomplish action items, monitor and evaluate progress towards respective goals.
- Goal 2. ARTS FIRST partners conduct and disseminate research on the scope, impact and pertinent topics of arts education in Hawai'i.

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<tr>
<th>Inputs</th>
<th>Strategy and Action Items</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suggested Co-Leads: UH COAH and COE, MACC</td>
<td><strong>Strategy:</strong> Continually assess the state of arts education in Hawaii to inform public policy and educational practice, and use results to prioritize and engage in targeted research endeavors.</td>
<td>1. Needs Assessment Report</td>
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<td>Contributing Partners: Arts Alliance H AIS HIDOE HSFCA HTY</td>
<td><strong>Action Items:</strong> 1. Identify data to be collected. 2. Develop instruments if conducting needs assessment (suggest an online survey). 3. Collect and review existing documents (HDOE, HAIS, and arts organization annual reports). 4. Collect extant data (i.e. numbers of students accessing formal arts education, number of schools with trained arts educators, numbers of students served by AITS, number of annual professional learning opportunities presently provided to HDOE and HAIS students, amount of time dedicated to arts education, number and type of after-school arts programs, financial expenditures). 5. Analyze data. 6. Summarize and report findings. 7. Distribute report to stakeholders; ensure partner access to data for purposes of further research and fund development. 8. Solicit AF partner input to determine research needs. 9. Conduct review of extant literature if conducting research studies or composing briefs. 10. Prioritize and conduct research on specific topics aligned with AF's mission. 11. Publish select research findings.</td>
<td>2. Data Inventory</td>
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<td>Resources Needed: Staff time for research, instrument creation, data collection, analysis and reporting; online survey account; contacts list serve.</td>
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<td>3. Research Studies (specific topics)</td>
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**Resources**

Developing and administering needs assessments:  
AFTA: Assessing the Needs of Your District  
NEA: Arts Education Research

On-line survey tool:  
Survey Monkey

**Sample Evaluation Questions**

1. How well does the Needs Assessment Report detail the scope and impact of arts education in Hawaii?  
2. Are data reported on complete and accurate?  
3. What additional data are needed for ARTS FIRST partners to accomplish their mission?  
4. For what purposes have ARTS FIRST partners used the findings?
Goal 3. Pre-service teachers, in-service teachers, and teaching artists have access to ongoing and high-quality professional learning opportunities.

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<td><strong>Strategy</strong>: Advocate for comprehensive, evidence-based professional learning opportunities for Hawai’i’s teachers and teaching artists; collaborate to develop and deliver partners’ respective programming to teachers.</td>
<td>1. Professional Learning Modules (HIDOE)</td>
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<td><strong>Action Items</strong></td>
<td>2. Enhanced ARTS FIRST partner programs related to teacher licensure. Example: Enhanced MEdT Program (UH COE)</td>
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<td>1. Set aside time during SC meetings to share respective program needs and better understand how AF partners can support/work with each other to advance teacher PD opportunities.</td>
<td>3. Graduate student capstone courses in COAH</td>
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<td>2. Determine priorities and strategies for partner program enhancement. Possibilities include:</td>
<td>4. Expanded AITS Roster</td>
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<td>- Collaboration with SFCA to advertise the AITS program to education and arts stakeholders; review and update the AITS roster.</td>
<td>5. Certificate Program for Teaching Artists (UH Outreach College)</td>
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<td>- Collaboration with COAH to develop a certificate program for teaching artists through Outreach College, if this is deemed a way to broaden AITS roster.</td>
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<td>- Collaboration with COE to enhance existing teacher preparation programs to include arts preparation, especially in elementary education.</td>
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<td>- Advocacy for COAH graduate student capstone and community outreach projects.</td>
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<td>3. Collaborate to produce a comprehensive listing of arts organizations and working artists willing to mentor pre-service teachers.</td>
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<td>4. Provide research to UH on the impact of similar/parallel professional learning opportunities and degree programs at other institutions.</td>
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<td>5. Provide UH with community contacts for student practicum, mentoring and job shadowing opportunities.</td>
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<td>6. Advertise evidence-based professional learning opportunities for teachers, working artists and members of the community. PD opportunities can be advertised through a list-serve, organizational newsletters to public and/or independent school teachers.</td>
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**Resources**
- Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network
- Kennedy Center Partners in Education Network
- USED: Arts in Education—Professional Development for Arts Educators
- Designing the Arts Learning Community: a Handbook for K-12 Professional Development Planners

**Sample Evaluation Questions**
1. To what extent have the strategy and action items resulted in the desired outcomes?
Goal 4. All Hawai‘i students have access to high quality formal and informal sequential arts education, which is inclusive of fine arts disciplines and enables proficiency in an art form.

**Inputs**

Suggested Co-Leads: HIDOE & UH COE

Contributing Partners:
- Arts Alliance
- HAIS
- HSFCA
- HTY
- MACC
- UH COAH

Resources needed:
- Staff time for research, communications, stakeholder meetings, community outreach events and logistical planning; relationships that can be leveraged; space/forums.

**Strategy and Action Items**

**Strategy:** ARTS FIRST partners and affiliates work collaboratively to enhance and support delivery of a comprehensive, high quality arts education to Hawai‘i students.

**Action Items:**
1. Set aside time during SC meetings to share respective program needs and better understand how AF partners can support/work with each other to design and deliver high quality programming for all students.
2. Determine priorities and strategies for partner program enhancement.
3. Review existing Fine Arts Performance Standards to align with current research.
4. Provide HIDOE recommendations for change based on current research/best practices.
5. Review and revise the existing ARTS FIRST Toolkit as needed, and/or to reflect changes in standards.
6. Review needs assessment findings to identify gaps in arts education programming.
7. Identify public allocations to arts education programming (workforce, time, fiscal) to advocate for the reallocation or further allocation of funding.

**Outcomes**

1. Complete and update Fine Arts standards.
2. High school graduation requirement of one arts credit.
3. More arts specialists in the schools.
4. Funding from HIDOE for professional development of teachers.

**Sample Evaluation Questions**

1. To what extent have the strategy and action items resulted in the desired outcomes?