



Annual Report Form 2015

Date: 7/28/15

Site Name: SPARK! / Missoula

Vision Statement

We believe that the Arts have the power to ignite the imagination, spark innovation through creativity, and transform learning. We are a community wide partnership working to expand arts programming in Missoula County Public Schools. We facilitate and foster connections between district schools, teaching artists, and local arts organizations, helping to ensure access to the arts for all MCPS students.

Goals

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| 1. | Develop appropriate infrastructure to assure the Initiative will function with clear goals, transparent leadership and coordinated governance. |
| 2. | Implement a coordinated, sustainable and equitable arts education plan in order to ensure the Arts are an essential part of every school day for every child. |
| 3. | Communicate the vision, message, and process of the Initiative to the Missoula community. |

4.	Establish a plan for evaluating the success of the Initiative at identified points throughout the year.
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Action Steps for 2014-15	Goal Area Addressed	Measurement of Success/ Numbers Served
Grow infrastructure by hiring a staff member.	1	Nationwide search for Executive Director occurred. Director was hired on 12/1/14.
Clearly define roles of district, city, MCC, and partnering organizations.	1	Committee structure was formalized (attached) 4 committees, 8 subcommittees, and a steering committee meet with ED to coordinate and strategize. Working teams of 2-4 people work on specific issues (i.e. professional development, content for reports, event planning). 42 community members/leaders are active.
Develop programming strategy focused on a three tiered approach of arts for arts' sake, arts enhancement, and arts integration.	2,3	5,000 students served in coordinated arts enhancement activities with partnering organizations. District increased visual arts staffing from 2.5 to 4 FTE. Dance Integration residencies and professional development for Teaching Artists and Classroom teachers developed for 2014-2015 school year. Dance Integration Certification program co-developed through local university. Theatre Integration being developed for 2016.
Develop professional development plan for educators and school administrators.	2	3 year district-wide professional development plan developed and approved. A partnership formed between local university, district, and the Initiative to aid in development and implementation of sustainable, quality training for regional educators and teaching artists. 150 educators from 3 district schools completed

		Kennedy Center Defining Arts Integration and various arts integration training (dance integration, STEM to STEAM, teacher as storyteller) .
Continue developing dynamic community partnerships.	2,3	Outreach to community organizations happen continuously. We are currently coordinating with a cross sector of 24 partners. Efforts are focused on integrating the Initiative into existing community and district-wide programs. List of community partners attached.
Develop methods to communicate the Initiative's message.	3	Created and disseminated the following: Video, website, new branding/logo, social media, general brochure, information for teaching artists, partnering organizations, and information for administrators/ educators. Presentations occur weekly at various functions.
Develop creative and effective evaluation/assessment procedures.	3,4	Compiled survey results and reported findings to committees and school communities. Produced school mapping tool to track arts education within the district. Developed strategy for pre and post assessment for upcoming pilot projects in schools.

Please tell us about any changes in arts education policies; or increases in funding, media attention, or staffing, as a result of your *Any Given Child* project.

Recently, a SPARK! team traveled to the Portland to visit an Any Given Child Initiative sister site. The team consisted of SPARK! Director, our district Assistant Superintendent, 2 Title 1 middle school and elementary school principals, and a University of Montana representative. We attended the Right Brain Initiative's Spring Reflection Colloquium followed by a model school tour in which the met with Portland school administration and teaching staff, toured facilities, and viewed arts integration at work in the classroom. The experience offered experiential professional development for the principals, allowing them to see the power and success of a site that is on their 6th year of the Initiative. This invaluable experience was a turning point for our efforts with the district. After the experience, we received full buy in from district

administration including a plan to invest financially in the upcoming 2015-16 school year. Title 1 principals agreed to be pilot sites for integrated residencies which will provide direct access to the arts for 1700 Title 1 school children and professional development for 320 educators.

Please update the statistics for your school district below. (If you work with more than one school district through *Any Given Child*, please provide statistics for each district individually.)

Number of students in grades K-8: 5120
Percentage of students with free or reduced lunch (K-8): 52.1%
Number of students with disabilities (K-8): 810

Number of teachers serving grades K-8: 340

Number of schools serving grades K-8: 12
Number of Title I schools (K-8): 5
Number of persistently low-achieving schools (K-8): 0
Graduation rate: 87.8%

Please tell us about an innovation or program you would like to share with others at the 2016 *Any Given Child* Exchange.

SPARK! is in collaboration with the University of Montana's College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) to ensure on-going access to professional development in arts integration. This effort expands our current Kennedy Center training and develops a sustainable approach for providing continuous, quality arts integration opportunities. The relationship with CVPA is essential to build a strong foundation for the Initiative that will allow us to progress after Kennedy Center resources are no longer available through initiative affiliation. Development of a regional arts integration training site will not only serve local educators and teaching artists, but allow for the spread of program throughout the state of Montana and nationwide. Certification programs for teaching artists are already being implemented.

