Why You Should Support The Arts!

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• We consulted both Jennifer Lagundino who works in arts administration and Flordelino Lagundino who works as a director, actor, and producer.

• Our purpose of creating this project is to educate the people of Boston on how well funded the arts programs are and to give an insight into what they are using their taxpayer dollars to fund in real time.

• The audience we intend to reach is 20-30-year-old taxpayers.

• Our stance towards the project is that more people need to be educated on why art funding is important. Also, how the funding is used in everyday life in order to provide art to kids who grow up in less fortunate communities.

• Our project is an infographic containing information on the amount of funding Boston schools and art programs receive that come from the taxpayer dollar. We want to acknowledge this and present why it is crucial that we keep funding these programs.

• Our rationale for choosing an infographic is that it will catch people’s eyes while doing everyday tasks like walking or waiting at a bus shelter. We are targeting people participating in normalized activity and trying to educate them and further their thinking on the importance of art funding.
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1.) Art Allows For More Ingenuity

Art allows everyone to express themselves in different ways.

Professor Christianne Strang of Neuroscience at the University of Alabama Birmingham says, “Creativity in and of itself is important for remaining healthy, remaining connected to yourself and connected to the world.”

Professor Girija Kaimal and researcher of art therapy of Drexel University says, “Anything that engages your creative mind - the ability to make connections between unrelated things and imagine new ways to communicate — is good for you.”

2.) Art Allows For Better Academics

“In one four-year study done by Johns Hopkins, students [who were] motivated to practice a specific art form had focused attention which increased the efficiency of their attention network as a whole, even when working in other areas of study — and it improved their fluid IQ scores.”

3.) Art Allows For A Better Economy

Boston’s art and culture sector is thriving and “[bring’s in] a total of $2 billion to the local economy annually.”

“ArtsBoston a service organization along with Bank of America has directly infused $1.3 billion into the local economy. Arts, culture, and creativity are economic engines for Boston, with arts audiences spending an additional $675 million locally at restaurants, parking facilities, and other local businesses—creating a $2 billion in total economic impact, a 40% increase since 2014.”

4.) Why Does This Benefit You?

The arts are fundamental to shaping people’s lives. When engaging in the arts it allows people to open up their minds to new ideas and express themselves freely.

When you provide money for the any of the arts you are helping to create a safe and inclusive cultural community that brings new jobs and businesses into the area of Boston. Your money brings in more foot-traffic, resources, and capital. All these things benefit Boston and will benefit you.

Next time you see a question about increasing the funding of the arts vote yes because you will be helping your city of Boston.
Boston Public Schools Arts Festival

How your support of the arts can be seen in the city of Boston

Who?

Over 1,100 students from 21 different Boston schools participate

Why?

This festival allows children of the Boston Public School System to exhibit their artistic talents

Since this initiative launched, 17,000 more children have had access to the arts

This festival is one of the many examples of how taxpayers can see how their funding is directly aiding the children of Boston who have a passion for the arts

How Much Boston Spends on the Arts

Which District gets the Most Funding?

Some examples of schools with more funding than others include the Boston Latin Academy (BLA) who receives $25,188,014. The school used approximately $3,000 dollars into what is referred to as "services" or additional resources that would be provided for students. At the Burke High School, the school was provided with $10,274,401; they used $1,211,351 for the additional resources for the students. What is so drastic about these two schools are the types of classes provided. The BLA provides multiple different forms of art like music and theater. The Burke High School does not offer as much variety as BLA does for their students due to the lack of staff of them only having one art teacher.

What type of art programs are getting funded?

Boston International High School has gotten their theater program funded through the Justice Playwriting Project which gave them $5000 to "support a curriculum unit exploring ethics". These types of programs help out schools that may be suffering financially and can not afford certain art programs.

From Where and Whom Does Funding Come?

The funding provided to the Boston Schools are from state and federal grants. Each year the schools are provided with a specific budget they think would be ideal to resources these schools for a better education. Who handles the budgeting for these schools are the members of the BPS Budget Office, this office ensures that the finances provided to the public Boston Schools are properly spread out throughout each school to provide a proper education as well as provide these students with activities to benefit them in the long run. There is a specific way that the BPS office determines how much funding a school gets, and that's by something called "Weighted Student Funding". Each school is provided with their own budget.

What to do to increase funding?

- Volunteer to help out at schools
- Donate art supplies you may not be using
- TALK TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS ABOUT WHY ART IS IMPORTANT.