Strengthening Arts & Juvenile Justice

David Freudenthal, Carnegie Hall
Christopher Fisher, Spinnaker Government Relations

Friday, May 1, 2020
FY20 Arts & Juvenile Justice Advocacy Success

• Engaged members of Congress and generated bi-partisan support to include the arts in juvenile justice reform efforts.
• Raised awareness about outstanding arts and justice collaborations happening across the country.
• Congress instructed OJJDP to explore the use of the arts in its juvenile justice programs, with input from arts stakeholders and the NEA.
• New funding and programmatic flexibility (which may include the arts) for Title V Delinquency Prevention Grants.
Arts & Juvenile Justice: FY21 Action

Key Congressional Ask:

• Appropriate $61.5M for Title V Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Incentive Grants at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

• Include report language instructing OJJDP to include the arts as an eligible component of its prevention, diversion, reentry, and residential juvenile justice grant programs, in collaboration with NEA and arts stakeholders.
Arts & Juvenile Justice: Opportunity

Federal investment in arts and juvenile justice programs will:

• Support state and local efforts to invest in public-private partnerships between community-based arts organizations and law enforcement agencies to keep children safe and prevent justice-system involvement.

• Establish national benchmarks and metrics for evaluation of local and state juvenile justice systems utilizing the arts.

• Build an evidentiary base of promising and effective art-based and art therapy practices and model programs.
Arts & Juvenile Justice: Recommendations

Reformulate federal grant requirements to reward the inclusion of creative youth development principles and strengths-based strategies in programs that serve youth in the juvenile justice system.

• Target funding toward effective community-based alternatives to detention and incarceration that are framed and evaluated in terms of the positive assets they seek to encourage in youth.

• Shift focus from recidivism rates as primary measure of program success to positive youth development metrics.
Arts & Juvenile Justice: Opportunity

Title V – Youth PROMISE Grants:

• Empower communities to address juvenile justice prevention on a local level and encourage cross-sector collaboration.

• Create new opportunity for innovative and promising arts and creative youth development programs, through significant expansion in FY20 of the types of prevention programs that qualify for funding.

• Allow for a broader, more holistic approach to addressing the needs of youth who are at-risk or have been in contact with the justice system.
Arts & Juvenile Justice: Making the Case

Advancing the role of creativity in Positive Youth Development

• Positive Youth Development (PYD) is a model accepted by OJJDP and the juvenile justice field, explicitly referenced in JJDPA.

• Creative Youth Development integrates creative skill-building and artistic expression with PYD principles.
Engaging the Arts Across the Juvenile Justice System

On a given day, more than 43,000 youths who simply identify as students of color and are disproportionately male are held in residential placement facilities as a result of involvement with the juvenile justice system. Here, true two-thirds of youths living in placement facilities who participated in #ARTSADVOCACY showed aspirations to continue their education, with many just wanting to pursue postsecondary education.

Despite these aspirations, youths involved in the juvenile justice system experience educational barriers before they enter the system. Nearly one third are diagnosed with a learning disability, nearly half demonstrate academic proficiency below their grade level and close to a quarter are not enrolled in school. This disruption in their academic trajectory continues in prison because of involvement with the juvenile justice system. It leaves a student from continuing their education upon release.

High-quality arts education participation has lasting positive impacts for youth by supporting development from early childhood to adulthood, providing pathways for career enrichment, and preparing our young people for healthy and productive lives.
Arts & Juvenile Justice: Making the Case

Arts and culture strengthens communities and public safety.

• Support state and local efforts to invest in community-based alternatives to incarceration.

• Look to model public-private partnership efforts between arts initiatives and city/state law enforcement agencies, such as those in New York City, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia, and partner with national grassroots efforts.
FY21: COVID-19 Considerations

JJ advocates are urging Congress to appropriate $100M in Emergency Appropriations through JJDPA for essential services and supports for young people in the justice system.

• Includes requests relevant to arts service:
  • Extend distance-learning and remote therapy to youth in secure facilities
  • Ensure that probation has the training and equipment needed to provide remote-based services
Arts & Juvenile Justice: Making the Case

Connect reform efforts with the many promising Arts & Juvenile Justice collaborations happening across the country:

- Los Angeles: AIYN – Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network
- Richmond, VA: Performing Statistics
- Cleveland: Shooting Without Bullets
- Philadelphia: Mural Arts
- Salt Lake City: Spy Hop
- New York City: NeON Arts
- Culture of Justice and Art For Justice Fund: national networks

What are the current and potential projects happening in your state?
Arts & Juvenile Justice: Take Action!

Americans for the Arts/Arts Action Fund
  • Link to Arts & JJ advocacy letter

National Juvenile Justice Network
  • Link to COVID advocacy letter
Arts & Juvenile Justice: Resources

- Arts Education Partnership
- Art for Justice Fund
- ArtPlace America
- Create Justice
- Creative Youth Development Toolkit
- Social Impact of the Arts Project
- National Juvenile Justice Network
Arts & Juvenile Justice: Resources

- *Engaging the Arts Across the Juvenile Justice System* (Arts Education Partnership, April 2020)
- *Creative Youth Development: Transforming the Learning Environment* (AEP, 2018)
- *Exploring the Ways Arts and Culture Intersects With Public Safety* (ArtPlace Field Scan, 2016)
- *Arts-Based Programs and Art Therapies for At-Risk, Justice-Involved, and Traumatized Youths* (2016 OJJDP/NEA literature review)
- *The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth: Findings from Four Longitudinal Studies* (NEA, 2012)
- BYAEP’s *Framework for Outcomes in Youth Arts* (Mass Cultural Council)