

# Strengthening Arts & Juvenile Justice

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# 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

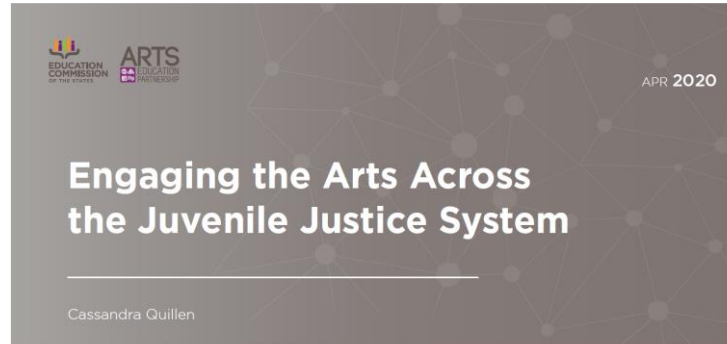
- Positive Youth Development (PYD) is a model accepted by OJJDP and the juvenile justice field, explicitly referenced in JJDPJA.
- Creative Youth Development integrates creative skill-building and artistic expression with PYD principles.

# Arts & Juvenile Justice: Making the Case

## Arts Education Partnership

April 2020 report


## *Engaging the Arts Across the Juvenile Justice System*




On a given day, more than [43,000 youths](#) who largely [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. More than two-thirds of youths living in placement facilities who participated in a [national survey](#) shared aspirations to continue their education, with nearly half wanting to pursue postsecondary education.

Despite these aspirations, youth involved in the juvenile justice system encounter [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. A disruption in their academic trajectory because of involvement with the juvenile justice system may prevent a student from continuing their education upon reentry. [Sixty-six percent](#) of youths do not return to school after leaving placement.

High-quality arts education participation has lasting, positive impacts for youth by supporting development from early

 ENGAGEMENT IN ARTS EDUCATION HAS LASTING BENEFITS, PROVIDING A PATHWAY OF SUPPORT FOR YOUTH WITHIN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

 STATES, SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER AGENCIES CAN IMPLEMENT ARTS EDUCATION-FOCUSED PROGRAMS ACROSS THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND PROVIDE SERVICES THAT MINIMIZE BARRIERS FOR A YOUTH'S INITIAL ENGAGEMENT AND CONTINUED PARTICIPATION.





# 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?**

#ARTSADVOCACY



# 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)