



## DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative Collective Impact F.A.Q.

### **What is Collective Impact?**

Collective Impact is a [social theory](#) first published by the Stanford Social Innovation Review. Specifically, collective impact is defined as *"the commitment of a group of important actors from different sectors to a common agenda for solving a specific social problem."* In the arts and humanities education community, collective impact has a strong role. When the entire community, inclusive of cultural institutions, the school system, local government, businesses, and philanthropic communities work together to **articulate a shared vision and goals and engage in data-driven strategic planning, the outcome of ensuring equitable access to the arts and humanities is more attainable!**

### **Read our blogs describing Collective Impact:**

- "Interview with Ayanna Hudson: Director of Arts Education at the National Endowment for the Arts" - [January 23, 2017](#)
- "The Importance of Collective Impact"- [July 16, 2015](#)

### **How is the DC Collaborative involved in Collective Impact?**

The DC Collaborative was formed from a Collective Impact model 20 years ago before the term was coined! Through this lens, the DC Collaborative and broader DC arts and humanities education community of practice is taking a deeper look at how we can make our work together of providing equitable access to arts and humanities education more comprehensive, data-driven and systemic. To aid us in this work and carry out the Emerging Collective Impact grant the DC Collaborative [received from the National Endowment for the Arts](#), we have been exploring how to best lead the community utilizing a Collective Impact model.



**The DC Collaborative is pleased to [announce](#) that Washington, DC was named the 25th Any Given Child city by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.**

### **What is Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child?**

Entering its ninth year, the primary goal of the Kennedy Center's [Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child](#) (AGC) collective impact program is to assist communities in developing and implementing a plan for expanded arts education in their schools, ensuring access and equity for all students in grades preK-12. Each AGC site begins with the established program framework, and then builds on that framework under the guidance of the Kennedy Center's AGC consulting team. The Kennedy Center team tailors their guidance to the unique needs of each site. For example, the existing AGC model centered around arts education grades preK-8. DC is the first site where the

model will expand to serve grades preK-12. Participation in the Any Given Child program is an extension of the Collaborative's Collective Impact work.

**Three phases of the Any Given Child program:**

- Strategic Planning (year 1)
- Implementation (years 2-4)
- Sustaining (years 5 and beyond)

**Strategic Planning Year**

The AGC process includes a strategic planning year with a Community Arts Team comprised of 30 representatives from the Mayor's Office, DCPS Chancellor's office, arts educators, cultural institution partners, communications, corporate and philanthropic leaders. [View the Washington, DC CAT members here.](#)

**What does the Community Arts Team do?**

The Community Arts Team has seven consecutive meetings throughout the course of the strategic planning year. They develop a vision statement around ensuring equitable access to a high quality arts education for all students in the DC public education system, develop and distribute instruments for data collection, review the the results to determine gaps in service and develop long-range goals based on the data. DC Public Schools has appointed a research and evaluation specialist to assist with designing the data tools, and with outreach and collection. The Community Arts Team will survey arts specialists, classroom teachers and key staff, principals, arts organizations, teaching artists/practitioners and DCPS Central office staff.

**What is the DC Collaborative's Role in the Community Arts Team?**

The *Any Given Child* initiative is for the DC Community as a whole, not one specific organization. The DC Collaborative is an equal member of the Community Arts Team and participates as the official liaison (or backbone support organization) between the independent facilitators and the Community Arts Team, providing leadership at CAT meetings and logistical/communications support. In addition, the Collaborative participates as a member of the Community Arts Team Working Group, leading *Any Given Child* work overall and completing additional tasks between meetings.

**National Network**

The *Any Given Child* program provides access to a network of 25 communities all over the country who are doing this work. With the Kennedy Center's *Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child* program acting as an umbrella, the DC community has access to national data gathering tools and best practices. In addition, there is an *Any Given Child* national exchange each February and representatives from the DC Collaborative and the Community Arts Team will be in attendance.

**Who reviews the data collected?**

The CAT and working group will collect and analyze the data. Through the DC Collaborative's NEA Emerging Collective Impact award, the Collaborative will hire an external evaluator to review the *Any Given Child* DC data collected. The external evaluator will primarily participate in the second year of the grant, the 2018-2019 school year. The external evaluator will also assist us in aligning the AGC DC data to data previously collected by the DC Collaborative, Commission on the Arts and Humanities, DC Office of Out-of-School Time and the Cultural Plan.

### **Any Given Child Focus**

Any Given Child program has a narrow focus on arts education programming, during school time grades preK-12.

### **What about Humanities and Out-of-School Time Programming?**

The DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative remains committed to humanities organizations and practitioners! During the 2018-2019 school year the we would like to take a look at programming with a humanities focus in addition to out-of school time, early childhood and arts for the aging occurring in the district. This will give our community a comprehensive look at all of the arts and humanities education programming occurring in the city.

### **As an active member of the arts and humanities education community, how can I get involved?**

Join the DC Collaborative's Collective Impact Committee! This committee will advise and execute the work of the DC Collaborative's overall Collective Impact Initiatives including the Any Given Child Washington, DC Initiative. In addition, the committee will also develop a series of professional development networks for members. We value the input from all of our members to make this process a success. [Join today!](#)

### **Membership Benefits to Participation with Collective Impact and the Any Given Child Program:**

- **This is HUGE for the DC Arts and Humanities Education Community!** The fact that the DC Community was recognized nationally by both the National Endowment for the Arts and The Kennedy Center's *Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child* program, is a positive sign. Together, with the DC Collaborative providing backbone support, the DC Community is poised to effectively make big changes in arts education!
- The DC Collaborative was formed 20 years ago in service to the DC arts and humanities education community. Collective Impact is not solely a DC Collaborative program, this is a **community initiative** that will allow anyone who has a part to play in arts and humanities education in DC to participate. **How do we ensure equitable access to high quality arts and humanities education for every student in the city?**
- **Aligning Resources. We can bring more opportunities to more students more effectively when we work together.** Working together across city agencies, with other cultural organizations and individuals, philanthropists, local businesses, higher education individuals and and DCPS teachers principals and central office staff will allow us to align resources across the entire community strategically. Each stakeholder carries out their own roles and responsibilities within the community to ensure that students have equitable access.
- **Robust Data.** The first step in knowing how to best serve the community is to know who we are currently serving with which programs. It is difficult to get all of the data we need when individual organizations and city agencies are acting independently. AGC will streamline the data collection and make it more comprehensive.
- **Advocacy and Funding.** The community is stronger when it presents a shared vision and messaging informed by data collected by the whole community. Together we can more effectively advocate for more resources for arts education in the city!
- **National Network.** As a part of the *Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child* program, the Collaborative has access to a network of 24 other communities nationwide to share resources and learn best practices.

# Gratitude...

Thank you to The Kennedy Center! As facilitators of our **Any Given Child** Washington, DC initiative and with strong roots and commitment in DC, the Kennedy Center is generously waiving its annual community fee of \$25,000. In the Collaborative's 20th year, the DC Collaborative is thrilled to be the backbone support organization for Any Given Child Washington, DC.

## Resources

- Stanford Social Innovation Review *Collective Impact* ([link here](#))
- *Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child* [Website](#)
- *Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child* [Brochure](#)
- *Arts Education for All: Lessons Learned from the First Half of the Ford Foundation's National Arts Education Initiative*- Includes the DC Collaborative! ([link here](#))
- *Revitalizing Arts Education Through Community-Wide Coordination*- ([order@rand.org](mailto:order@rand.org) or 310.451.7002) ([link here](#))
- The Kennedy Center's Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child DC announcement
  - [Press Release](#)
  - DC Collaborative Story Bank Blog- "*Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child, DC*"- [September 29, 2017](#)
- DC Collaborative Story Bank Blog
  - "*Interview with Ayanna Hudson: Director of Arts Education at the National Endowment for the Arts*" - [January 23, 2017](#)
  - "*The Importance of Collective Impact*"- [July 16, 2015](#)
- Americans for the Arts Blog- "3 Steps to Success for Equity and Access" Posted by Jeanette McCune, [Apr 04, 2016](#)
- National Endowment for the Arts [Collective Impact Grant Description](#)
- NEA Arts Education [Webinar on Collective Impact Trends](#)
- DC Collaborative- NEA Emerging Collective Impact grant announcement
  - [Story Bank Blog](#)
  - [Press Release](#)
- [Collective Impact Forum](#)
- [Any Given Child, Washington, DC Community Arts Team](#)