Art is transformational for youth. Data shows that it enhances student performance, critical thinking, attendance, social and emotional development, creativity and so much more — but only when it is accessible.

To create a thriving Miami, every young person deserves access to high-quality arts education to help unlock their full potential regardless of where they live.

We believe in the power of data to highlight opportunities that demand action to build a more equitable Miami. In partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), our goal is to mobilize a collective movement that enables arts education for all, one that prioritizes data-informed decision making, collaboration, and increased funding in the arts education sector throughout Miami-Dade County. Through a series of quarterly data snapshots, we hope to celebrate our community’s wins and highlight pressing opportunities to ensure every child in Miami has access to a quality arts education.

In this inaugural snapshot, we:

1. Acknowledge the high-level wins and opportunities of arts access in M-DCPS.

2. Dig into the power of partnerships — mapping the school needs and nonprofit arts programming.

3. Ponder what the data means and rally our community for specific calls to action!
At a Glance: Arts Access in Miami’s Schools

Nearly all M-DCPS schools provide visual arts and music education to students.

M-DCPS classrooms are receiving robust arts instruction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>91%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Through collaborative efforts with M-DCPS, 100% of public schools shared information about their arts curriculum, signaling the prioritization of arts education in our community. This snapshot is powered by data from more than 348 schools and 200 arts-focused organizations that comprise the rich and growing ecosystem of arts education in Greater Miami.

Miami-Dade County Public school students are well connected to the visual arts and music, with more than 90% of schools offering these disciplines. 95% of schools offered at least one course in at least one of these disciplines in 2021–22. In comparison, there is a big opportunity to increase dance and theatre offerings with less than a quarter of schools reporting these courses.
At a Glance: School Partnerships with Arts Education Nonprofits

While school staff are at the core of arts education in M-DCPS, external arts partners can expand and enhance the arts experience for students. Research has shown that partnerships with professional arts organizations can positively impact a wide range of student outcomes, including student engagement, student behavior, student participation in the learning process, and willingness to rise to a challenge.\(^1\) There is a thriving ecosystem of arts-centered nonprofits in Miami, with over 214 organizations identifying arts and culture as their key mission area, and more than half focus on arts education.\(^2\) These organizations supported M-DCPS through more than 250 arts-focused partnerships in the past year.

M-DCPS Schools have a diverse appetite for all arts disciplines. There is a great opportunity for arts programs to diversify their art needs.

By comparing the school demands to the arts partner program offerings, we can identify the opportunities for partnerships. Other than music, which has a healthy supply of arts program offerings, there is tremendous potential to meet school needs for dance, theatre, and the varying arts forms: literary, visual and media.


\(^2\) Give Miami Day 2023
M-DCPS schools expressed a wide interest in programs across the arts education spectrum, including field trips, performance/workshops, and professional development. Demand surpasses the number of programs available in all cases except for Out-of-school and Summer programs.

M-DCPS Schools have a strong array of partnerships with the biggest room for growth in Professional Development opportunities. Virtual/online partnerships are fewer post-COVID.
Opportunities for partnerships are ripe in the region: 3 x more M-DCPS schools indicated they are seeking a partnership than those that did not.

For 2022–23 school year, 148 (44%) schools reported having at least one arts partnership while 187 (56%) did not report any.
The Power of Partnerships: Spotlight on Miami Gardens Music Alliance

Since 2020, Music Access Miami (MAM) has brought together ten arts education organizations serving 13 schools in the City of Miami Gardens to create the Miami Gardens Music Alliance (the Alliance). Eight organizations provide in-school and after-school programs with a shared focus on exposure to music, mentoring, social-emotional learning (SEL), and capacity building. One of the organizations provides musical instruments to their partners and another specifically provides summer camp scholarships.

Through these strong partnerships and collaboration with schools, the Alliance has seen:

- **1,650 Instruments Donated**
- **403 Performances**
- **49,808 Community Members Impacted**
- **75% of students playing an instrument every week**
- **13 Schools**
- **609 Classrooms**

**Improved learning in:**

- Reduced absences by 60% and reduced tardiness by 60% among participating students³

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³ Participating students had an average of 11.7 absences during the baseline school year but only 4.5 absences after a year of participation: Music Access Miami, Final Implementation Report, 2022–2023 by Q-Q Research Consultants.
A Call to Action

The data in this snapshot presented several opportunities to enhance arts access for every student in Miami: diversifying and increasing the exposure of arts programming and amplifying nonprofit partnerships. The Miami Foundation will continue to work closely with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to help champion new opportunities to catalyze nonprofit partner and school connections, targeting arts-programming deficits by curriculum and neighborhoods. One such solution includes the release of a new arts education grant cycle targeting school-identified arts education needs and gaps scheduled for May 2024.

What can you do to support equitable access to arts education for all of Miami’s youth?

Apply for our upcoming Catalyst grant, aimed at increased arts education partnerships with Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Application opens April 30th.

Register for our upcoming artlook® Miami webinar, a virtual learning session where we’ll take nonprofits through the ins and outs of artlook® Miami, highlight how to make a winning profile, and discuss our new arts education grant.

Interested?
Wednesday, May 8th, 2024
3–4 PM
Thursday, May 16th, 2024
10–11 AM

Update your artlook® profile to ensure that schools across our County know what you have to offer and foster partnerships.

Update your school’s artlook® profile to ensure that arts partners know what kind of programming would best support your students.

Use artlook® Miami to identify arts partners that can help your students thrive.

Visit artlook® Miami to get a clearer picture of what arts education opportunities your school offers and how you can contribute to closing the gaps highlighted in this Snapshot.