

Overarching Essential Questions in the Arts

These overarching questions are general in nature and can be used to frame curricula at the program level. These questions also guide development of more discipline- and topic/media-specific questions for course and unit levels.

COMMUNICATION through the Arts

- How do the arts communicate?
- How does art communicate multiple messages at the same time for different people?
- How are messages constructed in and through the arts?
- How does an artist use symbols and metaphors to communicate?
- How do we discern the artist's intent?
- In what way does each art form communicate uniquely?
- How do we value diversity in arts communication?
- How do artists communicate more effectively?
- How do the arts reflect experiences?

The CREATIVE PROCESS

- What are the critical steps (processes) of artistic expression and involvement?
- Who is an artist?
- Where do artists get their ideas?
- What kind of artist am I?
- What artistic paths are most appealing to me?
- What kind of artist could I become?
- How do I use other artists' work to contribute to my own growth?
- How and why does my artwork change?
- To what extent does my artwork change me?
- Why do people make art?
- What do I need to do to become accomplished in an art form?

CULTURAL and HISTORICAL Connections

- In what ways do the arts *reflect* culture?
- What is art and where do we find it?
- In what ways do the arts *influence* culture?
- How do available tools influence artistic expression?
- How do the arts reflect the time, place, and ideas?
- How are the arts a field of study *unlike* others?
- How are the arts a field of study *similar* to others?
- How is excellence in the arts defined?
- How do the arts help us understand each other and the world?
- How do artists make and use connections?

Arts as providing PERSONAL GROWTH EXPERIENCES

- Why do people seek out artistic experiences?
- What can/do I gain from artistic participation?
- Why do I find certain artistic activities satisfying?
- How do others benefit from my artwork?
- How can arts participation help us improve our own wellbeing and/or that of others?

The Arts in COMMUNITY

- Why do people seek out artistic experiences?
- In what kinds of arts experiences do I enjoy participating, and where can I find them in my community?
- What do I learn from others during artistic collaborations?
- What would others value about my contributions to an arts community?