

Arts Education Innovation Lab: Achieving Scale and Equity In The Next Decade

THEORY OF CHANGE

Working Draft – February 27, 2018

Theory of Change – Overview

The most complex challenges facing society today cannot be overcome by single organizations acting individually. Research indicates that large-scale social change occurs when organizations within a “social ecosystem” are aligned around a *common agenda, using a coordinated strategy, regularly communicating and using common measures of success towards a unifying goal.*

The Theory of Change is a narrative that summarizes the plan for mobilizing Collective Impact around the shared vision, including:

Case for Change: *Why the achievement of this goal is so important to our children and our society.*

Shared Vision: *The ultimate purpose of the campaign around which success is defined.*

Common Agenda: *What is the common agenda for change that underlies and unifies all efforts?*

Key Influencers: *Who needs to transform their thinking, behaviors and actions in order to achieve the goal?*

Scaling Mechanisms: *How we can effectively reach the key influencers in communities across the County?*

Levers for Change: *Key investments we will collectively make to reach each child in every LA County public school.*

Partners and Allies: *Key partnerships that enable us to activate our Theory of Change.*

Shifts of Mind: *The necessary transformations in thinking and assumptions that must occur for the change to be realized, sustained & embedded in the fabric of how stakeholders across LA County mobilize resources.*

A key assumption underlying the Theory of Change is that each community makes its unique determination of how it organizes.

The LA County Arts Commission, which staffs the LA County Arts Education Collective, is able to serve as the administrative backbone to coordinate the elements indicated in the TOC, support innovation, work with funders to support collective impact, consistently measure results and ensure communication across teams and agencies.

BELIEF STATEMENT

***The arts reveal
our shared human experience
and enable all learners
to leave their imprints on the world***



CASE FOR CHANGE

Why the achievement of our goal is so important

SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Achieve equity.
Activate hope,
agency,
full human potential.**

CAREER READINESS

**for a vibrant
workforce of the
future, particularly
in LA's creative
economy**

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

**Cognitive,
Physical,
Social and
Emotional Health**

ENGAGEMENT

**Amplify learning,
enliven content,
ensure graduation.**



SHARED VISION

The ultimate purpose of our collective work

***Every child in LA County
engages in the arts
all year, every year
because the arts are fundamental
to human growth and development***



COMMON AGENDA

**CORE TO
EDUCATION**

**SELF-INITIATED
LEARNING**

**ARTS ARE
ESSENTIAL**

**ADVANCING
TEACHING & LEARNING**

**COLLABORATIVE
COMMUNITIES**

THE ARTS ARE ESSENTIAL

Every LA County resident acts on the belief that the arts are essential for healthy, thriving communities.

THE ARTS ARE CORE TO QUALITY EDUCATION

A complete education includes the arts.

THE ARTS ARE A CONDUIT FOR ADVANCING TEACHING & LEARNING

The arts are interwoven into all aspects of teaching and learning.

SELF-INITIATED ARTS LEARNING

Every learner accesses new, innovative technologies that allow them to engage in the arts within and beyond the classroom independently and with others.

CREATIVE, COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITIES

**Creative, collaborative communities nourish all learners.
Creative, collaborative learners nourish all communities.**

SHIFTS OF MIND

Transformations in thinking that must occur for the change to be realized and sustained

Arts instruction must be
learner centered
and *adult supported*

The arts are *essential*,
not just nice to have

Arts education
happens
within and beyond
school walls

Every child is entitled to a
complete education

The arts
wrap their arms around
communities

The arts build
fundamental
human capacities

The arts offer
something for everyone



PROTOTYPES

Exploring by Doing

A prototype is a “landing strip” for the future, a practical, tested version of something bigger and bolder you aim to take on.

The idea behind prototyping is to
fail early to learn quickly.

Rather than planning a large undertaking from A to Z, you craft a mini version that allows you to test the concept and get feedback from many people.



Prototyping

Questions to Consider

- **Right:** Is the idea focusing on the right issues that underpin the challenge?
- **Rapid:** Can it be done quickly and iteratively?
- **Rough:** Can it be done on a low budget & with minimum infrastructure?
- **Relevant:** Is the idea going to attend to the core needs of the key stakeholders?
- **Relationally effective:** Does it leverage existing networks and competencies?
- **Revolutionary:** Can it change the system? Does it address the system root issues? Is it a game changer?
- **Replicable:** If it works in experimentation, does the idea have potential for scale up?



Timeline

- Paced Prototype Launches: Nov 2017 thru April 2018
- Share Prototype Learnings: Feb 27th & June 2018
 - Prototyping becomes part of the LA County arts education ecosystem
- Build Consensus on Key Strategies: 2018
- Build Infrastructure to Support Key Strategies: 2019
 - With keen attention to scale and equity
- Ongoing Communication:
 - Updates in Arts Ed Collective newsletter
 - Arts Ed Collective website



Where Do You See Yourself?

- Join a Prototype Team
Join one, or launch one!
- Help to develop the Common Agenda
- Share the Common Agenda with people you know
Enlist multiple stakeholder groups in joining our Lab
- Stay connected through communication platforms
- Support the work financially

Questions? Contact Denise Grande at dgrande@arts.lacounty.gov



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