

Commissioner Nick Fish City of Portland

REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE:

October 22, 2014

TO:

City Council

FROM:

Commissioner Nick Fish

Eloise Damrosch, RACC Executive Director

SUBJECT:

Accept report on the Regional Arts & Culture Council's Right Brain

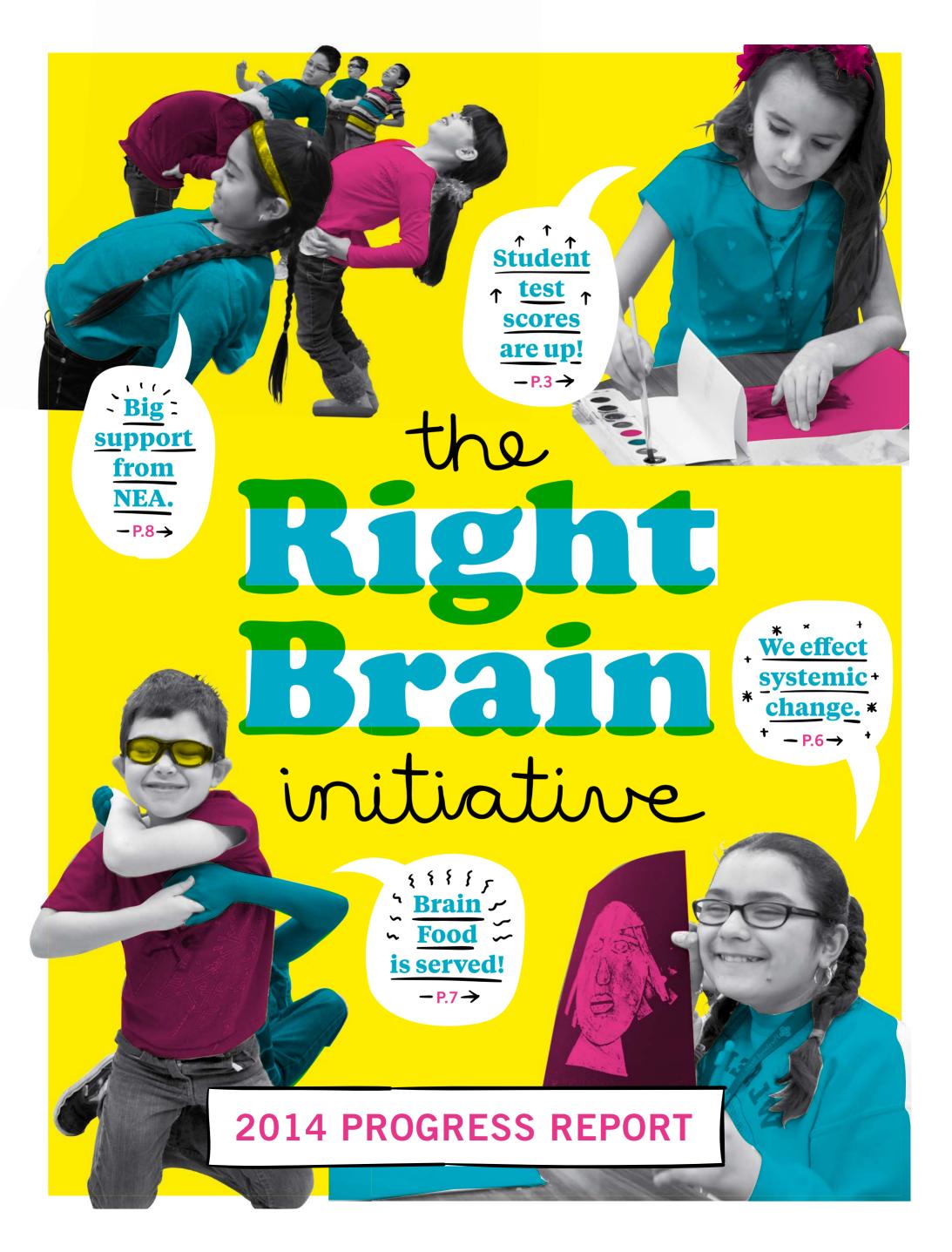
Initiative program.

We are pleased to submit for your consideration and acceptance a report on the Regional Arts & Culture Council's *Right Brain Initiative* program.

The *Right Brain Initiative* focuses on integrating the arts into our local school curriculum. *Right Brain* provides professional development for teachers, and exposes students to the arts by bringing professional artists into classrooms.

Right Brain will share exciting news in their report – recent data has shown that students are showing academic improvements thanks to *Right Brain* programming.

www.therightbraininitiative.org

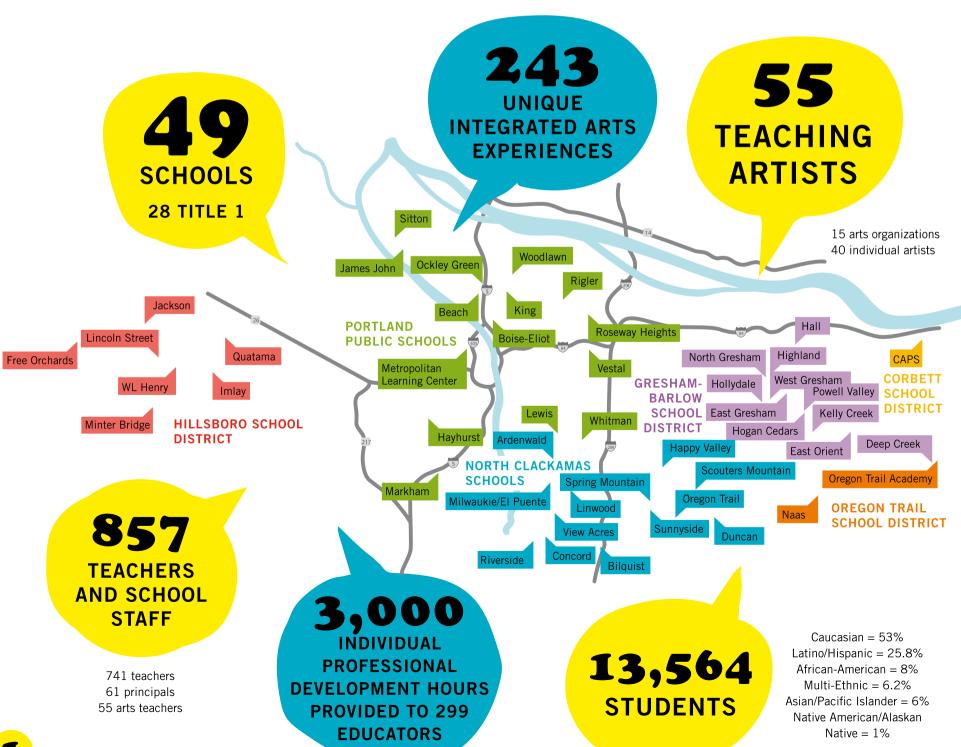


Right Brain initiative

transforms learning for all children

through the arts, creativity, innovation and whole-brain thinking.

2013-14





THE RIGHT BRAIN INITIATIVE is on the way to making the arts a part of every child's classroom throughout the Portland metro area. We believe that all K-8 students deserve high quality arts education, regardless of neighborhood, language or readiness to learn.

We bring teachers and artists together to spark students' imaginations. We integrate dance, music, visual art and other creative media with subjects like science, language arts and math. We provide school staff with strategies to infuse the arts into their daily teaching. In short, we transform learning, and provide kids with the complex thinking skills they need for success in the 21st century.

It's our biggest news yet!

WE LEAPED INTO CLASSROOMS IN 2009, armed with paint and puppets. We had a calling to make a meaningful and quantifiable impact on students. And we were boosted with support from local foundations and government, all of whom banked on our ability to show that the arts truly help kids learn.

By our sixth school year, we brought creativity to nearly 14,000 students. And we are so pleased that we have found the emphatic results we've been looking for—thanks to our evaluator Dennie Palmer Wolf, of the firm WolfBrown, with support from the Portland State University Center for Student Success. We've trained teachers. We've worked in close partnership with principals and district administrators. We've built climates for the arts within our partner schools. Now, we can correlate this work to an incredible increase in student test scores. We can't wait to share the results!



See how we change students, teachers and schools.

We help students succeed.

POINT INCREASE IN STUDENT TEST SCORES, 2007-2013

Student test scores in reading and math increased more than twice

to rise as schools engaged more deeply with the program.

as much once schools partnered with the Initiative. Scores continued

deeper engagement in the program.

English Language Learners' scores increased at

least 10 times more after their schools joined the

Initiative, with particularly steep increases upon

The Right Brain Initiative is committed to transforming learning for all children through the arts. New data indicates that partnering with **Right Brain** fuels student learning. Results are particularly striking for **English Language**

ABOUT THIS CHART: Before schools partnered with The Right Brain Initiative, the average annual increase in student test scores for reading was 2 points. The first year after schools joined the Initiative, students experienced a jump in test scores of 6.8 points. We can infer that the 4.8 points on top of the standard 2 point

Learners.

increase is linked to the students' work with Right Brain. As schools progressed along the phases of engagement with Right Brain, reading test scores increased by 7.5 points, then 8.2, and continued to rise as schools moved closer to full program engagement.

READING

THESE RESULTS ARE BASED on analysis of students' scores from the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) test in reading, math and English language proficiency, as reported by the Oregon Department of Education. The sample includes all 18,711 unique students who attended Right Brain partner schools

Right Brain

Programming

during the 2007-08 through 2012-13 school years.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

18.7

15.8

11.4

10.1

Before Right Brain

Programming

Right Brain

Program

Particularly because the sample size is so large, this initial research expresses a significant and promising correlation between Right Brain programming and increased test scores. However, this correlation does not imply a causal relationship.



1ST GRADERS AT QUATAMA Elementary in Hillsboro worked with Right Brain and partner organization My Voice Music to study music and literacy. One class was comprised of 50% English Language Learners, and a pre-residency test showed that onehalf of the class recognized three or fewer letters. Students were then introduced to musical sounds as they studied the alphabet. After four 40minute sessions with Right Brain, their teacher remarked: "I could see quite a difference in what they were using to recall the name and sound of each letter. Several gave me the name of

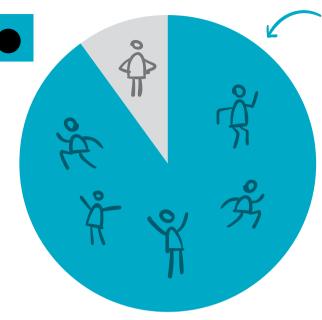
the letter in a beat. Instead of just 'b,' they would rap 'b, ba, ba, ba, beeee... letters we have not yet taught in class, but learned with instruments during Right Brain to play with the name and sound of the letter." A post-test revealed that 80% of students doubled their letter recognition. After working with Right Brain, one child jumped from identifying two letters to recognizing 20!

Learn more!

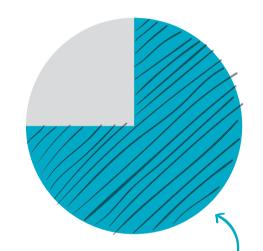
See (and hear) more about My Voice Music's work at Quatama at bit.ly/MyVoiceMusic

We build better brains.

At Right Brain, we're excited about the power of arts integration to help kids learn to use their minds well—to think creatively and critically.



Over 90% of K-8 students interviewed described themselves as active thinkers during their Right Brain residencies. Students used terms like, "I thought," "I wondered," or "I tried," as compared to "My teacher/ the artist told me to," "I did what she said," or "I followed."



During interviews about Right Brain, 75% of students described themselves as able to take on problems, work out solutions, and learn from the experience, exhibiting what researchers term growth mindset, or the understanding that their abilities are open to change, given effort and persistence.

36 students, from a range of achievement levels, were interviewed at 12 Right Brain partner schools by outside evaluators and Right Brain staff, using a structured interview protocol.

CASE STUDY

MORGAN, A 3RD GRADE STUDENT at Milwaukie Elementary made a robot bird during a Right Brain residency with teaching artist Caitlin Shelman, in which she learned about geometric shapes and three-dimensional design. From recycled materials, she created a sculpture that incorporated cones, a pyramid, rectangles and cylinders. Engaging her own sense of agency, she also added moving parts, a password screen, an on/off switch, an Enter and Delete key, and a power source. Here is an excerpt from her interview with Emily, a Right Brain staff member: **EMILY:** So, Morgan and I are sitting here looking at...

MORGAN: My robot bird. You're probably wondering where I got this [pyramid].... It was all covered up in tape, and I was like, 'I could use this for the beak!' And I colored in little nose breathers. And I actually really like it, 'cause it came from my heart. **EMILY:** Were there any parts that were really hard about this project?

MORGAN: Yes! This part, because it kept falling off.

EMILY: How did you fix that? Because it doesn't seem like it falls off right now. MORGAN: I used white glue and a hot glue gun. But the white glue doesn't work that good.

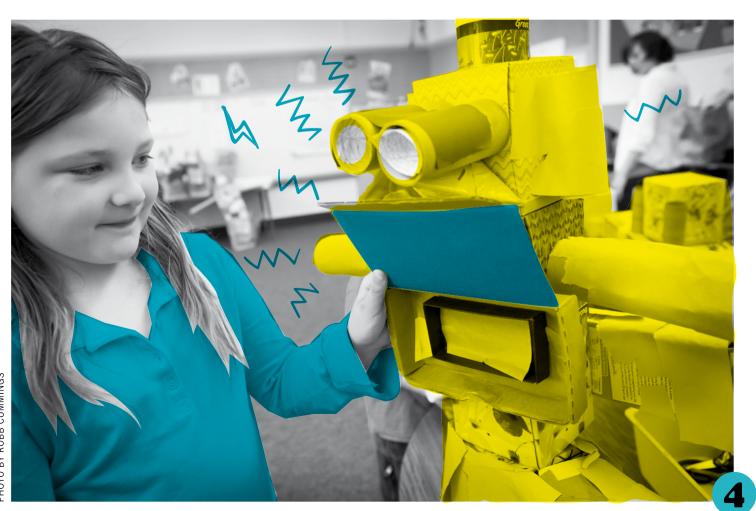
EMILY: Uh huh. You had to use a bunch

of different things to get it to fit. MORGAN: And I didn't use any brads. I was starting to use brads, but then I didn't....I still need something to hold it and hook it, and then you can unhook it. **EMILY:** Do you think you'll keep working on [your robot] at home? MORGAN: Yeah, because I have lots of geometric shapes. And then I told my mom about it, and she's starting to



Learn more!

Listen to the full interview with Morgan at bit.ly/MorgansBrain



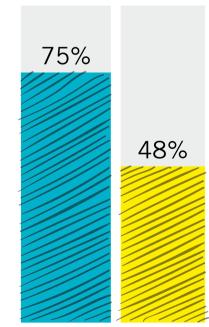


We change the way teachers teach.

Professional development for teachers and principals is a key part of the Right Brain experience. We provide school staff with strategies to integrate the arts with other subjects. This has the potential to change a teacher's ongoing practice, bringing more creativity and deeper learning to students every day.



▲ 7TH GRADE TEACHER Laresa Beck and Right Brain teaching artist Michelle Swinehart co-teach a writing, visual and media arts unit to students at Beach School in



Data from Right Brain teacher surveys. For this analysis, "ongoing" is defined as "3-6 times in the past 3 months" and "as a regular part of my teaching strategy."

75% of teachers who participated in professional development report using Right Brain strategies as part of their ongoing classroom instruction.

By comparison, only 48% of teachers who participated in Right Brain classroom residencies, but did not have professional development, adopted the strategies.

CASE STUDY

IN THEIR VERY FIRST YEAR as a Right Brain instruction. Teachers even made large partner school, teachers at Hogan Cedars Elementary in Gresham took on exciting new teaching strategies before, during and their own songs. Thanks to support from after their Right Brain experience with

By design, not all classrooms participate in a residency during their first year, but the school's principal found funds to treat the entire school community to a Portland Taiko assembly before the classroom sessions began. Teachers who attended Right Brain professional development shared the Right Brain Observation Tool (RBOT) with the entire faculty, and the teachers used RBOT to help students look carefully and reflect meaningfully on a talko video that they watched before the school assembly. In between sessions with the Portland Taiko teaching artists, participating teachers led students to practice taiko movements and document the experience in their journals through writing, watercolors, prints, paper cut-outs and documentation of class compositions. They also connected the residency experience to vocabulary and social studies content in their own classroom -PRINCIPAL, Hogan Cedars

drums from plastic garbage cans found in the cafeteria to allow students to compose the school's principal, Hogan Cedars created an experience that encompassed the entire staff and delivered full and dynamic learning for students.

In one year, our staff has grown immensely in their ability to implement learning in a variety of art forms. We are learning more and more art strategies to use with students, and we are trying them out in the classroom!

We effect systemic change.

Right Brain strives to galvanize a culture at each partner school to embrace the arts. This creative ethos not only strengthens the quality of the Right Brain experience, but it inspires additional arts programming, every week and every day that school is in session.

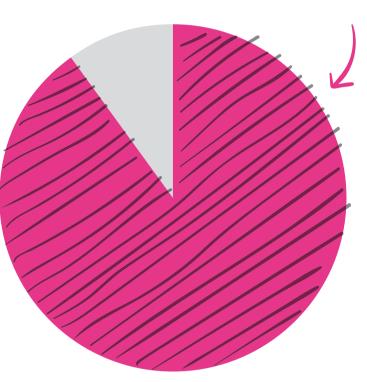
I used to think there wasn't enough time

to include the arts in content instruction.

Now I think that by integrating the arts

into instruction, they become a powerful

vehicle for making the content relevant



Data based on mapping tools completed by Right Brain partner schools, tracking their full arts offerings each year.

By the time schools reach the later phases of the Initiative, nearly 90% provide additional arts education at every grade. In those highly engaged schools, the level of creative and critical thinking exhibited during regular classroom instruction was as high as it was during Right Brain residency sessions when a teaching artist was present.

CASE STUDY

WHEN RIGHT BRAIN BEGAN its

partnership with James John Elementary in 2009, there was little to no ongoing arts instruction in the building. After working with Right Brain for just two years, this Title I school in the St. Johns

neighborhood of North Portland began to initiate new arts programming in every corner of the building. They began slowly, by inviting professional artists to perform at assemblies. By 2012, the school started working with another community initiative, Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), and expanded classroom teacher-led arts instruction. The following school year, the principal added both a music and a visual art teacher to the staff, and dedicated funds to take students on field trips to see live performances. They also made VTS a school-wide initiative. James John is now a school community that provides a diversity of arts experiences for all students every year.



Learn more!

See what one James John teacher did to make the neighborhood part of the school's arts community at bit.ly/JamesJohn





News!

COMMUNITY PROJECT

Right Brain releases Brain Food, a creative activity deck for kids

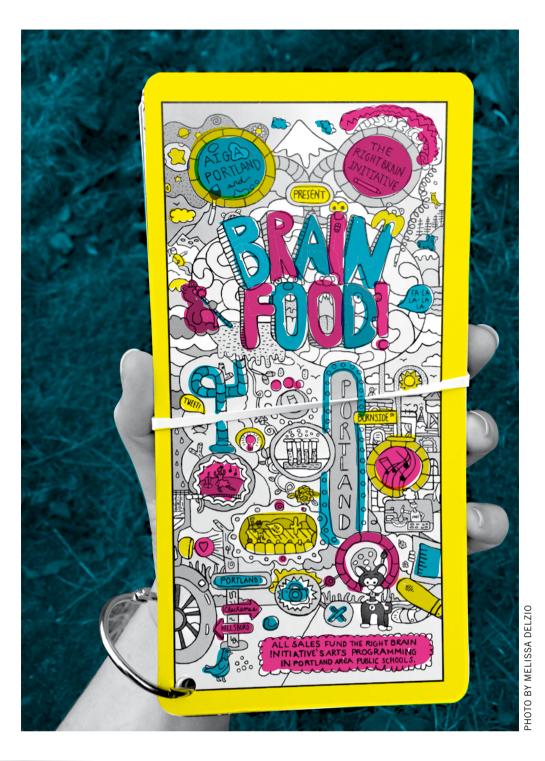
INTRODUCING BRAIN FOOD, a new exploratory activity deck designed for use at home and school by children ages four and up. The 50 activities reflect the integrated and creative learning that Right Brain brings to classrooms in the Portland metro area. Brain Food is the result of a unique. three-year collaboration between Right Brain and the Design for Good Committee of AIGA Portland, the professional association for design. The design community was tapped for activity ideas and ten local designers provided custom illustrations for the deck. A Kickstarter campaign paid for the cost of printing.

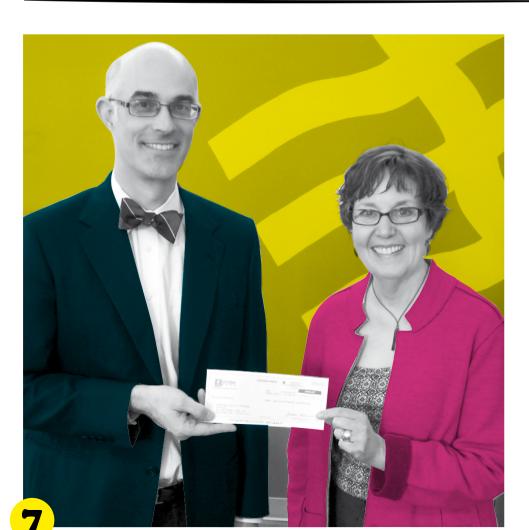
Over 1,000 decks have been donated to teachers at Portland area public schools. The rest are available for purchase online and in person at 11 New Seasons locations, Powell's Books, and more. 100% of profits directly fund Right Brain's school programming.



Learn more!

Purchase Brain Food online at bit.ly/BuyBrainFood or see the full list of locations at bit.ly/BrainFoodLocations





FUNDING NEWS

Private funding on the rise

ALL OF RIGHT BRAIN'S multi-year funders renewed their support in the 2014 fiscal year. The Collins Foundation awarded a \$150,000 grant to be spent over the next three years and the Schnitzer CARE Foundation awarded a threeyear \$30,000 grant. The Meyer Memorial Trust, and James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation each provided two-year grants of \$150,000 and \$100,000 respectively.

In 2014, Right Brain staff also completed the second year of the Imagination Fund campaign developed in response to a challenge grant from The Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund. The Initiative raised \$25,000 from new donors, all of whom hosted house parties or gave individual gifts of \$250 or more.



Learn more!

Read more about being part of the final year of the Imagination Fund campaign, including how you can host a Dine in for Right Brain event at bit.ly/ImaginationFund

▼PATRICK JOHNSTON of Umpqua Bank presents \$5,000 to Right Brain Program Manager Marna Stalcup.



NEA PRESS

Attention from National Endowment for the Arts

THE RIGHT BRAIN INITIATIVE received its third Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in 2014, following grants received in 2011 and 2013. The \$25,000 award was provided to improve classroom arts instruction throughout K-8 schools in the Portland metro area through professional development for hundreds of teachers, principals, and teaching artists. Right Brain professional development provides artists and schools with the tools to embed theater, music, dance, visual, literary, and media arts into the curriculum. It also now helps them use the arts to meet the expectations of Common Core State Standards and National Core Arts Standards.

Furthermore, Right Brain was featured in NEA's newsletter about arts education and collective impact models. Program Manager Marna Stalcup joined the ranks of Ellsworth Kelly and Allen Toussaint when she was featured in the NEA's podcast series.

Learn more! on Right Brain

Read NEA's feature and listen to the podcast at bit.ly/ RightBrain_NEA

PROGRAM GROWTH QQQ O QQQ QQQ

Right Brain and the Gresham-Barlow School District bring the arts to all elementary students

DURING THE 2013-14 SCHOOL YEAR, The Right Brain Initiative celebrated a milestone in its quest for equitable arts education: the Gresham-Barlow School District (GBSD) became the first district to bring Right Brain to all elementary students. The occasion was celebrated with a community event at the Gresham public library, featuring student work and performances, and testimonials from educators in the district. GSBD Superintendent Jim Schlachter said of the district's partnership with Right Brain: "The skills of reading, writing, and speaking are brought to life for students when explored and

experienced through the arts. When students are engaged, it leads to higher levels of learning.'

Bank of America

Thank you to Bank of America, a leading private sponsor

for our expansion in the Gresham-Barlow School District.

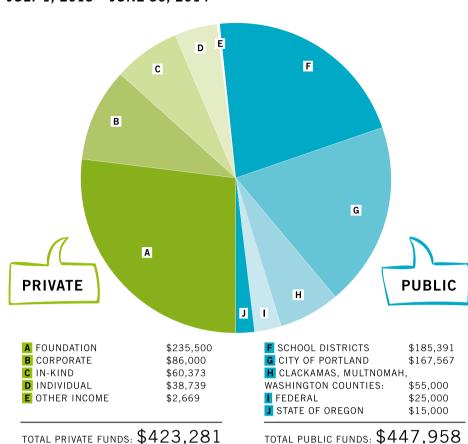


Read a feature about Right Brain in GBSD in the Gresham Outlook at bit.ly/GreshamOutlook



▲ STUDENTS AT North Gresham Elementary worked with Right Brain and Oregon Ballet Theatre to integrate language arts with movement.

Funding



TOTAL FUNDING FOR 2013-14: \$871,239

FOUNDATION SUPPORT







Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund

Concordia Foundation



AHS Foundation

Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust



CORPORATE SUPPORT























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Lina Garcia Seabold

Carole Shellhart &

& Kathryn Hart Humes

Robert McGranahan

Lesly Sanocki

Lynn Scheller

Ryan Schenk

Steve Seabold

Jay Seger

Right Brain reminds

teachers of the reason

they became teachers:

to inspire children

and to engage them

in the wonder and

discovery of learning.

-ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT,

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TEACHING ARTISTS Individual Artists Jan Abramovitz

30 minutes of arts integration allowed students

to take things in more deeply than we thought

possible. The time spent on arts gave us more than

hours of instruction would have.

-TEACHER, Naas Elementary

Bobby Abrahamson Mariorie Anderson Katie Basile Wendy Dunder Nikki Flinn and Pierson Rintz (Acts of Wonder)

Daniel Granias

Alice Hill Diane Jacobs Julie Keefe Ashley Klump Kathryn Kramer Waters Nicole Penoncello Beth Rogers Bundy Amy Steel Caitlin Shelman

Arts Organizations

My Voice Music

NW Children's Theater

Obo Addy Legacy Project

BodyVox

Michelle Swinehart

Oregon Ballet Theatre Oregon Children's Theatre Oregon Symphony Portland Art Museum Portland Children's Museum Portland Taiko

Tears of Joy Theatre

Wordstock

Kelsey Greco Amy Minato Cindy Williams-Gutierrez Donna Prinzmetal Greta Pedersen Nancy Coffelt

Young Audiences

Albert Alter Tracie Broughton Mark Caporael Dance Like the Stars Bernie Duffy Andy Ferguson (Red Yarn Productions) Sarah Ferguson Subashini Ganesan (Natya Leela)

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Caren Graham

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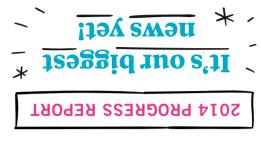
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THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS,

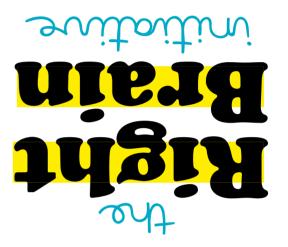
NATIONAL PARTNER







РОВТЕМИР, ОВ 97209 411 NW PARK AVENUE, STE. 101





is a sustainable arts education partnership of public schools, government, foundations, business and the cultural community. Help us bring creativity to all 110,000 K-8 students in the Portland metro region.

Get Involved!

Volunteer Join our email list Donate to our Imagination Fund Host a house party Buy our Brain Food activity deck



Read more about Right Brain at

TheRightBrainInitiative.org

411 NW Park Avenue, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97209 / 503.823.5111













The Right Brain Initiative is a program of the Regional Arts & Culture Council, a 501(c)(3) arts services agency serving Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties, Oregon. racc.org

Young Audiences of Oregon & SW Washington serves as Implementation Partner. ya-or.org

1115

Agenda No. **REPORT**Title

Accept report on the Regional Arts & Culture Council's Right Brain Initiative program (Report)

INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Nick Fish	CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>007 2 4 2014</u>
NOK TION	
COMMISSIONER APPROVAL	LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Mayor—Finance and Administration - Hales	Auditor of the City of Portland
Position 1/Utilities Fritz	
Position 2/Works - Fish	By: Deputy
Position 3/Affairs - Saltzman	Deputy
Position 4/Safety - Novick	ACTION TAKEN:
BUREAU APPROVAL Bureau: Regional Arts & Culture Council Bureau Head: Eloise Damrosch	OCT 29 2014 ACCEPTED
Prepared by: Jennifer Kalez Date Prepared:10/23/14	
Financial Impact & Public Involvement Statement Completed Amends Budget	
City Auditor Office Approval: required for Code Ordinances	
City Attorney Approval: required for contract, code. easement, franchise, charter, Comp Plan	
Council Meeting Date 10/29/14	*

	AGENDA			
	TIME CERTAIN Start time: 9:30am			
Total amount of time needed: 30 min. (for presentation, testimony and discussion) CONSENT				

FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	30 B	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz	1. Fritz	~	
2. Fish	2. Fish		-
3. Saltzman	3. Saltzman	V	
4. Novick	4. Novick	V	
Hales	Hales		