Picasso Project
15 years

OF ARTS EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

2018 marked a milestone for PCCY: 15 years since Picasso Project’s inception in 2003, when PCCY and a group of concerned citizens joined together in response to funding cuts to arts education from Philadelphia’s public schools. By providing grants to support innovative arts projects in Philadelphia schools, and advocating for equitable access to arts education, Picasso Project has played a critical role in assuring that Philly’s kids have access to high quality arts education.

With 14 exciting grant projects and an ongoing strategic planning process, 2018 was a year to reflect on our roots, and look ahead toward new and exiting directions for Picasso Project.

15 Years of Impact: 2003-2018

177 grants
Awarded to Phila. public schools
• 14 grants awarded in 2018

$739,500
Awarded to grantee schools
• $65,000 awarded in 2018

44,250 students
Participated in Picasso Projects
• 3,500 students in 2018

Celebrating 15 Years of Picasso Project at City Hall

The 2018 Picasso Project Awards Ceremony on January 10th at City Hall was a momentous occasion! The event featured student performances, the presentation of grant awards, and remarks by Mayor Kenney, Superintendent Hite, City Council members, project funders, and Advisory Committee members.

“Arts education is a vital component of every child’s growth and well-being.”
-Mayor Jim Kenney, Picasso Project Awards Ceremony, 1/10/18
2018 Grant Recipient Schools:

Alexander McClure Elementary
“Growing United” mosaic mural
Partner: COSACOSA art at large

Clara Barton Elementary School
“All Are Welcome Here” mosaic mural
Partner: Lynn Denton

Eliza B. Kirkbride School
“Philadelphia: Love & Liberty” mosaic mural
Partners: COSACOSA art at large, Passyunk Square Civic Assoc.

James Rhoads Elementary
“Heartbeat at Rhoads” poetry & percussion project
Partner: ArtWell

John Barry Elementary
“I Voted Today” parade & performance
Partner: Spiral Q

John Bartram High School
“The Marimba: Modern Roots” musical performance
Partner: Musicopia

“The Picasso Project made me feel proud of what I had contributed.”
- Philadelphia Military Academy student
2018 Grant Recipient Schools (continued):

John Taggart Elementary
“Jasper at Taggart” musical storytelling
Partner: Jasper String Quartet

Parkway Northwest High School
“Theatre & Acting Come Alive!” workshop
Partners: Quintessence Theatre, Johnnie Hobbs, Jr.

Philadelphia Military Academy
“Crafting Community” Mosaic Mural
Partner: Mantua Theater Project

Science Leadership Academy MS
“The Voice of Bravery is Yours!” Theater Project
Partner: Mantua Theater Project

South Philadelphia High School
“SPHS’s Little Shop of Horrors” musical theater
Partners: Curtis Institute of Music, Alize Rozsnai

Stephen Girard School
“The Girard Community Mural”
Partners: Maria Beddia, Friends of Girard

“You created this. One day you will be able to drive by with kids and say I made that.”
- Otis Hackney Mayor’s Office of Education
Arts Advocacy

In 2018, students and teachers from all 14 Picasso Project grant recipient schools engaged in creative advocacy for arts education funding. Highlights include Bartram High School’s visit to Councilwoman Gym and Councilman Johnson, John Barry’s presentation in Council Chambers with Councilman Jones, and a coordinated city-wide letter writing campaign.

“My favorite part was when the violinist played allegro and when they plucked pizzicato.”

- John Taggart Elementary student, 4th grade
Thank you to Picasso Project Advisory Committee Members, Liaisons, Interns, and Volunteers:

Evelyn Eskin (Committee Co-Chair)
Bonnie Raines (Committee Co-Chair)
Dennis Barnebey
Sherri Becker
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Ellie Seif
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Gretchen Elise Walker
Zara Waters
Alexis Williams

Thank you to our generous funders:

Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation
Christian R. & Mary F. Lindback Foundation
Neubauer Family Foundation

Sheila Fortune Foundation
The Nararo Foundation
Elizabeth B. & Arthur E. Roswell Foundation

Caroline J. Sanders Trust #2
Patty & Stephen Segal

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