15 YEARS OF ARTS EDUCATION & ADVOCACY
At Picasso Project, we believe that all students deserve access to the arts.

This core belief sparked Picasso Project’s inception 15 years ago, when PCCY and a group of concerned citizens joined together in response to lack of adequate funding for public education and the resultant near elimination of arts education from Philadelphia’s public schools.

By providing grants to support innovative arts projects in Philadelphia public 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.

It is with great pride that we celebrate 15 years of Picasso Project and share our story here. As we look back at our roots, we simultaneously look ahead towards new and exciting directions for Picasso Project.

Tim Gibbon
Picasso Project Director
Public Citizens for Children and Youth
In 2003, the Picasso Project began with support and engagement from the community. Pennsylvania had just completed a “Give Back” initiative in which citizens were sent back “excess” funds collected by the State. At the same time, the arts were disappearing from the Philadelphia’s public schools due to lack of funding. A group of concerned individuals, including Vicki Ellis, Lucinda Post, Dennis Barnebey, and Germaine Ingram met with PCCY leadership and launched the Give Back the Give Back Campaign to urge citizens to help support the arts in our public schools by sending in their ‘Give Back” funds. The initiative brought funding and notice to the issue, created new arts and education advocates, and set the stage for Picasso Project’s first year of grants.
Picasso Project’s impact grew in its second year, awarding grants to 13 schools. PCCY raised awareness among political leaders of the importance of the arts in education. Due to PCCY’s advocacy efforts, Philadelphia City Council passed a resolution for “Arts In Education Day,” celebrated with student performances in council chambers.
From 2005 to 2006, 19 schools received Picasso Project grants, and a series of “Friendraising” events helped to garner continuing support.

“My favorite part of the Picasso Project was that I got to show a side of me that I had never expressed before.”

Amyah
Student
Fitler Academics Plus School

Feltonville Horn Elementary
Rovert Pollock Elementary
James Lowell Elementary
Original Picasso Project logo
2007 brought increased recognition around the city of the need for supporting arts in public education, as well as an award from the Philadelphia Human Rights Commission.

“Through the project [my student] turned his academic career around as well as his social life.”

Louis Russo
Music Teacher
South Philadelphia High School

Evelyn Eskin, Gretchen Elise Walker, Jim Martin, Bonnie Raines, Joyce Millman, and Vicki Ellis accepted the PHRC Human Rights Award for Arts and Culture.
In 2008 and 2009, Picasso Project funded 17 school-based arts projects, and released two reports that highlighted the urgent need for arts education funding to Philadelphia's schools: “Anchoring and Amplifying the Arts in Our Schools,” and “Listen To My Story... Tell Me Yours.”
In 2010, PCCY hosted a “Breaking Cultural Barriers Through the Arts” forum, bringing together students, educators, artists, administrators, and advocates to explore arts education's capacity to foster student understanding and respect. 
From 2010 to 2013, the Picasso Project funded 44 collaborative visual arts, dance, music, theater, and digital media projects. Through these projects, teachers and students, from grant recipient schools were mobilized to engage in strategic and coordinated arts advocacy campaigns.
“McClure has been blessed the past three years as recipients of the Picasso Grant and we are so proud of the accomplishments of our community, staff, and students.”

Sharon Marino
Principal, Alexander McClure Elementary
Visibility continued to increase as **students, parents, and teachers advocated at the city and state level**. All projects now included talking with or writing to political leadership about the importance of arts in education. With outstanding grantees showcased at the **Barnes Foundation, City Hall, and the PA House of Representatives**, Picasso Project was in the spotlight.

![Linda Fernandez, Donna Cooper, Gretchen Elise Walker, and Germaine Ingram](image1)

**William Cramp Elementary**

**Fitler Academics Plus**

**James Lowell Elem,**

**Henry Houston Elem.**
“I actually felt like someone important to myself! I accomplished something so great!”

Leila
Student
The U School

Awards Ceremony guests included Mayor Kenney, Superintendent Hite, & many others

Eliza Kirkbride School
An intensive evaluation and strategic planning process has propelled the project forward in new and exciting directions, including a multi-year pilot grant to foster arts-rich schools. In its 15th year, Picasso Project continues to build momentum.

“With 15 years of experience guiding us, we’re now looking forward to taking what we’ve learned in Picasso Project classrooms and applying it school-wide for a deeper impact.”

Donna Cooper
Executive Director
Public Citizens for Children and Youth
Picasso Project Grantee Schools, 2003-2018

177 grants awarded to 101 different schools

Picasso Project Grant Recipient Schools
2003-2018

Alain Locke Elementary School
Albert M. Greenfield Elementary
Alexander McClure Elementary School
Allen M. Stearne Elementary
Alternative Middle Years (AMY) at James Martin School
Andrew J. Morrison School
Andrew Jackson Elementary School
Anna H. Shaw Middle School
Austin-Meehan Middle School
Avery D. Harrington Elementary School
Bache-Martin Elementary
Bayard Taylor Elementary School
Bodine High School
Bok Technical High School
Bridesburg Elementary School
Camelot Excel Academy South
Cassidy C. Lewis Elementary School
Cayuga Elementary School
Chester Arthur Elementary School
Clara Barton Elementary School
Commodore John Barry Elementary School
Cook-Wissahickon Elementary School
Durham Elementary School
E.M. Stanton Elementary School
Eleanor Emlen School
Eliza B. Kirkbride School
Elkin Elementary School
Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School
Excel Academy
F. Amedee Bregy Elementary
F.S. Edmonds Elementary School
Feltonville Intermediate School
Feltonville-Horn Elementary School
Fidler Academics Plus
Francis Hopkinson School
Freire Charter School
General David Birney School
George W. Childs Elementary
George W. Nebinger Elementary
George Washington Elementary School
Global Leadership Academy
Grover Cleveland Elementary School
Guion S. Bluford Elementary School
Henry C. Lea School
Henry H. Houston Elementary School
Isaac A. Sheppard School
James R. Lowell Elementary School
James Rhoads Elementary
Jay Cooke Elementary
John B. Stetson Charter School
John Bartram High School
John H. Taggart Elementary School
John Turner Middle School
Joseph Leidy Elementary School
Joseph Pennell Elementary School
Kenderton Elementary School
Kensington Urban Education Academy
Lankenau Environmental Science Magnet High School
Laura W. Waring School
Middle Years Alternative School
Motivation High School
Murrell Dobbins CTE High School
Overbrook Educational Center at Palumbo
Overbrook Elementary School
Pan American Academy Charter School
Parkway Northwest High School for Peace and Social Justice
Paul L. Dunbar School
Paul Robeson High School
Penn Alexander School
Philadelphia High School for Business and Technology
Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center
Philadelphia Military Academy at Elverson
Robert B. Pollock Elementary School
Roxborough High School
Samuel Daroff Elementary School
Samuel Powel Elementary School
Samuel W. Pennypacker School
Science Leadership Academy Middle School
Sheridan West Academy
South Philadelphia High School
Southwest Leadership Academy Charter School
Spring Garden Elementary School
Stephen Decatur Elementary School
Stephen Girard Elementary
Swenson Arts and Technology High School
Tacony Academy Charter High School
The U School
The Workshop School
Thomas Finletter Academics Plus School
Thomas Mifflin Elementary School
Trinity Head Start Program
Vare-Washington Elementary
Watson Comly Elementary
William Cramp Elementary School
Previous Picasso Project Directors: Bonnie Raines (Current Committee Co-Chair), Gretchen Elise Walker, Linda Fernandez

Original Picasso Project Advisory Committee Members: Evelyn Eskin (Former Committee Chair), Dennis Barnebey, Vicki Ellis, Germaine Ingram, Lucinda Post | Additional Current Advisory Committee Members: Leslie Winder (Committee Co-Chair), Linda Carpenter, Nancy Francis, Danielle Gallagher, Bonnie Gevurtz, Beth Hartman, Julie Hawkins, Sue Kettell, Virginia Lam, Bill Madeira, Joyce Millman, Donyale Reavis, Linda Roth, Ellie Seif, Jonathan Stein, Lynne Strieb, Tessie Varthas, Shelly Yanoff | Additional 2018 Liaisons and Volunteers: Sherri Becker, Christina Johnson, Jennifer Johnson, Carol Petraitis, Andi Rickie, Sandy Rothman, Frank Barbella, Jessica Rorke, Cathy Weiss, Zara Waters, Rachael Choplick
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The Picasso Project is an initiative of
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