

A photograph of a young girl performing on stage. She is wearing a crown made of white paper leaves and has her arms raised. She is wearing a white t-shirt with 'ATHLETICS' printed on it. The background is dark with some stage lights.

State of the Arts in Chicago Public Schools 2020-21: An Overview

As stakeholders in the arts education sector, we all have the same goal: ensuring that Chicago's students receive a high quality arts education.

To help align and amplify our work, taking a big-picture view of the barriers that challenge our goal is crucial.

This is why the State of the Arts (SOTA) report exists: to give you a big-picture view of arts education in Chicago Public Schools and to push us, collectively, toward a future in which every CPS student has access to a high quality arts education.

Some key findings:

Access: While schools had some success in maintaining access to the arts at levels similar to what was seen in 2019-20, there were notable decreases.

A smaller percentage of schools had 600 or fewer students per arts teacher in 2020-21 than in 2019-20. Elementary schools continued to schedule arts instruction at levels comparable to what was offered in 2019-20, but there was a noticeable drop in the percent of elementary schools that provided arts access to all students.

At the high school level, fewer schools reported offering multi-level coursework in dance, music, theatre, media arts, and visual arts.

Quality: There were drops in multiple measures of the quality of schools' arts programs, most notably measures of professional development in the arts, partnership programming, and family / community engagement in the arts.

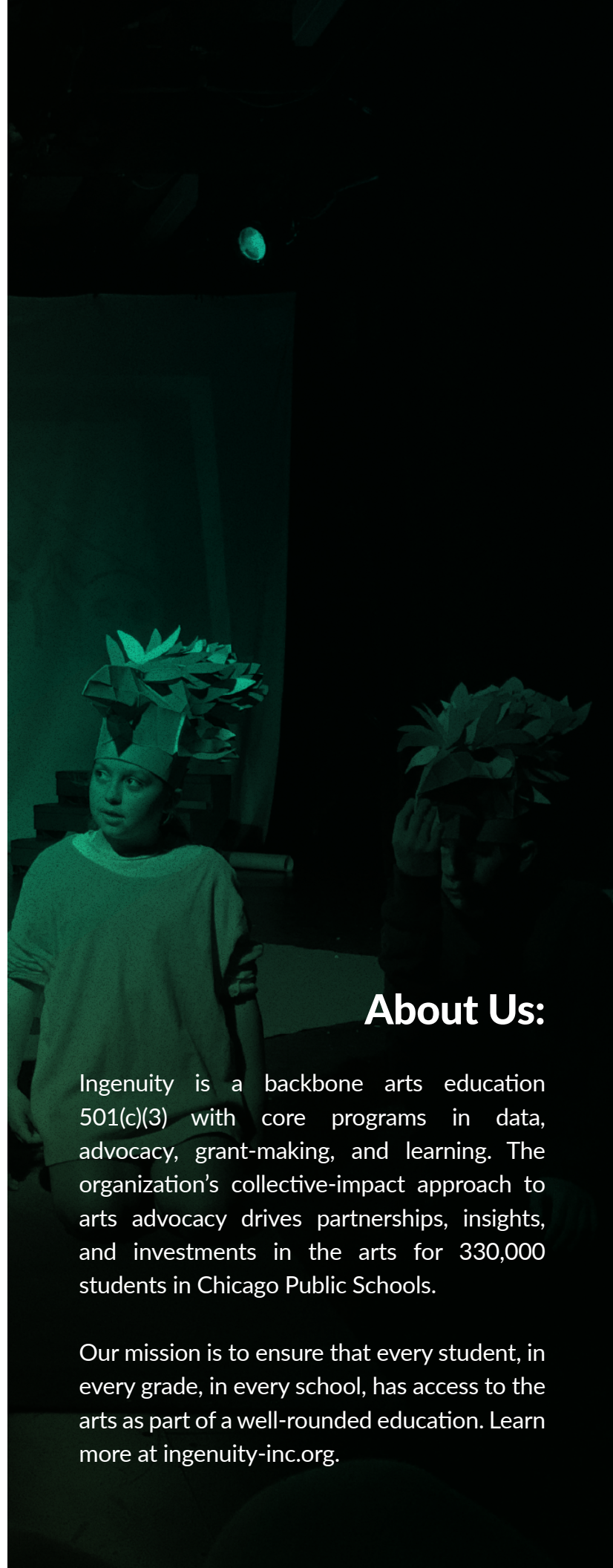
Opportunities for families and community members to engage with the arts in school dropped to an all time low in 2020-21, with only 67% of schools reporting some form of engagement - the first time this number has dipped below 90%.

Partnerships: Arts education partner activity, while demonstrating resilience by adapting to the online learning environment, has dropped dramatically in the last two years.

While online and digital arts programming saw an increase, the number of arts partners working in one or more CPS schools has dropped by 47% since 2018-19. Partnerships that involve field trips dropped by 84%.

Find out more about what all of this means for all of the stakeholders in arts education.

[Click here to check out the State of the Arts Report.](#)



About Us:

Ingenuity is a backbone arts education 501(c)(3) with core programs in data, advocacy, grant-making, and learning. The organization's collective-impact approach to arts advocacy drives partnerships, insights, and investments in the arts for 330,000 students in Chicago Public Schools.

Our mission is to ensure that every student, in every grade, in every school, has access to the arts as part of a well-rounded education. Learn more at ingenuity-inc.org.