



Arts Partner Guide

Building & Sustaining Collaborative
Partnerships with CPS School Communities

SY 26/27



Welcome!

At Ingenuity, we believe that in order to actualize our shared goal of every student in Chicago experiencing the power of the arts, we need to support each other throughout the journey. This is why the *Arts Partner Guide* exists.

The *Arts Partner Guide* is intended to support arts organizations and teaching artists in developing and implementing relevant and responsive programming and practices for young people in Chicago Public Schools (CPS), so that all students have equitable access to a high-quality arts education.

In this resource, we provide a plethora of offerings for arts partners including guidance for navigating technical processes, opportunities to come together as a learning community, data resources for making equity-driven decisions, partnership best practices for building and sustaining relationships with school communities, and so much more.

This guide is meant to be an easily accessible resource for you to do your best work possible in CPS school communities, but also know that Ingenuity is always excited to make more personable connections with arts partners, get to know your work and provide more individualized support. We are just an email away and eager to nurture the relationships needed to collectively strengthen our shared work and mission.

In community,

Partnerships & Learning

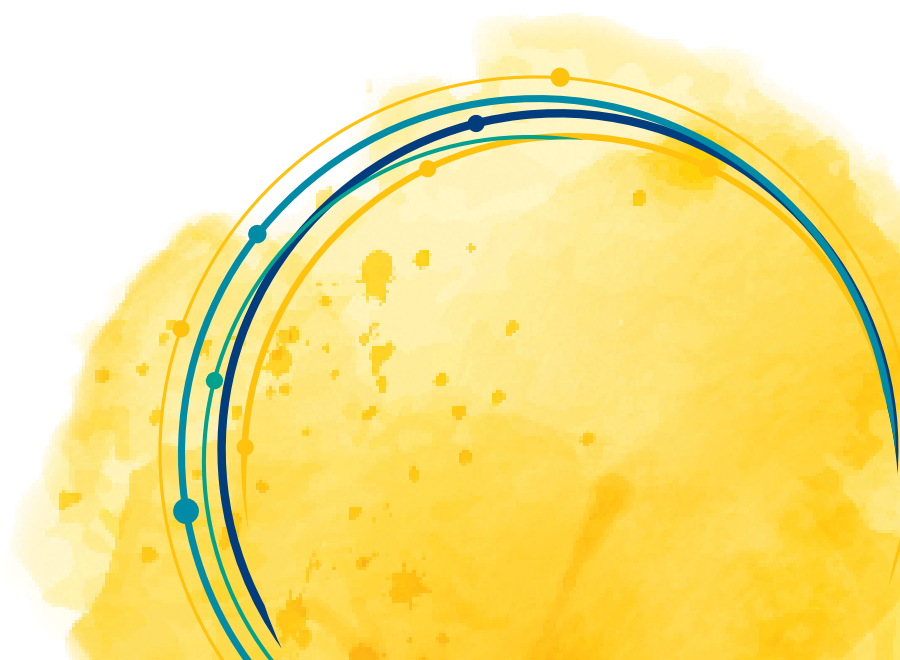


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About Ingenuity

Since its founding in 2011, Ingenuity has served as the backbone for a city-wide vision to increase arts education access, quality, and equity in Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Ingenuity accomplishes its missions within the context of a \$9.9 billion school district, 634 individual schools that currently serve over 325,000 K-12 students. Our work impacts over 1,600 community arts educators and independent teaching artists, and over 300 external arts organizations that provide arts programs in schools. We align the efforts of philanthropy, partners, the City of Chicago, and Chicago Public Schools to ensure that every student, in every grade, in every CPS school has access to the arts as part of a well-rounded education. We believe our mission can be accomplished. Collectively, our multi-pronged and interconnected services, programs, and strategies build and maintain hope and motivation across the sector to achieve our collective goal of arts education equity in CPS.

Data & Research

Ingenuity collects, analyzes, and reports arts education data to identify levers for change, and works with the sector to find and implement solutions to ensure equitable access to the arts in CPS. These school-level and organization-level data are shared through our online artlook® platform and provide insights on the access to, and quality of, arts programming. Our annual State of the Arts in CPS provides a comprehensive report, dashboard, and toolkit that serves as a sector-level benchmarking tool. Data Snapshots complement the State of the Arts, and provide more nuanced data and actionable insights, such as analyses on Residency Program Costs & Teaching Artist Compensation. As a backbone organization, Ingenuity fosters collaboration by championing shared measurement systems, aligning stakeholders around common goals, and ensuring consistent metrics to track progress.

Partnerships & Learning

We build public will, consensus, and commitment to the goal of arts education equity in CPS. Informed by Ingenuity's data and research, we engage and align arts education stakeholders with CPS schools, local organizations, and philanthropy to close the gap in CPS arts education. We match arts partners with CPS schools through data-informed strategies. Our events and initiatives build knowledge, skills, relationships, and networks to strengthen the sector's efforts to achieve arts education equity in CPS. We provide partners with personalized coaching and data-informed and research-based arts education best practices and resources.

Advocacy

We support the development of policy goals and ways to achieve them. Advocacy is woven throughout all of our strategies and is primarily driven by our data insights. We champion arts education access and equity at local, state, and federal levels. We advocate for sustainable resources, collective coordination, and stronger policies that decrease barriers in arts education.

Creative Schools Fund

We align funding to support arts education equity in CPS. Since 2013, Ingenuity has provided over \$24 million in grants to CPS schools through the Creative Schools Fund. The Creative Schools Fund competitive grants go directly to schools to support residencies designed by CPS teachers in collaboration with arts partners. Grants prioritize schools with the least systemic arts access and projects bring immediate arts programs to students – supporting Ingenuity’s mission to ensure that every student, in every grade, in every Chicago Public School, has access to high quality arts as part of a well-rounded education.

Learn more at www.ingenuity-inc.org



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Partnerships & Learning

Explore events, services, and resources designed to strengthen collaboration, expand access, and support your impact in CPS.

Partnerships & Learning (P&L)

Ingenuity's P&L team provides three types of supports for arts partners:

1. Learning & Development: In-person gatherings and online resources that support professional learning and growth for arts educators, including:

- Learning Institutes: Two-hour, in person learning around a relevant topic.
- Arts Partner Designation - Early Adopter Experience: Applications for the six-month pilot will open to arts organization teams, beginning this fall. The scope and sequence will be based on the feedback that was collected during APSP Community Gatherings throughout last year, from the arts education sector.

2. Partnerships & Connections: Large scale gatherings for the arts education sector to come together, make connections and strengthen our shared mission for arts education in CPS schools, including:

- Back-to-School Gathering: Annual gathering for arts partners to kick off the CPS school year in community! CPS Department of Arts Education and Ingenuity staff share year-round supports, partnership best practices for the school year are spotlighted and arts partners reconnect and build new connections with each other.
- Fall Summit: A yearly arts partner "fair" that provides an opportunity for school staff to meet arts partners and learn about their arts education offerings, in a festive and lively setting.
- State of the Arts (SOTA) Education Convening: Ingenuity's annual State of the Arts report on arts education access and quality in Chicago Public Schools (CPS).
- Arts Education Conference: An annual collaboration between CPS and Ingenuity for the entire arts education community to hear influential, key speakers in the arts education sector, experience workshops, reconnect with one another and build new connections.

3. Consultation & Technical Support: Personalized, one-on-one support.

- Office Hours & 1-on-1 Meetings: P&L team members serve as thought partners and networkers around a variety of topics including CPS vendor procedures, artlook partnership matching, curriculum design and partnership best practices.
- Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU) Sponsorship: Ingenuity is an approved Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU) provider through the Illinois State Board of Education. When arts organizations are providing professional learning to CPS educators, through Ingenuity's CPDU application process, they may apply as a third-party provider, in order to provide CPDUs to teachers.
- Multi-organization Teaching Artist Vendor Applications: Every year, alongside CPS Safety & Security and the CPS Department of Arts, Ingenuity coordinates to streamline the CPS background check process for teaching artists. Through this offering, arts organizations that are currently CPS vendors can apply to clear their TAs to work with multiple CPS arts vendors without requiring additional background checks for each organization they work for.

Partnerships & Learning Calendar

Ingenuity's Partnerships & Learning team hosts a number of convenings and events throughout the year to support our collective growth and impact.

Back-to-School Arts Partner Gathering	Wednesday, August 12, 1-4pm, Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education (CAPE), 1010 W. 35th St, 60609	Arts partners come together to launch the school year in community, with a panel discussion between school leaders and arts partners as they share partnership strengths and challenges and what we collectively need to build strong and impactful relationships.
Fall Summit	Thursday, September 17 4-6pm, Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Jackson Blvd, 60612	New and returning arts partner organizations and school representatives come together for an evening of connection-making to identify arts needs and interests within their schools, and explore innovative programmatic possibilities.
Fall Learning Institute: What the Arts Community Said About APSP and What It Means for Arts Partnerships	Thursday, November 12 2-5pm, Marwen, 833 N Orleans St, 60610	Unpack critical takeaways from Phase 3 of the Arts Partner Standards of Practice (APSP) research and explore what lies ahead for Phase 4. Join us to gain insights into the upcoming 2027-2028 early adopter designation, reflect on community feedback, and help shape the future of the designation process together.
State of the Arts (SOTA) Convening	Thursday, April 15, 2027 12 - 4pm, Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Jackson Blvd., 60612	Dive into the findings of the latest State of the Arts report and dashboard data to extract meaningful, actionable insights. Connect with colleagues to reflect on key trends and chart concrete steps forward to expand equitable arts access across Chicago Public Schools.
Spring Learning Institute: What We've Learned About CPS Designation & What It Mean For Arts Partnerships	Thursday, May 6 1-4pm, Casa de Cultura 2057 W 18th St, 60608	Gain firsthand insights from the CPS Designation pilot as early adopters share reflections and lessons learned. Discover key takeaways and strategic findings that will directly inform and shape the official launch of the CPS Designation for the 2027-2028 school year.

[Sign up for our newsletter](#) and continue to check our [events page](#) to stay up-to-date on all the happenings throughout the year.

Partnerships & Learning Technical Assistance

Arts partners can access a number of Ingenuity's consultation services to support and enhance their arts programs. Our offerings are customizable to fit your specific needs and inquiries. For support, review the available services below and submit your inquiries through our [Arts Partner Services Request Form](#).

Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU)

As an Illinois State Board of Education approved professional development provider, Ingenuity works alongside subcontracting arts organizations to ensure that classroom teachers receive CPDUs for attending arts partners' professional learning. Access an overview of the process [here](#).

New & Prospective Partner Orientations

Schedule a 1-on-1 meeting with Ingenuity's Partnerships & Learning team on what it means to partner with the district and the first steps in obtaining a vendor number and connecting with schools.

Consultation

Schedule time with Ingenuity's Partnerships & Learning team for thought partnership and emergent needs around various topics including program review, submitting a P.O. and partnering with a school, to support your work and partnerships with school communities.

Teacher Professional Development Promotion

Do you plan to provide CPS teachers with learning and development opportunities this school year? Let us help you promote your sessions. Simply submit the [following form](#), and we will share your session information in our monthly newsletter and social media outlets.

CPS Arts Vendor Assistance

In partnership with CPS Safety & Security and the CPS Department of Arts, Ingenuity has streamlined the CPS background check process for teaching artists (TA). Arts partners that are already approved CPS vendors can apply to clear their TAs to work with multiple CPS arts vendors, without requiring additional background checks for each organization they work for. In addition to saving teaching artists time and energy in obtaining multiple clearances, this process collectively saves arts organizations costs incurred through duplicative background checks. [Use this form](#) to submit a background check for your TA.

artlook® Overview

Learn about Ingenuity's online data platform that allows you to search for and connect with CPS schools. Understand your programmatic reach and expand your impact in arts education access.

artlook® Overview

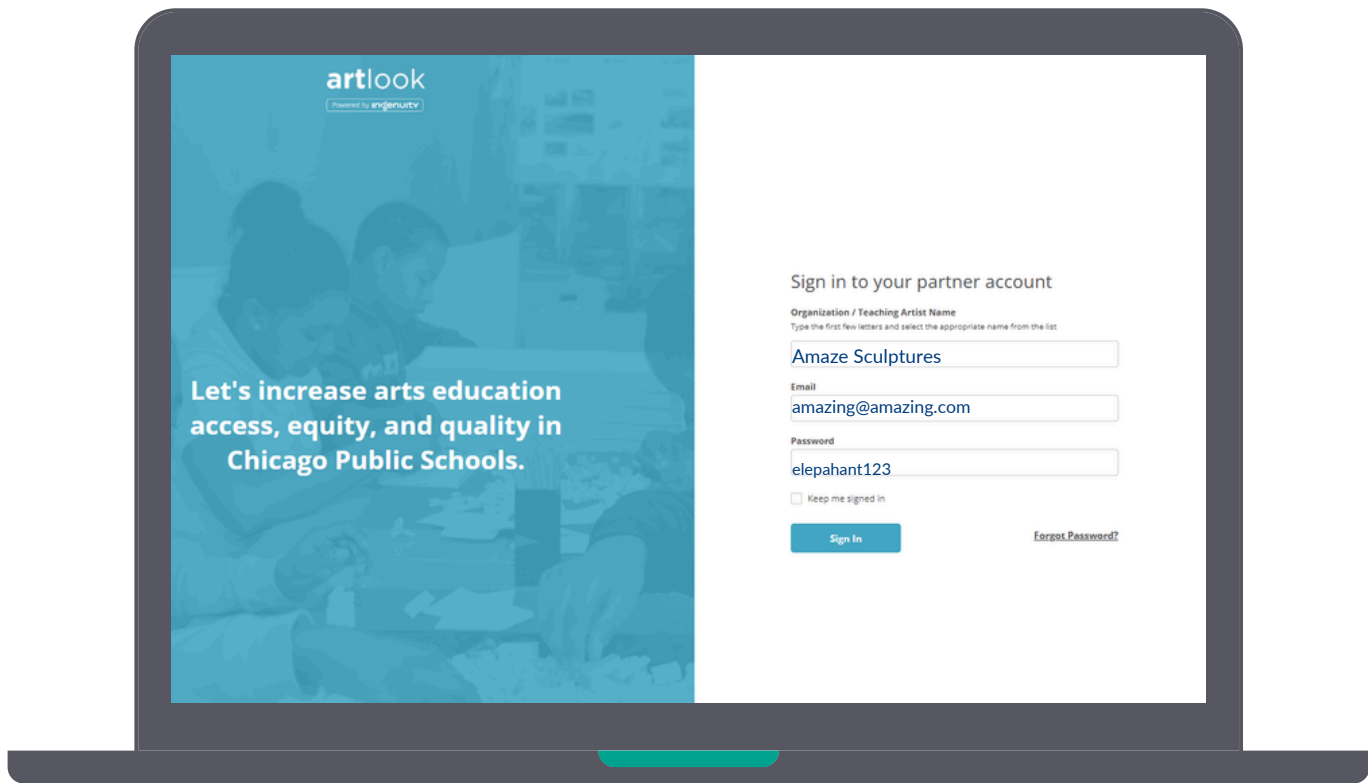
[artlook®](#) is an online platform that helps schools and arts organizations share information and connect to one another in order to increase and improve school partnerships and understand their programmatic reach and impact. Through artlook®, both schools and arts organizations can:

- Share up-to-date information about the arts programs and partnerships they currently have to offer students
- Showcase and search for schools' individual needs and interests for arts-related programming to guide arts partnerships in the future
- Search and locate other schools and/or arts organizations for collaborations

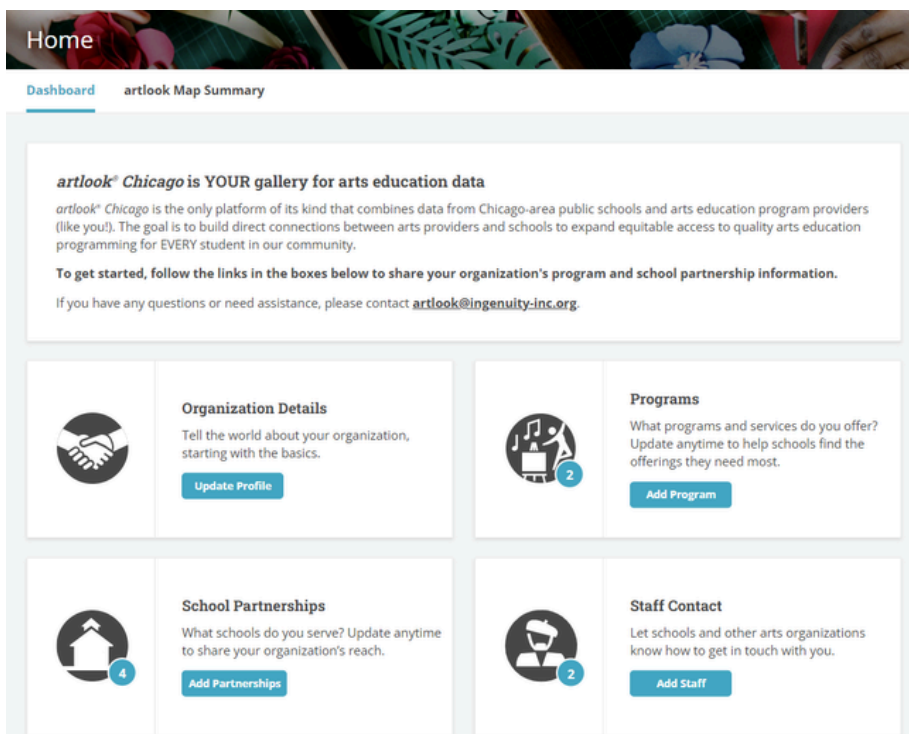
Accessing & Updating Your artlook® Account

It's important to keep your artlook® profile up-to-date! It allows schools to find you on the map and know exactly what programs you're offering and whether you're currently looking for additional partners. An updated profile also allows you to get an accurate understanding of your program reach and overall school portfolio analysis. AND it allows Ingenuity to stay in touch with you!

1. [Click here to go to artlook®](#) and log in using the 'Partners Login' at the top right.
 - If your account cannot be found, please email artlook@ingenuity-inc.org
 - If you don't have your password, click "Forgot password?". If you do not receive a password reset email, please email artlook@ingenuity-inc.org
 - Once you have set a password, you can log in at <https://chicago.artlookmap.com/partner-portal/sign-in>



2. There are four sections for updating your artlook Map Profile: Organization Details, Programs, School Partnerships, and Contacts.



3. For organizational details, you will need to enter:

- Organization name, website, phone number, organization logo/photo, description, address, artistic disciplines
- BIPOC characteristics for your organization's leadership structure, student-facing personnel, mission, and students served

The screenshot shows the 'artlook Map Profile' form for 'Organization Details'. The form is titled 'artlook Map Profile' and has a navigation bar with 'Organization', 'Programs', 'School Partnerships', and 'Contacts'. The 'Organization' tab is selected. The form fields are:

- Organization / Teaching Artist Name**: A text input field with the value 'test'. Below it is a 'Request Change' link.
- Website**: A text input field with a placeholder '(Full URL, e.g., https://www.ingenuityinc.org)'.
- Phone**: A text input field.
- Organization Logo / Photo**: A section with a note: '(Accepted formats include png, jpg, and jpeg. Your file must be less than 10 MB and will be cropped to a square when uploaded.)'. Below this is a 'Select File' button and a red button that says 'Personalize your artlook profile by uploading a logo or photo'.

4. For Programs, you will need to enter:

For each program, you can add the name, grades served, description, program approaches to arts instruction, program types, intended outcomes, how often teaching artists or program staff who identify as BIPOC directly deliver the program, and arts subdisciplines.

**Please note that suggested matches will not work without listing subdisciplines.*

Organization
Programs
School Partnerships
Contacts

2021-22

List All the Programs You Offer

Please list all programs your organization offers. Enter overarching organization programs (programs such as residencies, in-school performances, field trips, etc.) – not an individual school's programs. For example, if you provide a dance residency named "Rhythms Around the World" to many schools, you only need to enter this program one time, not for each school you're providing the residency to.

+ Add New Program
Copy a program from another school year

No programs reported for the 2021-22 school year.

Arts discipline(s) addressed by this program:

Dance
☐ Adaptive Dance
☐ African Dance
☐ Ballet
☐ Ballroom
☐ Capoeira
☐ Creative Movement
☐ Dance Appreciation
☐ Dance Club
☐ Dance Composition / Choreography
☐ Dance History
☐ Folkloric
☐ Hip-Hop
☐ Jazz
☐ Latin Dance
☐ Modern Dance
☐ Tap / Stomp

Literary Arts
☐ Creative Writing (Fiction, Creative Nonfiction)
☐ Criticism / Critique
☐ Debate / Forensics
☐ Literary Arts Club
☐ Newspaper
☐ Poetry
☐ Spoken Word
☐ Yearbook

Media Arts
☐ 3D Modeling
☐ Audio Production / Sound Design
☐ Augmented / Virtual Reality
☐ Digital Animation and Arts
☐ Film
☐ Game Design
☐ Graphic Design
☐ Media Arts Club
☐ Photojournalism
☐ Radio / TV Broadcasting
☐ Screenwriting
☐ Special Effects
☐ Video
☐ Web App Development
☐ Web Design

Music
☐ Coaching / Private Lessons
☐ Concert Band

Theatre
☐ Acting
☐ Creative Dramatics

Visual Arts
☐ Animation
☐ Architecture

5. Contacts:

- Education Contact
- Executive Director
- This information allows us to get in touch with you! Only the Education Contact will show up on the Map.

6. School Partnerships:

- For each school partnership, you can select the program type ie. field trip, performance, residency, etc.

2021-22

List All Your School Partnerships

List all schools you worked with at any point during the chosen school year. For a list of program definitions, please click [here](#).

+ Add New Partner
Copy partners from other school years

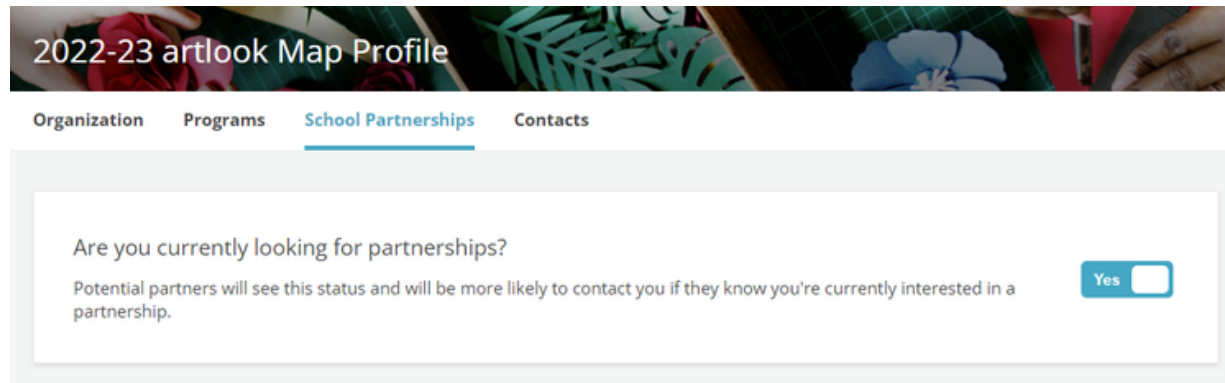
School Name	Field Trip	Online / Virtual	Out-of-School and/or Summer	Performance / Workshop	Professional Development	Residency	Resources	Other
✕ Galileo Math & Science Scholastic Academy ES	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Save

7. The new partnership status toggle will:

- Let schools and partners “effectively” raise their hand and say, “I’m looking for a partner!”
- Allow you to receive suggested school matches via notifications

Partner Portal > School Partnerships > “Are you currently looking for partnerships”?



2022-23 artlook Map Profile

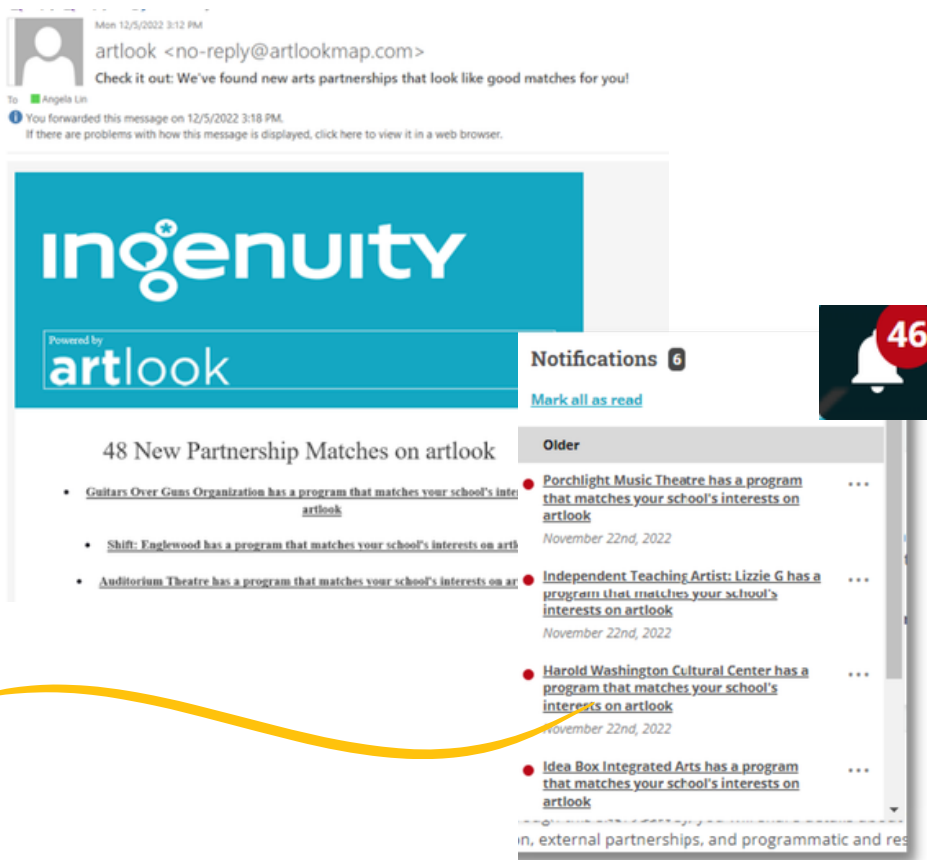
Organization Programs **School Partnerships** Contacts

Are you currently looking for partnerships?

Potential partners will see this status and will be more likely to contact you if they know you're currently interested in a partnership.

Yes ☐

8. Then... wait for the email and in-app notifications the next day!



Mon 12/5/2022 3:12 PM

artlook <no-reply@artlookmap.com>

Check it out: We've found new arts partnerships that look like good matches for you!

To: Angela Lin

You forwarded this message on 12/5/2022 3:18 PM.
If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

ingenuity

Powered by **artlook**

48 New Partnership Matches on artlook

- [Guitars Over Guns Organization has a program that matches your school's interests on artlook](#)
- [Shift: Eaglewood has a program that matches your school's interests on artlook](#)
- [Auditorium Theatre has a program that matches your school's interests on artlook](#)

Notifications 6

[Mark all as read](#)

Older

- [Porchlight Music Theatre has a program that matches your school's interests on artlook](#) ...
November 22nd, 2022
- [Independent Teaching Artist: Lizzie G has a program that matches your school's interests on artlook](#) ...
November 22nd, 2022
- [Harold Washington Cultural Center has a program that matches your school's interests on artlook](#) ...
November 22nd, 2022
- [Idea Box Integrated Arts has a program that matches your school's interests on artlook](#) ...

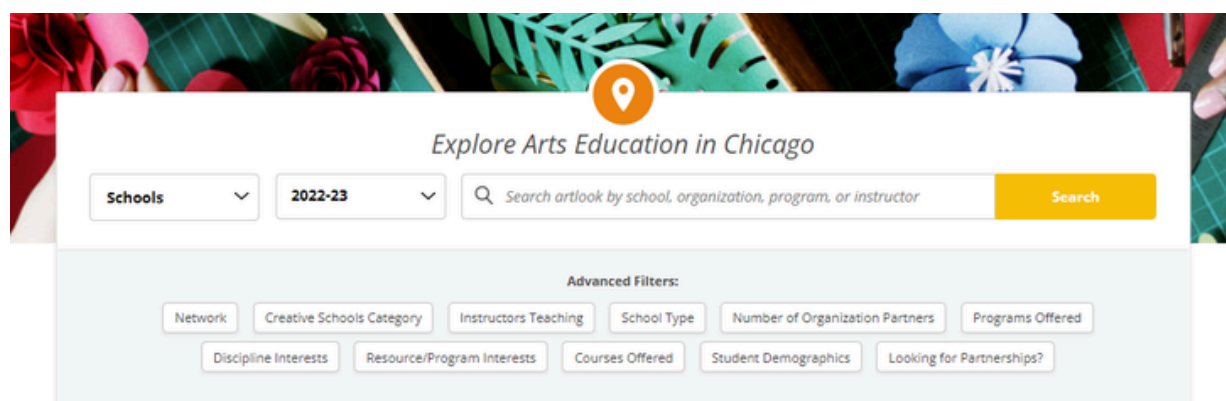
in, external partnerships, and programmatic and res

Using artlook® to find School Partners

Arts partners can browse [artlook® Map](#) to find detailed information about potential school partners. With the platform, you can find information about every CPS school, including a school's contact information, arts offerings, resources, program interests, and existing school partners. Each school has a designated arts liaison contact.

To search for potential school partners:

1. [Click here to go to artlook®](#) and search the public facing map. There's no need to sign in!
2. Use the drop down labeled "School" to begin searching, select a school year (the default is the current school year). If you're looking up information for a specific school, type in its name. If not, leave the search bar blank.
3. If there are additional constraints you'd like to include, you can use the "Advanced Filters" at the bottom of the page. For example, you may be looking for partners of a certain discipline such as Music, or looking to partner with an organization that serves grades K-8
Tip: Under the "Advanced Filters", click "Looking for Partnerships?" and select "Yes."
This toggle indicates that an arts partner is currently looking for partnerships!
4. Click the "Search" button!
5. Look through your results and click on any profiles of arts organizations you're interested in.
6. On each profile, you can find information about the organization's programmatic offerings.
7. If there is an arts organization you'd like to connect with, you can email the "Primary Contact" that's listed.



artlook Video Overview

Need additional support?
Click on the button for a video overview.

Data Tools & Reports

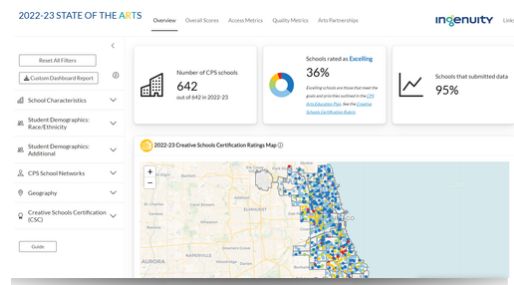
Unpack the latest arts education data and what it means for you and the schools and students that you serve. Learn how you and other stakeholders can leverage current data to inform programmatic decisions.

Data Reports and Publications

State of the Arts Report & Dashboard

Over the past twelve years, the annual [State of the Arts \(SOTA\)](#) in Chicago Public Schools has presented data that tracks student access to arts education in CPS while also identifying areas for improvement and opportunities for growth. The State of the Arts centers around reporting data and trends from the Creative Schools Certification, offering a detailed view on school-level access and conditions for arts education as well as data on arts partnerships. Arts organizations can use the [report](#), [dashboard](#), and [toolkit](#) to understand the landscape of arts education across the sector and use these data to inform their strategies.

Read the
2023-24
SOTA



View the
SOTA
Dashboard!

Data Snapshots

[Data Snapshot](#) are focused analyses by Ingenuity's Data & Research team that takes a closer look at information collected from artlook and other sources. Data Snapshots provide an opportunity to delve deeper into research questions and further explore how to translate understandings into action. Each Snapshot focuses on one specific topic.

[View the latest Snapshots:](#)

- [Residency Program Costs & Teaching Artist Compensation](#)
- [High School Arts Offerings](#)
- [Arts Partnerships Before and After the Pandemic](#)
- [BIPOC Representation and Arts Partners](#)
- [Arts Education Access in CPS](#)

Technical Assistance

Data Services

artlook® Support

The Data & Research team offers one-on-one support for the [artlook](#) platform (*the following section provides more detailed information about artlook*), including assistance with setting up organizational profiles and providing ongoing technical support. We can also walk organizations through the platform's data and features to help you make the most of its capabilities.

Support items include:

- Setting up your organizational profile
- Overview of platform features
 - Accessing school-level and organizational-level data
 - Downloading data from the platform
 - Using artlook to find and build partnerships
 - Understanding your organization's Partner Report
- School matching support

Vendor Information Lookup

We can provide support with looking up the following information around vendors:

- Vendor number
- Vendor status
- Primary Contact in iSupplier

Ad-Hoc Data Requests

Curious about arts education data or interested in exploring information for a specific group of schools? Reach out to the Data & Research team at artlook@ingenuity-inc.org! We frequently get ad-hoc data requests and would be happy to chat.

The Creative Schools Fund

Explore how grants from the Creative Schools Fund help bring high-quality, partner-led arts programming to every CPS student.

The Creative Schools Fund

About the Fund

Ingenuity's Creative Schools Fund (CSF) supports schools in advancing arts quality and access. As the largest direct investment supporting arts education in Chicago Public Schools, grants prioritize those schools with the least systemic arts access. Projects bring immediate arts programs to students – and fuel sustainable, long term increases to arts education access for every student, in every grade.

The Creative Schools Fund has invested over \$24M directly into Chicago Public Schools over twelve years

Grant Types

SY 2026-27 Creative Schools Fund Partnership Residency Grants go directly to schools to support residencies designed by CPS teachers in collaboration with arts partners. Arts organizations play a significant role in the partnerships grants and can work with schools to craft a unique arts learning experience.

There are many types of school staff/arts partner collaborations that can be supported by the Creative Schools Fund, including, but not limited to:

- Arts Teachers collaborating with arts partners that work within their same artistic discipline and can engage students in new mediums and instructional strategies.
- Arts Teachers collaborating with arts partners that work within different artistic disciplines to fill discipline gaps in the school or to create multi-disciplinary offerings.
- Classroom or Content Area teachers collaborating with arts partners on arts integration projects.
- Physical Education teachers collaborating with arts partners to bring dance as an option for PE.

The Arts Partner Opportunity

While grants go directly to schools, the Creative Schools Fund also build capacity of partners to:

- Build new partnerships among schools with aligned values
- Co-design a program with an arts teacher or administration
- Support a school to think creatively about how partnerships can help support increased arts access for students
- Expand successful programs, explore opportunities for scope and sequence over sequential years, build a community of practice

Creative Schools Fund: Timeline

August 20 | 4:00 - 5:30pm | [Register](#)

CSF Information Session #1 (Zoom)

This session will be recorded.

August 27 | 4:00 - 5:30pm | [Register](#)

CSF Information Session #2 (Zoom)

September 14 | 4:00 - 5:30pm | [Register](#)

CSF Information Session #3 (Zoom)

September 11, 2026 | Due no later than 2:00pm

Deadline for arts partners to apply to CPS Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Arts Education Services ([Specification No. 26-1355](#))

[Click her to learn more in Arts Partner eligibility criteria](#)

September 17, 2026 | 4:00 - 7:00pm | [Register](#)

Ingenuity Fall Summit (Malcolm X College)

Connect and identify potential Arts Partners

September 25, 2026

Creative Schools Fund - School application deadline

Creative Schools Survey deadline

October 2, 2026

Creative Schools Fund - Partner application deadline

Late December 2026

Grant Decisions Communicated

February 2027

Funds transfer

March 2027 - June 2027

Program/Project Implementation

June 11, 2027

Grant Report Due



Arts Partner Standards of Practice (APSP)

Understand and know best practices for building sustainable partnerships and successfully connecting communities, schools, and students with your arts programs.

Arts Partner Standards of Practice (APSP)

As partners working with CPS, understanding best practices begins with a collective vision for relationships and quality and how we can set up the conditions for both student and practitioner learning and growth. The following resources offer up a starting point for the values, frameworks, approaches, and ideas around quality practices and how they can be integrated into your programs.

[The Arts Partner Standards of Practice \(APSP\)](#) is a diagnostic tool for organizations and teaching artists that articulates a vision for quality teaching and learning in the arts. The APSP contains elements of practice which teaching artists and organizations can use as a guide for self-evaluation. Although not mandated, various arts education stakeholders use the APSP to self determine partner readiness, capacity, and program quality.

The product of a two-year effort engaging more than 400 arts education stakeholders under the Quality Initiative, Ingenuity published the Arts Partner Standards of Practice in 2017 to be used by the hundreds of arts organizations and Teaching Artists who work with CPS schools. The Standards of Practice include tools and processes to help arts organizations improve arts program outcomes. The Standards also serve to establish consensus values about how program managers define, assess, evaluate, and improve the quality of Teaching Artist instruction. Specifically, tools were created to help organizations build a common language and improve the quality of practice in two areas - organizational quality and instructional quality.

APSP Resources:

- [Values of Quality](#)
- [The Arts Partner Standards of Practice Guidebook](#)
- [Instructional Quality Framework](#)
- [Organizational Quality Framework](#)



Take a look!

Arts Partnership Process: Steps for Program Success

The [Arts Partnership Process](#) is designed to help cultivate meaningful planning conversations between schools and arts partners. This collaborative and reflective conversation process can be used to build stronger partnerships and implement unique arts education programs tailored to the goals, strengths, and unique capacities of schools and arts partners.



Connect with Ingenuity

Still haven't found what you need? We're here to support you!
Contact us directly using the email addresses below.

Data & Research

artlook@ingenuity-inc.org



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Operations Manager,
Programming

Resources

Access tools and resources to deepen your practice, strengthen partnerships, and navigate CPS systems with confidence.

Other Key Learning and Practice Standards

Standards can offer a valuable starting point for identifying key measurable goals, informing instruction, helping measure growth and being responsive to students and their communities. Are your arts programs standards aligned? Which of the frameworks below do you utilize and why?

[CPS Arts Education Best Practices](#): Access to the Illinois Arts Standards and an Arts Integration Toolkit.

[Illinois Learning Standards](#): Access full PDF sets of standards for music, visual arts, theatre, dance, and media arts at this site, hosted by [Arts Alliance Illinois](#).

[CPS Skyline Arts Scopes & Sequences](#): As part of the district's Curriculum Equity Initiative titled [Skyline](#), the Department of Arts Education brought in national arts education experts from [SEADAE](#) to train a CPS arts teacher cohort in the development of comprehensive PreK–HS scopes & sequences for Dance, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts.

[IL Social Emotional Learning Standards](#): divided into levels to measure emotional development throughout schooling.

[Learning for Justice Social Justice Standards](#): Grade specific guidelines for teaching and implementing anti-bias practices in the classroom.



Additional Program Funding Resources

Finding and securing funding is essential to sustaining and growing arts education work, yet the process can often feel overwhelming. Opportunities vary in scope, requirements, and timelines, and the right fit depends on each organization's mission, capacity, and relationships. Ingenuity offers the following list as a resource to help arts partners explore potential avenues for support and understand the range of possibilities available. **This is not a comprehensive directory, and the inclusion or omission of a funder should not be interpreted as an endorsement or a reflection of their alignment with your work.**

The examples are intended to spark ideas, guide research, and encourage proactive engagement with potential funders. We recommend using this list as a starting point—subscribing to funder newsletters, attending informational webinars, connecting with program officers, and tracking application cycles—to plan ahead and strengthen your network. While Ingenuity cannot speak on behalf of funders or guarantee the outcome of any application, we believe that sharing knowledge benefits the entire arts education ecosystem and can help inspire new connections, informed decision-making, and a balanced funding strategy that draws from government, foundation, corporate, and individual support.

The funding landscape in 2025 is particularly fluid, especially for government grants, as many arts and culture programs have experienced reduced budgets or paused awards due to shifting federal priorities. This makes it more important than ever to understand each funder's priorities, timelines, and requirements, and to diversify revenue sources so that no single change in policy can disrupt your work. Because funding priorities and eligibility criteria can change, always confirm current deadlines, requirements, and application guidelines directly with the funder before applying.

Funding sources generally fall into two categories.

- General operating grants provide unrestricted support for your organization's mission.
- Program-specific grants provide restricted support for a defined program, service, or initiative.



The examples that follow may fall into either category depending on the funder's criteria.

Government Grants

Government grants come from local, state, and federal sources to advance specific priorities and sectors. They are funded through public budgets and often have detailed eligibility, application, and reporting requirements. Some may limit how often an organization can apply. In 2025, many nonprofits have seen government arts funding decrease or become less predictable, with some cultural agencies facing significant budget reductions or proposed eliminations. This reinforces the importance of diversifying revenue streams so your organization is not dependent on one funding source.

Below is a short list of examples for exploration, not a comprehensive list of every opportunity available:

[IACA Creative Catalyst Grant](#)
[NEA Grants for Arts Projects](#)

Foundation Grants

Foundations are private entities funded by individuals, families, or groups that distribute grants to advance specific areas of need or interest. They may offer informational sessions, application guidelines, and opportunities for questions before proposals are submitted. When exploring foundation funding, consider eligibility, application deadlines, mission alignment, and reporting requirements. In 2025, many nonprofits are turning to private foundations to offset uncertainty in federal funding. Foundations tend to offer more flexibility in how funds are used, making them a valuable part of a balanced fundraising plan.

Below is a short list of examples for exploration, not a comprehensive list of every opportunity available:

[Arts Work Fund](#)
[Bloomberg Philanthropies](#)
[D'Addario Foundation](#)
[Driehaus Foundation](#)
[Field Foundation](#)
[The Joyce Foundation](#)
[Lloyd A. Fry Foundation](#)
[MacArthur Foundation](#)
[Paul M. Angell Foundation](#)
[Polk Bros Foundation](#)
[Springboard Foundation](#)



Program Funding Sources Continued

Corporate sponsorships

Corporate sponsorships can take many forms, including direct funding, in-kind donations, employee volunteerism, and cause marketing campaigns. These partnerships often support both the company's community engagement goals and the nonprofit's mission. Local businesses can also be strong partners, providing space, merchandise, discounts, or other support. In 2025, as traditional funding sources fluctuate, corporate partnerships are becoming an increasingly important way for nonprofits to strengthen financial stability and community visibility.

Below is a short list of examples for exploration, not a comprehensive list of every opportunity available:

- Bank of America
- Invenergy
- Lagunitas
- Morton Salt
- Coca-Cola
- McDonald's
- Home Depot
- Red Bull
- Hyper-local neighborhood businesses

Please be sure to check official funder websites for the most accurate and up-to-date deadlines, eligibility criteria, and application instructions.





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