

# 20 Promising Practices

Ideas from the 2013-2014 Champion Creatively Alive Children grant winners.



## A+ SCHOOL FOCUSES ON ARTS-INTEGRATION

COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Anissa Miller, Principal

Partnering with North Carolina A+ trainers, this school used visual art and dance as the foundation for professional development and everyday teaching.

## ART AS A WINDOW INTO GLOBAL CULTURES

CUBA ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL, CUBA, ILLINOIS

Angela Simmons, Principal

The Creative Leadership Team created art-based cross-curricular units and authentic assessment guides to help their students see a broader world.

## ART BUILDS LITERACY SKILLS

GARDENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
PASADENA, TEXAS

Celia Fleischman, Principal

Professional development focused on illustration as a storytelling tool and fine art as a catalyst for original poetry and stories.

## ARTISTS' STORY OF INJUSTICE, JOURNEY AND PERSEVERANCE

DANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
HENDERSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Kelly Schofield, Principal

When Schofield learned the history of Gee's Bend quilters, a community of slaves forced to walk from North Carolina to Alabama after being sold, she knew students and teachers needed to be immersed in this story of these artists' resilience and amazing aesthetic.



## CALDER MOBILES AS METAPHORS

COUNTRY OAKS ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL, LABELLE, FLORIDA

James Sealey, Principal

The new Creative Leadership Team focused on Alexander Calder's mobiles as a metaphor for art-integration strategies.

## CREATIVITY AND CULTURAL AWARENESS

SHEEP HARNEY SCHOOL  
ELIZABETH CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

Andrea Adams, Principal

This entire learning community focused on becoming creative leaders and creative producers. Their mission,

"Soaring Achievement through the Creative Arts Lens," came to life while exploring other cultures.

## CULTURE OF INQUIRY AND CRITIQUE

BRIDGES PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL  
WASHINGTON, DC

Olivia Smith, Principal

The Creative Leadership Team provided "Artists' Inquiry and Critique" workshops to help teachers embrace art integration.

## DA VINCI INSPIRED INNOVATIVE TEACHING

NEW EGYPT SCHOOL  
NEW EGYPT, NEW JERSEY

Richard DeMarco, Principal

Inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's Taxonomy, the Creative Leadership Team helped colleagues see how artists explore infinite possibilities, solve problems and create with an inventor's spirit.

## INNOVATIVE TEACHING WITH ARTBOTS

RJ RICHEY ELEMENTARY  
BURNET, TEXAS

Jill Wittekiend, Principal

Using artistic thinking skills and MIT Makey Makey boards, art-inspired

robots were the springboard for professional development and student inventions.

**INSPIRED BY REGGIO EMILIA**  
**REDWOOD EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
**NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**  
*Jody Veit-Edrington, Principal*

Professional development was focused on visual awareness and child-centered exploration so teachers can guide children's self-discovery of the 100 languages of art.

**LEADERS CHAMPION REFLECTIVE THINKING**  
**JOHN F. KENNEDY ELEMENTARY**  
**JAMAICA PLAIN, MASSACHUSETTS**  
*Waleska Landing, Principal*

An ambitious group of teacher leaders proposed a vision of being an art-integration school with a creative culture.

**MEMORABLE MATH INFUSED WITH ART**  
**HARWICH ELEMENTARY**  
**HARWICH, MASSACHUSETTS**  
*Sam Hein, Principal*

The Creative Leadership Team coached their colleagues on how to link students' curiosity and art standards with math.

**PARTNERSHIPS PROPEL ART-INFUSED SCHOOL**  
**ALEXANDRIA ELEMENTARY**  
**ALEXANDRIA, ALABAMA**  
*Tesha Crump, Principal & Rebecca Grogan, Assistant Principal*  
 The Creative Leadership Team partnered with a local university to implement art-based professional development.

**SCHOOLWIDE ART-INFUSED EDUCATION**  
**CHURCHILL ROAD ELEMENTARY**  
**McLEAN, VIRGINIA**  
*Don Hutzel, Principal*

Year-long professional development on art-integration resulted in full faculty buy-in to art-based teaching. Their pre- and post- assessment results on teachers' creative capacity showed amazing changes.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Country Oaks Elementary, LaBelle Florida; Horace Mann Elementary, Sedalia, Missouri; New Egypt School, New Egypt, New Jersey; PREVIOUS PAGE: Churchill Road Elementary student artwork, McLean, Virginia

**STORYTELLING ART CELEBRATES ORIGINALITY**  
**MOUNTAIN ISLAND CHARTER SCHOOL, MOUNT HOLLY, NORTH CAROLINA**  
*Beth Keller, Principal*

To build teachers' creative confidence, the year-long professional development focused on artful thinking and storytelling.

**SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP STRATEGY**  
**ROSA L. PARKS ELEMENTARY**  
**HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND**  
*Tara Minter, Principal*

This grant served as the catalyst for moving what had been an emerging initiative into a school-wide sustainable practice of "Artful Thinking"—now woven into every classroom and lesson plan.

**THE "HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY"**  
**SEVEN HILLS CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL, WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS**  
*Chuck Brown, Principal*  
 The Creative Leadership Team and Worcester Historical Museum designed arts integration projects based on the art-rich cultural heritage of their city.

**USING ART STRATEGIES IN ACTION RESEARCH**  
**SEVEN OAKS ELEMENTARY**  
**ODENTON, MARYLAND**  
*John Ceschini, Principal*

What if teachers were trained as artists? What if their action research projects collected data that illustrated the impact of art-infusion and artistic-reflection? They changed the way teachers teach!

**VISUAL THINKING DEEPENS LEARNING**  
**HORACE MANN ELEMENTARY**  
**SEDALIA, MISSOURI**  
*Todd Fraley, Principal*

Classroom teachers used artwork and enduring questions as the basis for reflection and class discussions. Students' creative writing and decoding skills soared.

**VISUAL THINKING BUILDS DEEPER SKILLS**  
**REDWOOD HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA**  
*Sara Stone, Principal*

Investigating images advanced class discussions and enriched inquiry in all subjects with emphasis on: observing, investigating, probing, elaborating, speculating, arguing based on evidence, and using insights to revise thinking.

# Discover the Power of Arts-Infused Learning

Champion Creatively Alive Children® is a free professional development program that uses arts-infused, hands-on learning.



Everything art teachers need to lead hands-on workshops for parents or educator colleagues:

Free videos, facilitators' guides, presentation slides and handouts

Download at [Crayola.com/CreativelyAlive](http://Crayola.com/CreativelyAlive)

- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Arts-Infused Education Advocacy
- Creativity Connects the World
- Creativity Connects Schools with Families
- Critical Thinking
- Communication



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