

# VSA Ohio's Executive Summary of Impact in 2018

VSA Ohio's Adaptation, Integration, and the Arts (AIA) residency program demonstrates that education can be responsive to every child's range of learning and social-emotional needs by integrating the arts. AIA's teaching artists build meaningful educator partnerships and are nourishing students' self-worth and curiosity in learning in ways that many general education settings are not equipped to do. AIA demonstrates how equity and accessibility are replicable in any classroom.

AIA is not just art education; it is students and educators experiencing the art of being human, together. VSA Ohio's (VSAO) mission is to make the arts and arts education accessible and inclusive for people with any disability and their support networks. In 2018, VSAO commissioned Measurement Resources Company (MRC) to conduct a qualitative evaluation of AIA, collecting stories of impact from educators and students, resulting in this summary. In applying the arts and the Universal Design of Learning (UDL), AIA cultivates student-centric environments where students of all abilities, and vulnerabilities, feel what it is like to be engaged at school and successful in learning.

"This is my first play and I am a little scared, but I will be brave."

—*Student*

"Most of our students... would not have the opportunity to experience art if it were not for AIA."

—*Teacher*

"Students flourished [in AIA] to the point that their personalities came out, and they started to talk in class because they felt comfortable." —*Teacher/Administrator*



VSAO AIA practices student-centric learning that...

- **LEVERAGES DIVERSITY** (cultural and in physical/cognitive ability) to increase students' practice in leadership that inspires collective imagination; exercise in setting and accomplishing goals as a team; and in building interpersonal problem-solving skills;
- **TEACHES STUDENTS TO IDENTIFY THEIR STRENGTHS AND FEEL PRIDE**, no matter their background or disability; information that teachers leverage to better engage their students in learning core academics and meeting life skills goals;
- **CREATES SAFE ENVIRONMENTS FOR CREATIVITY AND SELF-EXPRESSION**, leading to students' discovery of new interests and an increased sense of belonging and support among their peers; and
- **DEVELOPS SELF-CONFIDENCE**, increasing students' willingness to participate in class, increasing knowledge and skills in English language arts, technology and communication.

"One of the greatest values of AIA for the students [with social or physical disabilities] is the opportunity to perform in front of an audience... [it was] a new challenge, but [the students] did it and they were proud."

—*Administrator*

"Developing social skills is a huge part of [AIA]... after six weeks of AIA together, [students] are sitting at lunch together, playing at recess and realizing they can find new friends." —*Teacher*

"I learned how to use a [film] camera. It was hard at first, but I got the hang of it... I love the way [AIA] inspired me!" —*Student*

AIA is already having an impact on educators and school cultures, but currently emphasizes student impact. MRC recommends taking a more intentional approach to the professional development of educators, focusing on:

- Teachers' ability to create inclusive and equitable classrooms.
- Administrators' ability to be leaders in Universal Design of Learning and to leverage arts-integrated education to cultivate more collaboration among educators.
- Implementing an evaluation plan to better communicate impacts on educators.
- Strategically position VSAO as a key partner in Ohio education by highlighting a data-driven approach in marketing campaigns.

