



ANNUAL
REPORT

2024

October 2023 - September 2024

A Year of Refinement

2024 underscored the significance of refinement in AEP's work. As a team, we value opportunities for us to try new things, not aiming for success for success's sake, but rather intentionally striving to further the work of our amazing community. This year not only gave opportunities to highlight our accomplishments, but also reflect on the deliberate efforts to sharpen our strategies, streamline our processes and focus our resources for the arts education field.

This year, AEP added in-person partnership meetings, giving us the chance to nurture connections in new ways. We expanded our online resources while giving staff members the opportunity to research, write and add new skills to their arsenals. We participated in small and large meetings, workshops and presentations both virtually and in many states across the country, allowing us to hone our facilitation skills and expand our reach. And we prioritized intentionality in our Annual Convening planning, dialing in our process so that we could provide new and additional elements for attendees.

None of this would have been possible without the direction from our federal partners, our colleagues at Education Commission of the States, the collaborative attitude from our advisory council and the invaluable contributions of countless educators, students, researchers, policymakers and advocates. Their input has been instrumental in refining our approaches and elevating the work of our arts education community.

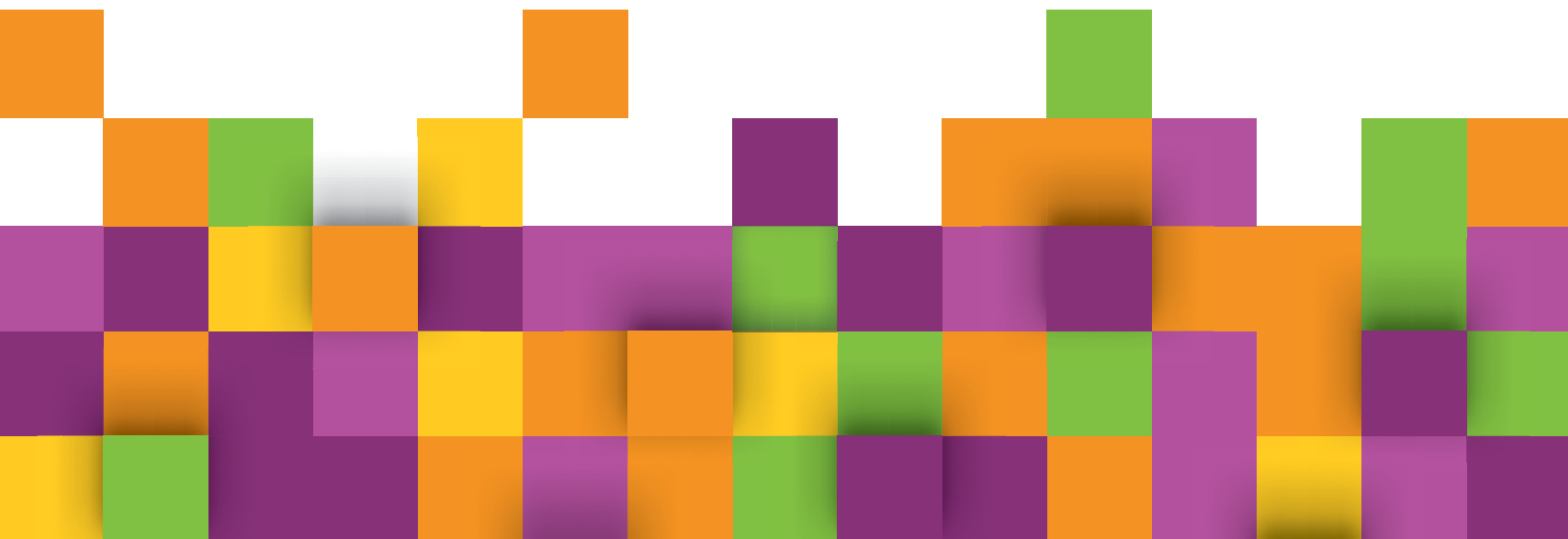
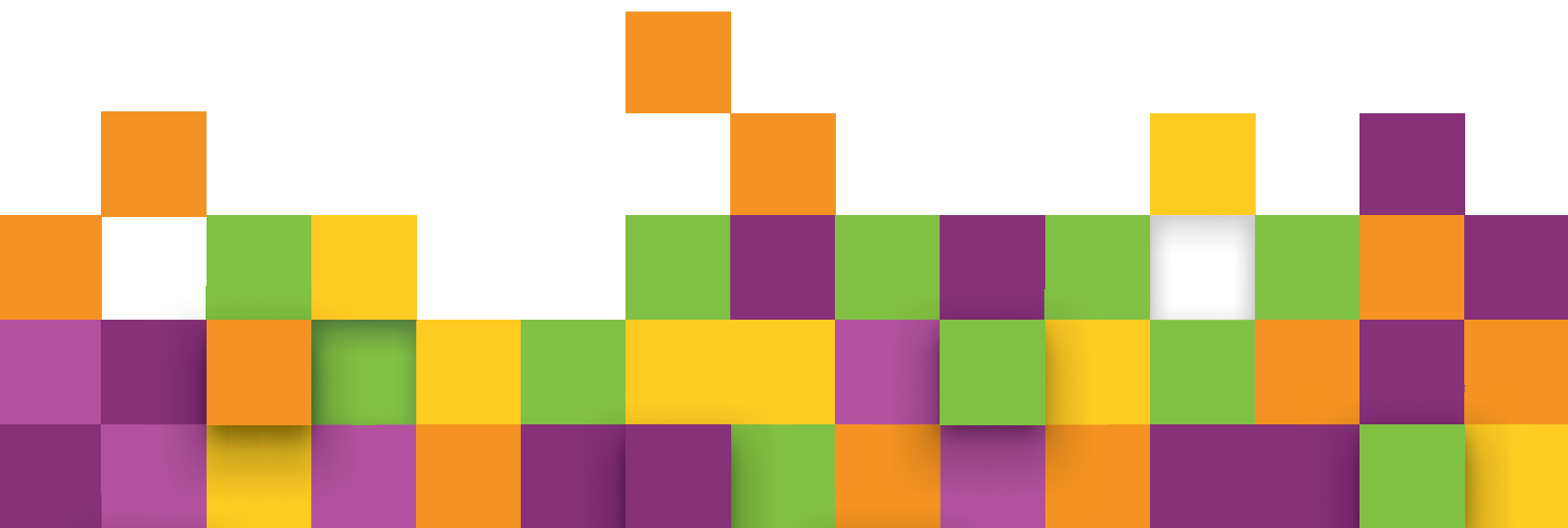


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AEP by the numbers


Policy Highlights

5 Key Issues

- DATA
- HEALTH AND WELLNESS
- JUVENILE JUSTICE
- STEAM
- TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION



5 New Publications



34 Technical Assistance



45,000+ ONLINE RESOURCES ACCESSED



Engagement Highlights



257 ENGAGEMENTS

3 NEW PARTNERS




20 NEW AFFILIATES

555 Total Meeting Attendees

16 Meetings Hosted

66,923 Visitors to ArtsEdSearch

127,221 Visitors to AEP-Arts.org



8 MEDIA MENTIONS



Annual Convening Highlights

184 Attendees

103 New Attendees

35 STATES REPRESENTED



44 SPEAKERS

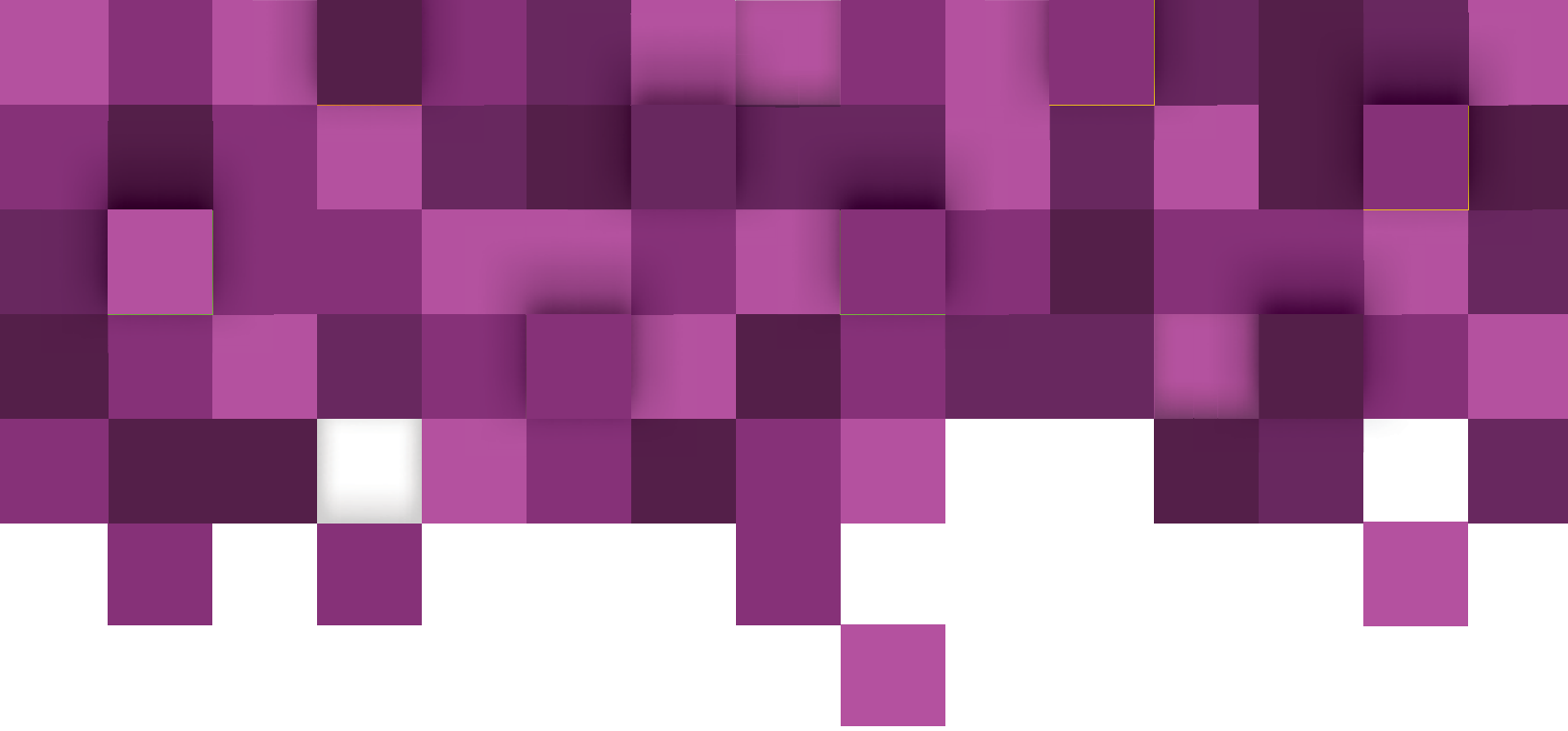


20 SESSIONS

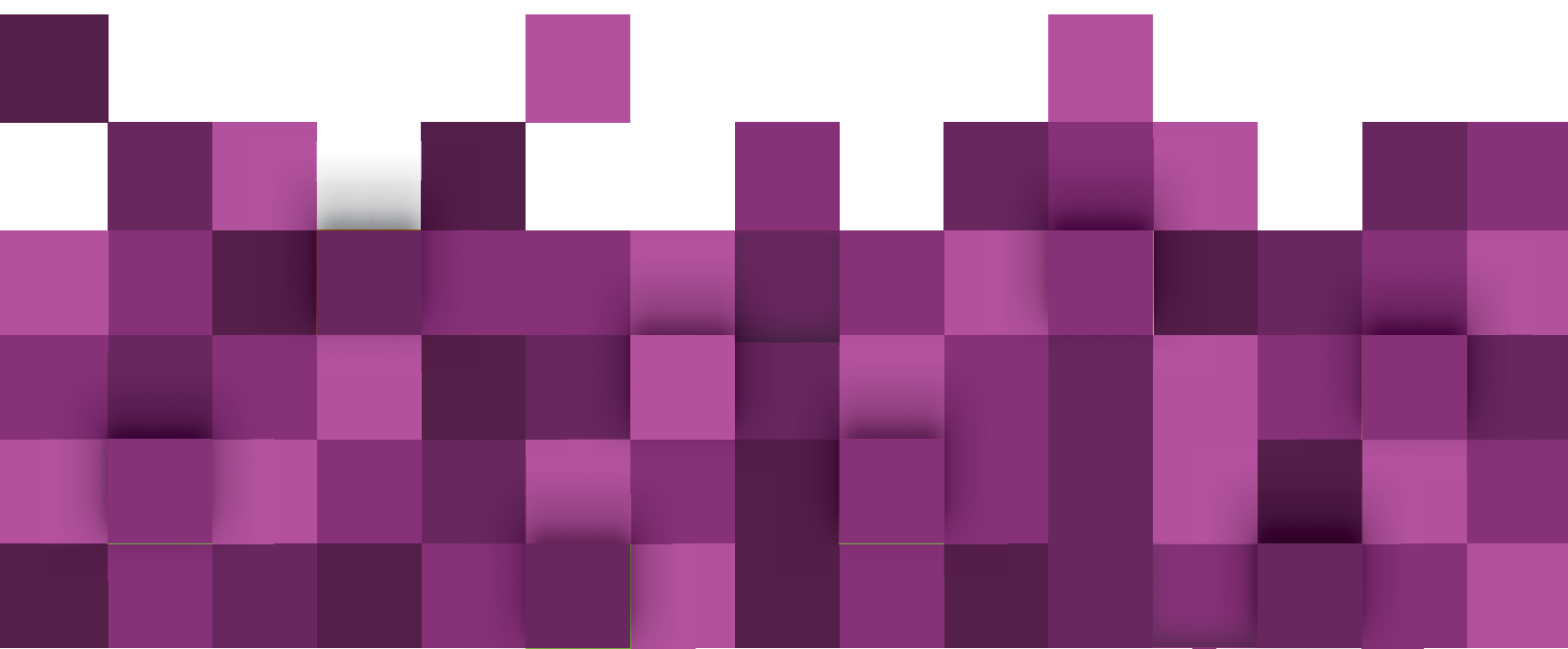


8 YOUTH PRESENTERS





Elevating **equitable** and **transformative practices**
in arts education policy and leadership



Annual Survey

AEP conducted the third Annual Survey for partners, affiliates and others in our network to provide honest feedback on AEP's work and relationships. 63 participants completed the survey over a two-month window. This survey will be conducted bi-annually going forward.

Overall experience with AEP.



72% outstanding or above average

AEP provides opportunities to listen and learn from the experience and knowledge of others



79% agreed or strongly agreed

AEP keeps respondents informed on state policy issues related to arts education.



72% agreed or strongly agreed

AEP cultivates a strong, effective and active network of partners and affiliates.



65% agreed or strongly agreed



AEP Staff

When asked about AEP staff, participants in the Annual Survey said that:

AEP staff members are responsive to their needs.



88% agreed or strongly agreed

AEP staff members they have interacted with embody a strong commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.



88% agreed or strongly agreed

They feel comfortable approaching an AEP staff member when they need help.



91% outstanding or above average

most used

Respondents indicated the **resources** they used most were:

1. ArtsEd Digest
2. ArtsEdSearch
3. Annual Convening
4. ArtScan
5. Written Research

most valuable

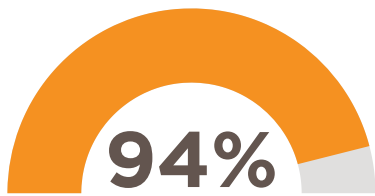
Respondents said the most valuable **resources** were:

1. Written Research
2. Annual Convening
3. ArtScan
4. ArtsEd Digest
5. Success Stories

Annual Convening

This year as a part of collaboration with the OF/BY/FOR ALL Change Network, AEP focused on fostering relationships with policymakers at the Annual Convening. The event attracted 184 attendees, including 11 staff members and 44 non-staff speakers Sept. 12-13 in Pittsburgh. This was the first Annual Convening for 56% of registrants. This year's event also included a STEAM ancillary event in collaboration with ECS.

In the post-event survey, 94% of participants felt the goals they had for attending the Annual Convening were met.

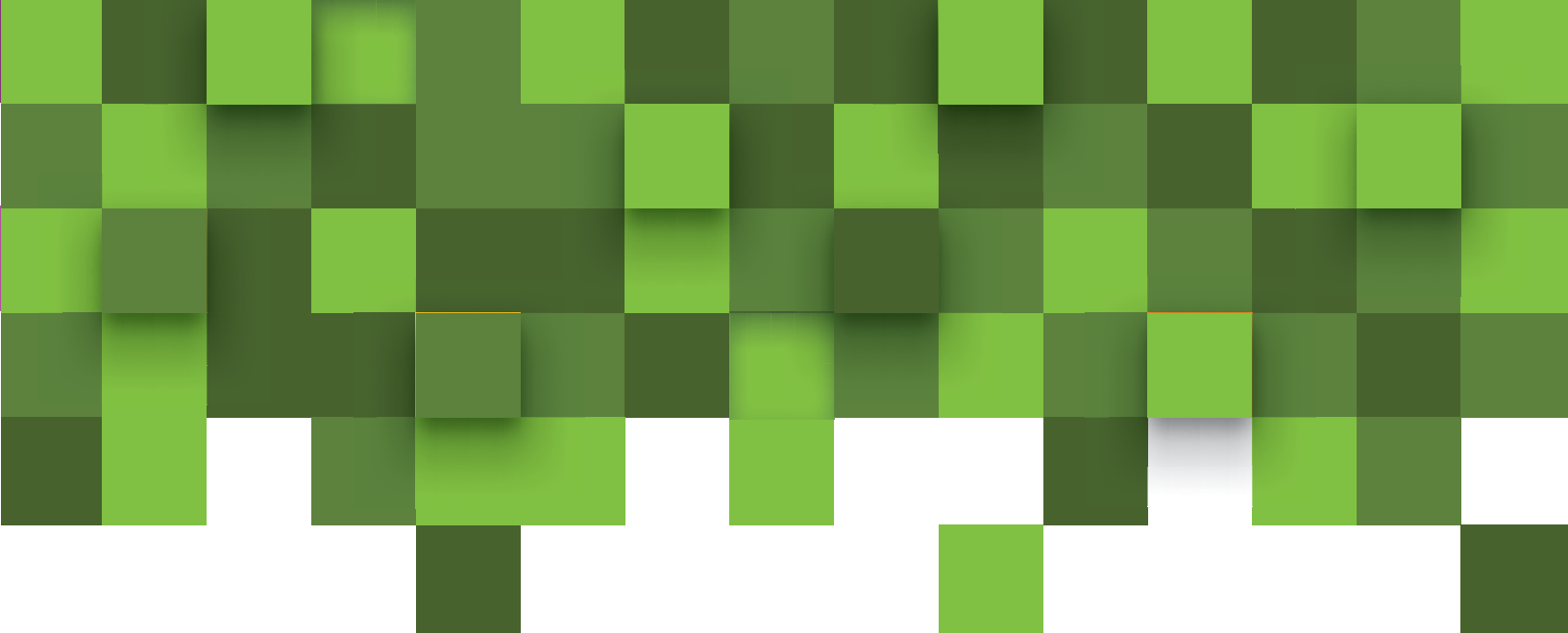


The Annual Convening met participants goals by:

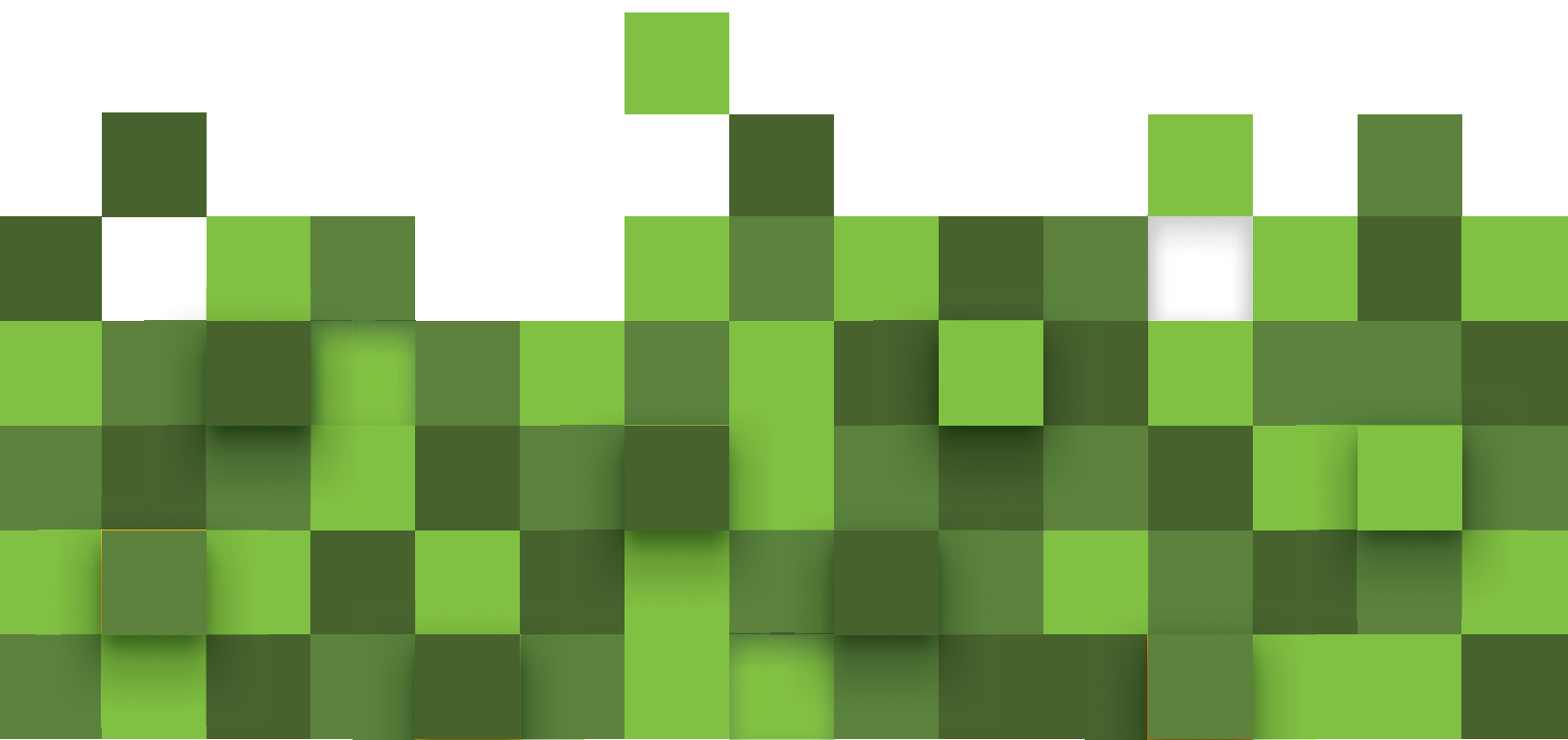
- 1 Providing opportunities to listen and learn from the experience and knowledge of others.
- 2 Providing opportunities to meaningfully connect with other attendees.
- 3 Providing opportunities to help attendees build new and/or strengthen relationships with the organizations represented on the agenda.

Attendees described the Annual Convening as:





Promoting the **value of arts education** for every student across all educational environments

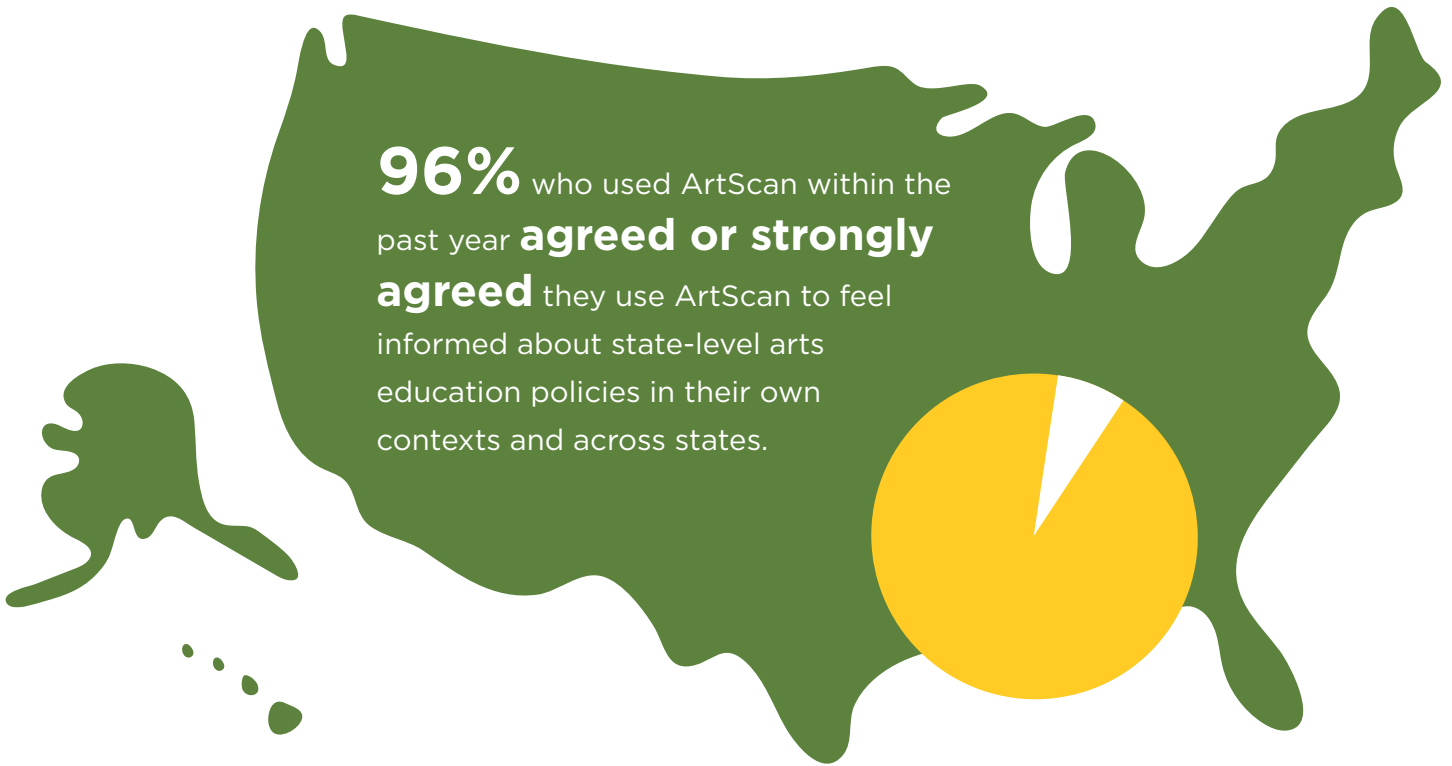




6,383 page visits

ArtScan

In April, AEP released the annual update to **ArtScan**. Some notable updates include three states adopting STEAM or arts diploma seals, and five states who adopted alternative options to earning required arts credits for high school graduation.



ArtScan is the key thing that made the difference in updating our arts standards.



- from the AEP Annual Survey



835 page visits

Success Stories

This year, AEP published two new success stories. **How Birdseed Collective Cultivates Community** describes Birdseed Collective’s impact on the socioeconomic climate of Denver through its innovative arts and humanities offerings. **A Pathway for Future Educator Success** highlights Millersville University’s Future Educator Pathway Program, a grow-your-own program in Pennsylvania.



1,887 page visits

Creative Pathways: Arts Education in Juvenile Justice Systems

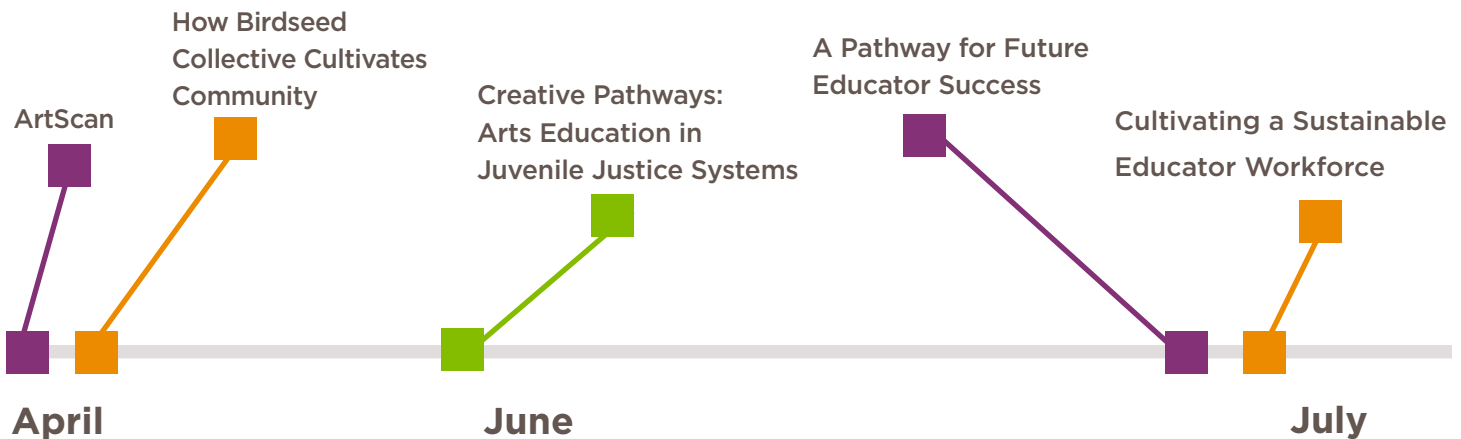
In June, the AEP team rolled out the **Creative Pathways: Art Education in Juvenile Justice Systems** resource page. The page offers policy and program information, among other resources, related to arts learning within the juvenile justice system.



1,143 page visits

Cultivating a Sustainable Educator Workforce

In July, AEP released the **Cultivating a Sustainable Educator Community** resource webpage. The page provides information on arts teacher retention, preparation, recruitment and development as they relate to states with arts teacher shortages



 **66,923** page visits

ArtsEdSearch

The AEP team, in collaboration with consultant Asif Majid, reimagined updates to **ArtsEdSearch**. ArtsEdSearch reviews and research updates have paused for the 2024-25 year until the updates are complete. The AEP team and Asif facilitated focus groups with internal and external partners to finalize a purpose statement to guide the next phase of work. AEP expects to pilot a new review process in 2025.

Studies with the most views



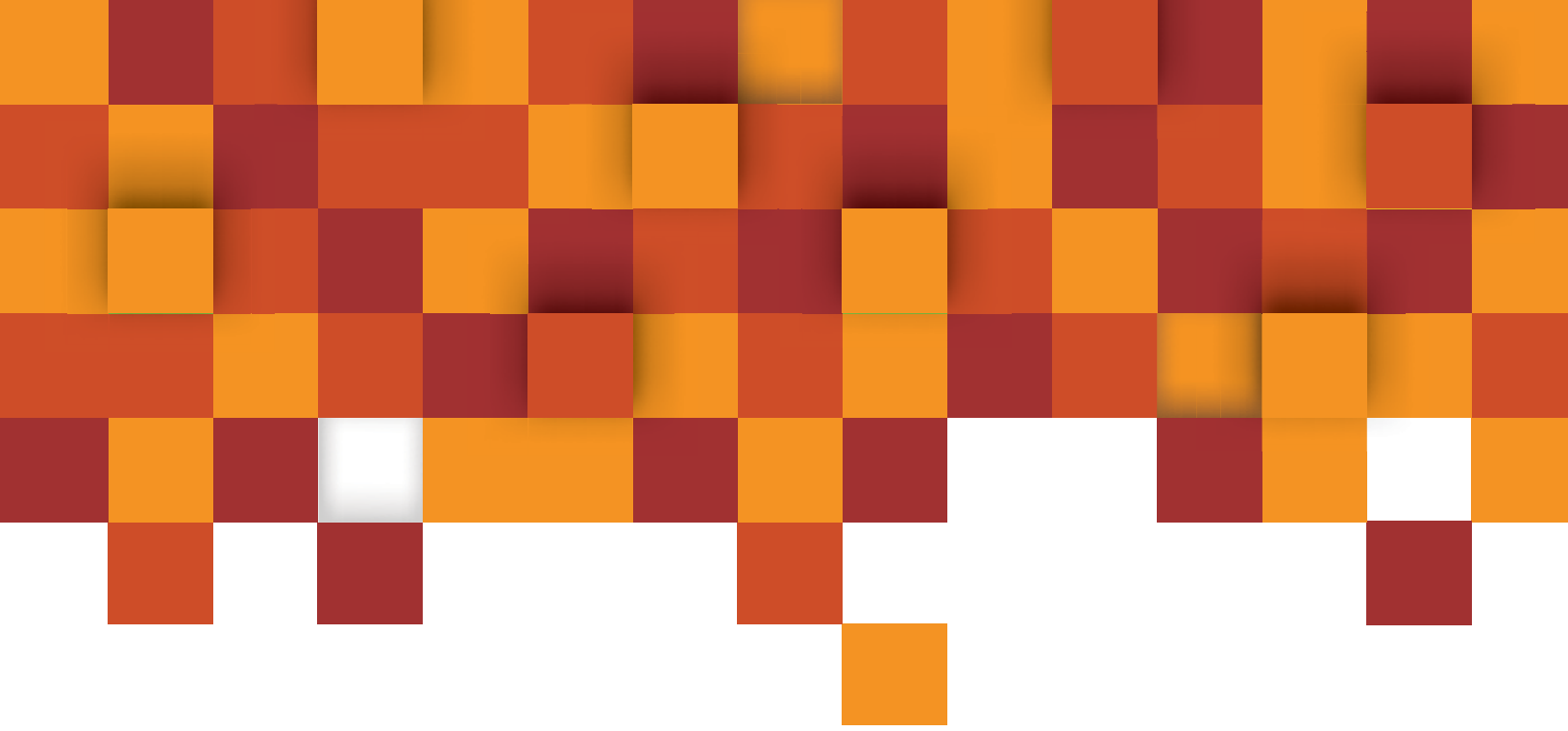
Arts Education and the High School Dropout Problem (2015)
1,875 views

How Being a Teaching Artist Can Influence K-12 Art Education (2010)
1,799 views

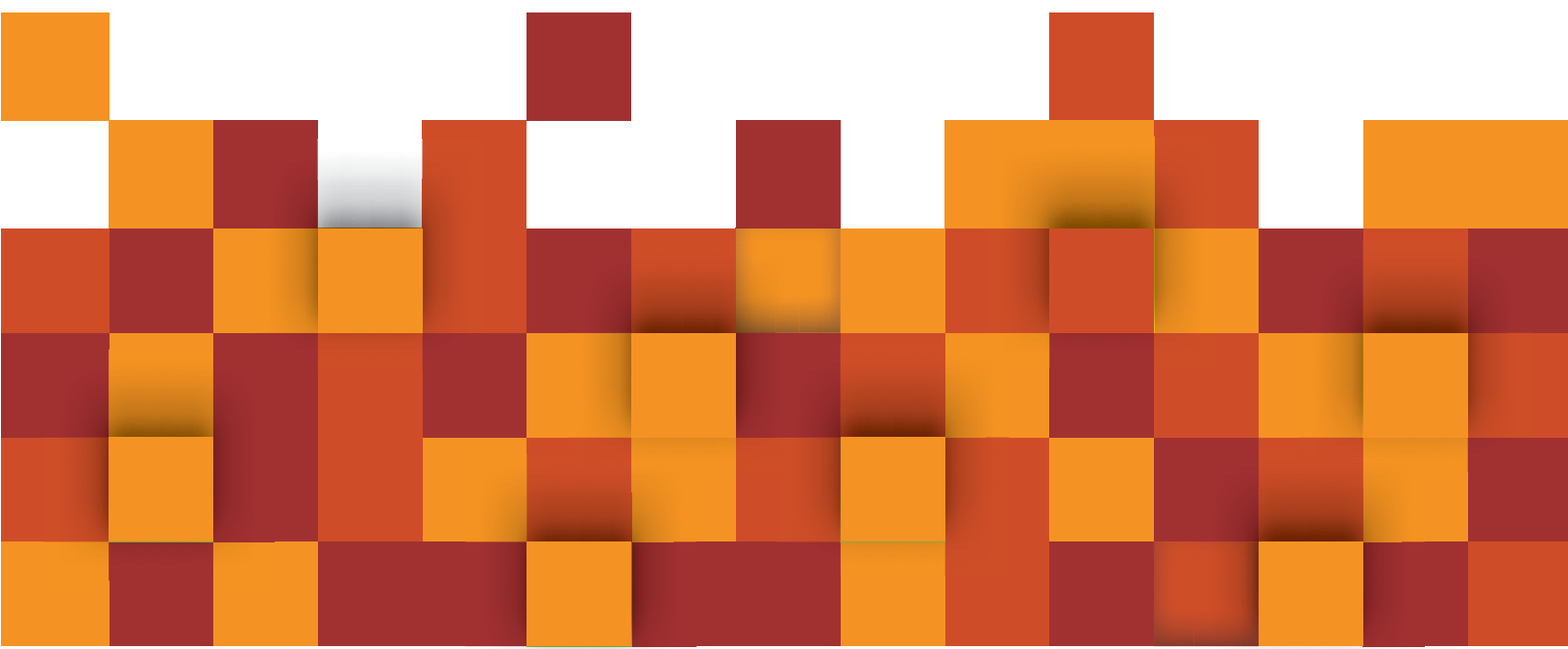
Improvisational Theater Classes Improve Self-Concept (2020)
1,640 views

Arts Education and Positive Youth Development: Cognitive, Behavioral, and Social Outcomes of Adolescents Who Study the Arts (2013)
1,612 views

Applied Theatre at the Heart of Educational Reform: An Impact and Sustainability Analysis: An empirical study (2010)
1,496 views



Cultivating a **strong** and **collaborative network**
of arts and education leaders



AEP Hosted Meetings

Partnership Meetings

This year, AEP hosted three in-person and virtual Partnership Meetings for over 50 attendees. In the virtual meeting, we heard from three students about their research on the arts and mental health.

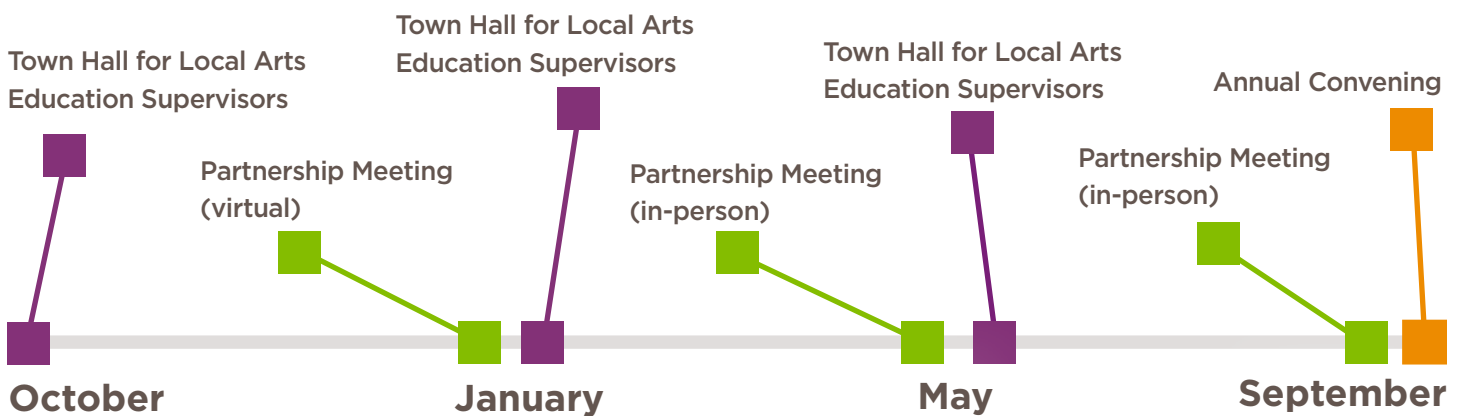
For the first time, AEP hosted two in-person Partnership Meetings. The first meeting was held in Denver to build relationships in anticipation for local planning committee recruitment. The second was held in Pittsburgh alongside the Annual Convening and focused on fostering partnership through connection activities.

In the Annual Survey, respondents chose reasons why they attended Partnership Meetings. In order of most chosen to least, participants indicated they attended to:

- 1 **Feel knowledgeable about the work** of other partners and affiliates.
- 2 Be aware of AEP's **work, products and services**.
- 3 **Connect** with other partners/affiliates.
- 4 **Connect** with other AEP staff.

Town Halls for Local Arts Education Supervisors

AEP supported the Town Hall co-chairs to host three Town Halls for Local Arts Education Supervisors. These virtual meetings convened over 150 participants to talk about the issues facing school districts and programs. Across the three webinars, we learned about course code systems, data collection limitations, the Connected Arts Network and educator burnout and self-care.





Working Groups

Arts Education Policy Working Group

After consulting the policy working group chairs, this working group is now dissolved. There are other groups outside of AEP with similar membership and focus, making this group duplicative. The Town Hall for Local Arts Education Supervisors, led by volunteer co-chairs Latasha Casterlow-Lalla, Lindsay Halford, Mario Rossero and Nina Unitas continued to explore topics of interest to local arts education supervisors.

Data Working Group

Chairs:

Kelly Bisogno (*State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education*)

Amanda Karhuse (*National Association for Music Education*)

This year, AEP worked with the Data Working Group's co-chairs to finalize the data report draft. The Data Working Group first met in 2023 to investigate arts education data collection and reporting at the national, state, regional and local levels. The group's goal was to discover where data are being collected and reported and where gaps in data still exist.

Equity Working Group

After consulting with the chairs, this working group will be dissolved. The group's initial goals have been met, and no new projects have surfaced to continue the working group.

Partnerships With Higher Ed: Policy, Programs and Research

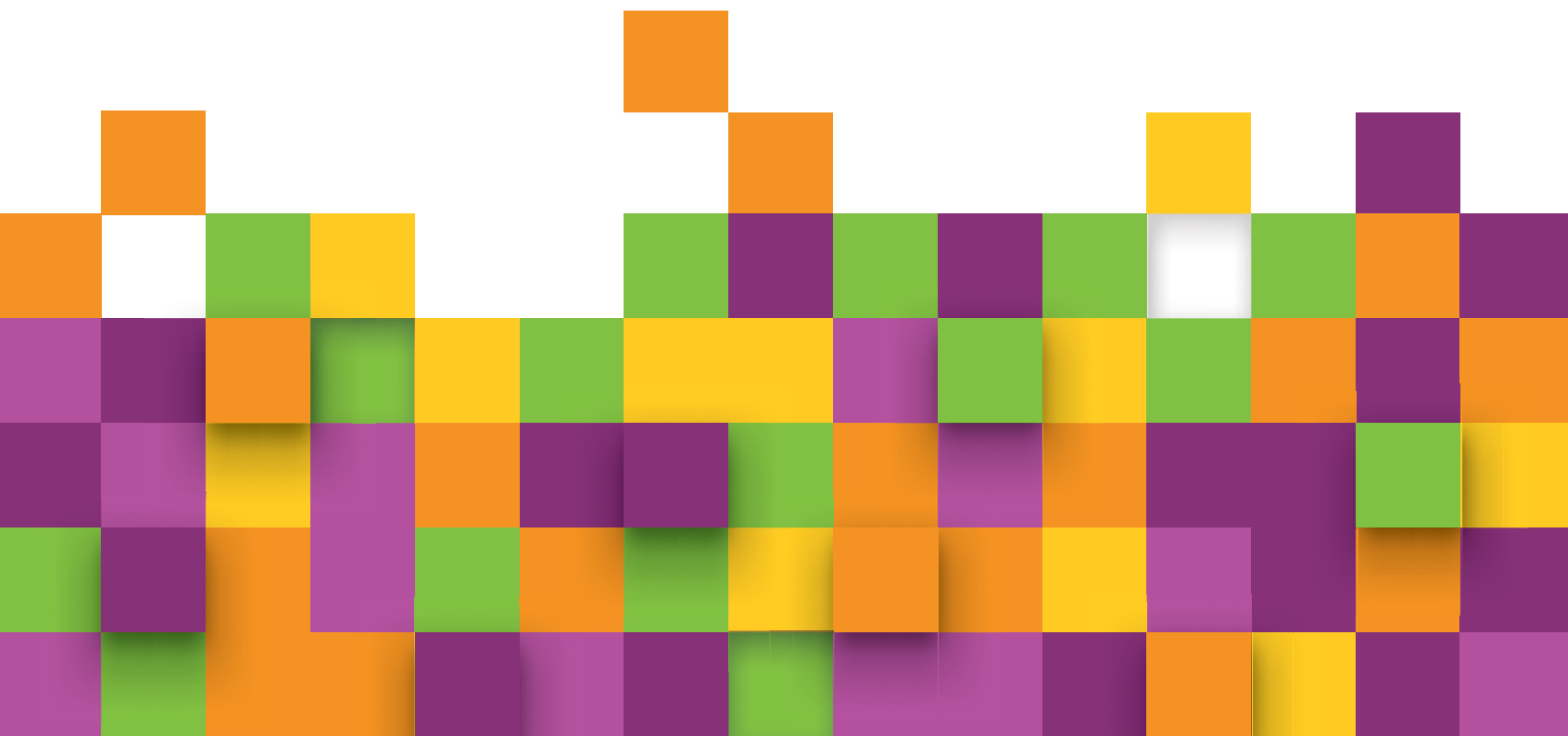
Chairs:

Debbie Arseneaux (*The Learning Alliance*)

With input from the chairs, AEP decided to have the group support ongoing teacher recruitment and retention work. The group will focus on teacher recruitment strategies in higher education.



Appendix



Communications

ArtsEd Digest:

ArtsEd Digest, AEP's biweekly newsletter, ended the year with 5,975 subscribers. The average open rate for the Digest increased from 40% in 2023 to 47% in 2024. The average click-through rate decreased from 7.8% to 6.8%.

Social Media:

	Tweets or Posts	Clicks	Followers or Fans
Twitter	83	24.7k	8,965
Facebook	84	12.8k	4,937
LinkedIn	83	3.3k	5,506

Website:

www.aep-arts.org - 127,221 total visits Pages with most visits:

- [ArtScan](#) | 6,383 views
- [2024 Annual Convening](#) | 5,852 views
- [Theatre Counts](#) | 5,796 views
- [About AEP](#) | 5,187 views
- [ArtScan State Profiles](#) | 3,519

[ArtsEd Amplified](#) - 11 total posts Posts with most views:

- [Balancing the Promise and Peril of AI in Art Education](#) | 3,434 views
- [The ESSER III Deadline Explained](#) | 2,683 views
- [What's New in Arts Education Policy?](#) | 1,136 views
- [Creativity and Imagination](#) | 1,125 views
- [The Arts Educator Workforce](#) | 961 views

Education Resource Information Center:

The Education Resource Information Center (ERIC) hosts a number of AEP's resources. Over the year, AEP's resources were viewed 739 times and were downloaded 342. The top resources were:

	Views	Downloads
Theatre Counts	345	145
Visual Arts Matter	169	88
Success Story: Arts Connect Houston	47	20
The Arts Leading the Way to Student Success	37	14
2024 ArtScan at a Glance	33	19

AEP was mentioned in other media and press releases eight times:

Artful Impact: The Data-Driven Case for Arts Education and its Role in Fostering Entrepreneurship (published by I Paint My Mind on Feb. 5, 2024)

Celebrating all of the arts in our public schools (published by EdNC on March 4, 2024)

Arts Educators Have Parts to Play in Mental Health (published by Colorado Health Institute on March 11, 2024)

DEYA Co-founders Named to National Arts Education Partnership Advisory Council (published by DBusiness on April 8, 2024)

How Music Primes the Brain for Learning (published by the National Federation of State High School Associations on April 12, 2024)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Empire Partners With Riverside Art Museum to Cultivate Creativity Through Mentorship (published by Inland Empire on April 28)

The Benefits of Arts in Education: Fostering More Than Creativity (published by Long Island Hebrew Academy on May 20, 2024)

Learning, Joy, and Equity: A New Framework for Elementary Education (published by New America on July 15, 2024)

Information Requests

Arts Education Bill Tracking

Revision to Content Standards in Humanities

Arts Integration Resources

Arts Education Graduation Requirements

New Partners and Affiliates

Partners:

Dramatic Results

National Partnership for Juvenile Services

Think 360 Arts for Learning

Affiliates:

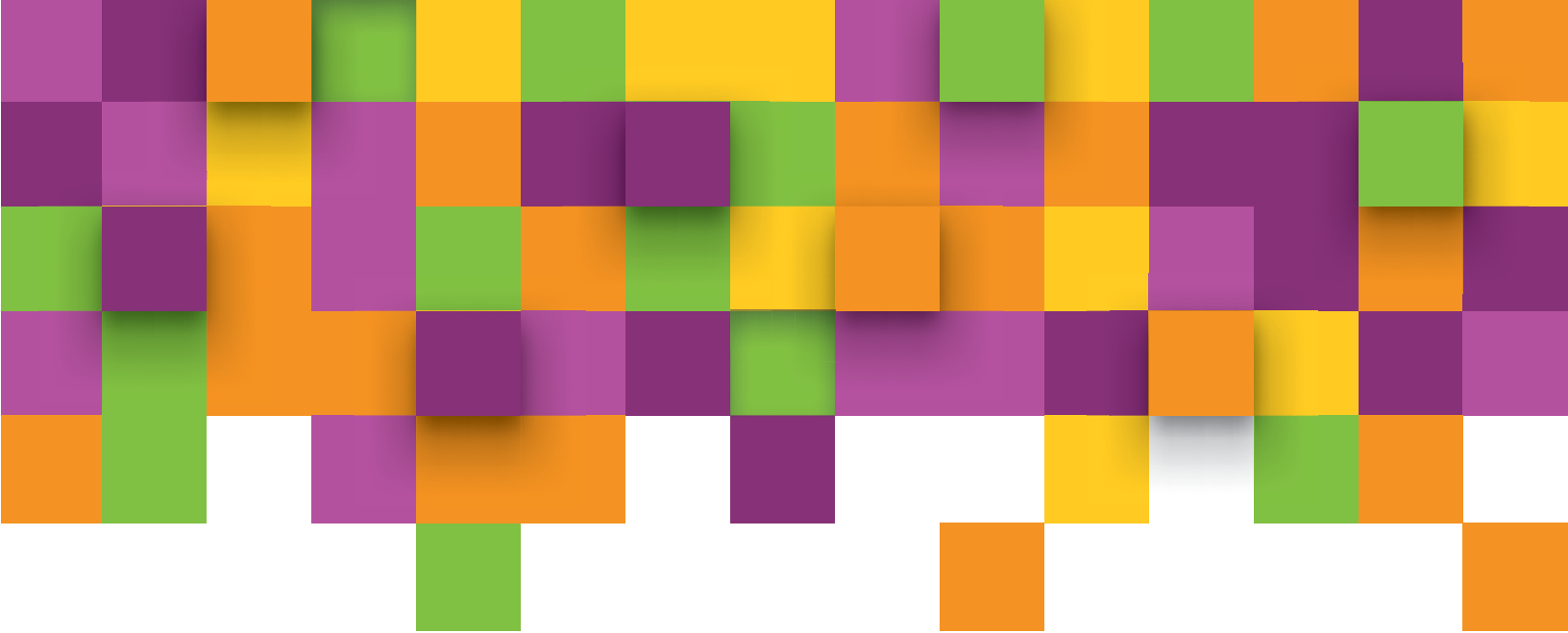
Arts Administrators of Color Network
Arts for All
ArtsEd Washington
Brooks Center for the Performing Arts at Clemson University
Cada Casa
Classics 4 Kids
IMEVISION
Inspired Child
Mizfit Inc.
NUTCRACKER! Magical Christmas Ballet

People Over Profit Foundation
RAZ Land Arts
Rio Grande Academy of Fine Arts
Socio Arts and Culture
Stillman College
The Forum for Youth Investment
The Kalla Space
The Well
United Arts Central Florida
Usanii Village Africa

Advisory Council:

A+ Schools of North Carolina
American String Teachers Association
ArtsNOW Learning
Baltimore Children and Youth Fund
Cathedral Arts Project
Crayola and Tennessee Art Education Association
DC Public Schools
Detroit Excellence in Youth Arts (Connect Detroit)
Educational Theatre Association
Ingenuity, Inc.
International Association of Blacks in Dance
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
The Learning Alliance
Local Learning Network
MINDPOP
National Association for Music Education
NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants)

National Art Education Association
National Endowment for the Arts
National Guild for Community Arts Education
National Partnership for Juvenile Services
Ohio Music Education Association
Partners for Rural Impact
Pennsylvania Music Educators Association
Prince Georges County Public Schools
Social Art and Culture
Stillman College
State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education
Youth representative
 Amy Roblero-Perez, undergraduate student,
 Swarthmore College
U.S. Department of Education
Wallace Foundation
Wisconsin Music Educators Association



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