

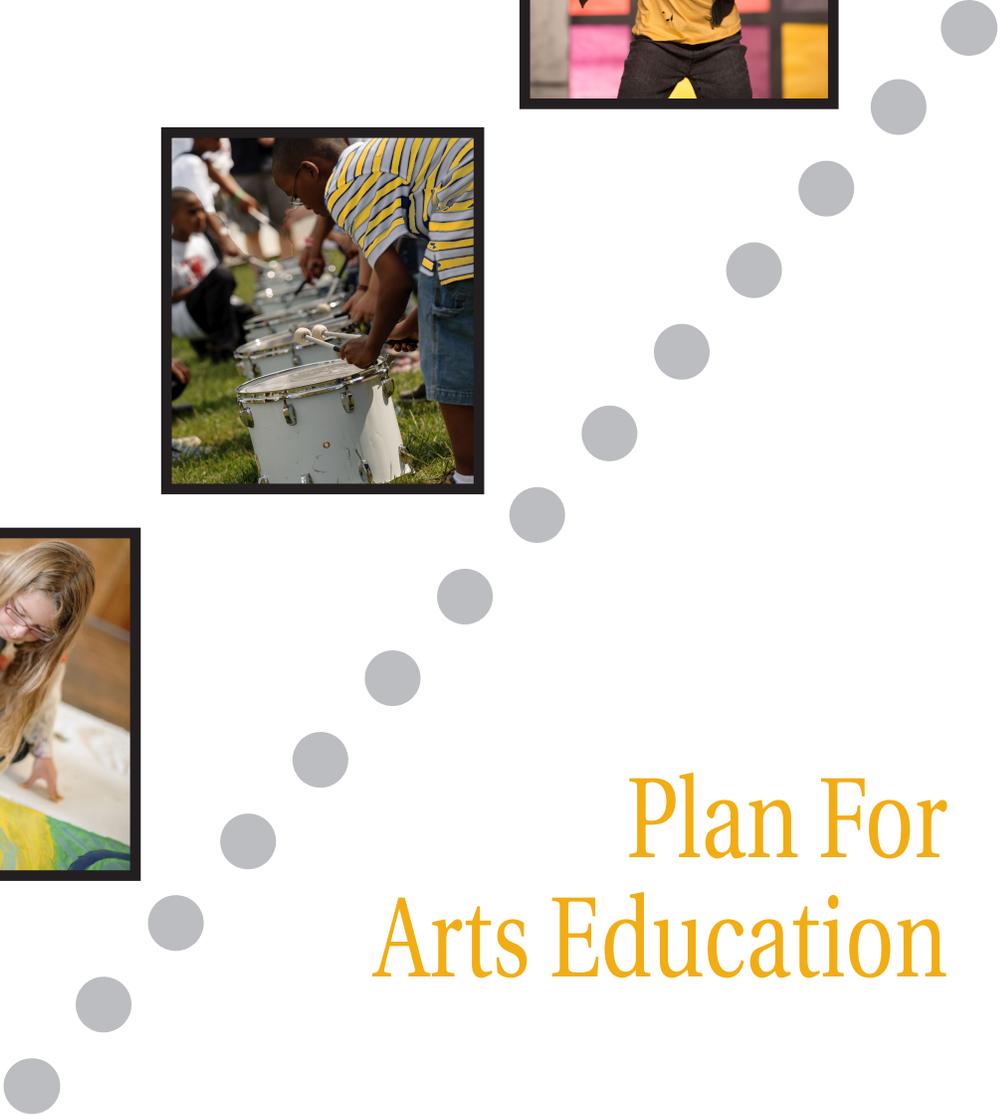


# Plan For Arts Education

Created by the  
Arts Education Leadership Team

A partnership between the  
Alabama State Council on the Arts and the  
Alabama State Department of Education

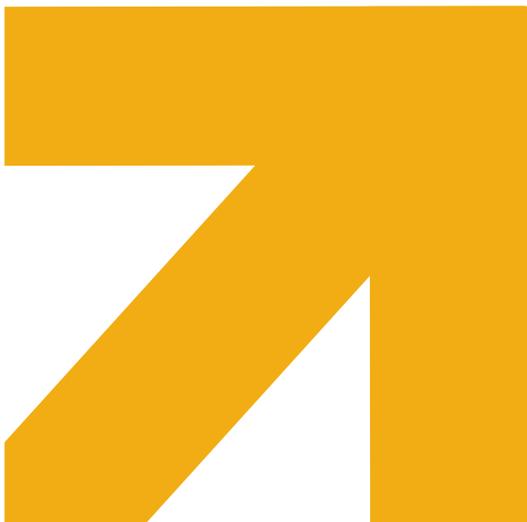
*Artistic Literacy Consortium*  
*Creatively Innovating Alabama's Future*



# Plan For Arts Education

*Artistic Literacy Consortium  
Creatively Innovating Alabama's Future*

*Executive Summary  
February 2016*



**This plan endorsed by**

Alabama State Council on the Arts  
Alabama State Department of Education

Alabama A+ Education Partnership  
Alabama Alliance for Arts Education  
Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts  
Alabama Public Television  
Alabama School of Fine Arts

*Creatively Innovating Alabama's Future*



Artistic Literacy Consortium  
Alabama State Council on the Arts  
201 Monroe Street, Suite 110  
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334-242- 4076, ext. 241

*The shared evaluation model included in this plan is funded in part  
by a Collective Impact Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.*



## Overview

In September 2013, the Arts Education Leadership Team was established to create a plan for arts education that will make measurable progress toward the development of artistic and creative literacy for all Alabama students. The membership of this task force included executive level leadership in education, business, communities, government, and cultural institutions. During the first year, these diverse stakeholders explored common interests and created a set of goals to accomplish a shared mission. In the second year, task force membership expanded to include 22 students from across the state, and on September 15, 2015, the Leadership Team approved this plan to be submitted for adoption in the state of Alabama.

## Need

In September 2012, a survey on access and quality of arts education in public schools in Alabama was administered to school principals through the office of state superintendent, Dr. Tommy Bice. Key findings from this baseline study indicated not only a lack of arts education in many of Alabama schools, but also indicated an inequity of access to specific populations and areas of the state.



## Art Matters

- 90% of the highest scoring schools on the ACT Plan have high access to arts education.
- 93% of the lowest scoring schools on the ACT Plan have minimal to no access to arts education.

## Who You Are Matters

- Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch in Alabama have a greater risk of receiving no arts education.
- African American students in Alabama have a greater risk of receiving no arts education.

## Where You Live Matters



- 76% of students living in rural areas of Alabama have minimal to no access to arts education.
- 63% of students living in urban areas of Alabama have minimal to no access to arts education.
- 48% of students living in suburban areas of Alabama have minimal to no access to arts education.

## Age Matters



- 55% of elementary school students have minimal to no access to arts education.
- 80% of middle school students have minimal to no access to arts education.
- 81% of high school age students have minimal to no access to arts education.



## Principals Cite Barriers



- Principals cite arts education as a currently under funded and undersupported area of education.
- Principals cite limited funding, schedule inflexibility, and overemphasis on reading and math instruction as obstacles to arts education.

The Executive Summary of the Access and Quality of Arts Education in Public Schools in Alabama Baseline Data Analysis prepared by Dr. Stacy Hughey Surman, Ph.D.; The University of Alabama, College of Education, Department of Educational Studies. Author Contact: [ssurman@ua.edu](mailto:ssurman@ua.edu) or (205) 348-7729.



## In Context

Whereas access to arts education in Alabama is bleak, there are many programs, initiatives, and communities working hard to fill in the gaps. Success stories abound, and many classroom teachers receive excellent training in arts integration each year during summer workshops provided by the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education and the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts. The Alabama State Council on the Arts provides small grants and technical assistance to schools and organizations in support of arts education. The Alabama State Department of Education is providing seed funding to schools to either enhance arts programs



or build new ones. Our state is home to numerous quality arts organizations and individual artists. The arts resources in Alabama are rich and diverse.

*What is needed is a plan to organize and align these resources in support of the best possible education for Alabama students.*

## The Artistic Literacy Consortium

The Arts Education Leadership Team proposes the establishment of the Artistic Literacy Consortium to make collective impact for arts education in the state of Alabama. As a consortium, members join to combine resources to accomplish their shared mission and goals with the desired outcome of providing artistic literacy to every Alabama student.

## Multiple Stakeholders

### THE PLAN (In Summary)

This plan, recommended by the Arts Education Leadership Team, is not a plan with responsibilities limited to any one stakeholder, but rather a plan to create collective impact, with the participation of multiple and diverse stakeholders. All stakeholders, whether working locally or statewide, have the power to make measureable progress toward the mission and goals of the Artistic Literacy Consortium. In order to do so, everyone should align their efforts, agree to track progress through a shared evaluation system, and share lessons learned from the information gained through that evaluation.

## Shared Mission



*To provide fully funded, high-quality arts education that enlightens, inspires, and develops in every Alabama student the creative and innovative thinking necessary to ensure college and career readiness.*

## Shared Goals



### **Build expectations for the arts to enhance economy, community, and quality of life**

- target messaging
- strengthen advocacy efforts
- develop public policy

### **Provide both virtual and actual access and equity to quality arts learning for all students**

- provide sequential, standards-based arts instruction by qualified arts educators
- train educators qualified in diverse fields of study to connect standards-based arts learning to their curriculum
- train community arts organizations and teaching artists in effective collaborations that provide standards-based learning

### **Advance arts education opportunities to facilitate college and career readiness**

- align arts instruction to support college and career ready standards
- balance instruction in the arts between creating, performing, and responding to foster the skills needed in a competitive workforce, including creativity, innovation, persistence, and the ability to take risk
- provide opportunities for collaborations between teachers, programs, businesses, community organizations, and arts organizations to engage students in innovative, real world, multi-disciplinary learning



## Employ the arts as a catalyst to create and maintain an engaged school and community environment

- connect schools and communities by sharing with and involving parents, local businesses, community organizations, and policy makers
- provide opportunities for community partners and schools to collaborate on the planning and implementation of comprehensive arts education programming
- involve students in identifying and addressing community challenges and opportunities through problem solving in the arts.



## Iterative Design Process

Sharing lessons learned is strategic in this plan, because it is not a linear plan with specific methods and outcomes projected along the way. It is designed to be flexible, allowing for experimentation, in order to continually grow and learn and to replicate or adapt what is relevant.

The current plan proposes a vision for a structure that the Arts Education Leadership Team believes has the potential to create substantial impact for arts education in Alabama. At the same time, the team acknowledges that many factors may influence the ability to achieve this vision, and that while the concept may be valid, the implementation of that concept will present its own challenges. While moving toward that vision, other pathways equally as effective, or even more so, may present themselves and cause the plan to change.

For this reason, the Arts Education Leadership Team recommends that the Artistic Literacy Consortium find a way to institutionalize its administrative structure to allow for a consistency of leadership, planning, and purpose. A steady and persistent momentum toward consortium goals will be essential for success.

The ultimate goal for this plan is twofold: every school in the state of Alabama will have fully funded, high-quality arts education programs for every student; and every arts and cultural organization will have high-quality, arts education programs that work hand-in-hand with our schools to enhance our communities and our lives.

## A Structure For Impact

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The Arts Education Leadership Team proposes a structure (see chart on page 11) to provide regional impact within five years and includes the hope that this regional support will move toward accomplishing the final goal within ten years. The structure proposes a partnership between the State Department of Education and the Alabama State Council on the Arts in regional support centers, providing grassroots support for schools and communities that maximizes the availability of resources from cross sector stakeholders at every level.

## Resource Centers

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Artistic Resource Centers should be strategically placed, regionally, to provide equitable access and quality. Grassroots impact will be strengthened by collaborations with established in-service centers, higher education, and other forms of academic support. In particular, collaborations with Science, Technology, Math, and Reading Initiatives will improve creativity across the board. The use of resource centers should not be limited to schools, but include support for all regional schools and community organizations seeking support for collaborative programs that increase quality and fill the gaps in arts education.



## Recommendations for Department of Education

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As managing partner of the resource centers the State Department of Education should:

- provide at least one full-time qualified curriculum specialist for each of the four major arts disciplines of dance, music, theatre, and visual arts
- provide at least one STEM collaborator (curriculum specialist in math and/or science) with considerable experience in STEM initiatives
- provide at least one CTE collaborator (curriculum specialist with considerable leadership experience in Career Tech programs and initiatives)
- facilitate collaborations between resource center personnel and other regional support centers established by the ALSDE (i.e in-service centers, birth to career centers, higher education partners)

## Recommendations for Arts Council



As a supporting partner of the resource centers, the Alabama State Council on the Arts should:

- appoint a major arts organization for each regional resource center to collaborate with ALSDE personnel, using their expertise and contacts to develop community partnerships, programming, professional development, and resources
- support collaborations between ALSDE personnel and communities
- connect regional artists and organizations to schools by training resource center personnel
- provide training and consulting services to aid in the use of the shared evaluation system required of all programs that receive funding through an Artistic Literacy Initiative

Resource Center personnel should collaborate to create and maintain resources to be used by schools and communities. These centers should strive to increase possibilities for seamless arts experiences for all young people, at school, at home, and in their communities through school programs, afterschool programs, community arts programs, and even virtual environments.



## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Years 1 - 3 (FY 2017-2019)

## Recommendations to Lead State Agencies



In order to move toward regional support for arts education, the following are priority recommendations from the Arts Education Leadership Team to the Lead State Agencies. The purpose of these recommendations is to build a network of efficient and effective partnerships to lay the ground work for collective impact toward quality arts learning for every Alabama student.

## Legislative Support

### *Alabama State Legislature Robert Bentley, Governor*

It is recommended that the Legislature provide additional funding to the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the Alabama State Department of Education, specifically, to support the implementation of the plan created by the Arts Education Leadership Team. Funding should be phased to provide incremental increases for the first five years of the plan, and for maintenance of the plan thereafter, until every student in the state of Alabama has access to fully funded, high-quality arts education that enlightens, inspires, and develops the creative and innovative thinking necessary to ensure college and career readiness.

## Alabama State Council on the Arts Support

### *Alabama State Council on the Arts Al Head, Executive Director*

**Leadership/Facilitator**  
It is recommended that the Alabama State Council on the Arts provide personnel to lead and facilitate the operations of the Artistic Literacy Consortium.

**Shared Evaluation**  
It is recommended that the Alabama State Council on the Arts, in partnership with the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education, establish a shared evaluation system and a practice of collecting qualitative information to be shared among consortium membership.

**Consortium Membership**  
It is recommended that the Alabama State Council on the Arts lead an effort to recruit a broad, diverse, and cross sector membership for the consortium for collective impact.

**Regional Community Leadership Committees**  
It is recommended that the Alabama State Council on the Arts begin to identify organizations with an interest in taking a leadership role regionally, while advancing the mission of the consortium. These organizations should work systematically to gather regional support and cross sector partners to work toward consortium goals.



## Expanded Grants Programs

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It is recommended that the Alabama State Council on the Arts create new and expanded grant funding programs to:

- support the creation of a regional infrastructure to aid in the expansion of community and school partnerships at the local level.
- provide various grant options at the regional level to encourage local innovative projects, initiatives, and research in order to enhance arts education.
- engage local artists and arts organizations in training programs that enhance standards-based instruction and increase opportunities for students to become artistically literate, both in school and within the community.
- facilitate private sector partnerships that participate in on-going planning and that provide matching financial support for arts education statewide.

## State Department of Education Support

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*Alabama State Department of Education*  
*Dr. Tommy Bice, State Superintendent of Schools*

### Leadership

It is recommended that the State Department of Education continue to provide personnel that will take a leadership role in the operations of the Artistic Literacy Consortium.

### Evaluation and Return on Investment

It is recommended that the State Department of Education conduct research to track return on investment through a system that collects information about access to and quality of arts education in all Alabama schools. This system should include the ability to identify correlations between the arts and academic success.

### Policy & Funding

It is recommended that the State Department of Education recognize the arts as integral to the education of every student by exploring ways to:

- revise and update the Alabama Course of Study using current research and best practices and include recommendations for assessments in the arts.
- add statements to the 2020 Plan and the Administrative Code that recognize the value of arts education for every student and create guidelines for developing strong arts programs.
- reinstate an arts graduation requirement. A one credit minimum is recommended.

- Revise and update the Alabama Core Teaching Standards to include artistic literacy as a strategy for teaching and learning for all teachers.
- Revise and update the arts requirements for programs that prepare K-6 teacher candidates, and establish guidelines for the arts in early childhood education programs as well as programs for teacher candidates in PreK-12 in specific fields of study.

### **Collaborations**

It is recommended that the State Department of Education explore possible collaborations between personnel leading initiatives in the Arts, STEM, and CTE and investigate how new collaborations may enhance regional support provided to Alabama schools.

*“What we now have is an opportunity to refocus our innovative and creative efforts on students with relevant and engaging learning rather than just a score on a test.”*

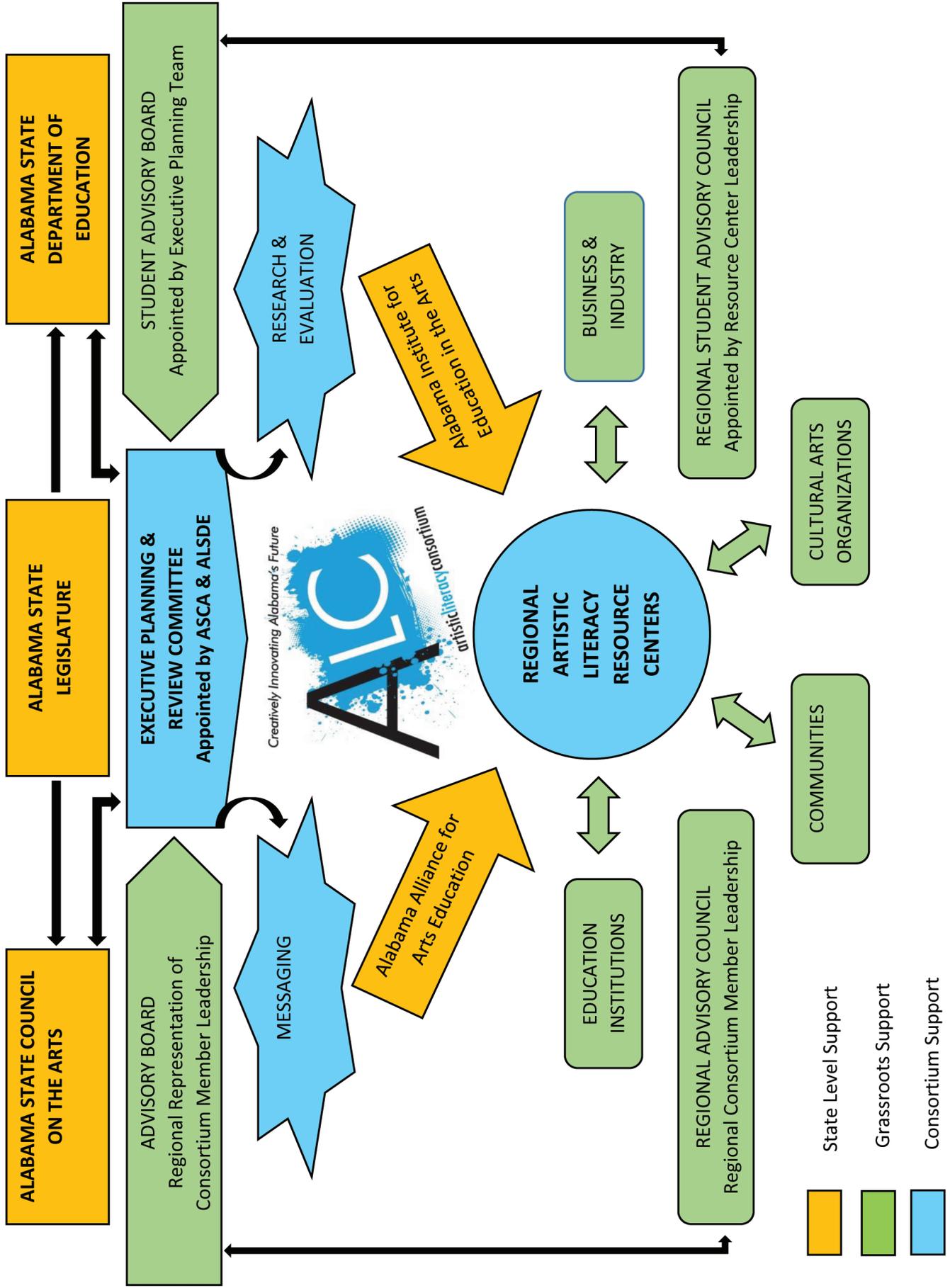
Dr. Tommy Bice  
State Superintendent of Schools

*“A long-standing goal of the Council is to incorporate the arts as an essential element in the educational experience of all Alabamians. This plan provides an avenue for achieving great progress toward such an important reality.”*

Al Head  
Alabama State Council on the Arts

# VISION FOR SUCCESS

## ARTISTIC LITERACY CONSORTIUM



### ***Arts Education Leadership Team***

**Carolyn Akers**, Executive Director, Mobile Area Education Foundation  
**Hector Baeza**, 21st Century Learning Center, Gadsden City Schools  
**Roy J. Clem**, Executive Director, Alabama Public Television  
**Priscilla Hancock Cooper**, Executive Director, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute  
**Randy Davis**, House of Representatives  
**Randy Foster**, Executive Director, Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts  
**Hal W. Fulmer, Ph.D.** Associate Provost and Dean, Troy University  
**Cathy Gassenheimer**, Executive Vice President Alabama Best Practices Center  
**Diana Green**, Arts in Education Program Manager Alabama State Council on the Arts  
**Darius Hill**, Visual Arts, Alabama School of Fine Arts  
**Allison Dillon-Jauken**, Executive Director, The Arts Council, Inc., Huntsville  
**Val Jones**, Visual Arts, Secondary, Guntersville City Schools  
**Martha Beasley Lockett**, Executive Director, Arts Revive, Community Development  
**Andy Meadows**, Arts Education Specialist, Alabama State Department of Education  
**Dr. Michael W. Meeks**, Executive Director, Alabama School of Fine Arts  
**Robin Nelson**, Instructional Services, Alabama State Department of Education  
**Buddy Palmer**, President & CEO, Create Birmingham  
**Robert D. Powers**, President, Eufaula Agency, Inc.  
**Donna Russell**, Executive Director, Alabama Alliance for Arts Education  
**Tina Watts**, Global Corporate Citizenship, The Boeing Company  
**Dr. Sara Womack**, NBCT, Music, Greystone Elementary School  
**Dr. Sara Wright**, Academic Dean, Trinity Presbyterian School

### ***Junior Arts Education Leadership Team***

**Ivana Angion**, Dallas County High School  
**Delima Bhagat**, Spain Park High School  
**Sarah Burgner**, Alabama School of Fine Arts  
**Brittany Carey-Fox**, Everest Academy  
**Courtney Cooper**, Madison City Schools  
**Shilo Cupples**, University of North Alabama  
**Cole DeBardelaben**, Trinity Presbyterian School, Troy University  
**Ashley Edwards**, Grissom High School  
**Tristan Fowler**, Dothan High School  
**Kendell Brooke Gullede**, Jacksonville State University  
**D'Anthony Jackson**, University of West Alabama  
**Hannah A. Johnson**, Wallace Community College, Andalusia  
**Maia Julianne Kennedy**, Huntsville High School  
**Megan Kesting**, Huntsville High School  
**Mürron Marchik**, Scottsboro High School  
**Amani Moore**, Jefferson County IB School  
**Meredith Moore**, Trinity Presbyterian School  
**John Pettway**, Keith High School  
**Mollie Schaefer**, University of North Alabama  
**Erin Shockey**, Bob Jones High School, University of North Alabama  
**Morgan Leigh Stokes**, Florala High School  
**Mustafaa Tajuddin**, Wallace Community College, Selma

## ***Artistic Literacy Consortium***

Academy for Academics & Arts  
Alabama A+ Education Partnership  
Alabama Alliance for Arts Education  
Alabama Best Practices Center  
Alabama Bicentennial Commission  
Alabama Conference of Theatre  
Alabama Dance Council  
Alabama Dance Theatre  
Alabama Educational Theatre Association  
Alabama Folklife Association  
Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts  
Alabama Music Educators Association  
Alabama PTA  
Alabama Public Television  
Alabama School of Fine Arts  
Alabama Shakespeare Festival  
Alabama State Council on the Arts  
Alabama State Department of Education  
Alabama Symphony Orchestra  
Alabama Writers' Forum  
Alabama Youth Ballet Theatre, Inc.  
Alexander City Arts, Inc.  
Alexander City Schools  
Andalusia Ballet  
ARS NOVA, Inc.  
Art Ed Central  
ARTS Artists Responding to Students  
Arts Association of East Alabama  
Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa  
ArtsHuntsville  
ArtsRevive Community Development Corporation  
Azalea City Center for the Arts  
Baldwin County Alliance for Arts Education  
Belgreen High School  
Birmingham Education Foundation  
Black Belt Community Foundation  
Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center  
Burritt Museum  
City of Auburn  
Cloverdale Playhouse  
Community Education Association  
Corner Theatre Academy (Corner High School)  
Create Birmingham  
Creative and Performing Arts Magnet at Lee High School  
Dance Academy of Mobile  
Dance All Productions, Inc.  
Dance Foundation  
Dance Without Limits  
Decatur Youth Symphony  
Design Alabama  
Dora High School  
Etowah County Schools  
Eufaula Agency, Inc.

Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theatre & Academy  
Full Scale School of Music  
Gadsden Cultural Arts Foundation  
Grove Hill Arts Council, Inc.  
Guntersville City Schools  
Huntsville Ballet Company  
James Clemens High School Theatre  
Kiln Studio & Gallery  
Mobile Museum of Art  
Mobile Symphony  
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts  
Montgomery Music Project  
Natyana: Dance of India  
Perry County School System  
Phil Campbell Elementary School  
Pike Road Schools  
Princess Theatre Center for the Performing Arts  
Saint John AME Church  
Selma Art Guild  
Shelby County Arts Council  
SHIFT  
Sidewalk Film Festival  
Southeast Alabama Dance Company  
Sunnyside Theatre  
Theatre Tuscaloosa  
Town of Pike Road  
Trinity Presbyterian School  
Troy-Pike Cultural Arts Center  
University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences  
University of Alabama Dance Program  
Vance Elementary School  
Virginia Samford Theatre  
Walker County Arts Alliance  
Wiregrass Museum of Art  
W.O. Palmer Elementary School  
Young Jewelers

### ***Individual Members***

Lori Allen  
Lakesha Green  
Anna Mary Harrison  
Ibrahim Lee  
Linda Mason  
Regan McClung  
Noemi Oeding  
Brooke B. Olvey  
Jessica Peppers  
Jo Taylor  
Amy Vest



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