



Side x Side ignites academic excellence in education through comprehensive arts-based programs bringing critical thinking, creativity and innovation into the classroom.

Side x Side partners with the University of Southern Maine, Bates College, local visiting artists and professional experts. Side x Side makes a profound and lasting impact on our schools and communities through four primary objectives:

**1**

**STRENGTHENING**  
student achievement  
through engaging  
hands-on projects

**2**

**FACILITATING**  
teacher  
development and  
intern practicum

**3**

**BUILDING &  
STIMULATING**  
cooperative and lasting  
partnerships among the  
arts, education and  
professional communities

**4**

**PRESENTING**  
broad career paths to  
students through  
visiting experts and  
artists

## RESEARCH SHOWS

**Students with high involvement in arts perform better in school and stay in school longer.**

Caldwell, B. & Vaughan, T. (2011). *Transforming Education through the Arts.* 1-170.

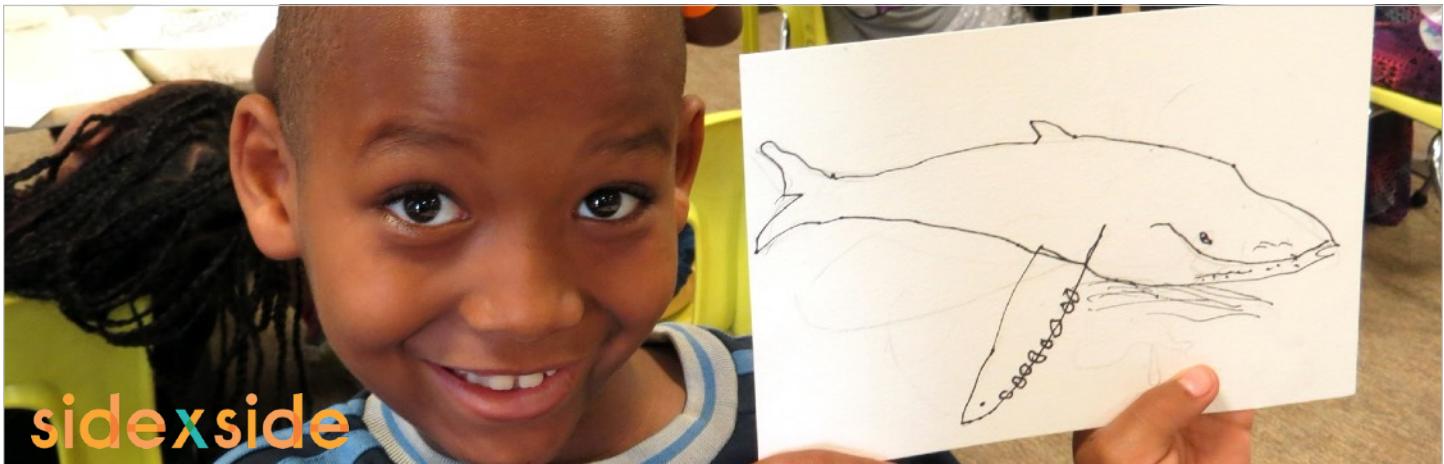
**Involving the arts in education can help to narrow the achievement gap for underserved and at-risk students.**

Catterall, S. James & Dumais, Susan & Hampden-Thompson, Gillian. (2012). *The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth: Findings from Four Longitudinal Studies.*

**The arts help develop competency, especially among students who would otherwise feel isolated or excluded.**

Todhunter-Reid, A. (2018) *In-school arts education and academic achievement: A child fixed effects approach.* Arts Education Policy Review, DOI: [10.1080/10632913.2018.1423595](https://doi.org/10.1080/10632913.2018.1423595).





## side x side

Side x Side provides standards-based K-12 arts-integrated programs with a system of professional development, support for teachers and teaching artists, and an assessment of overall impact on student academic achievement, motivation, creativity, and teacher confidence in sustainability.

In 2014, in partnership with the University of Southern Maine, Side x Side's "Project Imagine" received a \$1.9 million AEMDD four-year grant from the US Department of Education to work in the Portland Public Schools. In 2018, Side x Side, again in partnership with USM, was awarded a US Department of Education AAEDD grant for almost \$2.5 million to carry it through another four years of programming in the Portland Public Schools and to expand into the Lewiston Public School district.

### HOW IT WORKS

Over the course of the academic year, students participate in classroom units where specific aspects of the curriculum are supported and enhanced through arts-based programming.

A team of teaching artists, classroom teachers, visiting professionals, Side x Side staff, college interns, and community members work side by side using their particular areas of expertise to engage students in rigorous creative learning to deepen knowledge of a core subject and the arts.

Students are immersed in a vibrant learning environment, gaining exposure to new career paths and community resources. They dig into individual work and also develop collaborative approaches to learning. Students from across the academic spectrum come away with a deeper understanding of subject matter and how it connects to their lives.

Side x Side programs are made possible by a U.S. Department of Education Assistance for Arts Education Development and Dissemination (AAEDD) grant and the LillySarahGrace Fund.

### THE PROCESS

Side x Side teaching artists meet with classroom teachers to plan projects making specific curricular connections between literacy, math, science, or social studies and an art form.

Projects begin with a Kick-off event that includes students, classroom teachers, teaching artist(s), and often a content expert such as a scientist.

Projects culminate in a celebratory public showcase of student work.

*"It is imperative that we equip our students with the skills necessary to compete in the 21st century, and Side x Side recognizes that critical thinking, creativity and collaboration are at the top of the list."*

- US Senator Angus King



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Side x Side programs are supported by a US Department of Education Assistance for Arts Education Development and Dissemination grant, the LilySarahGrace Fund, and local donors and funders.

All Side x Side programs integrate multi-disciplinary classroom learning with intensive arts education and tie all instruction to Maine Learning Results and Common Core standards. Side x Side recognizes the power the arts have to improve student well-being and enhance standards-based education.

## SIDE X SIDE FRAMEWORK

### PROGRAM TEAM

- classroom teachers
- school art teacher
- Side x Side teaching artists
- Side x Side project staff

### IDENTIFY CURRICULUM FOCUS

- identify class curriculum areas of focus
- identify art curriculum areas of focus
- design linked lessons
- identify community members, experts and artists with applicable skills

### PROGRAM DESIGN

Arts programs aligned within school curricula.

### PREPARATION

- recruit any new artists and experts
- procure supplies and materials
- assign art interns
- recruit volunteers

### PROGRAM DELIVERY

6-10 week mentored arts-integrated program delivered by classroom teacher, art teacher, artists, experts, art education interns, Side x Side staff, and parent volunteers.

### FOLLOW-UP

- debrief and reflect to inform next round
- document and collect data
- make revisions

*"Side x Side programs integrate organizations and disciplines in an effort to promote deeper engagement and understanding for students. When teaching our second grade students about oceans and marine life, we collaborated with marine biologists, writers, artists and even a chef so that the children could experience ocean creatures from a variety of perspectives. The Side x Side program made this a feasible and stimulating undertaking"*

*- Kristen Fox, second grade teacher*



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### GENERAL OVERVIEW OF ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Classroom Teachers

- Plan collaboratively with teaching artists.
- Schedule teaching artist visits, kick-offs, and showcases.
- Communicate with Teaching Artist Coordinator on schedule throughout program duration.
- Work with teaching artists to identify relevant content standards to be addressed.
- Secure in-school facilities and equipment.

#### Teaching Artists

- Plan collaboratively with classroom teachers, identify content areas, schedule classroom visits, kick-offs and showcases.
- Finalize Project Planning Sheet to submit to Side x Side staff.
- Complete detailed Program Notes document before each classroom visit.
- Purchase supplies necessary for the program.
- Identify content areas covered by the program.

#### Side x Side Staff

- Organize planning meetings to introduce Side x Side and teaching artists.
- Communicate with teaching artists and Teaching Artist Coordinator throughout program duration.
- Map out schedule of classroom visits, kick-offs, and showcases.
- Distribute Planning Sheets and documents to teaching artists.
- Organize professional development opportunities for teaching artists and classroom teachers throughout the year.
- Develop documentation for all elementary school programs.



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Side x Side elementary school programs are designed to promote engagement, inclusion, equality, and achievement for all students. Elementary programs include the following:



DANCE & MUSIC



PRINTMAKING



BOOKMAKING



SCULPTURE & ILLUSTRATION



MAP MAKING



MURAL MAKING



PHYSICAL THEATER



IMPROVISATION



FILM