



DONOR REPORT

2025-2026 School Year

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What began as a regional pilot in North Dade, and later expanded into South Dade, has now matured into a coordinated, data-informed, community-centered arts education system with the partnerships, leadership, infrastructure, and momentum needed to scale across Miami-Dade County. Arts Access Miami is no longer simply proving that access to arts education matters. It is proving that a countywide system can be built to make that access consistent, measurable, and sustainable.

Across North Dade, South Dade, and Catalyst grantee programming, Arts Access Miami reached 12,821 students across 57 schools and sites during the 2025-2026 implementation year. Together, partner organizations delivered programming across 585 classrooms, 23,929 instructional sessions, 29,455 hours of instruction, 240 performances, and reached 26,810 audience members.

The defining milestone of the year was the launch of the Central Alliance, marking the official start of Phase II of Arts Access Miami's countywide growth strategy. With Principal Cisely Scott selected as Central Principal Cohort Leader and Central Region Superintendent Brenda Swain emerging as a strong champion, the Central Alliance is launching with school-level leadership, district alignment, nonprofit partnership, and community buy-in already in place. Beginning in fall 2026, Arts Access Miami is projected to serve more than 17,000 students across 72 schools and sites, working with at least 31 partner organizations through Alliance and Catalyst partnerships.

This year also strengthened the backbone of the initiative. Arts Access Miami deepened its principal and leadership cohorts, invested in program director and teaching artist professional development, expanded the Arts Access Network through Catalyst grantees, and built the internal team and systems needed to support long-term growth. The Miami Gardens and South Dade Youth Music Festivals brought the work to life publicly, featuring more than 1,300 student performers, 57 schools, and 3,300 attendees. These festivals were more than events. They were visible demonstrations of student talent, family engagement, school pride, nonprofit collaboration, and community-wide investment in arts education.

Arts Access Miami also made major progress in data, evaluation, mapping, and storytelling. During the year, the initiative began transitioning from Artlook Miami to the new Arts Access Map, a countywide platform designed to bring arts access, program activity, outcomes, and investment data into a single system. The Arts Access Map is being built to provide real-time visibility into where programs are operating, who is being served, what outcomes are being achieved, and where gaps and opportunities exist across Miami-Dade County. The platform will also incorporate AI-powered reporting and analysis tools, creating a shared data infrastructure for schools, nonprofits, funders, and community leaders. Arts Access Miami further strengthened its evaluation and storytelling capacity through the hiring of Dr. Andrea Botero as Director of Impact and Storytelling.

Across every area of work, the message is clear: Arts Access Miami is building the public infrastructure, data systems, leadership networks, and community partnerships needed to make high-quality arts education accessible, sustainable, and measurable across Miami-Dade County.





**Arts
Access**
MIAMI

Uniting Miami Through the Power of Arts Education

SECTION 01

COMMUNITY-CENTERED PROGRAMMING

Arts Access Miami delivers free, high-quality music, dance, theater, and visual arts programs designed in partnership with each community to provide in-school and after-school instruction, performances, scholarships, and resources that engage students, reflect local culture, and strengthen school and family connections.

Programming at a Glance

Programming remains the heart of Arts Access Miami's work. Across North Dade, South Dade, and Catalyst grantees, organizations continued delivering arts education in schools and community sites while Arts Access Miami strengthened the coordination systems that align programming with student needs, principal priorities, community assets, and long-term regional goals.

2025-2026 BY THE NUMBERS

12,821

STUDENTS

57

SCHOOLS & SITES

23

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

585

CLASSROOMS

29,455

INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

240

PERFORMANCES

26,810

AUDIENCE MEMBERS

\$4.1M+

INVESTED

2

REGIONAL ALLIANCES

Programs were delivered across North Dade, South Dade, and community-based sites through a network of Alliance partners and Catalyst grantees.

Responsive Programs

Arts Access Miami begins by understanding the full arts education landscape within each community: what programs and resources already exist, where students have access, where gaps remain, and what schools, families, and community leaders identify as priorities. Through community engagement, surveying, and resource mapping, Arts Access Miami develops a shared picture of each region's strengths, needs, and opportunities.

Arts Access Miami then brings together schools, established arts organizations, grassroots and founder-led organizations, funders, and community partners to coordinate resources and fill identified gaps. Through Alliance partners, Catalyst grantees, and the broader Arts Access Network, communities gain access to music, dance, theater, visual arts, and multidisciplinary programming while strengthening the organizations and relationships already rooted in the region.

Comprehensive Offerings

Arts Access Miami supports student participation through four integrated areas:

1. **School-Based Instruction:** High-quality in-school and after-school arts education programs.
2. **Community Engagement:** Performances, exhibitions, showcases, festivals, and public events that celebrate student achievement and connect schools, families, and communities.
3. **Scholarships & Advanced Opportunities:** Pathways for students pursuing advanced artistic training, mentorship, and enrichment opportunities.
4. **Resources & Access:** Instruments, supplies, equipment, and materials that remove barriers to participation.



Regional Impact

Arts Access Miami expands one region at a time, building the partnerships, leadership, programming, and infrastructure necessary for lasting impact before moving into the next community. Rather than spreading resources thinly across Miami-Dade County, the initiative works within feeder patterns and regions to bring schools, nonprofit organizations, families, funders, and community leaders around a shared strategy for expanding arts education access.

This regional approach allows Arts Access Miami to identify gaps, coordinate resources, reduce duplication, strengthen local organizations, and build sustainable arts education ecosystems that can ultimately connect into a countywide system.

NORTH DADE ALLIANCE

North Dade remains the foundation of the Arts Access Miami model. What began in 2020 as an effort to rebuild access to music education in the Carol City feeder pattern has evolved into a coordinated regional ecosystem serving students across North Miami-Dade. Through sustained investment, strong principal leadership, nonprofit collaboration, and community partnership, arts education participation has increased from approximately 29% to more than 61%.

Over six years, North Dade has demonstrated that when schools, nonprofit organizations, and community leaders work together around shared goals, arts education access can expand dramatically while strengthening student engagement, school culture, and community connection.

North Dade Highlights

3,448

STUDENTS SERVED

24

SCHOOLS & SITES

11

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

10,288

INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

112

PERFORMANCES



SOUTH DADE ALLIANCE

Building on lessons learned in North Dade, Arts Access Miami expanded into South Dade and Homestead to address longstanding gaps in arts education access. Following a year of planning, relationship building, and community engagement, the South Dade Alliance launched a coordinated regional strategy that has rapidly expanded access to arts education opportunities. Participation rates have grown from approximately 14% to 39%, creating new opportunities for thousands of students across the region.

Today, South Dade serves as a powerful example of how the Arts Access Miami model can be adapted to new communities while remaining responsive to local needs, culture, and priorities.

South Dade Highlights

7,961

STUDENTS SERVED

20

SCHOOLS & SITES

12

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

19,167

INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

128

PERFORMANCES



Together, the North Dade and South Dade Alliances

provide the foundation for Arts Access Miami's next chapter. Their success demonstrated that coordinated, community-centered investment can significantly expand access to arts education, leading directly to the launch of the Central Alliance and the next phase of countywide growth.



CENTRAL DADE: BUILDING THE NEXT REGIONAL ALLIANCE

During 2025-2026, Arts Access Miami laid the groundwork for the launch of the Central Alliance, the third region in a five-region strategy to build a countywide arts education system across Miami-Dade. Following the successful development of the North Dade and South Dade Alliances, Central Dade represents the next stage of scale, with West and East Dade planned as the final two regional expansions.

Made possible through a major investment from the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, the Central Dade planning process included surveying schools and community stakeholders, mapping existing arts education resources, identifying gaps in access, and conducting a competitive RFP to select nonprofit partners aligned with the needs and priorities of the region.

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the Central Alliance will launch across 22 schools in Brownsville, Liberty City, Allapattah, West Little River, and surrounding communities, bringing together 13 nonprofit partners to deliver coordinated arts education opportunities for students and families.

THE CENTRAL ALLIANCE LAUNCHES WITH:

- 22 schools
- 13 nonprofit partners
- \$885,000 in coordinated investment
- Dedicated principal leadership
- Regional superintendent support
- District alignment through Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Principal Cisely Scott, Central Region Principal Cohort Leader

Principal Cisely Scott has been selected as the Central Principal Cohort Leader, ensuring strong school-level ownership from the beginning. The initiative has also developed a strong partnership with Central Region Superintendent Brenda Swain, helping position arts education as a shared regional priority.

More than an expansion, the launch of the Central Alliance demonstrates that Arts Access Miami has moved from proof of concept to scalable public infrastructure capable of supporting long-term growth across Miami-Dade County.



CATALYST GRANTEES

The Catalyst Grant Program extends the Arts Access Miami model by supporting founder-led, community-rooted arts organizations that are deeply connected to Miami-Dade neighborhoods but may not yet have the infrastructure to participate as full Alliance partners. These grants help smaller and emerging organizations pilot programming, strengthen school partnerships, build capacity, and contribute to a more inclusive countywide arts education ecosystem.

Through the Catalyst Grant Program, Arts Access Miami invested in grassroots organizations serving students across schools and community sites. These partners expanded access to disciplines including music, dance, theater, visual arts, cultural arts, and multidisciplinary programming, while helping Arts Access Miami identify new providers and better understand the full scope of youth arts education across the county.

Catalyst grantees play an important role in the broader Arts Access Network. By supporting organizations at different stages of growth, Arts Access Miami is helping build a stronger, more diverse pipeline of arts education providers capable of meeting the needs of students, families, and communities across Miami-Dade.

Catalyst Highlights

1,412

STUDENTS SERVED

19

SCHOOLS & SITES*

10

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS

*Catalyst organizations and Alliance organizations serve some of the same schools and sites. Due to this overlap, the sum of their individual presences adds to 63, while the number of distinct schools and sites served is 57. This kind of overlap is common when reporting on coalition-based organizations.



Building an Ecosystem Where All Can Grow

The Catalyst Grant Program strengthens Arts Access Miami's long-term countywide strategy by ensuring that expansion is not limited to large or established organizations. Instead, it creates pathways for smaller, community-based partners to grow alongside the broader network, deepen their impact, and help build a more equitable arts education ecosystem for every child in Miami-Dade.

Arts Access
**YOUTH MUSIC
FESTIVAL**

MIAMI GARDENS | SOUTH DADE

THE MIAMI 
FOUNDATION

 YOUNG
MUSICIANS
UNITE



YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVALS

The Miami Gardens and South Dade Youth Music Festivals brought the work to life publicly, showcasing the power of arts education to unite students, schools, families, nonprofit organizations, and entire communities.

Together, the festivals featured:

1,300+

STUDENT PERFORMERS

57

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

3,300+

ATTENDEES

Beyond the performances themselves, the festivals served as visible demonstrations of student talent, school pride, family engagement, nonprofit collaboration, and community investment in arts education.

A coordinated marketing campaign amplified this impact, reaching more than 20,000 unique users, generating over 90,000 digital impressions, and producing more than 2,000 social media engagements. Additional outreach included school-based flyer distribution and outdoor advertising partnerships that helped increase awareness across participating communities.



Responsive arts programming works because it's built with communities, rooted in culture, and designed around the students it serves.

Alan Valladares
Director, Arts Access Miami



SECTION 02

IMPACT-DRIVEN ACCOUNTABILITY

Arts Access Miami collects and uses data to improve programming, guide investments, and measure outcomes, while sharing reports and community feedback to accelerate progress and impact across the ecosystem.

DATA-INFORMED DECISIONS

Arts Access Miami is building a new model for accountability in arts education, one where data identifies needs, evaluation measures outcomes, mapping guides investment, and storytelling demonstrates the human impact behind the numbers. This year marked a major step forward across all four. To lead this work, Arts Access Miami hired Dr. Andrea Botero as Director of Impact and Storytelling, overseeing the Arts Access Map, evaluation framework, reporting systems, and the translation of data into actionable insights for schools, nonprofit partners, funders, and policymakers.

Student Outcome Tracking

Arts Access Miami measures positive behavior change, attendance, academic gains, and school climate improvement. Dr. Michelle Hospital's work tracks students' academic outcomes including attendance, GPA, course performance, and standardized testing results. Hello Insight, a nationally validated assessment, supports measurement of Positive Youth Development outcomes including identity, agency, creativity, relationships, and academic motivation.

During the 2026-2027 school year, Arts Access Miami will also develop and pilot a proprietary Positive Youth Development assessment framework led by Dr. Andrea Botero in collaboration with Dr. Michelle Hospital. The tool will be informed by national research and several years of existing student outcome data, with plans for external review by a nationally recognized research partner and implementation anticipated for the 2027-2028 school year. Together, these tools allow Arts Access Miami to measure not only participation, but also the academic, behavioral, and developmental outcomes associated with sustained arts education engagement.

Logic Model & Evaluation Framework

A countywide logic model has been completed to align stakeholders around a shared theory of change, alongside a comprehensive evaluation framework to be implemented during the 2026-2027 school year. Created in collaboration with Alliance organizations, program directors, leadership, and data partners, the framework organizes outcomes across four areas: Student Success, Program Sustainability and Organizational Growth, Thriving Schools and Communities, and Enhanced Arts Ecosystem.

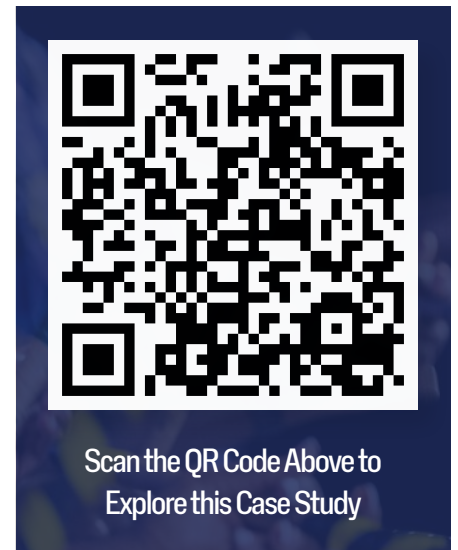
This allows Arts Access Miami to connect program activities not only to outputs like students served and instructional hours, but also to broader outcomes including student development, organizational capacity, school engagement, family participation, ecosystem growth, and long-term sustainability.

The framework was developed collaboratively with nonprofit partners, school leaders, evaluators, and community stakeholders to ensure alignment across the ecosystem. At the May 5 meeting at Steinway Piano Gallery, 73% of respondents rated the Theory of Change and Logic Model as "Extremely valuable," and 73% also rated the Evaluation Plan as "Extremely valuable." Participants identified data, storytelling, evaluation, and clarity of the framework as key takeaways.

Storytelling Collective & Case Study Development

Arts Access Miami has begun pairing high-quality storytelling with research-based case studies that demonstrate both the human and measurable impact of arts education. The first project, focused on Leisure City K-8 Center, combines a documentary-style video with a written case study examining the school's success as one of Florida's highest-performing Title I K-8 schools in 2024-2025.

This model moves beyond traditional storytelling by creating resources that support advocacy, inform practice, and help educators, funders, and policymakers better understand how arts education contributes to student success.



Resource Mapping – The Arts Access Map

Building on the foundation of Artlook® Miami, the Arts Access Map is being developed as a countywide data platform that will provide visibility into arts education participation, programming, partnerships, outcomes, and investments across Miami-Dade County. In fall 2026, Arts Access Miami plans to conduct a countywide data collection effort, including in-person outreach to 100% of Miami-Dade County Public Schools and all 180 known arts education nonprofit organizations, establishing the baseline dataset for the Arts Access Map. Arts Access Miami is working with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to support this countywide school outreach and data verification effort.

Once implemented, the Arts Access Map will help schools, nonprofit organizations, funders, and public agencies better understand where arts education is happening, who is being served, what outcomes are being achieved, and where gaps and opportunities exist. By bringing these data sources together into one shared platform, the initiative aims to strengthen planning, improve accountability, reduce duplication of services, and support more strategic investment across Miami-Dade County.

The Arts Access Map is designed to serve schools, nonprofit organizations, funders, policymakers, and public agencies, providing a shared source of truth for planning, investment, evaluation, and continuous improvement.

THE ARTS ACCESS MAP: BENEFITS ACROSS THE ECOSYSTEM

Schools & Miami-Dade County Public Schools

- Track arts access, participation, and outcomes across all schools
- Compare schools, feeder patterns, regions, and communities
- Support district planning, resource allocation, and expansion decisions
- Identify gaps and opportunities for growth
- Monitor changes in arts access and outcomes over time

Arts Education Nonprofits

- Track students served, programs delivered, and outcomes achieved
- Generate funder-ready reports and dashboards automatically
- Access built-in surveys, evaluation tools, and benchmarking data
- Reduce spending on separate reporting and evaluation systems
- Identify expansion opportunities and strengthen organizational capacity

Funders, Policymakers & Community Leaders

- See where investments are going and what results they produce
- Compare feeder patterns and identify underserved communities
- Generate reports by school, municipality, region, or district
- Support more strategic funding, policy, and investment decisions
- Track return on investment over time

Sector Accountability & Capacity Building

- Establish shared standards for reporting and evaluation
- Increase transparency, accountability, and data quality across the ecosystem
- Help organizations improve their operational and evaluation capacity
- Provide funders with greater confidence in organizational data and outcomes

The Arts Access Ecosystem

- Bring schools, nonprofits, funders, and public agencies into one shared platform
- Integrate access, participation, outcomes, and investment data
- Produce AI-powered reports, dashboards, and planning tools
- Generate annual State of the Arts reporting
- Guide future investment, policy, and systems-change efforts
- Reduce duplication of services and identify opportunities for collaboration
- Create the first countywide operational view of arts education in Miami-Dade County

QUESTIONS WE CAN FINALLY ANSWER

For the first time, Miami-Dade County will be able to answer:

- Which schools have arts access and which do not?
- Which organizations are operating where?
- How many students are being served?
- What outcomes are being achieved?
- Where are the biggest gaps?
- Where are services being duplicated?
- Which investments are producing the strongest results?
- Where should the next dollar be invested?
- What is the return on that investment?



Rebecca Fishman Lipsey, President and CEO of The Miami Foundation.

TRANSPARENCY, STORYTELLING & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Arts Access Miami believes accountability requires more than collecting data. It requires sharing results, listening to communities, translating findings into action, and ensuring that stakeholders can clearly see the impact of their investment. Through public reporting, storytelling, research, communications, and community engagement, Arts Access Miami is building a culture of transparency that strengthens trust, informs decision-making, and accelerates progress across the arts education ecosystem.

Public Dashboards & Reports

Arts Access Miami publishes annual impact reports, dashboards, and evaluation findings that make progress visible to schools, nonprofit partners, funders, policymakers, and the broader community. These tools provide ongoing insight into participation, implementation, outcomes, and return on investment while helping stakeholders understand the collective impact of arts education across Miami-Dade County.

Public Visibility & Digital Reach

Arts Access Miami's digital platforms continue to expand awareness of arts education across the county. During the 2025-2026 year, digital channels reached an average of approximately 5,000 views per week, totaling more than 250,000 annual views. These efforts help increase public understanding of arts education access, student success, and the importance of sustained investment in the arts.

Community Feedback & Stories

Storytelling has become an essential component of the Arts Access Miami accountability model. The addition of Dr. Andrea Botero as Director of Impact and Storytelling created new capacity to connect data, evaluation, and narrative, helping translate outcomes into meaningful stories for students, families, educators, funders, policymakers, and community stakeholders. By pairing quantitative results with lived experiences, Arts Access Miami is creating a more complete picture of impact across participating communities.

Year-Round Public Relations Strategy

To strengthen public awareness and thought leadership, Arts Access Miami engaged Lisa Mozloom to lead a year-round public relations strategy focused on elevating the conversation around arts education. Rather than focusing solely on individual student stories, this work highlights systems change, research, workforce development, collective impact, and the broader role arts education plays in student success and community well-being. Priority efforts include feature stories, case studies, conference presentations, and coverage in education, philanthropy, and policy-focused publications.

Research Publications & Field Contribution

In addition to evaluating local impact, Arts Access Miami is contributing to the broader field of arts education research. Dr. Michelle Hospital and Dr. Andrea Botero are developing the Nested Arts Alliance Framework (NAAF), a conceptual model that explores how arts education alliances function as a distinct form of nonprofit network governance. This work aims to contribute new knowledge to the field while positioning Arts Access Miami as a national model for collective-impact arts education initiatives.

Communications Infrastructure

During the year, Arts Access Miami completed significant communications infrastructure work, including the development of a new website, messaging framework, storytelling assets, grant boilerplate, and narrative materials. These investments have strengthened consistency across reports, proposals, presentations, donor communications, and public-facing materials while providing a clearer and more unified voice for the initiative.

School Board Engagement

At the invitation of the Superintendent, Arts Access Miami presented to the full Miami-Dade County School Board, highlighting the current state of arts education access across the county, the initiative's growth and impact, and progress toward building a countywide arts education ecosystem. The presentation represented an important milestone in strengthening public-sector awareness and support for arts education across Miami-Dade County.

Together, these efforts ensure that data is not collected for its own sake. It is transformed into stories, research, insights, and public awareness that strengthen programs, inform decision-making, and advance arts education across Miami-Dade County.

SECTION 03

COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Arts Access Miami's greatest strength is not a single program, event, or grant. It is the leadership infrastructure that has been built across Miami-Dade County. Through principal cohorts, nonprofit leadership convenings, program director meetings, teaching artist professional development, district working groups, youth voice initiatives, and funder engagement, Arts Access Miami is creating the relationships, trust, and systems required to sustain arts education at scale.

BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH COLLABORATION

Arts Access Miami facilitates structured collaboration among nonprofit arts organizations, school leaders, public agencies, funders, and community partners to strengthen coordination, align resources, and build shared responsibility for expanding arts education across Miami-Dade County.

Leadership & Capacity Building Network

In 2025-2026, Arts Access Miami convened more than 200 leaders, educators, artists, and community partners through a structured network of cohorts, working groups, and professional development opportunities designed to strengthen collaboration, leadership, and organizational capacity across the arts education ecosystem.

Together, these cohorts create a countywide infrastructure for communication, problem solving, strategic planning, professional development, and shared accountability. Participants exchange best practices, strengthen organizational capacity, align around common goals, and build the relationships necessary to expand arts education access across Miami-Dade County.

COHORT	PURPOSE	MEETINGS	PARTICIPANTS	HOURS
Executive Leaders	CEO alignment, advocacy, and strategic collaboration	4	14	20
Program Directors	Program implementation and data collection	3	16	9
Principal Cohort Leaders	School ownership and regional coordination	4	66	8
Marketing Directors	Storytelling, communications, and public awareness	2	16	6
Teaching Artists	Instructional quality and professional development	2	30	5
Youth Advisory Committee	Student voice and leadership	4	28	8
M-DCPS Cabinet Working Group	District alignment and school access	4	20	8
Data & Advocacy Cohort	Evaluation, research, and systems change	2	10	4
TOTAL		25 MEETINGS	200 PARTICIPANTS	68 HOURS

This structure replaces competition with collaboration, trust, and accountability across organizations and schools. The Executive Leaders cohort continued serving as a space for CEO-level alignment, advocacy, and strategic collaboration. Survey responses showed that 100% of respondents found the meeting to be a good use of time, 90% felt supported by a community of like-minded leaders, and 100% felt ready to collaborate with at least one partner in the room.

The May 18 Arts Access Miami convening brought together leaders from Miami Gardens, South Dade, and Central Dade to formally launch the Central Alliance. The event demonstrated alignment across regions, schools, nonprofit organizations, public partners, and community leaders, marking an important milestone in the development of a countywide arts education ecosystem.

More than a regional expansion, the Central Alliance represented the continued growth of Arts Access Miami's leadership model, one built on shared ownership, coordinated action, and collective responsibility for ensuring arts education access across Miami-Dade County.

Capacity Building

Arts Access Miami offers professional development and strategic convenings for CEOs, principals, program directors, and teaching artists, driving alignment, shared learning, and leadership growth.

Beyond individual trainings and convenings, Arts Access Miami serves as a capacity-building engine for the arts education sector. Through shared learning, professional development, data support, marketing collaboration, leadership development, and peer-to-peer exchange, organizations gain tools and relationships that strengthen their long-term effectiveness and sustainability.

Program Directors strengthened alignment around implementation and data collection. In January 2026, 10 organizations attended a professional development meeting focused on data collection strategy, with 100% of respondents reporting that they understood how data collection supports Arts Access Miami's mission and 100% reporting that they were clear about their program's role in the data collection process.



Jamie Sutta, Executive Artistic Director of Vocal Youth Miami.

Teaching Artist Professional Development further reinforced quality and consistency across the system. After the May 2026 session on classroom management and Positive Youth Development practices, teaching artists reported meaningful gains in confidence and knowledge, with average ratings increasing from 3.42–3.79 before training to 4.17–4.46 after training. In addition, 95% of respondents found the training very or extremely valuable.

Principal leadership remained central to the model. In North Dade, Principal Cohort Leader Tiffany James reported growing alignment, improved communication, and deeper engagement across the feeder pattern. In South Dade, Principal Cohort Leader Alonza Pendergrass reported significant momentum through expanded performance opportunities and feeder pattern collaborations. In Central Dade, the selection of Principal Cisely Scott as Central Principal Cohort Leader ensures that the newest region will launch with school-based ownership from the beginning.

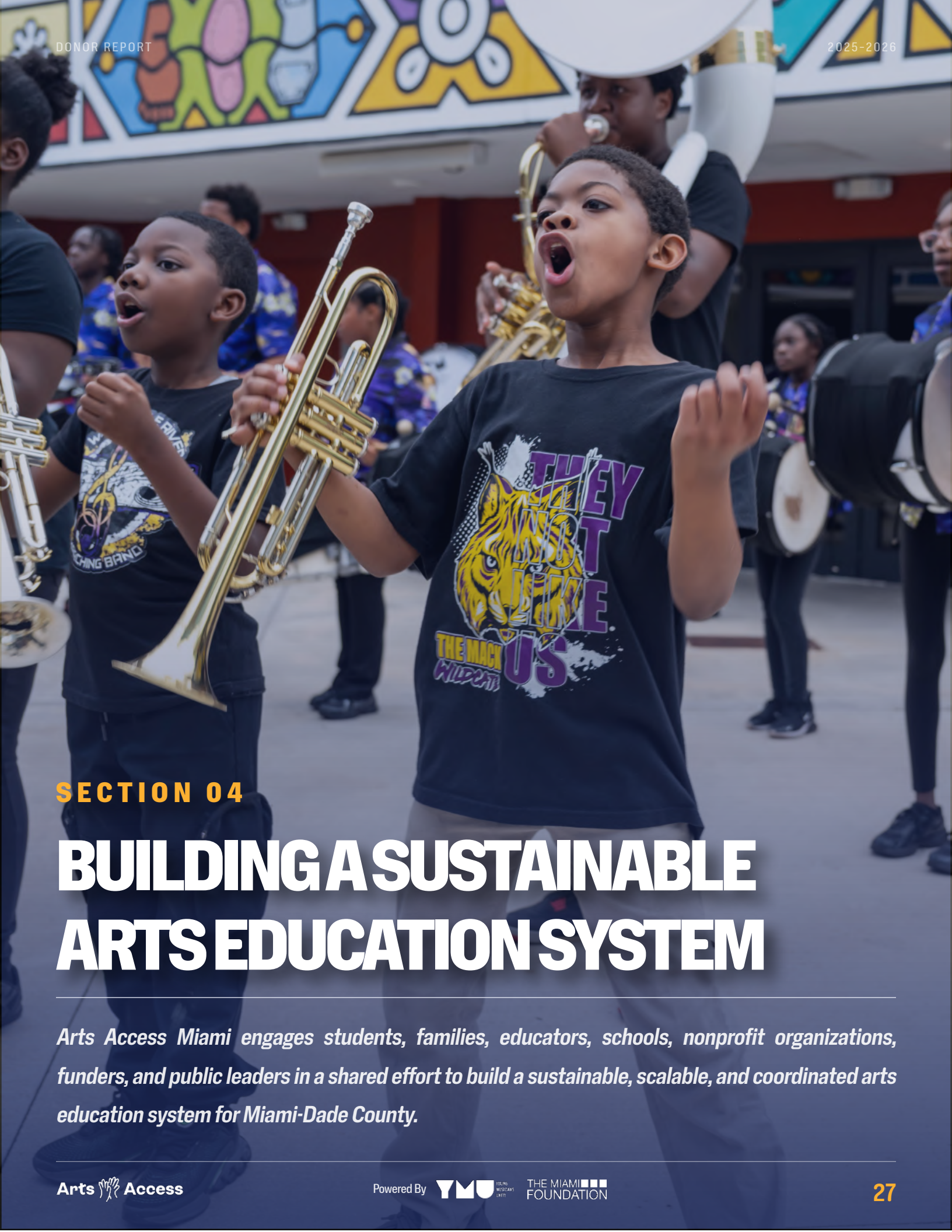
Resource Maximization

Arts Access Miami aligns funding, staffing, and program placement across organizations to prevent duplication and maximize reach. By coordinating where organizations operate and pairing that with shared data and mapping, the initiative ensures that resources flow to where students need them most rather than overlapping in already-served schools – a level of coordination no single organization could achieve alone.



"We unite Miami's schools, nonprofits, funders, and civic leaders, building trust, shared vision, and collective responsibility for arts education."

— Pedro Díaz, Chief Programs Officer, YMU



SECTION 04

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE ARTS EDUCATION SYSTEM

Arts Access Miami engages students, families, educators, schools, nonprofit organizations, funders, and public leaders in a shared effort to build a sustainable, scalable, and coordinated arts education system for Miami-Dade County.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR LONG-TERM IMPACT

The 2025–2026 year marked a defining transition for Arts Access Miami. What began as a successful regional model is now evolving into countywide infrastructure designed to ensure that high-quality arts education remains accessible, measurable, and sustainable for generations of students to come.

Building Public Infrastructure

Sustainable systems require strong partnerships, shared accountability, and clear operational structures. Throughout the year, Arts Access Miami worked closely with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to strengthen the infrastructure needed to support long-term expansion. Through ongoing collaboration, the initiative advanced district alignment, onboarding systems, data-sharing procedures, evaluation planning, and operational processes that allow nonprofit partners to enter schools efficiently and deliver programming with consistency and accountability.

A major milestone was the continued implementation of the historic Letter of Understanding between Arts Access Miami and Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Together with ongoing data governance efforts and deeper collaboration with district leadership, the partnership continues to establish the foundation for a coordinated countywide arts education system.

Securing Long-Term Sustainability

Arts Access Miami is designed to outlast any single grant, organization, or funding cycle. By aligning schools, nonprofit organizations, funders, and public partners around a shared vision, the initiative is creating a sustainable framework that supports long-term access to arts education.

This sustainability is reflected in a diversified funding strategy and strong philanthropic partnerships. Funding for the North Dade and South Dade Alliances has been secured through the 2027–2028 school year, while Central Dade expansion funding has been secured through the 2028–2029 school year.

Current supporters include Dan Lewis and Valerie Dillon, The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, The ELMA Music Foundation, The Kirk Foundation, The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation, Arison Arts Foundation, The Children's Trust, Miami-Dade County, the City of Homestead, and the City of Miami Gardens.

Collectively, philanthropic, municipal, and public-sector partners have committed more than \$28 million toward expanding arts education access and building the infrastructure required for long-term systems change across Miami-Dade County. These investments have allowed Arts Access Miami to move beyond short-term programming and begin building a sustainable countywide system capable of serving generations of students.

EXPANDING INVESTMENT

Advocacy & State-Level Impact

Sustainability is increasingly being secured through public policy, investment, and strong public-sector partnerships.

Local Government Affairs & Community Engagement

Over the past two years, Arts Access Miami has strengthened relationships with local elected officials, school board members, municipal leaders, and community stakeholders across Miami-Dade County. These efforts have increased visibility for the initiative, strengthened public-sector partnerships, and elevated arts education as a shared community priority. More than 30 elected officials, civic leaders, and public-sector representatives have participated in Arts Access Miami events, convenings, and engagement opportunities.

School District & Government Affairs Strategy

Following significant progress in strengthening the partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Arts Access Miami expanded its government affairs and district engagement efforts to support long-term sustainability and public investment. These efforts have helped advance key agreements, deepen engagement with the Superintendent's Cabinet, strengthen alignment with district leadership, and position arts education as an important component of student success and community development.

State Legislative Strategy & Lobbying

Arts Access Miami continues to work with state leaders, agencies, and education stakeholders to translate measurable outcomes into sustainable public investment. By aligning arts education with broader educational and workforce development priorities, the initiative is laying the groundwork for recurring state support and long-term public funding opportunities.



UNITING MIAMI POWER OF ARTS

THE NEXT CHAPTER

THE PATH TO COUNTYWIDE ACCESS

*Taking a Proven Model from Regional Success Toward a Sustainable
System Serving All of Miami-Dade*

THROUGH THE S EDUCATION



EXPANDING THE MODEL

What began as a pilot in North Dade and expanded into South Dade is now entering its next phase. In fall 2026, Arts Access Miami will launch the Central Dade Alliance, bringing the initiative to three of the five regions in its countywide plan.

North Dade proved the model could work. South Dade demonstrated that it could be replicated and adapted to a new community. Central Dade builds on both, launching with school leadership, nonprofit partners, district alignment, and coordinated investment already in place.



With three regions underway, Arts Access Miami is now laying the groundwork for West Dade and East Dade, while researching the long-term public and private funding strategies needed to launch and sustain the final regions.

The goal is not simply to expand programming from one community to the next. It is to connect all five regions into one coordinated, sustainable arts education system capable of reaching every school and every child in Miami-Dade County.

“

We've proven a sustainable ecosystem for arts education works. Now it's time to scale it to every student.

Sammy Gonzalez Zeira,
President of Arts Access Miami



THE ROAD TO 2030

Arts Access Miami began with a bold idea: what if organizations stopped working in isolation and instead worked together to ensure every child had access to high-quality arts education?

Today, that idea is becoming a system.

Schools, nonprofit arts organizations, government, philanthropy, and communities are working together around shared goals, shared data, coordinated investment, and collective accountability. What began in one region is growing across Miami-Dade County, creating the infrastructure needed to make arts education more accessible, equitable, measurable, and sustainable.

None of this would be possible without the donors, foundations, public partners, educators, school leaders, arts organizations, families, and community leaders who have built this work together. Your investment has helped move Arts Access Miami from an idea, to a proven regional model, to a growing countywide system.

2030 VISION

By 2030, Arts Access Miami aims to ensure that every school and every child in Miami-Dade County has access to free, high-quality arts education, supported by a sustainable countywide system built through collective leadership, community partnership, shared accountability, and public and private investment.

Together, we are building a future where a child's access to the arts is never determined by where they live.

RESOURCES & SUPPORTING MATERIALS

The following resources provide additional context, documentation, and examples of Arts Access Miami's work, impact, and continued growth:

Scan the QR Code to Access the Resources & Supporting Materials



Local Government & Community Engagement Report (2025-2026)

Prepared by: Lisa Martinez

A summary of municipal outreach, elected official engagement, community partnerships, and local government strategies that strengthened public support for arts education across Miami-Dade County.

Arts Access Miami & Miami-Dade County Public Schools Letter of Understanding

Executed by: Arts Access Miami and Miami-Dade County Public Schools

The formal agreement establishes the framework for collaboration, data sharing, school access, and long-term partnership between Arts Access Miami and Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Shark Cage Document

Executed by: Stephen Shapiro, President and Founder of CSG Group

A strategic framework designed to help organizations assess opportunities, clarify priorities, and make more disciplined decisions about where to focus time, resources, and effort.

North Dade Principal Cohort Report (2025-2026)

Prepared by: Tiffany James, North Dade Principal Cohort Leader

A summary of principal engagement, regional collaboration, and school leadership activities across the North Dade Alliance. Includes key accomplishments, lessons learned, and recommendations for strengthening arts education through school-based leadership.

South Dade Principal Cohort Report (2025-2026)

Prepared by: Alonza Pendergrass, South Dade Principal Cohort Leader

A year-end report documenting principal participation, regional priorities, and collaborative initiatives across the South Dade Alliance. Highlights the role of school leadership in expanding arts education access and strengthening community engagement.



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