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## Arts Education is Important for Children

- 17,000 community organizations (such as Boys & Girls Clubs, libraries, parks and rec) are using arts to:
  - Divert youth from gangs, drugs, and the juvenile justice system
  - Provide a cost-effective approach with better results than sports and boot camps
  - Reduce truancy and improve academic performance
  - Build self-discipline, communication, and job skills
- Example: The Arts Apprenticeship Training Program at the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild in one of Pittsburgh's poorest neighborhoods found that
  - 80% of participants go on to college compared to 20% of the community's non participating youth
  - In the program's three years, juvenile crime dropped 27%
  - For 11- and 12-year-old youth, the rate of repeat criminal behavior dropped 64%
  - The cost per participant is \$850 per year vs. \$28,000 per year for juvenile boot camp
- The US Department of Justice finds that these programs:
  - Increase the ability to express anger appropriately, and to communicate and cooperate effectively with others
  - Increased academic stamina
  - Reported a decrease in delinquent behavior
  - Resulted in improvements in attitude towards school, self-esteem, and self-efficacy
  - Fewer new court referrals during the program period
  - New offenses by participants during program period tended to be less severe than prior to the program
- A study by Stanford University found that young people who participate in the arts for at least three hours three days a week through at least one full year were:
  - 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement
  - 3 times more likely to be elected to class office within their schools
  - 4 times more likely to participate in a math and science fair
  - 3 times more likely to win an award for school attendance
- In the last decade, arts education in schools has decreased dramatically.
  - 16% of districts reduced elementary school class time for music and art
  - In 2006, 89% of schools in California failed to offer a standards-based course of study in music, visual arts, theater, and dance
  - Regardless of push from Bloomberg, still only 45% of elementary schools, 35% of middle schools, and only 34% of high schools in NYC provided arts education in all four forms
- Recent proposed budget cuts will dramatically reduce the ability of organizations to provide arts services and programs for children.