

The Arts Unit Strategic Plan 2015 -17



Enhance student
achievement in
and beyond the
classroom

Build teacher
capacity and
leadership

Showcase
excellence



Vision statement

That highly motivated and engaged students, led by exceptional staff, realise their creative potential in and beyond the school.

Context

The Arts Unit provides a state-wide infrastructure for arts education. It delivers programs in dance, drama, music, visual arts, debating, public speaking, reading, spelling and special events. Its priorities are:

- creating learning experiences which complement and extend local school and network programs
- building capacity to deliver arts education through targeted teacher professional learning
- providing high profile performance, exhibition and competition opportunities.

Annually more than 44,000 students and 6,000 teachers directly participate in The Arts Unit's programs, and an additional 433,000 students access these programs.

Key programs include:

- ensembles
- camps and student workshops
- exhibitions
- festivals and events including the Schools Spectacular
- arts initiatives
- Premier's Spelling Bee
- Premier's Debating Challenge
- Premier's Reading Challenge
- Public speaking
- professional learning.

Planning process

The Arts Unit Strategic Plan has been developed to support Public Schools NSW Strategic Directions 2015-2017 and to mirror schools planning processes to allow schools to identify opportunities for their students and staff.

It is informed by the Arts Education Framework which provides pathways in the pursuit of excellence in the arts.

The Arts Unit Strategic Plan was developed in consultation with stakeholders including The Arts Unit staff, school principals, teachers, students, parents, tutors, industry professionals and venue managers. As well as using a wide range of evaluation and data collection tools, The Arts Unit has undertaken broad consultation through:

- planning workshops with all staff
- planning workshops with the unit's leadership team
- focus groups with principals recommended by the NSW Secondary Principals' Council and the NSW Primary Principals' Association
- focus groups for each program at The Arts Unit including teachers, students, tutors, parents and other key stakeholders.

The Arts Unit has also consulted across Learning and Leadership Directorate.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

Enhance student achievement in and beyond the classroom

Purpose:

We identify student potential and provide opportunities to build knowledge, skills and understanding through programs that enhance learning at the school and beyond.

We target specific demographics to increase engagement in arts and literacy programs.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

Build teacher capacity and leadership

Purpose:

Our staff are leaders in arts and literacy education and have specialist expertise, access to resources and connections with national and international industry professionals. We develop teacher skills and knowledge, model best practice and provide valuable networking opportunities.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

Showcase excellence

Purpose:

We showcase outstanding student achievement through creative leadership of Arts Unit staff collaborating with teachers and industry professionals.

Strategic Direction 1: Enhance student achievement in and beyond the classroom

Purpose

We identify student potential and provide opportunities to build knowledge, skills and understanding through programs that create a journey of excellence for students at school and beyond.

Improvement Measures

- ❖ Improve evaluation and data collection tools to inform practice and reporting of all programs
- ❖ Ensure programs meet the learning needs of a broad range of students, enhancing learning at the school level and beyond
- ❖ Undertake evaluation case studies to inform cross unit evaluation

People

How do we build mindsets and capabilities for all our people?

Target specific demographics to increase engagement in arts and literacy programs

Highly skilled teachers, tutors and industry professionals inspire and motivate students to achieve excellence

Support the cognitive, emotional, social and physical wellbeing of students

Our students form dynamic cohorts and collaborations in their pursuit of excellence

Processes

How do we put systems and strategies in place?

Develop consistent and accessible pathways to arts and literacy programs

Support Department reforms for Aboriginal Education, Rural and Remote and Every Student, Every School

Empower students to engage in further learning and pursue post school options

Use evaluation and feedback to build on student learning and achievement

Products and Practices

What does our work achieve What will people be doing as a result of our work?

A joyful learning environment where a diverse range of students is inspired to achieve and thrive

A suite of programs that is responsive to the needs of students and communities, supporting the Local Schools, Local Decisions reform

Engage students in learning that focuses on critical and creative thinking, personal and social capacity and intercultural understanding

Support and extend students' knowledge, skills and understanding in related curriculum areas

Strategic Direction 2: Build teacher capacity and leadership

Purpose

Our staff are leaders in arts and literacy education and have specialist expertise, access to resources and connections with national and international industry professionals. We develop teacher skills and knowledge, model best practice and provide valuable networking opportunities.

Improvement Measures

- ❖ Improve evaluation and data collection tools to report and to inform practice and reporting of all programs
- ❖ Ensure that professional learning meets the needs of teachers and tutors working in schools
- ❖ Increase resources available on the Learning Hub
- ❖ Ensure all Arts Unit staff have Performance and Development Plans

People

How do we build mindsets and capabilities for all our people?

Provide professional learning for Arts Unit staff and teachers, tutors and industry professionals to enhance their expertise and support career goals

Processes

How do we put systems and strategies in place?

Design and deliver professional learning that underpins Great Teaching, Inspired Learning (GTIL), ensuring relevance and equity of access

Collect and analyse data on Professional Learning needs of staff in schools

Provide a range of teacher professional learning activities from practical workshops and mentoring programs to online learning opportunities

Engage all Arts Unit staff in ongoing professional learning to build their capacity and meet stakeholder needs

Utilise technology to provide flexible access to professional learning for teachers across the state

Enhance the Learning Hub and increase teacher access and use

Products and Practices

**What does our work achieve?
What will people be doing as a result of our work?**

Teachers develop their skills and confidently implement new strategies that promote student excellence in schools

Teachers and leaders are engaged in professional learning and practices to raise expectations of students engaged in Arts Unit programs

Strategic Direction 3 Showcase excellence

Purpose

We showcase outstanding student achievement through creative leadership of Arts Unit staff collaborating with teachers and industry professionals.

Improvement Measures

- ❖ Stage events successfully
- ❖ Improve evaluation and data collection tools to inform practice and reporting of all events
- ❖ Develop and maintain quality industry partnerships
- ❖ Establish Principal reference group

People

How do we build mindsets and capabilities for all our people?

Provide outstanding leadership in the coordination of best practice arts and literacy programs

Enable students to realise their potential through high profile events

Staff, students and community collaborate to promote and celebrate public education

Processes

How do we put systems and strategies in place?

Build networks and create environments where students and teachers collaborate in their pursuits of excellence

Cultivate and maintain successful partnerships across the state

Develop and maintain a range of effective communication strategies to share best practice and for the ongoing development of arts and literacy programs

Improve data collection to evaluate and identify strengths and improvements to meet the needs of schools

Work across the Schools Portfolio to ensure programs and events are delivered within budget

Products and Practices

**What does our work achieve?
What will people be doing as a result of our work?**

High profile public performances and events that celebrate student excellence

Provide a benchmark of best practice in arts and literacy programs that creates pathways for the pursuit of excellence

Deliver showcase performances and exhibitions through building successful relationships between schools, teachers and communities

Staff collaborate to ensure equity of access to high quality performances and events