The arts engage, inspire and enrich all students and are integral in the development of the whole person. They provide a unique means of expression and encourage the exploration of new ideas, subject matter and culture.

The Public Schools NSW Arts Education Framework outlines the role of The Arts Unit and Arts Coordination Officers in the consistent delivery of arts education for students and teachers in NSW public schools and provides a clear pathway to support the pursuit of excellence.

The Framework has been developed to align with the Public Schools NSW Strategic Directions 2012-2014 and The Arts Unit’s Strategic Directions 2012-2014. The Framework is also informed by data and evidence gathered in NSW, nationally and internationally over recent years.

Key strategies
The Arts Education Framework supports students and schools in and beyond the classroom by:

Local schools
- Modelling best practice for the delivery of arts education programs.
- Empowering schools to make informed decisions about arts education programs.
- Aligning professional learning opportunities with student outcomes.

School programs delivered by teachers
- Rigorous and comprehensive arts education programs delivered by teachers in and beyond the classroom, including facilitating the integration of local and Arts Unit programs.

Local needs
- Promoting the development and delivery of innovative arts education programs that respond to local needs.
- Increasing the reach and scope of arts education programs through available technologies.
- Providing leadership opportunities in the coordination of innovative arts education programs.

Programs to networks of schools delivered by local teachers and Arts Coordination Officers
- Innovative arts education programs delivered by local teachers and supported by Arts Coordination Officers and Local Arts Councils.

Consistent delivery
- Supporting the development and delivery of a suite of high quality arts performances, exhibitions, camps, workshops, programs and events.
- Strengthening equity of access to high quality performance, exhibition, camp and workshop opportunities.
- Modelling and providing leadership opportunities in the coordination of best practice arts programs and projects.

Programs to networks of schools delivered by Educational Services Teams
- A suite of high quality arts performances, exhibitions, camps, workshops, programs and events supported by Local Arts Councils and The Arts Unit and facilitated by Arts Coordination Officers.

Further pathways to excellence
- Providing high quality and high profile opportunities in all art disciplines that complement and extend school and local programs.
- Providing a consistent and accessible pathway for participation in state level arts performances, exhibitions, camps, workshops, programs and events.
- Providing targeted professional learning to build the capacity of teachers to deliver arts education.

Arts Unit programs to schools state-wide
- High quality, high profile state arts programs coordinated by The Arts Unit and supported by Arts Coordination Officers.