

ARTS EDUCATION DECISION-MAKING FRAMEWORK

Creative Communities uses the following criteria to assess an arts education program’s alignment with the strategy.

Arts Education Practice

NIL

Instructors not teaching artists and/or no hands-on art making for youth

EMERGENT

Limited opportunities for youth to make art, led by novice teaching artists, and/or using untested lesson plans

DEVELOPING

Youth producing some original work with support from teaching artists

STRONG

Program is a “community of creators” where youth make art with active, well-structured mentorship from experienced teaching artists

“STRONG” REQUIRED

Knowledge of How to Engage Youth Participants

NIL

No understanding of youth it seeks to benefit, history of working with them, or models for learning about them

EMERGENT

Limited to some exposure to, or history of, working with youth it seeks to benefit

DEVELOPING

Has experience (at least two-years of past programming) and a tested model for learning about the young people it seeks to engage and benefit to shape program’s relevance for them

STRONG

All aspects of program design reflect experience (at least 5 years of programming) and deep understanding of the young people it seeks to engage and benefit

“DEVELOPING” OR “STRONG” REQUIRED

Orientation to Racial Equity and Economic Inclusion

NIL

Lacks plan for how to actively reach students of color or economically disadvantaged students

EMERGENT

Has limited plans for how to engage students of color or economically disadvantaged students

DEVELOPING

Making substantial or transformational change for how it reaches and supports students of color and economically disadvantaged students

STRONG

Embedded practices throughout the program that enable meaningful connection to, and supports for, students of color and economically disadvantaged students

“DEVELOPING” OR “STRONG” REQUIRED

Youth-Centered Practice

NIL

No evidence of program design giving students any sense of agency

EMERGENT

Engages with youth for input on only a few pre-determined activities

DEVELOPING

Youth participants are asked to give input on multiple elements and activities throughout program

STRONG

Program is youth-informed or deeply youth-centered, imparting agency to youth as active drivers of the program’s learning and outcomes

“DEVELOPING” OR “STRONG” REQUIRED