

2012 Mill Levy Oversight Committee

Arts Research, Finance Update & SIG, 2016 Discussion

Denver Public Schools

Nov 11, 2015



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Strategic Arts Planning

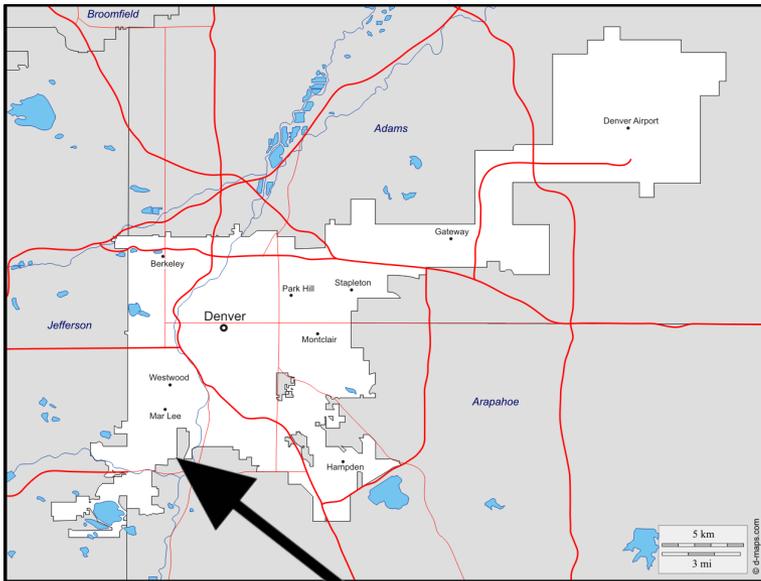
Option C: "Balance"

Overview:

- The Arts Department will take on:
 - District-wide census of arts offerings** for middle and high school DPS-administered schools, and,
 - A case study** on one DPS region.

Rationale:

- Doing both a case study and a district census will inform each other and will identify arts pathways gaps as well as strategies for addressing these gaps.



Deliverables:

- This robust approach will result in community awareness tools such as a **web-based map** showing arts offerings at all secondary schools and/or inclusion in the **School Choice Enrollment Guide** to provide families information on arts programs.
- The case study will provide information on the scope and scale of the demand for arts programming within DPS.

Concluding thoughts:

- Teachers are ultimately the best data source for arts programming in the district, but they will not be able to provide hard data on student demand or on how school leaders make resource decisions for their school. This dual approach will maximize resources, balance the strengths and weaknesses of each research strategy, and will provide data for the goals outlined in the *Strategic Arts Plan*.

Timeline

- Nov/Dec – Design research plan
- Feb – Develop survey and school targets, check in with Mill Oversight
- Mar/Apr/May – Roll Out Survey
- Aug/Sept – Discuss synthesized results with Mill Oversight
- Oct/Nov – Roll out parent awareness tool

Mill Finance Update

- The Committee last discussed finances at our June 2015 meeting when the subject of new mill revenues was reviewed
 - As a reminder, at this meeting we presented a update in which new mill revenues would be used for: strategic literacy programs, expansion of mental health supports, support for Personalized Learning Expansion and support for increased Kindergarten expenses with rising enrollment
- While the budget picture for 16-17 is still fluid, we want to give the oversight committee some early insight into our expectations

School Improvement Grants: 2016-17

Past Awards:

- School improvement grants are competitive awards from the 2003 Mill meant for schools that had two purposes: grants have been targeted at schools working on turnaround initiatives and also to support schools piloting innovative practices
- In 2014-15, we revised the SIG application with the intent of making the grants more competitive.
- We succeeded in this regard, increasing applications three-fold, however both staff and the mill oversight committee feel there is a continued opportunity to make the grants more strategic. Another concern is the time commitment in these grants relative to their share of the overall mill

Opportunities:

- Additional targeting for improvement investments
 - For example, we are considering an option to target funds at a specific need or set of schools (e.g., while there are a number of other funding sources for red schools, do we target funds to support schools trying to move from yellow to green?)
- Continue to enhance progress monitoring and supports for grant recipients
- Re-think sequencing of oversight committee engagement; ask the schools team to bring a list of recommendations to committee for discussion rather than asking to engage with entirety of applications

To what extent do these potential changes address the challenges the committee has identified in the past?

2016 Discussion

As we are preparing for the community process in planning for a 2016 Bond and Mill Levy [watch out for applications for the committee in the next week], we would like to start a discussion around the committee's learnings so that we have good knowledge transfer from the different groups

- What has worked well around the allocation and implementation of 2012 investments?
- What are areas for improvement the committee has discovered based on the allocation and implementation of 2012 investments?
- What are recommendations to the 2016 CPAC regarding program evaluation and transparency?

Next Steps

- Planning a site visit with a community partner at our Dec 9th committee meeting to continue our discussion on before, during and after school opportunities