

Title: History Education (through) Arts Responsive Training (HEART) initiative.

Applicant: Young Audiences of Louisiana (YALA) is the largest provider of arts-in-education services in the state. Established in 1962 YALA has grown through our mission of “inspiring, engaging, and uniting children and communities through arts, education, and culture. YALA has been the recipient of three Department of Education grants that have successfully improved student academic outcomes through arts-based learning since 2014. **Project Directors:** Jenny James, Young Audiences of Louisiana Executive Director, Kelly White, YALA Director of Education.

Goals, Objectives, and Activities (Absolute Priority, Competitive Preference 1, 2, and

Invitational Priority): In partnership with NOLA Public Schools, Jefferson Public Schools, and

Assumption Parish Schools HEART will (1) improve student American History, Civics/Government, and Geography (AHCGG) learning through arts-based pedagogy to counteract inequities in access to “whole child” learning; (2) refine an evidenced-based model for arts-integrated learning supported by multiple DOE grants and positive evaluation; (3) develop arts-integrated print and video exemplar lessons to be accessible on Young Audiences National Distance Learning Platform; (4) cultivate supportive, culturally-responsive school environments; and (5) disseminate a framework for replication across local, regional, and national school networks.

Impact: HEART will serve seven schools, 60 classrooms, 70 Classroom Teachers (including paraprofessionals/arts discipline instructors), 21 School Leaders, 1,500 Students, and 12 Teaching Artists through arts-integrated services. YALA will also convene a Participant Program Committee of school representatives, students, caregivers, and teaching artists to advise on initiative delivery as it evolves. An average of 90% student participants meet Free and Reduced Lunch qualifications. Evaluation will be conducted by Dr. Yvette Clinton of Manhattan Strategy.

Contribution: Supported by national-level research and affirmed by DOE evaluations, arts integration is an evidence-based, proven strategy that demonstrates a rationale to positively impact academic outcomes for all students, particularly those in high-needs districts.