



## Strategic Framework

Mission / Common Agenda / What We Believe / Strategic Objectives

Through planning sessions over twelve months in 2022-23, NETAC's founding Steering Committee explored the obstacles to success, available resources and gaps in resources, and the opportunities in New England for designing and implementing NETAC's vision.

This work resulted in a **strategic framework**, which was further developed at the Vermont Gathering in July 2023, and subsequent regional NETAC meetings.

By thoroughly exploring and adjusting this framework with stakeholders over a two-year period we are ensuring that NETAC is being designed by those it is meant to serve.

This strategic framework will serve as the foundation for creating the full strategic plan that the Steering Committee and Working Groups will develop.

### MISSION

The mission of NETAC is to build regional capacity to develop thriving communities by preparing teaching artists to serve as catalysts who activate creative potential and foster partnerships with educators, organizations and community groups.

#### What do we mean by *thriving communities*?

A "thriving" community doesn't mean that residents never have difficulties. It means that any difficulties are accompanied by access to well-being, which comprises:

- **Relationships** – individuals feel seen, heard and valued; a sense of belonging)
- **Support** – individuals feel people have their back
- **Engagement** – individuals feel a part of something bigger than themselves

*Thanks to Tasha Golden for inspiring this definition of thriving communities and well-being.*

### COMMON AGENDA

The Common Agenda serves to focus the work of NETAC Hubs to be aligned and mutually beneficial for greater impact. The founding Steering Committee and Vermont Gathering attendees agreed that teaching artist professional learning was the strongest lever they could push on to increase the impact of teaching artists working to build more thriving communities.

**NETAC's Common Agenda** is to create a rigorous multi-tier teaching artist professional learning program that builds and promotes exemplary models of school and community partnerships.

**WE BELIEVE** that the New England Teaching Artist Collaborative can:

- model the equitable and inclusive practices that foster wellbeing and social justice;
- build a teaching artist collaborative that increases sustainability, visibility and the continually-improving practice of the field;



- amplify the impact of creative community-engaged projects on communities throughout the region through strong communications, effective knowledge sharing, and pioneering models which can be adopted and adapted widely;
- develop cross-sector partnerships that foster broad support and participation in creative projects to strengthen personal, school and community well-being.

## **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

These objectives were created by the founding Steering Committee, and further developed at the Vermont Gathering in July 2023 and the subsequent regional NETAC Hub meetings.

They are emergent and in process, and meant to help guide the creation of a full strategic plan, which will be developed in 2025 by the Steering Committee and Working Groups, with support from the Community Engagement Lab.

### **OBJECTIVE 1 – Network Building Working Group**

**Build participation, ownership and support in NETAC among cross-sector stakeholders with a focus on equity, diversity and belonging.**

- Establish working groups with a focus on equity, diversity and belonging
- Identify former and current TA networks or alliances to inform NETAC's growth
- Establish the role of the network's "backbone" organization (Collective Impact model)
- Identify visionary/advocacy organizations that can provide sustaining, multi-year support
- Plan NETAC gatherings: local and regional
- Recruit participation from non-arts cross-sector stakeholders
- Create a roadmap and timeline for how to build our community/network
- Engage with schools and non-profits that share NETAC goals and could align programming to be mutually beneficial
- Identify government, foundation, business and individual funders

### **OBJECTIVE 2 – Professional Learning Working Group**

**Create a rigorous multi-tier teaching artist professional development program that builds and promotes exemplary models of school and community partnerships.**

- Be intentional about inclusivity and accessibility to professional learning
- Identify gaps in TA professional learning that NETAC could fill
- Identify current professional learning being offered that NETAC could promote and build upon
- Connect NETAC with local, regional, national, global organizations that provide TA professional learning
- Develop a plan for measuring impact

### **OBJECTIVE 3 – Communications Working Group**

**Build a sense of community, belonging and purpose in the work of NETAC through continuous communication among Working Groups, NETAC Hubs and Stakeholders**

- Identify and share examples of how TAs are building thriving communities: "Proof Points"
- Promote NETAC participants' success in supporting community well-being
- Build communication tools to promote exemplars of strong TA work
- Use unexpected channels and spaces to promote NETAC's work and impact
- Cultivate relationships with New England media
- Create curated list of resources for TAs working in Art for Health & Well-being