



# New England Teaching Artist Collaborative

## Hubs: Partnering Locally >> Networking Regionally

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**The purpose 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.

### We believe that NETAC can:

- model equitable and inclusive practices that foster well-being and social justice;
- 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 the well-being of children, adults, families and communities;
- increase the sustainability, visibility and the continually-improving practice of the field of teaching artistry.

### Common Agenda

Through a year-long planning process, NETAC's Steering Committee explored the obstacles to implementing teaching artist-led community-engaged creative projects. They determined that the most impactful actions to help overcome those obstacles would be to:

**Create a rigorous teaching artist professional learning program that *builds and promotes* exemplary models of school and community partnerships.**

In this way, NETAC supports teaching artists to help people come together to build more equitable and inclusive communities, to foster creative problem solving, and to change our collective story.

### What is a NETAC Hub?

NETAC Hubs support teaching artists to build and promote projects that strengthen the well-being of youth, families and communities. Hubs are strongest when they are a collaboration among cross-sector organizations in a community. A hub can serve a single community or a collection of communities in a geographic area.

### Partnering Locally >> Networking Regionally

Hubs have three primary roles in the network: 1) support professional learning for teaching artists working to strengthen the well-being of their community; 2) develop and model creative projects that can be adapted and adopted by communities throughout New England; and, 3) share knowledge to strengthen the network. **Hubs are the network weavers** that bring people & organizations together for creative projects in their community and increase the knowledge base that is shared across the network.

### Benefits of Becoming a Hub

- Access to regional professional learning resources and models of best practice to strengthen the work of your local teaching artists.
- Invigorate professional learning for local teaching artists at all career levels.
- Strengthen local teaching artists' sense of belonging and confidence by taking collective responsibility for their well-being and professional growth.

- Support your local teaching artists to achieve their fuller potential – to become catalysts for creative projects that strengthen the well-being of youth, families and your community.
- Create a collective voice for supporting and advancing the field of teaching artistry, locally and throughout the region.

### **Sample Hub Activities**

Each Hub finds its own path to support teaching artists in their community. There is no one-size-fits-all set of activities for a Hub. Some sample activities may include:

- Champion policies and practices of equity, inclusion and belonging through creative projects that build more thriving communities.
- Identify community stakeholders (including funders) that support the work of NETAC locally and regionally.
- Share NETAC communication and outreach materials through your networks to grow and strengthen your local teaching artist cohort and their connection to the regional network.
- Support local creative projects led by teaching artists that strengthen community well-being.
- Identify individuals to serve on a NETAC Working Group to share knowledge and help shape how NETAC supports your local teaching artists.
- Attract a cohort of teaching artists to serve as leading learners, becoming trainers and advocates.

### **Support for Hubs**

The Community Engagement Lab supports the Hubs in its role as NETAC's backbone organization.

These services include strategic oversight and logistical support activities:

- assist in developing plans to build buy-in from cross-sector stakeholders;
- facilitate the sharing of knowledge among the Hubs about best practices in teaching artist professional learning and community-engaged project design and implementation;
- help establish goals for each Hub that include implementation strategies aligned with NETAC's purpose and guiding policy;
- develop outcome indicators and performance measures to evaluate the Hub's progress and to inform improvement in the network and local project implementation;
- facilitate communication between the Hubs and NETAC Working Groups to share knowledge, understand the challenges at the Working Group level, and ensure strategic coherence with NETAC's purpose and common agenda;

### **Steps for Establishing a Hub**

The first step to establish a NETAC Hub is to organize a meeting with like-minded community leaders and teaching artists, being inclusive to reflect the diversity of the community and cross-sector voices. This introductory meeting can explore:

- community priorities concerning well-being;
- community stakeholders to contact and involve;
- the benefits and responsibilities of becoming a NETAC Hub.

The Community Engagement Lab can help design and co-facilitate that meeting.

Once there is enthusiasm for moving forward, Hub collaborators explore teaching artist needs in their community, and different activities for supporting and engaging teaching artists in serving community needs. Those activities can range from supporting local teaching artists with professional learning, to low-cost and no-cost ways of making a difference.

To learn more about establishing a NETAC Hub in your community, contact the Community Engagement Lab at 802-595-0087.