

# turnaround arts: milwaukee CREATIVITY COLUMN

October 4, 2017



**TURNAROUND ARTS:**  
**MILWAUKEE**  
creating success in schools

*Turnaround Arts Mission Statement: Turnaround Arts transforms priority schools through the strategic use of the arts. We envision a world in which all students engage in a well-rounded education and exude confidence, critical thinking and creativity as a result.*

## SHOUT OUT!



**SHOUT OUT!** To all four TA:MKE schools for their creative vision in planning and implementing **Turnaround Artist school visits** that were so inspiring! Arrested Development's Speech (Lancaster), Larisa Martinez (Sherman), Johnny Nuñez (Roosevelt), and Jacqueline Suskin (Dr. MLK, Jr.) had an amazing experience with our scholars and look forward to collaborating with us this year.



**SHOUT OUT!** To the TA:MKE ambassadors that created displays for the [MPS Year of the Arts celebration](#) and were on hand to tell our community about the amazing things we are doing! Our TA:MKE schools will serve as an example

of the impact the arts can have on scholars' social and academic outcomes.

**SHOUT OUT!** To local artist **Ammar Nsoroma** for the beautiful MLK mural and to the school's team for coordinating a deeply meaningful dedication event. This stunning mural is inspired by the school's **African American Immersion** program and in turn will inspire students to celebrate history through the arts every day! We encourage all to come and experience it in person.





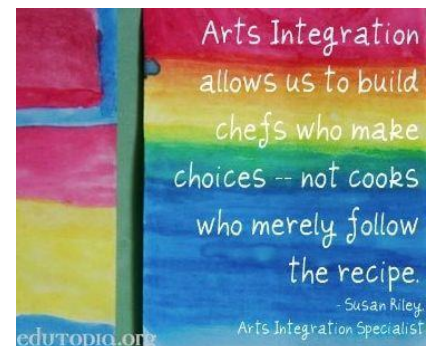
**SHOUT OUT!** To Kantara Souffrant and the **Milwaukee Art Museum** for hosting the Turnaround Arts: Milwaukee video shoot for *Love Train*. Much like the Turnaround Arts [Everyday People](#) video, [Playing for Change](#) will use the footage to create a music video celebrating arts education around the country.

### Message from your Local Program Team

We are off to a great start for year two! Having had teams of arts leaders deployed all summer to the **Kennedy Center's Arts Integration Conference** in Madison, the **Turnaround Arts Summer Leadership Retreat** in Virginia, the **Visual Thinking Strategies Practicum** in Seattle, as well as our **local Arts Leadership Team Retreat** at the Milwaukee Art Museum, we bring so many new ideas to the table this year.

Just to name a few exciting initiatives:

- ⇒ Sherman, MLK, and Lancaster will all be taking on a second whole school strategy! Those teams will now be doing both [Acting Right](#) and [Visual Thinking Strategies](#) – and we will be working with **First Stage** and the **Milwaukee Art Museum** to provide additional coaching and help build “strategy keeper” teacher cohorts and model classrooms for both strategies.
- ⇒ Schools are well poised to take advantage of [Flocabulary](#) (licenses are already available through the district) and Turnaround Arts: National will be making a push to support it.
- ⇒ [Soundtrap](#), an online audio recording, production, and sharing tool, has offered FREE educational licenses for any TA:MKE teachers interested in working with **digital recording!**
- ⇒ Roosevelt received their National Association of Music Merchants grant to support the creation of a **drumline in collaboration with MHS**.
- ⇒ Through the Filling the Gaps initiative, MLK will be working with **Skai Academy**, **New Age Narcissism**, and the **Wisconsin Conservatory of Music** to create a music program and curriculum through the African American Immersion lens that serves the entire student body.
- ⇒ Lancaster is the proud recipient of a second year grant funded expressive arts therapy programming through **Express Yourself Milwaukee**.
- ⇒ All four schools will be embarking on a pilot year partnership with **Still Waters Collective** to implement the first ever Junior Slam League, which will culminate with an all TA: MKE school **poetry slam competition** at Roosevelt in the spring.
- ⇒ And last but not least, our Implementation Coordinator, Christina Ratatori, has dedicated much of her time this year to being school-based. She has already begun facilitating **arts integration** focused collaborative planning times, professional development sessions, and started some very exciting one-on-one projects with teachers. Please be sure you get your time in to brainstorm and plan with her genius arts education mind!

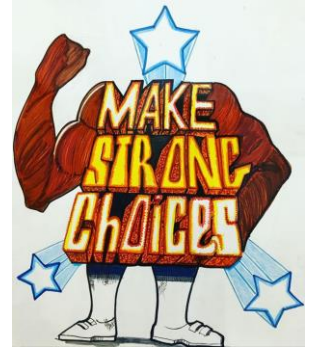


## GRAB AND GO!

### ACTING RIGHT

Encourage your entire staff (not just classroom teachers) to use Acting Right language. Simple phrases can be excellent reminders for scholars (and staff!) throughout their day.

- ⇒ “Let’s be calm, focused, and balanced.”
- ⇒ “What actor’s tool are you not in control of right now?”
- ⇒ “Be the boss of your brain.”



### VISUAL THINKING STRATEGIES

“CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS DELIVER A MESSAGE THAT RESONATES WITH OUR TIME, AND WITH OUR STUDENTS.”

*-Andrew McCormick*



Remember these facilitator tips:

- ⇒ Encourage students to use directional words vs. coming up to the Smart Board.
- ⇒ Say, “What MORE can we find?” vs. “What ELSE can we find?”
- ⇒ When paraphrasing, use conditional language (“it could be,” “it might be”, etc.) to reinforce that there is no wrong answer and all contributions are welcome and encouraged.

### ARTS INTEGRATION

Visit the [Turnaround Arts YouTube Channel](#)

- ⇒ Explore TED Talks! Arts Integration Resources! Brain Boosters!

**Art Pass** is an excellent way to get students through the classroom door and engaged. It can also be the perfect art break. Exposing contemporary artists’ work connects the classroom with the real world.

- ⇒ RMSA, submit theme ideas to Miss Christina.
- ⇒ Any interested teachers at MLK, Lancaster & Sherman reach out to Miss Christina to learn more!

**School Environment** is one of the 8 Turnaround Arts pillars. What are some small ways you can change the way your classroom looks and feels?

- ⇒ Visit the [TA:MKE School Environment board on Pinterest!](#)

## IMPORTANT DATES

- October 12 | Winston Marsalis Orchestra workshop at MHSA | [RMSA](#) Orchestra
- October 16-18 | VTS trainer visits | [Lancaster](#), [Sherman](#)
- October 27 | Sphinx Virtuosi at Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts | [RMSA](#) Orchestra
- October 30-November 2 | Acting Right trainer visit | [MLK](#), [Lancaster](#)