

# Community Collaborations



students may receive opportunities to have work on display or printed in calendars or greeting cards. Students at the Philadelphia Performing Arts Charter School have had work displayed on the city's public transit and at a local firehouse.

Philadelphia's Moore College of Art and Design hosts an annual contest entitled "Celebrating Creativity." Philadelphia schools can enter five pieces of student work, which are then put on display in the Widener Memorial Art Gallery, located in the college gallery space. The artwork is judged and first-place winners receive a scholarship to attend the college's Saturday or summer art program. After attending the awards ceremony and gallery opening, one of my students, a second grader, exclaimed "This is the best day of my life!"

### Taking Advantage of Opportunities

Many institutions are eager to display work, and art teachers can take advantage of the opportunities. It is a thrill for students and their families, and it also provides an educational opportunity.

For schools located in smaller or rural communities, collaborative partnerships can be formed with local businesses, art centers, or other community organizations, such as community centers or senior citizen centers. Making connections builds

relationships, promotes the work of students, and brings visibility to the importance of art education in schools.



*Megan Giampietro is a visual art teacher at the Philadelphia Performing Arts Charter School in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania.*

### WEB LINKS

- [www.moore.edu](http://www.moore.edu)
- [www.kimmelcenter.org](http://www.kimmelcenter.org)
- [www.woodmereartmuseum.org](http://www.woodmereartmuseum.org)
- [atozteacherstuff.com/Tips/Displaying\\_Student\\_Work](http://atozteacherstuff.com/Tips/Displaying_Student_Work)

### Megan Giampietro

Every school setting is within a larger community that can offer a plethora of exhibition opportunities for students. It may take time and effort, but the rewards of providing students with opportunities for exhibiting their artwork far outweigh the work, and it's fun to meet people in the community who share a love for art. Students also get to experience the process of coordinating an exhibit and learn how to mount artwork, make labels, arrange and hang the displays, provide refreshments, and design invitations.

### Collaborations Abound

Students at the Philadelphia Performing Arts Charter School enjoy a school location that is surrounded by many institutions that we have formed collaborations with, including museums, theaters, colleges, and universities.

These collaborations have included activities such as making phone calls, scheduling visits, entering contests, hosting meetings, and mentoring student teachers.

Mentoring student teachers has led to the exhibition of student work that was created under the supervision of the student teacher. Student teachers are required to put up an exhibit at their college's gallery space, with all the trimmings of a gallery exhibit. Students' families are invited to these wonderful events, where their children's work is proudly on display.

### Friendly Competition

Entering contests is another way to bring visibility to student art. Winning

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