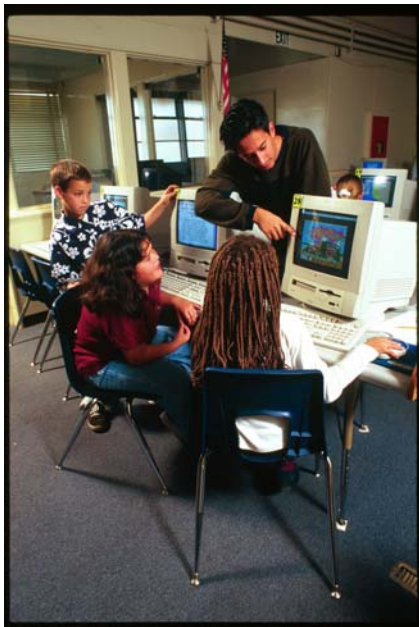


## Understanding Innovation: Developing a Research Agenda for ArtsBridge

As ArtsBridge enters its fourth year of implementation across the University of California and initiates national expansion, it is clear that its impacts extend beyond arts outreach to primary and secondary students and the professional support of classroom teachers. Our field research and review of the academic literature suggest that gaining insight into the program's formative and summative outcomes will entail a broad-based research agenda in the following areas:

- **Enriching the Educational Experience of University Students.** What are the impacts of ArtsBridge participation on disciplinary knowledge, career objectives, self-confidence and maturity, and the university experience generally?
- **Promoting Community Values.** To what degree do ArtsBridge students understand and empathize with problems of teachers and children, especially those in underserved communities? How does participation in the program foster a greater commitment to community and service to others?
- **Recruiting New Teachers.** Almost 90 percent of ArtsBridge scholars report an interest in pursuing a career in teaching as a result of their experience in the program. What factors contribute to this interest, and how many scholars actually go on to pursue careers in education?
- **Engaging K-12 Teachers in the Arts.** How does ArtsBridge enhance knowledge and appreciation of the arts among classroom teachers and how are the arts used to incorporate instruction in other academic areas? To what degree does service as an ArtsBridge host teacher increase confidence in presenting arts instruction to pupils?
- **Improving Learning for K-12 Pupils.** How does participation in ArtsBridge affect K-12 pupils in the following areas? (1) Appreciation for and development of practical skills in the arts; (2) plans to attend college; and (3) levels of focus and engagement in classroom learning.
- **Research Contributions to All Levels of Education.** What roles do outreach programs and partnerships such as ArtsBridge play at major research universities in terms of building prestige, attracting high quality students and faculty, generating funds, and addressing urgent social issues? How does the establishment of applied research institutes in the arts, such as the Center of Arts Research in Education, link classrooms, university researchers, teacher educators and K-12 teachers?



Defining a research agenda for ArtsBridge is only a precursor to further study. With support from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), ArtsBridge has launched an intensive three-year investigation into these issues as a means to illuminate best practices and speak to the program's replicability. Forthcoming briefs will address these issues in greater depth, exploring the program's various outcomes for diverse constituents.