

**For Immediate Release**  
August 25, 2017

**Contact:**  
Erica Taylor 843-937-6303

## Media Release

### **Arts Programs at Two CCSD Schools Receive Financial Boost**

Office of Strategy and  
Communications

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Erica S. Taylor  
Chief Officer

**Charleston, SC** — Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce two elementary schools have been awarded Distinguished Arts Program (DAP) grants from the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDOE). Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School (ARCAES) and Sanders-Clyde Creative Arts Elementary School (SCCAES) are each receiving over \$10,000 to provide ongoing professional development and arts integration for the 2017-18 school year.

DAP grants provide funds for one year projects. The purpose of DAP is to assist schools and districts in developing and implementing arts initiatives that support quality arts education programs, which significantly improve student achievement in the arts. DAP recipients must have a strategic arts plan that includes all forms of art: dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. Approximately \$1.4 million was allocated to support approximately DAP awards across the state for the current academic calendar.

ARCAES and SCCAES, along with North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School and Wando High School, also recently received nearly \$40,000 to enhance arts education through the South Carolina Arts Commission's Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) Advancement grants.

"At Ashley River Creative Arts, we are so grateful that the SCDOE makes the Distinguished Arts Program grant possible," commented ARCAES Principal, Michelle Conner. "It provides us with the opportunity to expand our arts program by funding the purchase of a variety of arts materials, musical instruments, and performance equipment. We are also grateful for the ABC grant, which funds artists in residency programs each year. With the help of these grants, Ashley River is able to provide an excellent education through the arts to all of our students."

ABC Advancement grants provide three-year funding to support schools and districts committed to implementing standards-based arts curricula and to making the arts an integral part of the basic curriculum and daily classroom instruction. ABC Advancement grants support comprehensive planning,

strategic projects, and implementation of standards-based arts education initiatives including, but not limited to, artist residencies. Over \$880,000 in grants was allocated to 79 schools in 2017-18.

"If you visit any of these schools, you will see how the arts have had a positive impact on school culture and students," said Catherine Hines-McCormack, CCSD Interim Arts and World Languages Coordinator. "I applaud the visionary educators who applied for and won these competitive grants."

"The arts enhance and improve education in all other academic areas," added Sanders-Clyde's grants liaison, Deborah Bobo. "Our brains are wired to retain information when we include movement, visuals, and music."

In 2017, CCSD schools have received over \$109,000 so far in arts grants from many organizations, including the SCDOE, SC Arts Commission, Lowcountry ArtsFund, and Charleston Marathon.

For more information about DAP, contact the Carrie Ann Power with the SCDOE at (843) 734-0323 or [cpower@ed.sc.gov](mailto:cpower@ed.sc.gov). If you are interested in how the grants will be applied specifically at ARCAES or SCCAES, please contact CCSD's Office of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303.

###

#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.