

# Cultivating creativity: artists reshaping Queensland classrooms

**For many young minds, creativity is easy to summon but difficult to articulate.**

In the art class, this phenomenon is most on display. Students often have an idea of what they'd like to create but don't know the bounds of their options. Alternatively, older students with a passion or talent for artistic practice may find it challenging to picture themselves pursuing a career as a visual artist.

These problems are suffered in both regional and urban settings across Queensland schools. Whilst the visual arts curriculum is robust, the abovementioned issues may be overcome by increasing student access to and regular involvement with practising artists.

Since 1971, the Flying Arts Alliance has played a significant role in inspiring artists and communities while striving to overcome the impacts of regional isolation and remote living.

One of the most essential pillars of the organisation's work is coordinating a team of experienced facilitators and artists to deliver programs requested by schools and communities across the state. By serving as a conduit between the art class and the artist, the Flying Arts Alliance recognises the intrinsic benefit of engaging practising artists in the classroom.

## Connecting art to real-world applications

Artists bring a real-world perspective to the classroom, bridging the gap between theory and practice. By sharing their experiences and insights, artists can demonstrate the practical applications of art in various industries, from design and advertising to multimedia and entertainment. This connection to real-world applications helps students understand the relevance of art in their future careers, making art classes more meaningful and purposeful.

Furthermore, artists can collaborate with teachers to develop projects that simulate professional art experiences. This hands-on approach allows students to apply theoretical knowledge in a practical context, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities they may encounter in the art world beyond the school walls.

## Diversifying art education

The presence of artists in Queensland schools contributes to the diversification of art education

by introducing students to various artistic styles, cultural influences, and historical contexts. Exposure to diverse art forms promotes inclusivity and broadens students' perspectives, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of different cultures and artistic traditions.

Artists can share their unique cultural backgrounds and personal narratives, adding a layer of authenticity to the art education experience. This diversity not only enriches the content of art classes but also creates a more inclusive and reflective learning environment, preparing students for a globalised world where cultural competency is increasingly essential.

## Fostering creativity and imagination

One of the primary reasons why artists visiting schools in Queensland is crucial lies in the ability to foster creativity and imagination among students. Indeed, the advantages for students derived from visual art education transcend the confines of the art classroom. The arts serve as a wellspring of inspiration, motivating young individuals to delve into their creativity, engage in critical thinking, and devise innovative solutions to challenges.

Visual art education, by fostering skills like self-management, problem-solving, and emotional judgment, provides students with enduring capabilities that extend to various subjects and future pursuits.

Queensland's schools, when infused with the dynamic energy of artists, become nurturing grounds for creative thinkers and problem solvers. Through workshops, demonstrations, and interactive sessions, students can engage with different art forms, exploring new mediums and techniques that go beyond the limitations of traditional classroom settings.

The engagement of artists in Queensland schools has far-reaching benefits for education facilities and art class content. From nurturing creativity and imagination to connecting art to real-world applications, diversifying art education,



strengthening community engagement, and inspiring a lifelong appreciation for the arts, the impact of artists in schools is profound.

The Flying Arts Alliance is crucial in sparking inspiration among artists and communities. The organisation is dedicated to delivering tailored programs requested by schools and communities throughout the state by connecting seasoned facilitators and artists with students.

Serving as a vital bridge between the art class and the artist, the Flying Arts Alliance acknowledges the inherent value of involving practising artists directly in the classroom experience.

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 1. Photo by Corinda State High School  
 2. Photo by Amy Wilson  
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