



100 East Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-1009
troweprice.com
T: 410-345-6673
F: 410-345-2848

Board of Trustees

Robert W. Smith, Chair
Barbara J. Burdett
Meredith C. Callanan
Renee M. Christoff
Heather K. McPherson
James M. Murphy
David Oestreicher
George A. Roche
Daniel O. Shackelford
David J. Wallack
Craig S. Watson
Mark R. Weigman

President

Dr. John Brothers

November 19, 2018

Ms. Lori Snyder
Executive Director
Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance
190 W. Ostend St, Suite 210
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear Ms. Snyder,

I am writing on behalf of the T. Rowe Price Foundation in support of the development and implementation of *artlook Maryland*. We believe that this innovative data-mapping platform to drive and recognize excellence in the arts is long overdue in preK-12 education in Maryland.

As a catalyst for change in Baltimore for over three decades, the T. Rowe Price Foundation addresses community issues from every angle including education and the arts. The *artlook* map will change the landscape of arts education by facilitating transparency and collaboration among institutions, organizations, and programs advancing high academic achievement for all children. This includes schools, arts partners, and funders who are working to nurture lifelong learning and create more vibrant communities. The *artlook* map will help these stakeholders target resources to fill gaps in arts access for our students, particularly those from low-income schools and communities. Furthermore, *artlook* will drive increased efficiency for both schools and arts partners who are working to provide opportunities for students.

The benefits that comprehensive and sequential arts education have on children ultimately translates into a stronger and more creative future workforce. We know that arts education is essential as part of a well-rounded, world-class education that we want to provide for each student in our city and state. Numerous studies indicate the arts' positive impact on student achievement and test scores, overall motivation, and critical-thinking skills. We also know that students involved in the arts and who have constructive experiences through school are more likely to form positive relationships with peers and teachers. When learning is interesting and exciting, both student engagement and achievement will rise. From there students will engage more deeply in the learning of all disciplines and thereby be prepared to excel as future citizens and leaders.

We are pleased to endorse the implementation of *artlook Maryland* and see this important project supporting our culture of collaboration, innovation, diversity, accountability, and excellence. *Artlook* addresses the issue of unevenly distributed

resources throughout our state from every angle by connecting schools, arts and culture institutions, parents, funders, and the larger community. By helping build the capacity to reach and engage more young people across Maryland through the arts, we will ultimately strengthen the future of our state through a more creative workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JB' with a large loop at the end.

John Brothers

President, T. Rowe Price Foundation