

# SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab

ART ● MOVEMENT ● MUSIC

## Pilot Year in Review

Designed specially for Fall River Public Schools 7th & 8th grade students, SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab is a safe and welcoming place for youth to gather after school to strengthen their visual and performing arts skills, collaborate, energize, and create.



Pictured: Year I Students and Teachers.

"The program at the Narrows was a very great experience. We were able to meet new people and try things that we have never done."

Arts Lab Student  
End of Semester Survey

# *SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab*

*ART ● MOVEMENT ● MUSIC*

## *About the Program*

The Fall River Arts and Culture Coalition (FRACC), in partnership with The Narrows Center for the Arts (The Narrows) and Fall River Public Schools, proposed a hands-on approach to leverage City awarded ARPA resources to implement the SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab. When schools closed in March 2020, the afterschool and out-of-school time Fall River's programs were limited or cut, resulting in a loss of meaningful connections for children and families.

These programs have been a lifeline for many, providing purposeful engagements, academic tutoring, social-emotional support, partnering with schools for hybrid learning, feeding hungry children, and linking families to local resources. These programs have always been in high demand, and at this critical time, they are essential.

The first pilot semester took place in a professional arts setting at The Narrows for 15 weeks from Tuesday, January 24 - Thursday, May 18, 2023 (excluding February and April vacations). The second pilot semester took place for 16 weeks from Tuesday, October 3rd - Thursday, January 25th (excluding December vacation). It was designed to engage and elevate Fall River youth in 7th-8th grades from the Henry Lord Community School, Doran, Kuss, Talbot, and Morton Middle Schools.

The program is a safe, welcoming environment with a mission to build community, confidence, and creativity. Student's were provided with free transportation to and from the Narrows for two hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Professionals and educators presented sequential lessons around art, music, and movement curriculum to low-moderate income identified youth in this space.

Working with experienced educators in the visual and performing arts and Fall River Public Schools, the Art's Lab practices and curriculum strengthened students' sense of belonging, fostered collaboration, and built self-esteem around performance and creativity. In addition to mental nourishment, students were also provided nutritional food and beverages to nourish their bodies. Students also receive a free bag of groceries each week courtesy of the Fall River Food Bank. The youth experienced growing confidence and comfort with the knowledge gained through the program, increasing participation in day school classes, attendance, literacy proficiency in multiple domains, and a love of learning.

A culminating artist reception was on view at The Narrows on May 16, 2023 and January 23, 2024. Exhibited art projects from the visual art students and musical performances from the performing arts students were highlighted for community members and families.



# SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab

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## Goals and Objectives

The goal of the program is to provide safe, accessible, quality instruction in the visual and performing arts programming for youth in Fall River. Participants benefited from exposure to arts and the critical thinking strategies associated with observation, discussion, and creation of art and music. The SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab encouraged and supported the creation of a makerspace and equipment library that gave participants a leg up and unique opportunities.

Students improved their knowledge of various media and related vocabulary and increased proficiency in hand-eye coordination through classroom practice. By discussing their revelations, problems, solutions, and frustrations as they developed within the classroom community; students increased their communication skills, learned about differing points of view, and developed higher-order critical thinking.

Students increased their knowledge, understanding, art, music, and movement skills. The program enabled students to feel comfortable using their hands and body to make something and express themselves verbally when discussing their work.

Guided by professional visual and performing arts educators and collaborating partners, this out-of-school time program integrated an accessible climate of equity and inclusion that provided community and supportive services for low-income youth disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Visual and Performing Arts Teacher's of Fall River Public Schools nominated students in 7th and 8th grade middle school's across Fall River that they felt would benefit most from this out-of-classroom experience.

This program meets ARPA Expenditure Category 3 and Goal #2 of the Viva Arts & Culture Creative Economy Plan, which focuses on residents and neighbors by supporting culture and creativity across the city and creating tangible and measurable positive impacts for residents and neighborhoods.

To learn more about Fall River's first Arts & Culture Creative Economy Plan visit the FRACC's website: [fallriverartsandculturecoalition.org/about-fracc](http://fallriverartsandculturecoalition.org/about-fracc)

To learn more about the SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab visit the FRACC's website: [fallriverartsandculturecoalition.org/arts-lab](http://fallriverartsandculturecoalition.org/arts-lab)

# SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab

## ● VISUAL ART ●



**Pictured: Year I Visual Arts students pose in-front of their exhibited drawings, paintings, and prints at the Narrows Center for the Arts, in Fall River, MA.**

**"This program helped me brainstorm ideas for my art. My favorite was the block print because I found it relaxing. I also learned how to use watercolors correctly because before I would just mess up."**

**Arts Lab Student  
End of Semester Survey**



# SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab

● *MOVEMENT* ●



**Pictured: Student's participating in a yoga session before visual and performing arts activities.**

**"I did not stretch or do yoga at all before and now that I've done it, I enjoy it and feel more calm and can help control my own anxiety."**

**Arts Lab Student  
End of Semester Survey**

# SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab

● *MUSIC* ●



**Pictured: Students learning and practicing music concepts with ukuleles, drums, and singing.**

**"I feel like learning new things musically related made me change to someone who has a passion for music."**

**Arts Lab Student  
End of Semester Survey**



# SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab

ART ● MOVEMENT ● MUSIC

## Lesson Plans Overview

Students are enriched with weekly lessons that explore the vital significance of creative thinking and problem solving. We empower students to recognize The Arts as an essential part of pedagogy for twenty-first century learners. Student's gain art, movement, and music skills that they utilize in-and-out of the classroom.

### Examples

**Art Students create "Zine's" inspired by Fall River**

**Materials:** Drawing paper, Drawing Pencils, Micron Pens, Art Markers

**Goals:** Explore the histories and cultural significance of hometown landmarks through Art.

**Outcomes:** Students gain skills in successful narrative storytelling through improved sketching and drawing, composition, hand eye coordination, and integrating history and art.

**Music Students create written lyrics**

**Materials:** Poem Templates, Lyric Sheets, Various Instruments

**Goals:** Explore lyrics and melodies of song genres to create individualized songs.

**Outcomes:** Students gain skills in the creative writing process, perspective storytelling, lyrical structure to compose songs, and integrating music and writing.

**Students practice yoga poses**

**Materials:** Yoga mats and blocks

**Goals:** Students utilize yoga as a stress reducing practice at the beginning of each day.

**Outcomes:** Students practice varied yoga poses and breathing exercises to gain strategies in helping to cope with anxiety and stress. All students gather as a community and work together to set goals and intentions for their day.



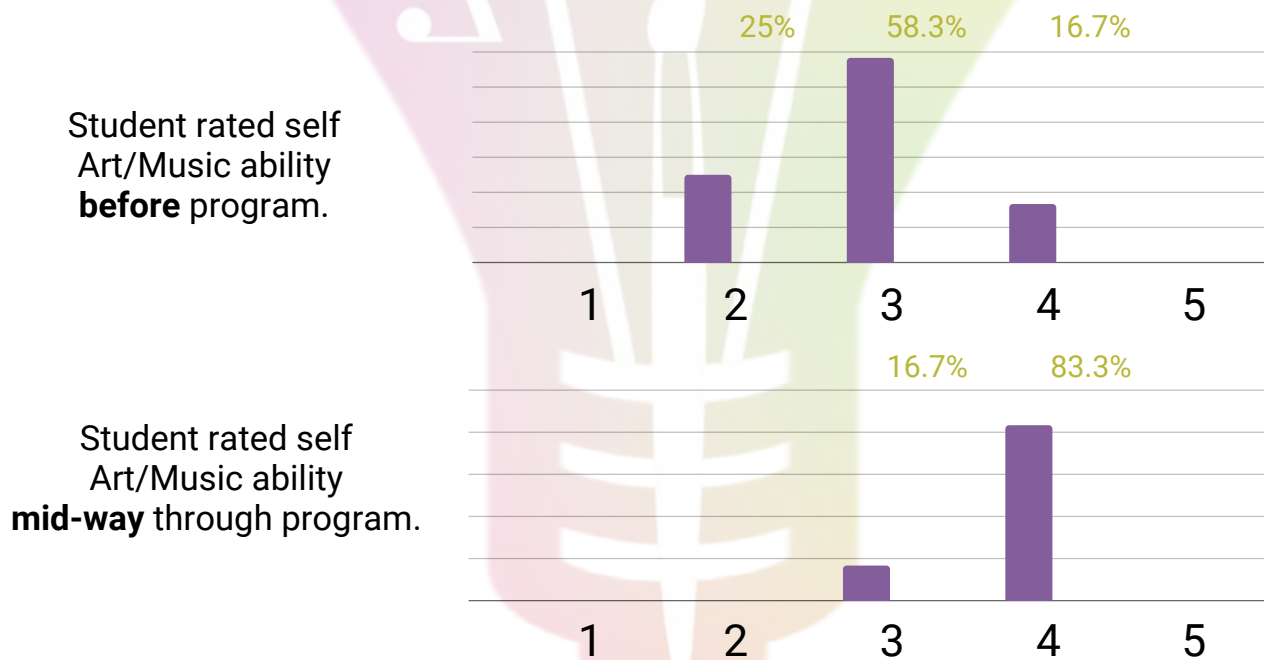
# SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab

## Student Surveys

The SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab implemented a Code of Conduct and used multiple tools for evaluation. The Arts Lab educators and staff measured changes on a daily basis as the program gradually progressed.

At the start of each semester, students were guided by goals for each grade of the Massachusetts Framework with a focus on personal wellness. Due to conflicting schedules, sixteen students participated in the first semester and fourteen in the second semester.

Our educators observed individual student development. Students, school teachers of students, and teachers of the SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab were surveyed anonymously before, during, and after the pilot program to track growth and wellness.



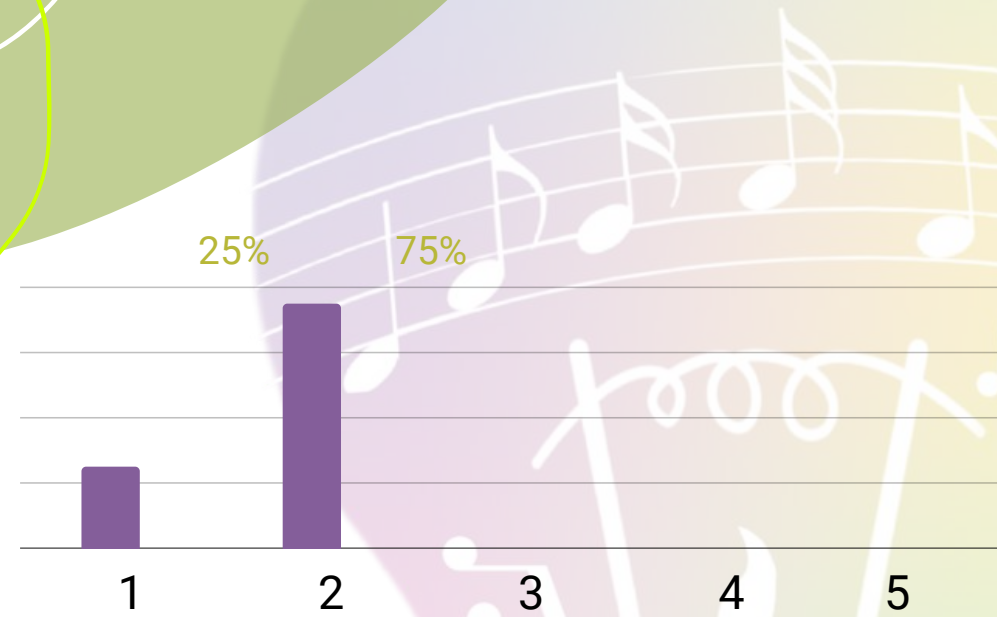
"I learned how to communicate better with the people at the program, how to love and appreciate my work and self, as well as new skills in art."

Arts Lab Student  
End of Semester Survey

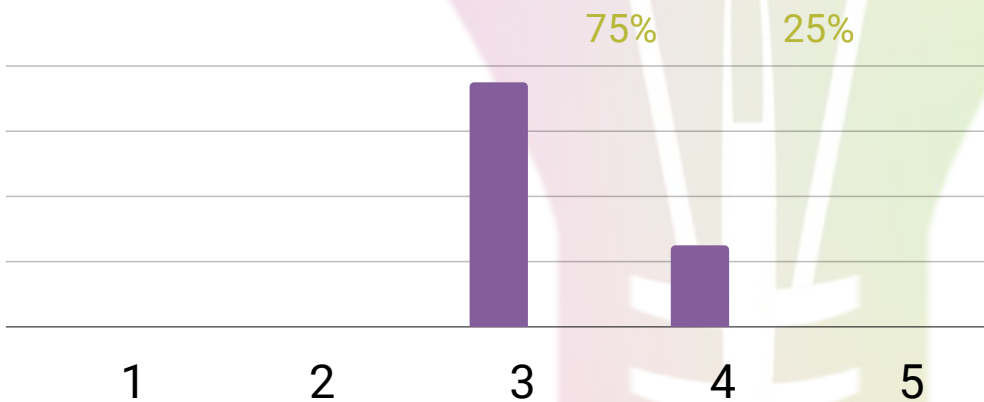


# SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab

## Arts Lab Teacher Survey



Arts Lab teachers rating of students knowledge and ability **before** program.



Arts Lab teachers rating of students knowledge and ability **mid-way** through program.

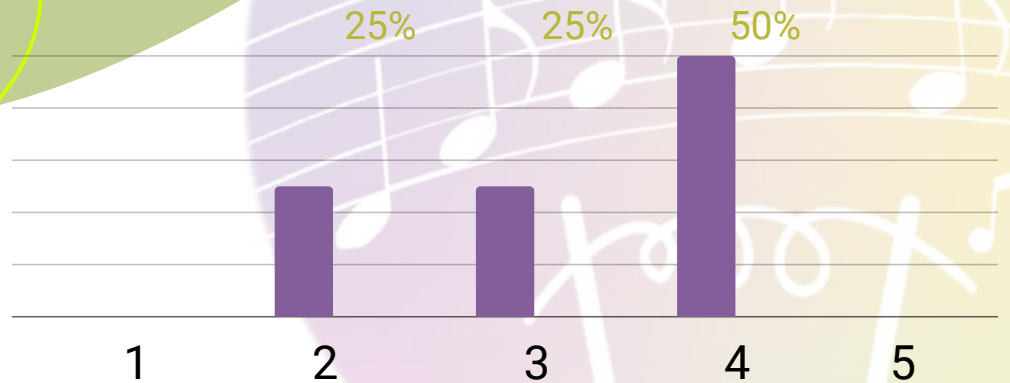
**“The best part of the program is being able to engage with a diverse group of students and impart some knowledge in aspects of music that they had not yet experienced. Also, to attempt to unlock some of their personal creativity.”**

**Arts Lab Teacher  
Mid-Semester Survey**

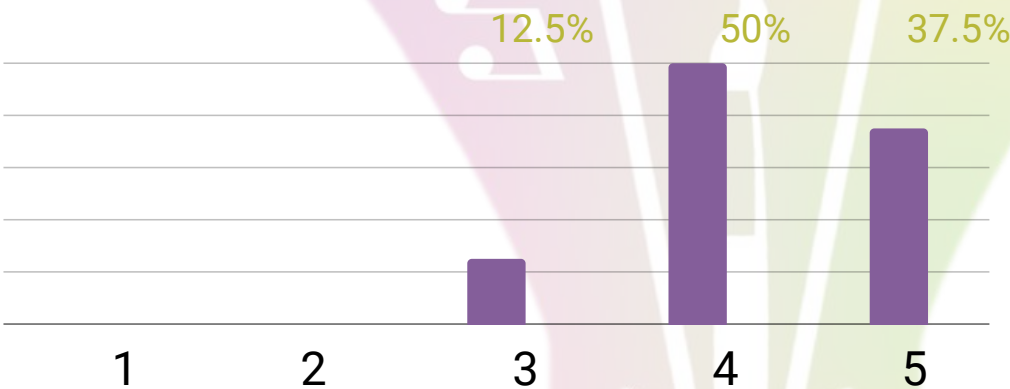


# SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab

## FRPS Teacher Survey



FRPS school teachers rating of students knowledge and ability **before** program.



FRPS school teachers rating of students knowledge and ability **mid-way** through program.

“Loving what the program is doing and hoping more interested students can join next year.”

### FRPS Teacher Mid-Semester Survey





# SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab

## ● Student Impact ●

When you **started** the program, how would you have rated your art/music knowledge and ability?

*Average Score: 2.9 /5*

At the **end** of the program, do you feel any different? Do you feel you have learned some skills/knowledge in either art or music because of the program? Rate your current self.

*Average Score: 3.8 /5*



*31.03%  
Increase*

"It was an amazing opportunity that I wish I could still attend. It was fun and supportive. I am sad that I have to leave, but I hope whoever comes next will enjoy it as much as me."

Arts Lab Student  
End of Semester Survey

# SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab

## ● *Outside the Classroom* ●

The SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab integrated two fieldtrips to Bristol Community College. Student's explored the visual and performing arts departments on guided tours. Student's gained knowledge in creative arts opportunities at their local college.

Student's toured the Grimshaw-Guidewicz Art Gallery to view environmentally conscious art work and artwork created by Bristol Art Faculty. Student's learned the process of exhibiting work in a professional arts setting.

Touring the Theater Department, student's participated in breathing and movement exercises traditionally practiced by performing art students to prepare for live performances. The Arts Lab exposed students to the possibilities of art, movement, and music as avenues of their creative future.



**Pictured: Students and Chaperones take a picture at the Bristol Community College Fall River Campus.**



# SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab

## ● *Outside the Classroom* ●

Guest Artists working in the Art and Music fields visited the Arts Lab to teach lessons to students throughout the year. Students gained knowledge from these creative role models, learning specialized art and music curricula. Student's were exposed to the possibilities of integrating art and music into adulthood.

Artists specializing in watercolor, large-scale charcoal drawing, traditional native drumming, spray-painting, poets, and songwriters all visited the Arts Lab to share their craft.

Student's visited artist studios located at The Narrows and learned about the sound systems and production of music on their mainstage.



Pictured: Visual Art Students practice spray-painting during their guest artist studio visit.

**"I really liked the art program because I got to do a lot of things I wouldn't be able to do at home, like spray painting. This was one of my favorite projects because it was really fun to create a stencil, and Kevin, the spray painter, helped us do it."**

**Arts Lab Student  
End of Semester Survey**

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When we asked students if they had the opportunity to be a part of this program again, would they? All said, YES!

100%  
YES!



Pictured: Student's performing at The Narrows Center live on stage during an end of program celebration, including their own original song recorded and produced (with the help of Mark Cutler) titled, "Long Way Home."

"I do recommend this program because it gave me great feelings, a sense of community, and the activities were great. From the people to the activities, I am so thankful for this opportunity"

Arts Lab Student  
End of Semester Survey



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## Budget Review

### Spring 2023 - Fall 2024

**Total Cost \$87,223\***

**Cost Per Student \$2,907.43 (30 students pilot year)**

### Spring 2024

**Projected Cost \$42,313**

**Cost Per Student \$1,763.04 (24 students for semester)**

*\*Spring 2023 total based on Arts Lab budget covering the cost of transportation both ways. Fall 2024 based on Fall River Public School covering transportation from school to Narrows.*

**Busing (for program and field-trips)**

**Program Space**

**Materials**

**End of Semester Community Event**

**\$1,750 - \$1,800 (20 students per/semester)\*\***

**Teachers (Visual Art, Music, Movement)**

**Guest Lecturers**

**Program Manager**

**Digital Content/Marketing**

**\$670 - \$700 (20 students per/semester)\*\***



**Pictured: The Narrows Center for the Arts**

*\*\*Total dependent on busing, supply fees, and amount of guest lecturers. Projected cost for Spring 2024 - \$1,750 - \$2,500 per student.*

# SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab

## Pilot Year Program Review - Pt. 1 of 2

### Who

- The Fall River Arts and Culture Coalition (FRACC), in partnership with The Narrows Center for the Arts (The Narrows) and Fall River Public Schools (FRPS).
- 30 Students enrolled in 7th-8th grades from Fall River Public School from the Henry Lord Community School, Doran, Kuss, Talbot, and Morton Middle Schools participated in the pilot year. (38 total enrollments. Due to conflicting schedules and behavioral dismissal, 30 total students participated).
- Served and benefited youth from households that have been identified and documented as low-moderate income, with 70% of the enrolled youth having met these criteria.
- FRPS arts teachers identified and nominated students from each middle and K-8 school. Candidates were placed into a registration lottery with selection based on overall enrollment in each schools' 7-8th grades.
- Collected anonymous data from FRPS arts teachers rated students knowledge and ability at the start of the program out of 5 as 2 (25%), 3 (25%), and 4 (50%) overall.
- Mid-way through the program, FRPS arts teachers recognized an increase of understanding and ability in the arts, rating students out of 5 3 (12.5%), 4 (50%) and 5 (37.5%).

### What

- Professional arts educators presented sequential lessons around art, music, and movement/mindfulness.
- Integration of an accessible climate of equity and inclusion that provided community and supportive services for low-income youth disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.
- Out-of-school time program was designed to engage and elevate Fall River youth. Collected anonymous student survey data produced a 31.03% increase in art/music knowledge and ability from the beginning to end of the program.

### Where

- Taking place at The Narrows for two semesters from January 24, 2023 - January 25, 2024, the pilot program utilized classrooms, stage, and gallery spaces for lessons, practice, nourishment, and a culminating community events on May 16, 2023 and January 23, 2024.
- Exhibited art projects from the visual art students and musical performances from the performing arts students were highlighted for over 100 community members and families in attendance.



## Pilot Year Program Review - Pt. 2 of 2

### When

- The Art's Lab took place afterschool for two hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- All students were transported from their middle school to The Narrows Center and bussed directly home.

### How

- This comprehensive out-of-school-time program's structure required all youth to begin each session with movement/yoga then into selected tracks of visual or performing arts.
- Services nourished the mind and body through two significant areas of activity: conducting education programs and serving nutritious food.
- Student-driven curriculum allowed teachers to teach the skills that the student had an interest in through group and one-on-one lessons. *"Amazing program, you have so many chances to learn new things and make it your own style and be able to share your opinion."* - SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab Student, End of Semester Survey
- The niche program's evidence-based practices and curriculum strengthened a sense of belonging, fostered collaboration, and built self-esteem around performance and creativity.
- Leveraging guest speakers increased student learning through a "Masterclass-style" experience that breaks down barriers and allows students to connect with professionals and create meaningful learning connections. *"You experience unique things to your life and this program helped me to know so much more about myself."* - SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab Student, End of Semester Survey

### Why

- Program addressed the COVID-19 crisis and its socio-economic fallout which meets an otherwise unmet demand: free, safe, constructive, arts-based learning curricula that reflect the context, assets, and needs of youth at the high-risk ages of 12-14.
- Youth experienced growing confidence and comfort with the knowledge gained through the program, increasing participation in day school classes, attendance, literacy proficiency in multiple domains, and a love of learning. 100% of students that participated in the pilot year, said they would do the program again if they had the chance. *"I would say that it is fun, creative, and interactive"* - SouthCoast Creative Arts Lab Student, End of Semester Survey
- The program meets American Rescue Plan Act Expenditure Categories 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, and 3.9.
- Meets Goal #2 of the Viva Arts & Culture Creative Economy Plan which focuses on residents and neighbors by supporting culture and creativity across the city and creating tangible and measurable positive impacts for residents and neighborhoods.