



AIYN Network Norms

AIYN is a network of peers. As such, our norms, guidelines, and expectations of each other are driven by our members. We are an open network in that we are always open to new members who share our collectively articulated values, approach, and principles. New members are brought in through a standardized series of peer interviews, site visit, and exploratory partnership. All members have their own curriculum, disciplines, and pedagogy, while also supporting each others growth and the growth of the field. Membership has no fee, but does come with expectations of behavior in alignment with the following articulated principles:

1.) We believe in investing in youth wellbeing, first and foremost.

- All AIYN members implement practices/curriculum and support efforts that emphasize healing, intentional restorative practices, youth leadership, community strengthening, and prevention. This includes efforts that prevent youth contact with the justice system in the first place.
- In their practice, AIYN members ensure the creative space is also a safe space.
 - Youth are safe in being their whole selves (*no judgment*)
 - Teaching artists are clear with youth around the role, responsibilities, and boundaries of teaching artists (*mandated reporting*)
 - AIYN members commit to protecting the “future self” of the youth. (*no photography, videography, use of first and last names, or anything else that would identify any of our students as incarcerated*)

2.) We believe arts are uniquely positioned to strengthen young people, and create pathways for youth success, and catalyze systems change. Arts should be valued as foundational to investing in youth wellbeing.

- AIYN member curriculum is grounded in and clearly seeks to advance 21st Century learning skills through arts education and engagement (critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, compassion, communication)
- Teaching artists for all AIYN members are compensated for their time and expertise because arts are valued.
- AIYN member curriculum is grounded in recognized standards (CA Common Core State Standards: English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects (CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy; Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards (VAPA))

- AIYN member organizations have an established curriculum that is implemented by teaching artists (not reliant on a founder/single teacher)

3.) We believe in collaboration as an effective strategy for large-scale systemic, cultural, and political change, and model partnership with each other and with others

- AIYN members support each other and our partners publicly and privately, while also holding each other accountable for member expectations.

- AIYN respects the autonomy of each of its members, and seeks to always avoid or minimize conflict with any of its members. As a matter of principle, the health and wellbeing of its members takes precedence in any potential conflict of interest.

- AIYN members share best practices, challenges, and successes, grounded in the belief that a rising tide lifts all boats, and that we are stronger together.