

It Began With A SPARK!



One of the key findings coming out of the Enriching the Arts report was the glaring gaps and need for more arts education in our K-12 public schools in Broward.

In October 2024, two special multiyear grants of \$150,000 each were made to two local organizations – Arts Prevails Project and South Florida Symphony Orchestra – to expand already established and impactful art education programs in Broward County’s schools.

Funding was made possible through the Spark campaign and a matching grant from the Community Foundation of Broward.



“Symphony in the Schools (SiS)” 2024-2025 School Year

- Engaging 2,565 students
- 420 Artist Teacher hours of contact
- 15 schools across Broward County

Teaching Artists Are Providing:



- Immersive introductory music sessions via ‘Jump Start Camps’ at Indian Ridge, Coral Springs, and Driftwood Middle Schools.
- ‘After-School Strings Program’ at Sea Castle Elementary where a 25-piece student orchestra was formed.
- Live performance opportunities.



- ‘Sectionals’ and ‘Master Classes’, refining students’ technical skills

- Instrument Fittings



| Music Matters

Band Student Academic Performance Proficiency Gains: **78% - 12 points higher** than the overall school proficiency

Indian Ridge Middle School becomes the first school to report standardized test data showing significant measurable evidence supporting the impact of South Florida Symphony Orchestra's SiS program on academic achievement – specifically in Reading/ELS.

One out of nine students (11%) at Indian Ridge Middle School is a band student.

Both South Florida Symphony Orchestra and Art Prevails Project are working with schools to encourage reporting academic data in the future.



Advanced Proficiency Gains (Level 4-5): **52% - 9 points higher** than the overall school gains.

“

Because of the work that SiS Teaching Artists did with my students, we delivered the best concert we've ever performed. The students you worked with are outperforming peers in grades, behavior, and attendance. I am eternally grateful for your commitment to our school. – Jordan Sawyer, Indian Ridge Middle School

It Began With YOU!

Thank you to our “Be the SPARK!” donors.

Support for these impactful Arts Access grants was also made possible by the following funds at the Community Foundation of Broward that together matched \$150,000 of FAB's “Be the Spark!” campaign funds:

- ✚ Drial Foundation Fund
- ✚ Mildred H Fagen Charitable Fund
- ✚ Stearns Weaver Miller Fund for the Arts
- ✚ The Frederick A DeLuca Foundation Broward Community Fund.





Be the SPARK! funds were used to EXPAND THE EXISTING “Write it Out” program from one semester to TWO semesters at existing schools, and the program was also introduced to FIVE new schools and reached 144 new students in the Spring of 2025.

“WRITE IT OUT”

- ✚ Pairs resident teaching artists with a group of students for the semester.
- ✚ Creative writing activities with a primary focus on poetry and prose, occurring weekly for 10 weeks.
- ✚ Supplement teacher’s instructional focus calendar and creates a unique learning experience through collaboration with the teacher that engages students
- ✚ Culminates in a poetry reading and published chapbook of the students’ work.



“Speak Your Peace” was introduced to 27 NEW students at one NEW school during the spring of 2025.



“SPEAK YOUR PEACE”

- ✚ A Theatre project that uses creative expression and performance workshop series to explore topics and issues that matter to them.
- ✚ Facilitated by Art Prevails Project performers and educators, Speak Your Peace guides students through the process of self-discovery and provides amplification for student voices.
- ✚ The project culminates with a multidisciplinary performance created by workshop participants in partnership with Art Prevails Project staff.

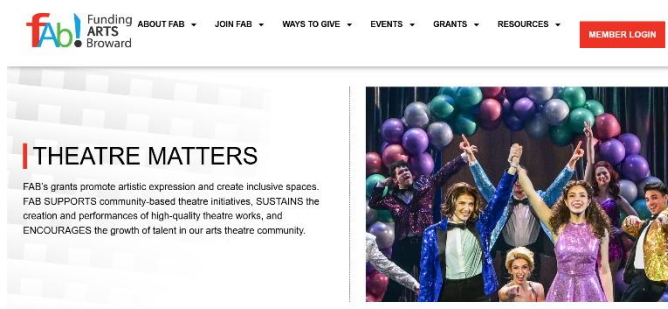
We invested in helping Art Prevails Project train and expand its corp of teaching artists.

THROUGH THE USE OF IMAGES & COLOR, FAB's NEW WEBSITE FOCUSES ON SHOWCASING OUR GRANTEES.

- ✚ Another key finding coming out of the Enriching the Arts study and report was the second largest challenge Broward's Arts Organizations face is marketing to fill venues and attract new audiences.
- ✚ As part of the infrastructure improvements supported by 'Be the Spark' donors, FAB's new website designed to promote our grantee events and tell their stories went live in April 2025.

New Home Page With Link to FAB CONNECT - Blog Page

- ✚ Soon to be filled with grantee stories that will be shared across various social media platforms, and the FAB Scene

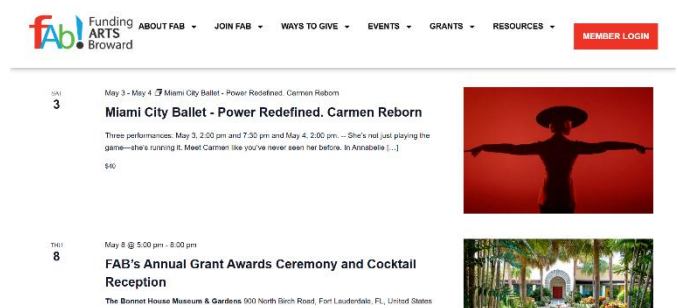


New Arts Discipline Pages

- ✚ For Dance, Music, Theatre (including Spoken Word), Visual (including Film) and Arts Education.
- ✚ Telling the stories of why, who, and the collective impact of FAB's support.

New Event Calendar

- ✚ Includes links to register and pay for tickets, and links to grantee websites for more information.



Together, We Are Making A Difference

Thank You for Being the Spark!

Nancy & Cindy

