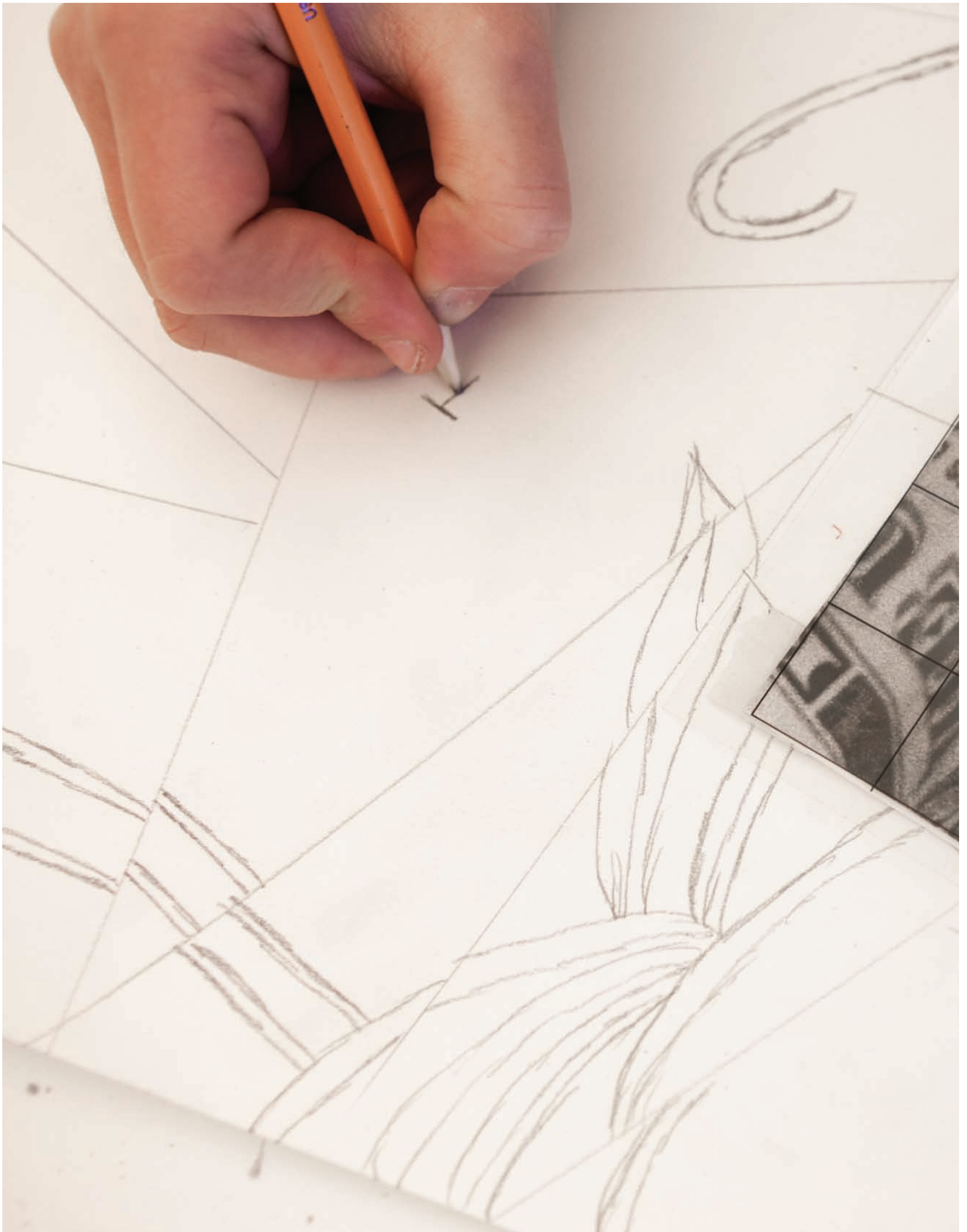
A young woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue hoodie and safety glasses, is focused on her work. She is leaning over a table, using a wooden ruler to measure a large sheet of paper. The background shows a corkboard with various art projects pinned to it, including a green and red abstract piece and a red and black piece. The lighting is warm and focused on the student's work area.

# Arts at the Core







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Selected artwork throughout this brochure has been created by AP® Studio Art students and represents the talent and high level of accomplishment that AP Studio Art students can achieve.

**“To succeed today  
and in the future,  
America’s children  
will need to be  
inventive, resourceful  
and imaginative.  
The best way to  
foster that creativity  
is through arts  
education.”**

**— Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education**

**A balanced education** with a robust arts curriculum is a lasting gift for a student. This type of education cultivates and nourishes creativity; it encourages growth, nurtures ambition and inspires confidence.

The College Board believes that the arts expand student potential by encouraging creativity, innovation, collaboration and critical thinking. A comprehensive arts education is an effective tool for developing the whole child, keeping students in school and promoting high achievement. It is an essential element for the emotional and intellectual maturity of young people, encouraging them to open their minds to other disciplines and broadening their cultural diversity.

**The College Board's Arts at the Core Education and Advocacy Initiative** strongly supports and promotes awareness of the vital role that the arts play in preparing students for college and career success. An education in the arts today is an investment in our youth for tomorrow.

Arts at the Core, sponsored by the College Board's Office of Academic Initiatives, was created in response to the discussions and recommendations of the National Task Force on the Arts in Education (NTFAE) — a committee of leading artists and educators convened to address the opportunities and challenges facing arts education in the United States. Arts at the Core implements the NTFAE's recommendations and strategies for making the arts accessible to every student, including reaching underserved student populations, promoting student creativity, understanding the arts in a global perspective, integrating the arts into a greater number of College Board programs, engaging a greater number of professional artists in arts education, building partnerships and affecting policy at the national, state and local levels.

**97%** of U.S. employers agree that creativity is increasingly important in the workplace.

## The National Endowment for the Arts

noted in its 2011 report, *Arts Education in America*, that the rising rate of arts education for American children in the 20th century created conditions for growth and development in the arts. It also notes, however, that childhood arts education has declined over the last quarter century.

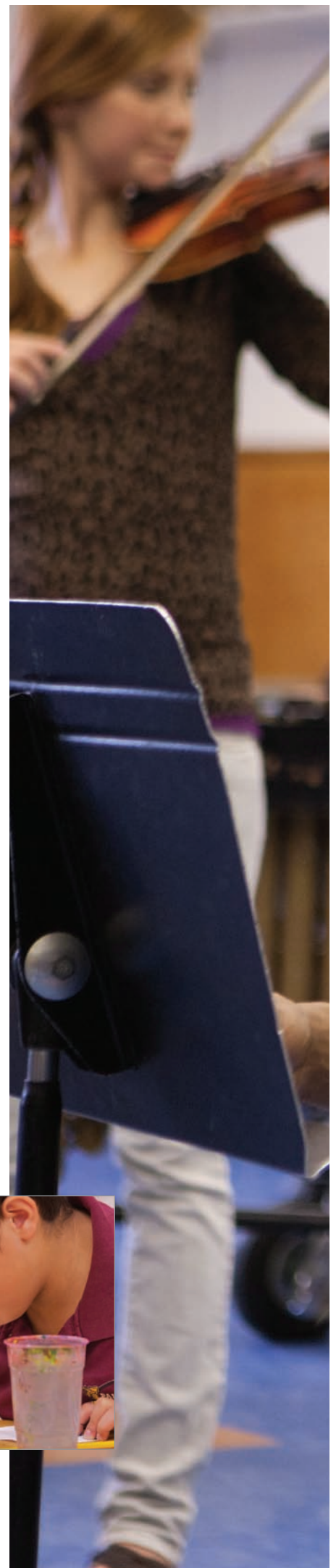
To highlight and advance artistic opportunities for educational and occupational success, the College Board's Office of Academic Initiatives provides specific support in meaningful ways.

The College Board has partnered with secondary schools in urban environments that serve low-income and minority students in grades 6–12. The mission is simple: prepare every student for college and career success. The commitment is strong: vision driven with a collaborative culture to maximize student success.

**The College Board Schools Pilot Arts Program** offers students expanded opportunities to participate in arts courses, and pairs teaching artists with classroom teachers to design cross-disciplinary hands-on arts instruction. This program is an important reinforcement of the integral role that arts education plays in college and career readiness. Research resulting from this initiative is aimed at understanding the relationship between increased arts programming and student engagement, motivation, communication skills and overall attitudes toward school.



Photos by Greet Van Belle









**Professional Development Tools** in the Arts encourage best practices in arts education. The first new **AP Vertical Teams® Guide for Studio Art** in 10 years will provide teachers and school administrators with a structured approach to creating Vertical Teams of art teachers spanning the middle grades through high school. This program prepares students in grades six and above for AP® Studio Art, ensuring best practices in art education and extending guidelines and resources to encourage AP familiarity among teachers and students.

The new online **AP Curriculum Modules** will provide instructional tools for integrating the arts into nonarts AP instruction. Through lesson plans, instructional strategies and reflection questions, AP Arts–Integrated Curriculum Modules will provide teachers with interdisciplinary, experiential learning tools and expose students to arts-infused learning. This approach will increase learning and engagement by challenging both teachers and students to think in new contexts and to approach material from new perspectives.

“Arts education is essential for building innovative thinkers who will be our nation’s leaders of tomorrow.”  
— **Michelle Obama**







Sussanah Benjamin, Greenwich Academy







## Through the Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts

, the College Board recognizes and celebrates the achievements of outstanding schools nationwide that have implemented arts programs to promote student learning and creativity in exemplary and innovative ways. This monetary award is presented to six schools each year to support the continuation and growth of their arts programs. Award-winning programs have represented a diverse geographic and economic set of schools, and have included instruction from across the arts disciplines: dance, theater, music, visual art and media arts.

Recent award recipients have emphasized interdisciplinary learning, connected students with professional artists, and used the arts to encourage community and civic engagement among students. Specifically, among recent awardees was a school that established a community service project where donated works of art supported local nonprofits, and a project that connected students from more than 30 schools in one state to collaborate in the creation of poetry, music, dance and visual art.

Photo by Jamie Winter, Heritage High School Class of 2010. Heritage High School in Vancouver, Washington, was one of the six recipients of the 2011 Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Arts.



**“The purpose of arts education is not to produce more artists, though that is a by-product. The real purpose of arts education is to create complete human beings capable of leading successful and productive lives in a free society.”**

**— Dana Gioia, Poet and Former Chairman,  
National Endowment for the Arts**



Photos by Greet Van Belle

### Through Arts Advocacy and Outreach,

the College Board builds relationships with leaders of arts organizations to establish collaborative plans for increasing access to rigorous arts education opportunities for all students in a 21st-century education. Current efforts include building partnerships with leading arts organizations and participating in national forums in an effort to affect national policy on the arts in education. The College Board's advocacy resources are also being used to influence the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as it pertains to learning outcomes in the arts.

More specifically, the College Board hosted a briefing in Washington, D.C., with leaders from government and not-for-profit arts organizations to discuss the **Impact of Arts Education on College and Career Readiness**. Members of the panel included a former U.S. senator, a senior researcher at an international arts and culture consulting firm, a K–12 educator, a graphic arts designer, and a founder and artistic director of a community orchestra who is also the recipient of a MacArthur Genius Grant. All agreed that arts education, both in schools and in neighborhoods, is a source of community strength and an engine for equality. Arts education is necessary for growing our national potential for innovation.



### Further underscoring our commitment

to arts and education, the College Board has partnered with the **National Coalition for Core Arts Standards** to assist in its anticipated revision of the national standards in the arts, the first since 1994. As part of this initiative, Arts at the Core staff are compiling a review of international standards in the arts and performing a gap analysis of existing standards, compared to the 21st Century Skills Map for the Arts. In addition, the College Board is leading an effort to compile a literature review exploring how the arts address the cognitive, social and emotional needs of children and, consequently, how arts can support the development of high-school-level standards in students. Because this essential research has never been compiled before, this information will help in the drafting of new national standards and assist in the advancement of arts education in this country and abroad.

Additional essential support in arts education is found in our diverse and accomplished membership base. These individuals and organizations represent a broad and deep reservoir of talent and guidance in crucial areas of arts learning. Their commitment to the successful preparation of students for college provides opportunities for artistic expression in the next generation of students. An active and evolving network of educators, professionals, teachers, students and families provides an environment where arts education is encouraged to flourish.



So Eun Lee, W T Woodson High School



Laura Garcia, South Miami Senior High School



Patricia Johnson, McKinney Boyd School







For more information on these and other Arts at the Core education and advocacy initiatives, please visit: [www.collegeboard.org/arts-task-force](http://www.collegeboard.org/arts-task-force).

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