

Celebrating Volunteers

Ten years ago, volunteers came together to discuss how to support arts education and ten years on, volunteers keep the work alive through the Fine Arts Booster Group. The real story of the Fine Arts Booster Group is based on the generosity of parents and community members giving their time doing things big and small to help students experience the arts.

FABG volunteers have been parents inspired by their student's involvement in district classes and activities, artists who celebrate student participation, and community members who think the arts are important to keep in education. Some volunteers offer one time help, some have worked over years, some have children in district schools and some do not. All in all, the combined volunteer efforts have resulted in amazing accomplishments.

Volunteers were asked recently about their involvement. Here are their thoughts on volunteering.

"While attending high school at a Boston suburb, I experienced art department teachers that made a huge difference in determining my profession as an apparel designer. Without their encouragement I doubt I would have thought I could ever draw. In appreciation to those committed teachers, it has been easy as a parent to support art students and teachers wherever I've lived.

The actual organization of FABG with its clear mission and superlative follow through makes arts focused volunteering especially rewarding. We do make a difference. We have kept the arts alive when it wasn't easy. We support excellent programs. Everyone benefits and it makes me feel good to do my share."
Candace Shoemaker

"I work in an arts related field, and as my kids aged I was looking for a school organization to get involved with that would benefit my kids and fit my available time, FABG was a natural fit. Like many volunteer organizations it's shouldered by a core group of people who work hard for what they believe. I have seen what their encouragement can do and am proud to say it has had and continues to have a very real impact on the school life of kids district wide. FABG focuses on "what if" rather than "now what" and its fearless leader has run the meetings on time with graciousness and a sense of humor that make meetings easy to attend."
Susan Zehnder

"I volunteered because I would like to see access to the arts be more equitable - I was hoping to help those who might otherwise not be able to study an instrument have the chance."
Beth Howard

"Though we don't meet more than four regular times a year, FABG is a solid consistent leader in the community who can put a 'call to action' with a positive equitable message of 'art' caring for our students. We are about the 'all' all the time!"
Kim Evanoski

"All the arts for all the kids" has been a simple but effective message for the Fine Arts Booster Group. Though the work is never done, the vision continues to inspire new volunteers to join the effort. Let's celebrate those volunteers!