

A Success Story...



Lincoln Arts Council

An art impact testimonial from Mollie Magnuson, Lincoln Arts Council AmeriCorps staff and student teacher:

“While working on my practicum in the art classes of an underserved elementary school, I experienced the profound difference that art instruction can make. With a student population of 527, of which 65% are minority and 90% are eligible for free/reduced lunch, this elementary school is unlike any I had seen. Weekly, I witnessed offensive language from students, eruptions of anger, students deceiving teachers, and the most surprising of all, physical violence between students. The teacher I worked with expressed an interest in doing a glass project with her students, but she had never worked with glass. I realized that I could facilitate that through the Lincoln Arts Council. I was able to arrange for an ‘artist in residency’ for 120 students, K-5th Grade. They worked on two projects directed by a local glass artist; a fused glass snowflake to keep and a glass mosaic “quilt square” that would be fitted together in one large installation to remain in the school. Across these 30 sessions, I saw student behavior transform. They embraced the projects, took great pride in their efforts and were energized by the choices they could make in guiding the project to completion. These students realized what good and beauty they were capable of and responded accordingly. It was a transformative time for them and for me.”



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