2015-16 Timeline

OCTOBER 2015
- The Right Brain Initiative is awarded the Game-Changing Project award at Portland Monthly’s prestigious Light a Fire Awards, recognizing some of the most dynamic nonprofits in the city.
- October 13th marks the launch of the 2015-16 Right Brain Professional Development series. By end of year, 429 educators and artists participated.

OCTOBER 2015
- Right Brain kicks off a new school year with the release of the 2014 Progress Report during a Stakeholder Celebration.

NOVEMBER 2015
- Right Brain Outreach Specialist Rebecca Burrell is awarded the Willamette Week’s GiveGuide SkimRoze Prize, a recognition of influential individuals working in Portland’s nonprofit sector.
- Right Brain’s year-end fundraising is a success, raising $20,569 through the Willamette Week’s annual GiveGuide and our own online donation portal, equipping Right Brain with the funds to serve four more schools in the coming year.

JANUARY 2016
- Jane Cho, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, and Oregon Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici see Right Brain programming and STEAM education in action at Guatema Elementary.

APRIL 2016
- WeMake chooses Right Brain as the beneficiary for their Open House design auction event during Design Week PDX.

MAY 2016
- Right Brain receives a $30,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for the 2016-17 school year, marking the fifth consecutive year of NEA funding.
- Fourteen principal/teacher/class teams present their Right Brain residency stories at our annual Colloquium, sponsored by Portland General Electric and the Richard B. Slegel Foundation.

JUNE 2016
- 70 educators participate in hands-on learning at three-day Imagine That Creativity Symposium for Educators, presented by Bank of America and the Portland Art Museum.
- Right Brain launches a new responsive website and releases a new promotional video entitled “The Right Brain Effect,” featuring a seventh and eighth grade classroom at Beach School.

The Right Brain Initiative
is a sustainable arts education partnership of public schools, government, foundations, businesses and the cultural community.
Help us bring creativity to all 110,000 K-8 students in the Portland metro region.

Bridging the Experience Gap

MEET THE STUDENTS of Beaverton-Earlwood (BE) and their principal Kevin Brain. This K-8 school is in the heart of North Portland, an area changing neighborhood embodying the impacts of gentrification where 50 percent of the 522 students are black and 26 percent are White.

BE is recognized as an outstanding model of STEAM education, integrating the arts with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) curricula. In addition to their full-time arts teachers, Right Brain helps keep the M in BE’s STEAM program. Bacon explains, “As the STEM vision was evolving, Right Brain provided the structure and vision for arts integration. Then we were able to marry the two.”

Bacon acknowledges that BEI has a demographic that traditionally underperforms on standardized tests, not necessarily because they haven’t instructed the concept. “Context becomes really important,” he explains. “It’s about an experience gap rather than an achievement gap.”

Right Brain artists add to the experience base of kids, and through arts integration, confidence is being built. Every one of these experiences is providing context. If kids learn concepts through movement or song or visual art, they have a better chance of recalling that concept. Through Right Brain, they’re getting opportunities to show what they know and to see themselves as engaged learners.”

Visit our blog to read more: TheRightBrainInitiative.org/the-right-brain-blog/