



Boston Arts Academy (BAA) is at the forefront of the STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math) movement.

As an innovative public arts high school, BAA embraces STEAM in a multifaceted way: a) in the classroom, and b) in a designated STEAM Lab. We also believe that the “A” in STEAM stands for access in addition to the arts.



Over 80% of BAA students come from communities that are traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields.

Six years ago, the Math, Science and Engineering faculty merged into the STEAM team to engage students by intersecting traditional disciplines with each other and with the arts. The STEAM team designs innovative curriculum by taking an interdisciplinary approach to project-based learning, co-planning, and utilizing strong external partnerships.

With the generous support of private funding, in 2014 we opened up the STEAM Lab and hired a Director to establish a maker space/ artists’ studio/fabrication laboratory. The STEAM Lab helps teachers and students delve into 3D modeling and design, electronics, digital media, and fabrication.

Dr. Nettrice Gaskins, the Lab Director, holds a BFA, an MFA, and a Doctorate in Digital Media. Dr. Gaskins uses the space and resources to highlight connections and intersections that can change the perspective or approach to learning. The STEAM Lab allows students to take advantage of new technologies in order to develop cutting-edge interdisciplinary projects.

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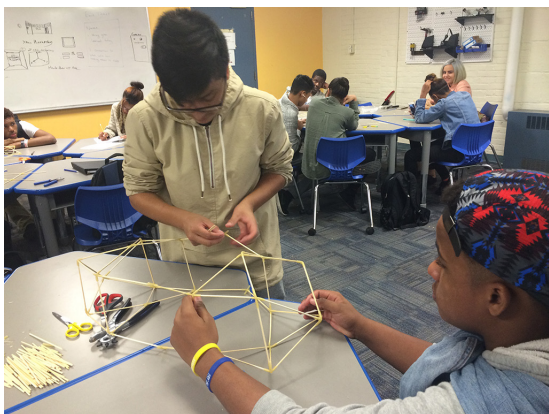


STEAM

@ BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY

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In both the classroom and the STEAM Lab, students experience the parallels of the artistic, scientific, and design processes. STEAM also engages students in subjects that they may not have been excited about or did not consider to be one of their strengths.

Initial data analysis of the efficacy of STEAM Lab activities includes:

- ***75% of students learned and used new skills to achieve an outcome***
- ***Over 90% of students indicated that the use of specific equipment that they were previously unfamiliar with was a good way to explore the class subject***
- ***60% of students indicated that they would like to deepen the exploration and utility of a STEAMy subject***



As an public arts school, we do not look at grades or test scores before accepting students, and we are open to any Boston Public School student. We exist to increase access to sequential arts education that students would otherwise not have, while also providing a full-college preparatory education.

At BAA, STEAM is opening up exciting teaching, learning, and career pathways for the future.



Boston Arts Academy received a 2015 innOVATION STEAM Award from the Americans for the Arts, the 77-member bi-partisan STEAM Caucus, the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, and the Ovation Foundation.

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