

ACE Coalitions



History of the ACE Coalitions



The National Endowment for the Arts began providing funding for artists in schools in the early 1970's. The program was later retitled Arts in Education and began to broaden its influence beyond school settings, and funding from the NEA was distributed through the DOS Division of Cultural Affairs. The Florida Alliance for Arts Education was incorporated in 1978 and established as a non-profit in 1981. It was initially formed as an advisory body to the FDOE and the Commissioner of Education. It was supported by the DCA, DOE and the Florida Arts Council. In the early 1990's a task force was designed to support local communities to continue to ensure arts education in public schools. Coalitions were created to do this, as state agencies could not get involved in local issues. Since that time, ACE Coalitions have worked very successfully in counties across Florida to support and preserve arts education in their school districts and communities.

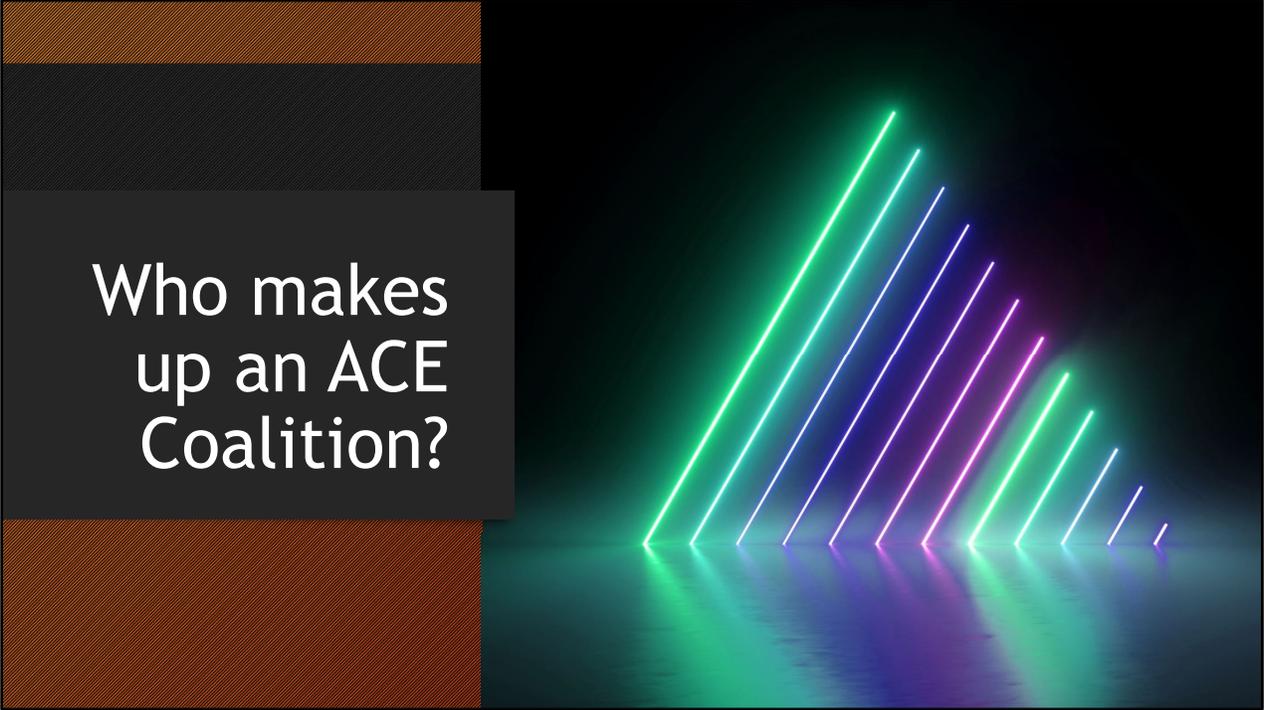
Why form a Coalition?



- Educate and communicate to the public and school district.
- Work with the school district about issues related to arts education.
- Leverage community influence.
- Develop relationships and maximize resources to assure all students have arts education-related experiences.
- Create Partnerships with the school district that are mutually beneficial to ensure students are given experiences in the arts.
- Maintain those partnerships to overcome challenges and ensure the success of other mutually beneficial district initiatives (referenda).

What is an ACE Coalition?

- A coalition is an alliance of various stakeholders who unite temporarily to accomplish a specific goal or purpose.
- An Arts Education Coalition is a diverse group of people whose common interest is arts and arts education, who unite to advance this common cause and who agree to maintain the Arts Education Coalition indefinitely to meet the ever-changing environments that affect public education.



Who makes up an ACE Coalition?

- Artists, local arts agencies
- Education personnel from professional arts organizations (symphonies, theatres, dance troupes, museums)
- Business Professionals
- Chamber of Commerce representatives
- Parents
- Non-arts instructional
- Administrators (school and district)
- Arts teachers
- Other community members in support of arts education in Florida's school and communities

8 Qualities of an Effective Coalition

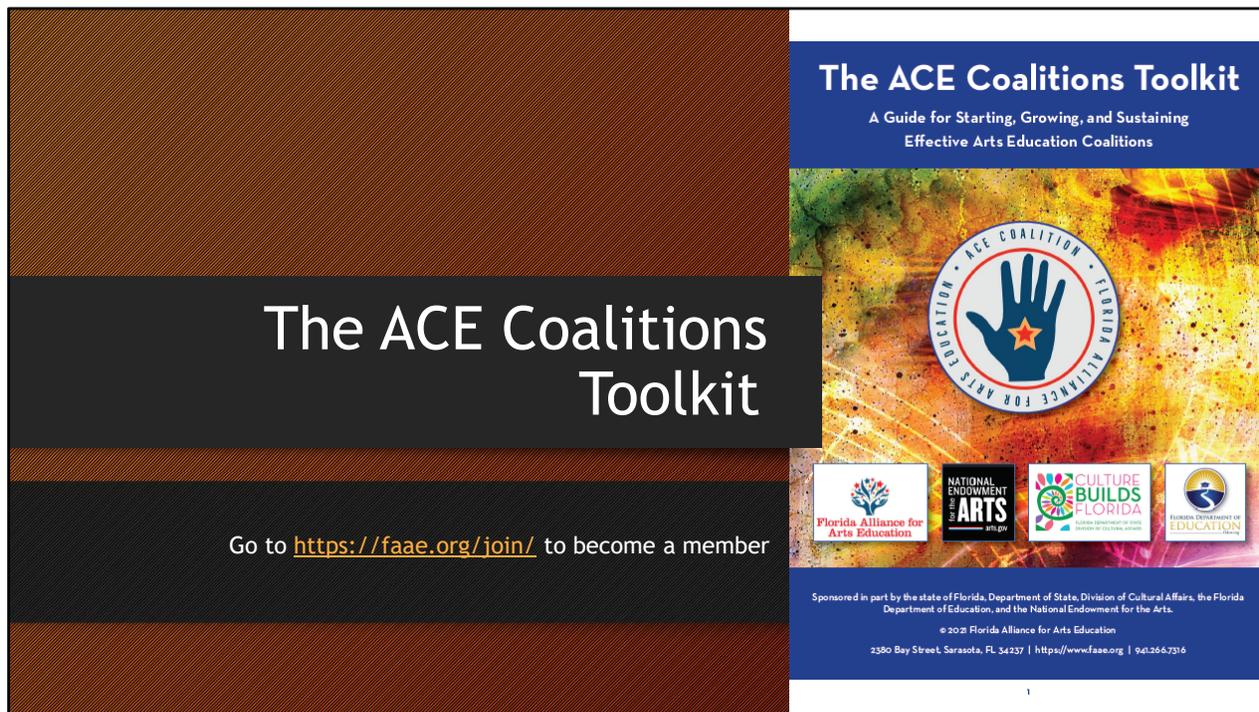


1. Child-Centered. This is the only completely unassailable reason to be working for an arts education coalition is because it's about providing a complete education for the kids. Anything other than this will severely compromise or kill the effort.
2. Positive Vision. All coalitions must be powered by a source of energy. The organization's vision provides that energy. The members are fueled by a purpose worthy of their time, talent and money.
3. Coalitions need leadership to articulate and carry the vision. Effective coalition leaders have credibility in the community and are comfortable communicating with other high-level community leaders, including businesspeople.
4. The most effective coalitions communicate with a simple, clear, concise, and consistent message. The best messages are based in research and appeal to human emotions.
5. The more diverse the coalition's membership is, the more influential it will be – especially if it includes businesspeople, members of the chamber of commerce, elected and appointed officials, and other citizens who have no personal vested interest other than the welfare of the community's children. Professional arts educators may be perceived as merely advocating to protect their job.
6. Arts education program cuts that are made by school districts are most often political solutions to financial problems. Therefore, arts education coalitions that think and act politically will communicate more closely to the nerve of school board members, which in turn makes the coalition more effective.

7. Coalitions must think strategically. Those that do, will plan an effective advocacy campaign. What does success look like? Does the vision then change? What is the new vision?
8. Strategy is difficult to execute without solid organization. The best coalitions find ways for members to exercise their best talents. Labor is divided among the members, reaching throughout the community with accountability. The coalition must execute a strategic plan along a logical timeline with the ability to marshal the appropriate talent and person-power at the appropriate time.

Pinellas ACE
Orange County Public Schools
Osceola ACE Arts Alive
Palm Beach County Cultural Council
Sarasota County Arts Education Partners (nee AETF)

ACE Coalition Stories



The second edition of the ACE Coalition Toolkit is now available to any district who is a school district member of the FAAE, courtesy of the NEA through the DCA. This toolkit is an updated step-by-step instructional manual for anyone seeking to create and maintain the ACE Coalition in their community. Go to <https://faae.org/join/> to become a member.

LUMINARY

HOTEL & CO.

SAVE THE DATE
September 23-25, 2021
Luminary Hotel
Fort Myers

FAAE Annual
Leadership Summit

Today's ACE Coalition meeting is the first of two meeting for 2021.
Our next meeting will be held at the Luminary Hotel in Fort Myers the weekend of September 23-25.
We will continue to strategize ways to engage other districts in the state ACE Coalitions.

Register your Coalition Contact

- Name
- Phone
- Email information
- Location (city/county)

Leiland Theriot at director@faae.org

Each coalition is required to have one professional arts educator (district or school based) and one community arts education supporter. Together this team will act as the point of contact for the coalition from the FAAE.