

Opinion

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YOUR VIEW

ARTS

Arts education is priority in schools

Innovation will lead the way out of the recession for Florida, according to Enterprise Florida Inc. This shows a clear connection between the economy and the arts — for without creativity, there is no innovation. Creativity and the creative industries present our region an opportunity.

The arts education program in the Martin County School District is one of the strongest in the nation, evidenced by the acclaim our performing arts groups receive in competitions. This strength can provide a solid base for the workforce that will be needed by Wyndcrest Holdings (Digital Domain) and other innovation businesses. Jobs like those created in the “creative industries” are the future of our state’s and nation’s economy.

Daniel Pink, in his book “A Whole New Mind,” provides a strong case for developing the right side of the brain. He asserts it’s right-brain abilities — learned through early, sustained, engaging exposure to the arts — that are the abilities that matter most, and that left-brain abilities, such as analytical thinking, logic and linear thought, are necessary, but no longer sufficient by themselves. Arts education is a critical learning experience for all students, at all grade levels.

Fortunately, the arts are one of the school district’s priorities. For almost 30 years, the Arts Council has advocated for a strong arts education curriculum and has provided enhancement programs to augment the lessons in the classroom. We are excited about the opportunities before us and hope that other companies in the creative industries similar to Wyndcrest Holdings (Digital Domain) will consider our region as a place to locate their business due to our wealth of creativity and innovation.

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