



Arlington
Education
Foundation

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Celebrating Digital Arts in Arlington

Arlington Education Foundation Seeks \$130,000 to buy Equipment

Digital arts education supporters gathered together Thursday night at Involution Studios, an artistically inspiring and beautifully renovated antique ballroom where software designers blend creativity and technology. The gathering, entitled “Creativity Meets Technology: Bringing Digital Arts to Arlington High School” was hosted by Involution Studios and the Arlington Education Foundation who is raising money for a Digital Arts Studio at the High School.

David Moore, Arlington High School Arts teacher, and David Ardito, Arlington Public Schools Visual Arts Director told nearly 50 attendees about the incredible work Arlington students are doing with the equipment from a pilot ‘mini-studio’ (funded by AEF last year). They also highlighted the value of opening up this curriculum to many more students who will learn life skills ranging from close observation to critical thinking while experiencing a new medium for creativity. Ardito shared “To me the new Digital Arts Studio would be an IDEA lab...an IMAGINATION laboratory where students create something from nothing. This studio will open doors for integrating science, math, and art, turning STEM to STEAM.”

Involution Studios Director Juhan Sonin spoke about the importance of melding design and engineering and the demand for digital artists with strong technical backgrounds in companies from Boston to Silicon Valley. Assistant Superintendent Laura Chesson and High School principal Matthew Janger told supporters that if AEF provides the money for the technology, they are committed to providing the personnel, professional development and construction needed to make the digital arts studio a reality. Janger also commented on his vision of the Digital Arts Studio as part of the school’s integrated curriculum which will make ‘STEAM’ (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) a reality.

The event was the first in a series of events sponsored by AEF to raise \$130,000 for the High School Digital Arts studio as well as High School science workstations and additional engineering and computer science labs at the Middle School. AEF’s next event will take place on ‘super Pi Day’ (March 14, 2015 is 3.1415) at the Common Ground from 3-5pm where – over a slice of pie and a glass of beer – the community can hear more about these efforts and what their support can do to accelerate the infusion of technology into the curriculum. www.aeftechnologyinitiative.org