



WHAT IS SPARK!

SPARK! is a 501c3 nonprofit that serves children in 2nd -12th grade from all socioeconomic backgrounds increase their confidence, problem-solving skills, and academic performance, encouraging them to become innovative, empowered adults.

SPARK! VISION & MISSION

To ignite the spark of creativity inherent in all children by offering an environment that, combined with creative programming, inspires minds, builds confidence, and engages them in their education.

ROLE OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Shape strategy
- Identify and provide resources to support the mission of SPARK!
- Participate on committees and annual events
- Monitor progress toward achievement of our goals

STANDING COMMITTEES

Creative • Finance • Fundraising
Governance & Nominating
Marketing & PR • Programs

ANNUAL EVENTS

- Spring Creativity Showcase
- Fall Cocktails & Carnival

MEETING SCHEDULE

- Quarterly board meetings
- Monthly events meetings with bi-weekly check-ins

BOARD MEMBER TERM

2 years

THE NEED

From June of 2015 through March of 2020 SPARK! served more than 60,000 students providing exposure to the creative process and hands on creative programming.

As a nonprofit, SPARK! is guided by a Board of Directors who is responsible for ensuring the future of SPARK! by shaping strategy, identifying and providing resources, supporting annual events, and monitoring progress toward achievement of our goals.

Board goals for 2022 include:

- Rebuild robust operations
- Recruit and engage new board members
- Increase annual fundraising and rebuild financial reserves
- Participate in annual events – Creativity Showcase in May and Cocktails & Carnival in October

To effectively meet the needs of this rebuilding phase, SPARK! requires leadership from the community, particularly those with experience in fundraising, HR, law, STEM, arts, and are good at connecting.

THE SOLUTION

The SPARK! board recently voted to increase its membership to provide much needed leadership to help with the rebuilding and long-term growth of the organization.

Board members and their strategic leadership and community outreach are critical to the success of the organization.

This board will have the responsibility for building a legacy in the Metroplex where all children can experience and learn the skills of creativity, collaboration, and innovation that will impact their academic performance and lifelong careers.

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

SPARK! is a 501c3 nonprofit with the mission: To ignite the spark of creativity inherent in all children. since 2015 SPARK! has helped children from all socioeconomic backgrounds increase their confidence, problem-solving skills, and academic performance. In doing so, we encourage them become innovative, empowered adults.yu

THE FACTS

- SPARK! serves children 2nd – 12th grade, with a focus on children from underserved communities: 60% of our visitors are minorities and 40% are from low income homes
- Creative development in the schematic stage begins around the age of 7, yet 84% of US educators say today's curricula does not place enough emphasis on creative problem solving
- Today, less than 28% of minority students report receiving any arts education in childhood, compared to 50% in 1982
- Each year nearly 108,000 children in the Metroplex decide 'I am' or 'I am not' creative
- Arts education increases the likelihood that youth will graduate from high school, attend and obtain a college degree, register to vote, become active in their communities, and in arts and culture
- CEO's rate creativity as the #1 leadership skill of the future

OUR APPROACH

The SPARK! teaching philosophy is grounded in our mission to ignite the spark of creativity in all children.

We define as A sense of wonder that invites exploration and the discovery of new possibilities.

We believe creativity is a language to be learned and that the best way to instill creativity in children is full creative immersion. All SPARK! instructors are practicing creative individuals who guide learners by leading them through the creative process of Ideation, Collaboration, Iteration, and Innovation.

We believe that creativity is an iterative process. Prior to engaging with instructor-led activities, children are given time to engage physically in the interactive play areas where they can explore floor to ceiling installations that provide a variety of colors, surfaces, textures, and physical challenges. This activity enables their minds to expand and questions to arise preparing them for further creative engagement. The combination of physical engagement in our creative space with intellectual engagement in a creative activity result in a fully immersive creative experience at SPARK!

WHAT WE DO

SPARK! engages children in 2nd – 12th grade in the creative process with hands on programming delivered through school field trips, camps, out of school workshops, and other events such as birthday parties, bar and bat mitzvahs, etc...

WHO WE SERVE

SPARK! partners with schools and other nonprofit organizations to serve the communities within a 50-mile radius of its home in South Dallas. However, we are seeing an increasing number of field trips from outside the DFW metroplex. Approximately 40%-50% of the students come from low to moderate income families and 70% are minorities.

WHY

SPARK! is committed to ensuring all children in North Texas have access to creative programming so that each will one day self-define as creative, have higher self-esteem and better problem-solving skills, to help them succeed academically and in the workplace.