

riverzedge arts

Improving lives and places through art, design, and social enterprise.

SERVICES

MEDIA WORKS

Photo & Video
Promotional Materials



PRINT WORKS

Screen Printing
Apparel & More



PUBLIC ART LAB

Murals & Installations
Commissioned Works



GREEN DESIGN LAB

Sustainable Products
Environmental Consulting



DESIGN WORKS

Graphic Design
Web Design



MOBILE STUDIO

Traveling Arts &
Design Courses



PROGRAMS

ARTS & BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Youth run 5 social enterprise micro-businesses in fine and commercial arts, developing 21st Century workforce skills while completing high school or earning a GED, applying for college, and earning an educational stipend that gives them a leg up and out of poverty.

EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

at Woonsocket High School

A satellite educational initiative of Riverzedge Arts, ELO offers students alternative pathways to credit through rigorous, hands-on, self-designed projects. Projects are completed with professional industry mentors in real world settings, and outside of normal school hours.

SUMMER PLACEMAKING WORKFORCE INITIATIVE

Teen artists work with cities and partner organizations to complete large-scale public art, design and improvement projects that give them a voice in their communities.

AFTER HOURS

Free evening classes and open help labs for youth in media, entrepreneurship, and the arts during targeted high-risk times.

MOBILE STUDIO

Innovative traveling arts, STEM, and professional development courses for K-12 schools, afterschool programs, and businesses.

PARENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

A nationally proven initiative that empowers parents to improve the lives of children in their communities by developing skills in civics, democracy, and leadership.

KEEP IN MIND



☞ Trust is a practice and often a like a new muscle that must be flexed to become reliable and strong. In our experience trust requires sometimes going beyond our comfort zone and saying hard things, and sometimes keeping our mouths shut even when we want to speak up. Somewhat like a good marriage, what works is making the relationship and the vision more important than self-interest.



☞ Authentic partnerships are created over time when each party gets more than they give out of coming together. Sum > parts. The best way to get there is to make your partner's concerns more important than your own. This may require you to work a little beyond your mission. If so, do it.



☞ Patience is more than a virtue—it's mandatory to the relationship development process. Despite what we may think, schools and CBO's don't actually know each other very well, don't speak the same language, and work with very different opportunities and constraints. It may take years for your partner to understand you. Hang in there.



☞ Education and non-profit arenas are unstable and volatile in tough economic times, subject to wide variations in capacity and function, and rapid change. Be prepared to carry more than your share of the burden at times, knowing you may need that from your partner next month or next year.



☞ Relationships are like good works of art—they require many drafts, scrapping what doesn't work, constant reflection, revision, experimentation and failure. Embrace the agony and ecstasy as part of the creation process!



MOVING FORWARD – Supporting high performance is the key to your partnership, and student, success. Listed below are tips for staying true to your vision and expectations as obstacles arise:

☞ “Plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.” General Eisenhower was surely right about this. Plans are especially critical because they help to bridge communication gaps, acting as a road map, and providing important content to concepts you and your partner may or may not understand the same way. Student-centered learning, for instance, might look one way in a classroom and another in an applied learning setting. Writing down what a student is expected to do closes that divide.

☞ The above applies to formal partnership structures as well, such as regular meetings, oversight teams and routine communication. Meetings might not produce what is intended or needed but they are absolutely necessary just the same. If corners have to be cut, do the best you can when you can.

☞ As much as possible, sign contracts. Partnership grants require an LOS and signatures for good reason—to ensure each party is on board with the vision, mission and action plan. Contracts support similar clarity, role division and accountability.

☞ To win the Superbowl, you have to be the best. Make each moment your finest by professionally and positively contributing as part of a creative team.

CREATING THE WIN – Your partner wins when you win. You win when they win. Beneficiaries win big when you come together. Give your partner many chances to succeed. Listen to them first. Deal with the real partner in front of you, not the theoretical partner of your TA or funder's imagination—a partner with little exposure to your practices, habits, circumstances and visions may not be ready to make the best choices on your behalf. Do your best to make good choices on their behalf and they will come around. They are having the same experience with you. Just as with students, your most difficult partner might end up being your best partner, when you live up to their standards. **It's okay to smirk when you finally win them over, but only when they are not looking!**