



Governor Ned Lamont, New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker, New Haven Superintendent Madeline Negrón, and State Representative Pat Dillon sit with students at Edgewood School in New Haven, engaged in a cARTie program..

‘Art Matters’ to cARTie: Governor Lamont and Local Leaders Celebrate Nonprofit's Impact

New Haven, March 2024

On Monday, Governor Ned Lamont joined New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker, Connecticut State Representative Pat Dillon, New Haven Superintendent Madeline Negrón, and K-2 students and staff at Edgewood Creative Thinking Through STEAM Magnet Elementary School to experience firsthand how cARTie, CT’s first and only nonprofit art museum on wheels, nurtures critical and creative thinking dispositions through positive and prolonged early museum-based learning opportunities. cARTie has been visiting Edgewood School repeatedly for the past three years. Students were able to show the Governor and local leaders how familiar they are with cARTie, and how important they find the arts in their education.

For about an hour, Governor Lamont and local leaders toured cARTie’s art museum bus and participated in a read-aloud and art-making activity with second graders, inspired by the idea that art is our universal language and helps us express things we care about. “It is such an honor to showcase the power of art in our students’ early learning and development with the Governor, Mayor, Superintendent, and Representative,” cARTie’s Co-Founder and Executive Director, Clare Murray said.

“This is great, and it shows in how happy the kids are. Very happy!” Governor Ned Lamont remarked.

Mayor Elicker echoed the Governor's sentiments: "We would love to see this in more New Haven schools. This is really wonderful!" While working alongside second grade students on his own activist sign expressing what matters to him through art, Mayor Elicker emphasized "I love art!"

Later in the week, Shelton Mayor Mark Lauretti, Shelton Superintendent Ken Saranich, and the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce President, Bill Purcell, joined cARTie's staff, board members, and wider community to again celebrate cARTie's growing impact as part of a ribbon-cutting at the organization's new headquarters in downtown Shelton. Having grown from partnering with 7 elementary and pre- schools with limited access to the arts in education its first year of programming in 2021 to 27 and counting schools this 2023-2024 school year, cARTie was justified in finding an office space to call "home" in the creative Conti Building at 415 Howe Avenue. From their new office space, cARTie staff will host trainings, prepare materials for museum-school visits, and more. Already, this space is proving to be a great venue for building cARTie's community.

While cARTie serves schools across the state, "we are still not in Shelton schools, and want to do everything possible to make that happen," Murray expressed. Shelton Superintendent Saranich shared Murray's commitment to making sure cARTie begins working with Shelton's elementary schools next: "we will make the necessary connections."

Shelton Mayor Lauretti explained how vital the creative economy is, and how exciting it is to have cARTie join the city's "impressive business sector."

To say this week has been a success for cARTie is an understatement. From meeting with the Governor to discussing new opportunities with local superintendents, cARTie is continuing steadfast on its mission to bridge inequities in education and arts access across CT. This 2024, cARTie will expand programming and build upon its work serving more than 5,000 students in Greater New Haven, the Valley, Fairfield County, and other areas.

"Art and museum education should not be a privilege," said Murray. "We are thrilled to have the support of state and local leaders who recognize the power of the arts in children's early learning and development."



Greater Valley Chamber President Bill Purcell, Shelton Mayor Mark Lauretti, and Shelton Superintendent Ken Saranich join the cARTie team for their ribbon-cutting.

cARTie is CT's first and only nonprofit art museum bus committed to bridging inequities in education and arts access across the state through its mobile art museum bus with a focus on young children, emerging student-artists, and entire communities. To learn more about cARTie, please visit www.cartie.org and [@CTcARTie](https://www.instagram.com/CTcARTie) on social media.

Contact Information: Clare Murray, cARTie Co-Founder and Executive Director, clare@cARTie.org 203-505-0971