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## Overview

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Project Zero was founded by the philosopher Nelson Goodman at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1967 to study and improve education in the arts. Goodman believed that arts learning should be studied as a serious cognitive activity, but that “zero” had yet been firmly established about the field; hence, the project was give its name.

For nearly half a century Project Zero has been committed to helping create communities of reflective, independent learners; enhancing deep understanding within disciplines; and promoting critical and creative thinking. Project Zero’s mission is to understand and enhance learning and thinking in the arts, as well as in the humanistic and scientific disciplines at both the individual and institutional levels. At the core of this pursuit are the following questions:

*What is understanding and how does it develop?  
What do thinking and learning look like?  
What is worth Learning today and tomorrow?  
How and where do thinking, learning, and understanding thrive?*

Over the years Project Zero has maintained a strong research agenda in the arts while gradually expanding to include investigations into the nature of intelligence, understanding, thinking, creativity, cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural thinking; the nature of good work across professions and contexts; ethics in digital participation; design thinking and marker centered education; interdisciplinary teaching and learning;’ and educating for global competence. The organization has conducted dozens of major research initiatives, published hundreds of books, articles and reports and collaborated with countless partners. Project Zero’s work takes place nationally and internationally, in a variety of settings. While much of Project Zero’s research occurs in schools, an increasing amount is focused on business, cultural organizations, and on various online platforms. In addition to its research initiatives, Project Zero offers symposia and workshops, most notably the annual Project Zero Classroom and Future of Learning summer institutes.

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<http://www.pz.harvard.edu/>

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