

# Essential Learning...*In The Arts*

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ARTS EDUCATION  
COLLABORATIVE

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1st Annual  
Celebration of  
Liaisons Serves as a  
Valuable  
Networking,  
Brainstorming Event

### 1st Annual Celebration of AEC Liaisons Spawns New Communication Initiative

Each year, the AEC mails letters to the superintendents of every school district in Allegheny, Washington, Greene and Fayette Counties, and to the directors of arts and culture organizations, requesting that they appoint a liaison to the AEC from within their district or organization. Those chosen are then asked to serve as a conduit of information between their colleagues and our staff. We rely on our liaisons to pass on information regarding AEC opportunities, and to provide us with information and news from their schools and organizations, which we then share in this monthly newsletter.

For the first time ever, we invited all of our liaisons from school districts and organizations to come together to celebrate their importance and impact on the work that we do. The June 26th event, held at Carnegie Museum of Art, was an opportunity for networking, brainstorming and learning. When asked about the strengths of the day, some responses included:

“Great networking opportunity. Thank you. I also learned some things and gained insight into how to better be of service as a cultural organization.” - *Pat Moran, Sto Rox Cultural Arts Center*

“As always, the AEC has held a worthwhile event, leaving me with fresh new ideas.” - *Katie Novelli, Northgate School District*

“Clear information and agenda; great content.” - *David Seals, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council*

Attendees broke into small groups to brainstorm various problems and solutions. One of the recommendations that emerged was the concept of an AEC Liaison Listserv - a monthly email that would be sent to all liaisons with as many arts education opportunities, events and news items as our liaisons send to us. The first listserv was sent on July 18th. This month the listserv will be sent on August 15th. **Ask your liaison to pass the listserv on to you!**

If you're not sure who your liaison is, please visit <http://www.artsedcollaborative.org/DistrictLiaisons.html> to view the complete list of school district liaisons, or [http://www.artsedcollaborative.org/c\\_orgs.html](http://www.artsedcollaborative.org/c_orgs.html) for the complete list of arts and culture liaisons.

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### Leadership Academy Class of 2007 Meets for Week-Long Summer Academy

From July 23rd - 27th, the fifteen members of the 2007 Leadership Academy class met at CAPA High School in Downtown Pittsburgh, where they spent 8 hours each day learning about their own leadership styles, participating in professional development in the areas of theatre, dance, music and visual art, and creating the first stages in what will become their year-long action plan.

For more on this exciting week, see *Focus on Leadership* on page 5.

# DID YOU HEAR?

## **Bloomberg Initiative to Grade School's Performance** *The New York Sun*

Answering critics who say the city schools offer too little arts education, Mayor Bloomberg is touting an initiative, dubbed ArtsCount, to grade schools on areas like music, drama, and dance. School principals will now be judged on their schools' compliance with state requirements, which oblige students to spend, in some cases, 20% of their week on arts education. The change was part of the city's push to give principals more control of their schools in exchange for punishments if they do not meet benchmarks.

To continue reading, visit <http://nysun.com/pf.php?id=59003&v=2083766811>

## **Promoting the Arts (Minus the Crafts)** *nytimes.com*

One balmy morning in mid-July, Dale Lewis revved up a golf cart and motored through 200 acres of Long Island woodlands, where an army of sprites wearing rainbow-hued backpacks strolled along flower-lined paths. Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts in Huntington, NY is celebrating its 40th anniversary this season, and Mr. Lewis has been at the helm for more than half those years, establishing one of the most successful creative utopias for budding artists in the Northeast. "The mission here is to instill in kids a lifetime love of the arts, not necessarily for them to become professionals, but to love the arts," Mr. Lewis said.

For the complete story, [click here](#)

## **Educators Learn Arts Education at Walton Arts Center** *NWAnews.com*

Judy New, Superintendent of Fayetteville School District in Arkansas, received the Walton Arts Center's annual Award for Excellence in Arts Education at the Center's annual Arts With Education Luncheon. The luncheon was attended by area teachers participating in the WAC's weeklong Arts With Education Institute for public school educators. The conference is designed to show teachers ways they can incorporate arts into their curriculum and instruction. Sean Layne, a presenter from the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts who facilitated performing arts lessons at the conference, said more schools are realizing the importance of incorporating art into the curriculum. As a society, the country is moving into a "conceptual age" where creativity and vision will be the key, he said. To continue reading, visit <http://nwanews.com/nwat/News/55753/>

## **Book Tackles Old Debate: Role of Arts in Schools** *nytimes.com*

When two researchers published a study a few years ago concluding that arts classes do not improve students' overall academic performance, the backlash was bitter. But authors Ellen Winner, Lois Hetland and two other collaborators are pushing back. In a new book due out this month, they argue forcefully for the benefits of art education, while still defending their 2000 thesis. "We feel we need to change the conversation about arts in this country," said Ms. Winner, a professor of psychology at Boston College and a senior research associate at Project Zero. "These instrumental arguments are going to doom the arts to failure, because any superintendent is going to say, "If the only reason I'm having art is to improve math, let's just have more math." For the complete story, visit [http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/04/arts/design/04stud.html?\\_r=1&ref=design&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/04/arts/design/04stud.html?_r=1&ref=design&oref=slogin)

## **Two Takes on Whole** *Educational Leadership Online*

The co-chairs of ASCD's Commission on the Whole Child - Hugh B. Price and Stephanie Pace Marshall - spoke with *Educational Leadership* about what it means to educate the whole child. Price, senior fellow with the Brookings Institution and past president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League, and Marshall, founding president of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, share their different - yet complementary - perspectives. To read the interview, [click here](#)

## **Imagine If a Class Could Do So Much** *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

What if your child could learn to be imaginative, open-minded, respectful of others' views and identities, and an active participant in a vital community? Self-confident in body and mind, at ease in front of an audience, and comfortable confronting difficult topics? And all from one class? As children across the nation return to elementary school, most of them will be missing out on a class that was common in public schools when I was young, a class that influenced my life for the better; creative drama. For the complete story, visit [http://www.ajc.com/opinion/content/opinion/stories/2007/08/07/artsed\\_0808.html](http://www.ajc.com/opinion/content/opinion/stories/2007/08/07/artsed_0808.html)

## Upcoming Events

### Pittsburgh Symphony Chamber Orchestra in Upper St. Clair

**What:** Chamber Orchestra Concert Series

**When:** October 27, 2007; March 29, 2008; May 17, 2008

**Where:** Upper St. Clair High School at 1825 McLaughlin Road in Upper St. Clair

**Cost:** \$39-\$75 for the subscription

Don't miss the premiere Pittsburgh Symphony Chamber Orchestra Season in Upper St. Clair. Join conductor Andres Cardenes and the PSO for three exciting concerts - a celebration of chamber music performed in the intimate atmosphere of Upper St. Clair High School!

For more information and to order tickets, call 412-392-4900 or visit [www.pittsburghsymphony.org](http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org)

### Westmoreland Museum of American Art

**What:** Made in Pennsylvania: A Folk Art Tradition

**When:** Through October 14, 2007

**Where:** Westmoreland Museum of American Art, 221 N. Main Street in Greensburg

**Cost:** Museum admission (\$5 suggested donation)

This exhibition will include important examples of fraktur, salt-glazed stoneware, tanware, coverlets, samplers, and painted furniture, all having their origins in Pennsylvania.

For more information, call 724-837-1500 x27 or visit

[www.wmuseumaa.org](http://www.wmuseumaa.org)

### Quantum Theatre

**What:** Le Grand Meaulnes

**When:** August 2-26 at 8pm

**Where:** The stables at Hartwood Acres

**Cost:** \$25-30

As a young man, charismatic Augustin Meaulnes meets the woman who will consume him, at a place magical enough to be conjured from boyhood dreams. His journey to adulthood summons bittersweet recollections of the romantic fantasies we never outgrow. The idyllic landscape of a century ago is brought extravagantly to life by Di Trevis, best known for her production of Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past* at London's Royal National Theatre. Music by Dominic Muldowney, choreography by Peter Kope, and stunning summer ambiance outdoors in Allegheny County's beautiful Hartwood Acres.

For more information, call 412-697-2929 or visit

[www.quantumtheatre.com](http://www.quantumtheatre.com). For tickets, visit [www.proartstickets.org](http://www.proartstickets.org) or call 412-394-3353

### Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

**What:** Artist Talk: Pete Goldlust

**When:** Sunday August 12 from 5:30-6:30pm

**Where:** Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

**Cost:** \$5

Join award-winning artist Pete Goldlust to discuss his extraordinary career and the dynamics of play in his art-making. Goldlust's playful sculptures have earned solo exhibitions in Los Angeles and Chicago and been shown across the U.S., in Germany and at the Hareare International Festival of the Arts in Zimbabwe. To find out more about Pete Goldlust visit [www.petegoldlust.com](http://www.petegoldlust.com). Space is limited. RSVP by calling 412-322-5058 x313.

## Opportunities and Offerings

### Carnegie Museum of Art Summer Workshops for Teachers

**What:** Art and Interdisciplinary Learning

**When:** Tuesday August 21st from 9am-2pm

**Where:** Carnegie Museum of Art in Oakland

**Cost:** \$25 members/ \$30 nonmembers. Lunch in the Carnegie Cafe is included.

Use art as the vehicle to interdisciplinary exploration and discovery, and watch students begin to make exciting connections about science, math and history. Take full advantage of the museum collection in this session that provides information, stimulating exercises, and proven models for making art a catalyst for academic learning. Earn 5 ACT 48 hours.

For more information and to register, call 412-622-3288 or visit <http://www.cmoa.org/programs/teachers.asp>.

### Westmoreland Museum of American Art; Thursday Evenings at the Westmoreland

**What:** Made in Pennsylvania Gallery Tour: Stoneware and Textiles

**When:** Thursday August 16th at 7pm

Learn more about the current exhibition, *Made in Pennsylvania: A Folk Art Tradition* with a gallery tour by guest curators Frank Swala and Harley N. Trice.

**What:** Currents of Change

**When:** September 13th at 7pm

What can decorative arts tell us about the history of a region? Jason T. Busch, newly appointed Curator of Decorative Arts at Carnegie Museum of Art, joins us for a study of *Currents of Change: Art and Life Along the Mississippi River: 1850-1861*, an exhibition co-organized by Busch.

**Where:** Both programs will be held at Westmoreland Museum of American Art, 221 N. Main Street in Greensburg

**Cost:** Free

For more information and to register, call 724-837-1500 x10 or visit <http://www.wmuseumaa.org/>

### South Hills Junior Orchestra

**What:** Free trials and open rehearsals

**When:** Throughout August and September; Saturday mornings from 10:30am-12:30pm

**Where:** The Upper St. Clair High School Band Room at 1825 McLaughlin Road

Students of ANY age who play an orchestra instrument are invited to try out "the SHJO experience!" Formed to augment and support school band and orchestra programs, SHJO is celebrating its 24th year. Registration for the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 seasons will be held on September 15th. For more information, visit [http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/4665\\_71816152312/blank/browse.asp?A=383&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&C=50140](http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/4665_71816152312/blank/browse.asp?A=383&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&C=50140)

[4665\\_71816152312/blank/browse.asp?A=383&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&C=50140](http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us/4665_71816152312/blank/browse.asp?A=383&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&C=50140)

Please submit your

Events, Opportunities and Offerings to Jennifer at:  
412-201-7402 or [koeglerj@artsedcollaborative.org](mailto:koeglerj@artsedcollaborative.org).

Due to limited space, submissions will be run on a first come, first served basis.

# A Life of Service: Beth Cornell

**The AEC congratulates Beth on her many achievements and wishes her the best of luck in retirement!**

“Beth Cornell has been a tireless advocate for arts education in the state of Pennsylvania. Her dedication to the mission of all students in the Commonwealth receiving quality arts education is admirable. She has been an unwavering champion and visionary in her approach as she has served as advisor to all of us. Congratulations, Beth, on a job well done.”

- Dr. Sarah Tambucci, AEC Director

*The following is the result of a conversation between retired Fine Arts and Humanities Advisor to the PA Department of Education Beth Cornell and AEC Project Manager Jennifer Koegler. Jennifer asked Beth to talk about her beginnings in arts education, how she came to work in the PA Department of Education, and what her inspirations and experiences have been along the way.*

Beth Cornell knew from an early age that she wanted to be an art teacher. She had, growing up, an extraordinary art teacher, who inspired her to become the best art teacher she could possibly be. Beth graduated from Edinboro University in 1968, and took on her first position, teaching elementary art in the Harrisburg area for 5 years. In 1973 she was accepted to teach for The U.S. Department of Defense Overseas Schools. Her first assignment was an elementary school in Misawa in northern Japan where she taught art for one year.

The summer after Japan Beth attended a workshop in the Philippines that changed her life. She stayed in Baguio, the summer capital of the country, and roomed with a Filipino woman. There were about 50 arts teachers and students from all over the U.S. and Asia. It was during this workshop, and future workshops that she would attend while overseas, that Beth changed from being an *art teacher* to an *arts educator*. It was as though a light had come on, and she realized that the arts - visual arts, music, dance and theatre - are a combined family of content with rich crossover and competencies. From then on she was always looking for connections between all of the arts.

Beth transferred to Seoul, Korea, where she spent three years teaching visual arts in an arts center for K-12 students. There were three teachers there, and they all taught every grade. This was where Beth had her first artist-in-residence, a man by the name of Charles Laloma. Charles was a Native American jewelry maker, whose pieces sold at Sax Fifth Avenue for thousands of dollars. He taught the students how to cast silver. Next she brought in a woman who specialized in ichibana (the art of flower arranging) and a straw basket-weaver, among others. Her final year overseas was spent in Iceland, where she was once again teaching elementary art and continuing her work with artists-in-residence, this time bringing in a renowned puppeteer.

Although her time overseas was primarily spent teaching, Ms. Cornell also attended graduate school at a number of different universities. She had the opportunity to learn the native music and dance of her temporary homes, and to embrace working with artists.

After Iceland (and five years overseas), Beth wanted to come home. A good friend told her about an open position at the Pennsylvania Arts Council - the Artist-in-Residence Coordinator. Ms. Cornell applied to and was hired for the position, and worked there for three years, during which time she took the PA artist-in-residency program from one of the bottom 40 to one of the top programs in the nation.

After three years Beth was ready to explore new horizons. Around 1982 she left Pennsylvania to serve as the Director of Performing Tree, an arts education service organization located in Los Angeles. She spent the next ten years there, launching new initiatives including retreats for teachers, producing a jazz series for television and radio with L.A. public schools, and setting up an endowment. This was also where she learned about corporate and foundation fundraising. Performing Tree was operating with a budget of \$200,000 when Beth began her work there; when she left ten years later the budget had increased to \$1.5 million.

It was at this time that Ms. Cornell returned to Pennsylvania to serve as the Arts and Humanities Advisor to the Pennsylvania Department of Education - a position she held for sixteen years, until her retirement this summer. During her tenure with the PA Department of Education, the Pennsylvania Visual Art, Music, Dance, Theatre and Humanities Standards were all put in place; they received four federal grants from the U.S. Department of Education; and they launched Pennsylvania's Keystone Arts Education Network ([www.keyarts.ws](http://www.keyarts.ws)). Finally, they launched the first Governor's Institute for Arts Educators eleven years ago - an Institute that is very much based on Ms. Cornell's incredible experiences with workshops in the Philippines and her belief in continued professional development for teachers. This Institute has served as a model for all other Governor's Institutes in its innovative use of technology and its approaches to teachers engagement.

Ms. Cornell believes “that all Pennsylvania students deserve a quality pre-K - grade 20 arts education provided by certified arts educators and community partners. It must be rich, compelling content with defined competencies.”

Ms. Cornell retired this summer after 38 years in the field of arts education, and nearly 29 years working for the state of Pennsylvania.

Upon her retirement, Beth received three citations: from the PA Speaker of the House; the PA Secretary of Education; and Governor Rendell.

Beth's future projects include serving as a mentor/coach to classes of the future and working on the upcoming Lincoln Bicentennial of 2008.

In her spare time, Beth tap dances with America's largest adult tap group, The Tap Pups, plays the piano, golfs and paints watercolors.

## Focus on Leadership

by Elizabeth Kripp, AEC Program Associate

Once again we've completed the summer session of the Leadership Academy for Arts Educators, now in its fifth year. Fifteen educators from cultural organizations and schools came together at Pittsburgh High School for the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) for an intense week of professional development. They came to learn, discuss, reflect, explore, question and contribute.



*LA members enjoy a workshop facilitated by Billy Hartung*



*LA members pose before their collaborative work, created at the Andy Warhol Museum*



*LA member Diane Oberst sings a duet with Etta Cox*

As a result of this “amazing week” (as several participants labeled it) these educators left feeling supported and empowered to begin to design and implement an action plan that will help advance the status of arts education in the region. This is not an easy task given the constant demands of their workplaces. However, they will continue to receive the support of the AEC throughout the course of the year through follow up seminars, individual meetings and much more. In addition, they will have access to the network of all Leadership Academy members, now numbering over sixty. We congratulate the following new Leadership Academy members and look forward to working with them:

**Lisa Belczyk**, Pittsburgh Symphony  
**Linus Craig**, City Theatre  
**Marian Day**, Cornell School District  
**Laura Ferguson**, Propel Charter Schools  
**Carol Froelich**, Mount Lebanon School District  
**Jaime Frye**, Moon Area School District  
**Rachel Koch**, Imani Christian Academy  
**Diane Oberst**, North Hills School District  
**Kelly Jane Pellechio**, Wilkinsburg School District  
**Kristine Purcell Sacco**, Katherine Dean  
 Tillotson School  
**Tricia Rohlf**, Brownsville Area School District  
**Kara Stauffer**, Canon McMillan School District  
**Sara Strzempek**, North Hills School District  
**Karen Vachon-Thaner**, Hampton Township  
 School District  
**Sarah Williams**, August Wilson Center for  
 African American Culture



**Sarah Tambucci, Ph.D.:** Executive Director  
**Michael Cerveris, DMA:** Program Associate  
**Elizabeth B. Kripp:** Program Associate  
**Jennifer Koegler:** Project Manager  
**Dora Baraky:** Director of Operations

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