

# Essential Learning...*In The Arts*

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ARTS EDUCATION  
COLLABORATIVE

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## IN THE NEWS...

### Is Arts Education the Key to Succeeding in the Global Economy?

Human resource experts believe so. According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, “human resource experts believe that to truly succeed in the global economy, tomorrow’s workers may benefit most from studying and participating in the arts.”

On January 4th, the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council hosted a National Arts Forum titled “*No Child Left Behind*” vs. *Arts Education: The Impact on Workforce Development*. In its press release for the forum, GPAC stated that its hope was to “spark a conversation that shapes these issues into a cohesive argument for the cradle-to-grave value of the arts”. The forum’s panel members included **Phyllis G. Hartman**, Principal of PGHR Consulting; **Sarah Tambucci**, Executive Director of the Arts Education Collaborative; and **Vanessa Lund**, Project Director of the University of Pittsburgh’s Human Capital Policy Initiative.

The word is out! A quality arts education is vital in providing students with the skills necessary to thrive in the changing landscape of today’s workplace. As the world becomes increasingly dependent upon new technologies, the desirability of those able to creatively address the new challenges presented will continue to soar. If you have any doubts as to how loudly this is resonating with communities other than arts and education, the forum’s write-up in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette should alleviate those concerns- the article made the front page of the Business section! Check it out at <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07038/759915-28.stm>

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## Register Early for Regional Arts Education Day 2007!

March 15th will be here before you know it, and this year we have a **limited number of spots** available for those wishing to enjoy the **lunch Q&A session with keynote speaker Dan Pink!**



RAED 2007 will be held at **Soldiers and Sailors National Military Museum and Memorial** in Oakland from **9am-2:30pm** on **Thursday March 15, 2007**. The keynote address by **Dan Pink**, author of the bestselling book *A Whole New Mind*, will be followed by a panel of experts addressing the question “*Is Our Region on the Right Track?*” Other highlights of the day include performances by local students and career forums that will explore the relevance of Pink’s ideas for tomorrow’s workforce. Cost for RAED, including the lunch Q&A, is \$55. A registration fee of \$35 is required in advance in order to attend RAED *without lunch*.

Visit <http://www.artsedcollaborative.org/calendar.html> to download a registration form.

# DID YOU HEAR?

## **Carlynton Cultivates Arts Program** *Gateway Newspapers*

If Act I legislation passes, and schools are required to not raise taxes above a certain level, future program cuts could include the arts programs. Carlynton School District music and art teachers have designed a district-wide event, dedicated to the arts, meant to re-enforce the influence of creative outlets. "We wanted a day to showcase what we do in the district. We're hoping to make this an annual showcase," says Russ Pedersen, band director at the elementary schools. To read more, visit <http://www.gatewaynewspapers.com/signalitem/news/71437/>

## **Pounding Out a Different Kind of Education** *PittsburghTribune-Review*

North Hills Junior High School music teacher Heidi Kohne is teaching students to drum to a different beat. Student interest in world music drumming has boomed since Kohne introduced the West African/Caribbean style of drumming to seventh-graders last fall at the school in Ross. "There are many complicated rhythms occurring at the same time. Students must listen very carefully to keep their parts consistent while locking in with the other musicians. The various ensemble pieces that we learn have rhythms that are quite similar to the popular music that students listen to today," Kohne said. For the full story, visit [http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/education/s\\_489921.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/education/s_489921.html)

## **Schools Ditch the Arts** *The Cincinnati Enquirer*

Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky schools are in the midst of a field trip famine, and it's not simply the price of bus fare to blame. "It is now at the point where some schools do not want any interruptions in their school day, even when there are obvious academic connections to the arts program," said Steven Finn, director of education at the Aronoff Center for the Arts in Cincinnati. "It is really quite sad. The long-term result is that we will have an entire generation of kids growing up that have never experienced any type of live performance." For the full story visit <http://news.cincinnati.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070206/NEWS0102/702060374/-1/CINCI>

## **Governor Rendell Proposes \$15.225 Million for the PCA in the 2007-2008 Budget**

### *The Citizen Online*

Governor Edward G. Rendell presented the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Executive Budget to a joint session of the Pennsylvania General Assembly on February 6, 2007. This budget includes a \$15.225 million recommendation for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts grants to arts organizations. There are no increases over the current year funding level. More information about the Governor's budget for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts may be found at [http://www.budget.state.pa.us/budget/lib/budget/budget\\_presentation/2007\\_08\\_budget\\_document.2.pdf](http://www.budget.state.pa.us/budget/lib/budget/budget_presentation/2007_08_budget_document.2.pdf) on page E2.18.

## **Americans for the Arts Responds to the Administration's FY 2008 Arts and Culture Funding Recommendations**

### *Americans for the Arts*

Americans for the Arts President and CEO Robert L. Lynch gave the following statement on the release of the president's budget for FY 2008: "For the first time in three years, President Bush initiated a proposed increase in funds for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). If approved, the president's \$4 million funding increase would grow the NEA budget from \$124.4 to \$128.4 million, which is a step in the right direction." To read the full story, visit [http://www.americansforthearts.org/information\\_resources/press/2007/2007\\_02\\_05.asp](http://www.americansforthearts.org/information_resources/press/2007/2007_02_05.asp)

## **Petition Urges Artists to Demand Federal Funding** *Backstage.com*

Arts for LA, an organization advocating increasing support for all art forms and cultural life in Los Angeles, is circulating a petition to encourage members of Congress to support increased funding for the nation's arts programs. The petition was sent in reaction to President Bush's FY 2008 budget proposal, which asks for a small increase of 3.2 percent for the National Endowment for the Arts. With the increase, the NEA funding would total \$128.4 million. In 1992, the NEA received \$176 million. The president also eliminated funding for the Department of Education's Arts in Education programs for the seventh consecutive year. To read the full story, visit [http://www.backstage.com/bso/news\\_reviews/stage/article\\_display.jsp?vnu\\_content\\_id=1003543576](http://www.backstage.com/bso/news_reviews/stage/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1003543576)

## Like a Snowball Rolling Downhill

By Dr. Sarah Tambucci, AEC Director



*Stephan was having a hard time out there on the playground. Large snowflakes were falling through his fingers or melting on his gloves and he just knew that before he could fashion his first snowball of the season he*

*would hear a call for supper and this moment would be lost. The big snowball battle with Alan that began last winter would just have to wait a little longer.*

*But that was last year and this time Stephan knew about hills and momentum and the physics of working smarter, not harder. This snowball would be his biggest and best ever. Just you wait, Alan!*

Good ideas can be like snowflakes. Little ones may fade and sometimes go unnoticed. But every once in a while a really good idea seems to catch on and gather momentum and begin to roll downhill. Soon no one can even remember who had the idea first - and it doesn't matter.

The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council responded to its constituents who believe that arts education is important and necessary to include in the GPAC regional agenda. We applaud their leadership. The GPAC National Arts Forum (See page 1 of this newsletter) has made a major step in securing a place for arts education within a broader agenda for arts and culture throughout the region. The conversation was animated, passionate and implied that a call for action is eminent.

*With so much research available regarding the value of arts education, why are we always working to secure a place in the school curriculum? We need to have a conversation around the definition of creativity. What is it? How can we ensure an educational agenda for all children that includes study in the arts?*

Western Pennsylvania is primed to be a major player in the national arts education conversation. Between internationally respected cultural and educational institutions lies the overlap space we know as arts education. It appears that there is a snowball getting bigger and commanding increased attention...and it's rolling downhill.

## Opportunities and Offerings

### Summerbridge Pittsburgh

#### Master Teacher Position Opening

**Summerbridge Pittsburgh** provides a tuition-free, two-year, lifechanging experience that empowers at-risk middle school students to achieve academic success and inspires young adults to pursue careers in education. We are seeking a diverse group of talented, inventive professional educators willing to commit 9 weeks of their summer helping our young faculty to create an intense, inspiring and academically vigorous learning community that will provide our educationally at-risk middle school students with the support that they need to be successful in high school, college and beyond. Expertise in teaching one of the following subjects is required: Math, Wellness or Language Arts/English. Knowledge of hands-on, experiential teaching methods is highly desirable as is experience and/or interest in working with young adults and middle school students. Enthusiasm, energy and the ability to relate to people of many ages, backgrounds and cultures are essential. For more information, visit <http://www.sewickley.org/files/pdf/SB%20Master%20Teacher%20Announcement%20&%20Description%202007.pdf>.

### Carnegie Museum of Art

#### Lunch and Learn - Gritty Brits: New London Architecture

**When:** Thursday February 15, 2007 from 10:30am-2:00pm

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

**Cost:** \$35 members/\$44 nonmembers (includes lunch in the Carnegie Cafe)

Join Raymund Ryan, curator of *Gritty Brits: New London Architecture*, in an exploration of history and emerging themes in London's architecture and urban development. After lunch, join Ryan for a gallery tour of models, drawings and photographs that reveal how the work of these "gritty" architects responds to social trends and diverse and often overlooked communities in London today. Call 412-622-3288 to register.

### Teaching Artist Idea Exchange

#### Presentation by Ben Sota, Executive Director of Zany Umbrella Circus

**When:** Monday February 26, 2007 from 7-9pm

**Where:** Blackbird Studios, 3583 Butler Street in Lawrenceville

**Cost:** Free

Ben Sota will present a discussion on fostering international arts projects. "Using circus to re-build community and spark the inner-child, for the last 7 years, I have had the honor to work with, teach and learn from children and adults all over the world." Attendees are encouraged to bring a teaching artist resource such as a great teaching tip, a book, an icebreaker, etc. to informally share while networking with fellow teaching artists, artisans and arts organizations. To register, contact Carol Wolfe at 412-342-4444 or email [carolw@gatewaytohearts.org](mailto:carolw@gatewaytohearts.org)

### VSA arts

#### Williamstown Theatre Festival Apprenticeship

**Deadline to Apply:** February 23, 2007

This apprenticeship is for students with a disability, ages 19-24, who are interested in expanding their theatre education and knowledge. The *VSA arts* Apprenticeship provides a talented student with a unique insight into the world of a professional theatre. For more information and to download an application form, visit <http://www.vsarts.org/x1625.xml>

Please submit your  
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.

## Focus on Leadership

by Elizabeth Kripp, AEC Program Associate



Mary Beth Gray rushed into the Carnegie Museum of Art hoping to deliver her application in time for the first AEC Leadership Academy in 2003. Mary Beth, a master of multi-tasking, had debated taking this on until the last minute. Her days were already packed with teaching and directing at Shady Side Academy.

"I rushed into town to drop off my application and when told you were meeting in Oakland, I immediately got back into my car to track you down," she remembers. We're glad she made it. She credits the Leadership Academy with inspiring her to continue the good work she had begun since joining the Shady Side Academy faculty in 1990.

Her goal to combine the visual arts, music and theatre departments into one stronger department became the focus of her action plan. Mary Beth worked tirelessly to facilitate dialogue among all faculty and administration involved in this initiative. She used every available resource, including the AEC, to thoughtfully eliminate any roadblocks in her quest to "blend and support the Arts at Shady Side Academy". She was successful. But now, Mary Beth faced a new challenge.

After much reflection, she decided to apply for the position of Chair of the newly formed department. The AEC was delighted to add their letter of recommendation to Mary Beth's application and noted that, "Mary Beth's leadership skills are focused on enhancing and advancing the strong, visible and connected arts programming at Shady Side Academy through effective action planning". The school administration concurred and appointed Mary Beth to that position in the spring of 2005.

Since that time, Mary Beth has worked to maximize communication and collaboration within the department to provide a strong support for the arts component of Shady Side Academy's education philosophy. She admits that it has not been trouble-free, but continues to focus on the opportunities available to a stronger combined arts department. Recently, the administration and department chairs affirmed her proposal for a new dance course for the 2007-2008 school year.

As she makes plans for her coming sabbatical, her focus is to explore the possibility of showcasing a larger network of arts programs within the surrounding communities. She sees this as another opportunity to highlight the importance of arts education. Navigating through scheduling, budget and other issues to provide rich and engaging opportunities in the arts for all students can be a bumpy road, but Mary Beth Gray keeps driving.

## Upcoming Events

### Quantum Theatre

#### *The Red Shoes*

**When:** February 8 - March 4, 2007

**Where:** Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church in Pittsburgh's North Side

**Cost:** \$24-27

Director Karla Boos leads a humorous journey through Hans Christian Andersen's absurdly macabre cautionary tale, starring Loyola-Garcia's fierce flamenco as The Shoes.

For more information visit [www.quantumtheatre.com](http://www.quantumtheatre.com)

To purchase tickets call 412-394-3353 or visit [www.proartstickets.org](http://www.proartstickets.org)

### Attack Theatre

#### *Dirty Ball Too*

**When:** Saturday March 10, 2007

**Where:** 121 Ninth Street, 9th Floor (Downtown Pittsburgh)

**Cost:** \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door

Honoring Richard Parsakian, this year's gala is sure to top last year's, called by the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review "deliciously outrageous and fabulously fun"

For more information visit [www.attacktheatre.com](http://www.attacktheatre.com)

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

If you are interested in volunteering contact Rebecca at

[rebecca@attacktheatre.com](mailto:rebecca@attacktheatre.com)

### Point Park Conservatory Theatre Company

#### *The Frogs*

**When:** February 14-25, 2007

**Where:** Pittsburgh Playhouse in Oakland

**Cost:** \$12-14

Originally written in 405 B.C. by Aristophanes, this updated exuberantly amusing yet poignant musical follows Dionysos, the Greek god of wine and drama, and his faithful slave Xanthias. They embark on a journey to bring back to earth a brilliant writer who can comfort people in a society on the verge of destruction through words of wit and wisdom.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit

<http://www.pointpark.edu/default.aspx?id=840> or call 412-621-4445.

### Carnegie Museum of Art

#### *Modern Japanese Prints: 1868-1989*

**When:** February 17-April 15, 2007

**Where:** Carnegie Museum of Art's Heinz Galleries

Presenting a fascinating survey of woodblock printmaking during a period of dramatic changes in Japanese life and culture, this exhibition highlights master prints from the late 19th-century Meiji period through the developments in printmaking that occurred in the 20th-century with the new print (*shin-hanga*) and creative print (*sosaku-hanga*) movements. The exhibition further explores the evolving role of the artist within this rich tradition, and the eclectic, sometimes idiosyncratic, but always passionate interests of print collectors. For more information, visit [www.cmoa.org](http://www.cmoa.org)

Please submit your Upcoming Events to Jennifer at:  
412-201-7402 or [koeglerj@artsedcollaborative.org](mailto:koeglerj@artsedcollaborative.org).

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

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

Arts Education Collaborative  
425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 2650  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
P: (412) 201-7405  
F: (412) 201-7401

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