

# Essential Learning...*In The Arts*

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ARTS EDUCATION  
COLLABORATIVE

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June 2007

## IN THIS ISSUE

## IN THE NEWS...

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Leadership  
Academy Class of  
2007 Announced

### Leadership Academy Class of 2007 Announced

Congratulations to the members of the 2007 Leadership Academy Class:

**Lisa Belczyk**, The Pittsburgh Symphony; **Linus Craig**, Pittsburgh 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**, K.D. 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; and **Sarah Williams**, The August Wilson Center for African American Culture.

AEC to Hold  
Celebration of  
Liaisons

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Michael Faison  
Named Executive  
Director for  
Idaho Commission  
on the Arts

Academy members will kick off their work with the week-long Summer Academy, to be held this year at CAPA High School July 23rd-27th. To culminate the Summer Academy, participants will create the groundwork for their year-long action plan. Members will also attend four Leadership Seminars throughout the course of the 2007-2008 school year. We at the AEC look forward to working with this new group of leaders in arts education!

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Carnegie Museum of  
Art to Offer  
Summer Professional  
Development  
Opportunities

### AEC To Hold First Annual *Celebration of AEC Liaisons*

Collaboration and partnerships are highly valued at the AEC, and rightly so. Our liaisons in the school districts of Allegheny, Washington, Fayette and Greene Counties; Pittsburgh City Schools, and the arts and culture organizations throughout the Greater Pittsburgh Region, have been invaluable resources and proactive partners in our efforts to fulfill our mission.

AEC liaisons provide contact information, disseminate information among colleagues, provide information regarding arts education opportunities and advocate for quality arts education for all students.

To thank these champions of arts education, we are hosting the first annual **Celebration of AEC Liaisons** on June 26th from 9:30-1:00 at Carnegie Museum of Art. This event will mark the first time we have gathered both groups of liaisons - school districts and arts and culture organizations - and we anticipate that it will prove to be a valuable experience for both groups. The purpose of the day is to not only celebrate the good work that our liaisons have been doing for the past five years, but also to brainstorm action steps to move forward. Liaisons should have received an invitation in the mail. To view a complete list of school district liaisons, visit <http://www.artsedcollaborative.org/DistrictLiaisons.html>. Arts and culture liaisons can be found at <http://www.artsedcollaborative.org/>

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Focus on  
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UnSeam'd  
Shakespeare  
Presents *The  
Constant Prince*



**Please RSVP to Jennifer at  
412-201-7402 no later than June 19th.**

*AEC Liaisons (L-R): Michele Scureman, Upper St. Clair SD; Jane Wall, Pittsburgh City Schools; Roslyn Stulga, Steel Valley SD; Sharon Sherley, Pittsburgh City Schools*

## DID YOU HEAR?

### Michael Faison Named Executive Director of Idaho Commission on the Arts

*IdahoStatesman.com*

Nationally recognized arts education program director Michael Faison will become the new executive director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts. Faison comes to the commission after a national job search. He is currently the arts in education division director for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the chairman of the national arts education advisory group of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. "Everyone is looking forward to working with Michael," said Commission Chairman Mark Hoffland. "He comes to us with outstanding recommendations, an enviable reputation, and widespread experience." Faison's official first day will be June 29.

To read the story in its entirety, visit <http://www.idahostatesman.com/entertainment/story/87009.html>

### Schools Pile on English, Math Classes

*Contra Costa Times*

The leather sleeves of his varsity jacket resting on the table, seventh-grader Brandon Wilson copied down the vocabulary words with his left hand. Formidable. Cacophony. Impenetrable. This is one of the three language arts classes Brandon takes every day at Adams Middle School in Richmond, California, and his second with teacher Deborah Brittain. "I wanted to take art or wood shop," Brandon said. "I'll get an elective next year." Under federal pressure to increase scores on English and math tests, many low-achieving schools across the country are loading up students with two or even three periods of math and English and abandoning electives such as art, music and shop. To read the full story, visit [http://www.contracostatimes.com/portlet/article/html/fragments/print\\_article.jsp?articleId=5936588&siteId=571](http://www.contracostatimes.com/portlet/article/html/fragments/print_article.jsp?articleId=5936588&siteId=571)

### Arts Council Earns National Recognition

*The Daily and Sunday Review*

Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America, last Sunday presented the inaugural 2007 Arts Education Award to the Bradford County Regional Arts Council of Bradford County, PA. The award is presented to a local arts agency that is changing local education through the arts. The honoree demonstrates innovation, produces visible results, and is a national leader in the field. "Through its art programs, the Bradford County Regional Arts Council has enhanced the lives of very young children and their families in the underrepresented communities in which they live," said Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. "BCRAC's work in this area has few peers across the country. Their effectiveness, community engagement, and unwavering dedication are what we honor with this award."

[http://www.zwire.com/site/index.cfm?newsid=18433245&BRD=2276&PAG=461&dept\\_id=465049&rf=8](http://www.zwire.com/site/index.cfm?newsid=18433245&BRD=2276&PAG=461&dept_id=465049&rf=8)

### Exploring the World at School

*delmarvanow.com*

Students at Maryland's Willards Elementary School didn't have to set sail or take flight across the globe to gain insight into other cultures. The Willards Integration Network Team has made it their mission to bring the outside world to them. "For these kids to be able to test higher, they need to sing it, dance it or draw it," said Cindy Sullivan, WIN Team leader and visual art teacher. "It would be wonderful for this country to get on that bandwagon." The WIN Team was organized four years ago in an effort to integrate the arts - visual arts, theater, dance and music composition - into the core curriculum. Since then, the Title I school has made tremendous progress. Willards has moved from the lower testing range to one of the top three schools in the county.

For the complete story, visit <http://www.delmarvanow.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070531/NEWS01/705310378/1002>

### Abuzz with Applause: Edcouch-Elsa's Performance Center Represents District's Commitment to Fine Arts

*themonitor.com*

Painted with a color-scale representation of the Yellowjacket fight song, the new \$5.7 million Edcouch-Elsa school district's fine arts facility pops off the Highway 107 landscape of colonias and fast food restaurants like a piece of celebrated modern architecture in Chicago. Just as there is more to its general aesthetic than meets the eye, the building is much more than just a performance space. It represents the fourth poorest school district in Texas's commitment to arts education. The district used its state Instructional Facility Allotment to pay for 92 percent of the facility. Most districts in Texas used that funding to build and refurbish schools and classrooms.

To continue reading, visit [http://www.themonitor.com/articles/arts\\_2842\\_\\_article.html/facility\\_district.html](http://www.themonitor.com/articles/arts_2842__article.html/facility_district.html)

### BOSS

#### Building on Student Success in Allegheny County 2007 COUNTYWIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

As a sponsoring partner for BOSS, the **Arts Education Collaborative** has been invited to review proposals, encourage additional submission of proposals and co-host the Arts site at **South Fayette High School on October 8th**. Please consider submitting a proposal today!

Visit <http://boss.aiu3.net/> for more information and to submit a proposal.

*Note: You must create an account online to submit a proposal.*

## Opportunities and Offerings

### Carnegie Museum of Art

**What:** *Being There: Creating a Sense of Place through Drawing*

**When:** Wednesday July 18th from 10am-4pm

**Where:** Carnegie Museum of Art in Oakland and The Southside

**Cost:** \$65 members/\$75 nonmembers, includes studio reception  
Douglas Cooper, muralist, and Andrew Mellon, Professor at Carnegie Mellon's School of Architecture, lead this daylong drawing excursion. Get started in the Museum's Hall of Architecture with sketching projects focusing on light and shadow, volume and effective use of detail. Move on to the Southside where, weather permitting, you'll work outdoors drawing the city and its slopes. Discover how to impart a sense of place in your urban landscape views. Wrap up with a glass of wine at Cooper's Southside studio. Bring a bag lunch.

**What:** Two-Day Gallery/Studio Workshops

**When:** *Drawing the Human Figure* July 9 and 16; *Handmade Ceramic Vessels* July 23 and 30. Both classes are 9am-2pm

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

**Cost:** \$42 members/\$52 nonmembers. Register for both classes and save: \$75 members/\$95 nonmembers

**What:** *Summer Workshops for Teachers: Art and Narrative Writing*

**When:** July 10 from 9am-2pm

**Where:** Carnegie Museum of Art, Scaife Galleries

**Cost:** \$25 members/\$30 nonmembers

Earn 5 Act 48 hours with popular local writer Sherrie Flick and CMA Education Specialist Jordan Crosby in the Scaife Galleries. Consider together how we inspire all our school students to be better writers. Reflecting on works in the Museum's permanent collection, we will engage in various writing activities to reveal our inner storyteller. Plated lunch in the Carnegie Cafe included!

To learn more about CMOA's Professional Development opportunities for teachers, visit <http://www.cmoa.org/programs/teachers.asp>

To register for any of these classes, call Jordan Crosby at 412-622-3288.

### Lincoln Elementary Technology Academy

*Call for Muralists*

Lincoln Elementary is creating a new play space for the children in the Lincoln section of East Liberty. Over 200 volunteers from the neighborhood, as well as folks from all over the Greater Pittsburgh area are expected to volunteer to be part of this project. Beyond creating a play space, organizers are looking for talented artists to create murals with the children. If interested, please call Lincoln Elementary School at 412-665-2980 and ask for Dan Stys.

### Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

**What:** The Art and Science of Air and Water Movement

**When:** Friday June 22 from 9:30-12 (Breakfast available at 9)

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

**Cost:** \$10 (includes breakfast, materials and 2 hours of Act 48 credit)

Join the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh for a workshop fusing art and science. Experiment with air and water movement, creating visible currents with color and smoke. Then translate your observations into a two or three dimensional work of art, poem, or short movement piece. This unique experience is led by renowned artist and scientist Bernie Zubrowski, creator of the Design It! curriculum, which engages students in scientific explorations with simple materials.

If you were inspired by Dan Pink and the possibility of engaging both sides of your brain, join us at the Children's Museum for The Art and Science of Air and Water Movement.

Please call Studio Arts Educator Andrea Shockling with questions or to register at 412-322-5058 or email [ashockling@pittsburghkids.org](mailto:ashockling@pittsburghkids.org). Registration is due Wednesday June 20th.

### Westmoreland County Community College and Touchstone Center for Crafts

**What:** Summer Intensive College-Credit Classes

**When:** *Throwing for All Levels* June 25-29; *Introduction to Glass Fusing* July 16-20; *Small Scale Sculpture and Handbuilding* July 23-27; *Bookbinding and Beyond* July 16-20; *A Printmaker's Dream* August 6-10.

**Where:** Touchstone Center for Crafts

**Cost:** \$68 per credit + \$125 lab fee

Westmoreland County Community College and Touchstone Center for Crafts have recently entered into a partnership to offer summer courses for credit. This opportunity is unique because it's only 1 price - there is no extra charge for the college credit!

For more information about the classes and how to register, visit <http://wccc.edu/ac/touchstone.pdf>

### PITTSBURGH CIVIC ORCHESTRA Immediate Job Opening for Music Director

The PCO is an all-volunteer community orchestra which will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary Season in 2008-2009. Learn more about the PCO at <http://www.artsnet.org/pco/>.

The Music Director's primary responsibility is to prepare the orchestra, through a series of weekly rehearsals, and to conduct each of its five concerts. For more information, visit [http://www.artsnet.org/pco/PCO\\_News.htm](http://www.artsnet.org/pco/PCO_News.htm)

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: A Tribute to Dr. Bille Rondinelli



*This article focuses on the importance of leadership at the administrative level. When administrators create a climate where the arts are recognized as important for **all** children, it makes a huge difference for students, parents, school district personnel and, indeed, all community stakeholders. Providing support for the arts in substantial ways in order to allow those disciplines to take their rightful place within a rigorous, demanding curriculum takes an educational leader who puts children first.*

As Dr. Bille Rondinelli prepares to become the Assistant Superintendent at Pine Richland School District in July, her colleagues from Moon Area School District reflect on her leadership with warm regard.

Described fondly as a person with class, warmth, intelligence and dedication, Dr. Rondinelli greatly enhanced the arts programs in her eight years at Moon. As the Curriculum Coordinator and Assistant Superintendent, she instituted a new arts curriculum that included the first-ever textbooks for grades 1-8. This curriculum and her visual arts framework helped the school district accomplish the Pennsylvania State Standards for the Arts and Humanities.

“Bille was an advocate of the arts from the start,” explained Debbie Day, an art teacher at one of the Moon elementary schools.

In addition to the curriculum changes, Dr. Rondinelli instituted a number of specific programs to support the arts. One of these programs was the “Middle School Mosaic,” which focused on how the arts and other individual programs contributed to the whole middle school experience. She also produced an annual calendar for the school district that highlighted arts events, and furthered the creation of labs that now exist in the middle and high schools to support the use of art technology.

“Her experience, education, personality and professionalism set the bar high for administrators within the district,” said elementary school art teacher Kristin Teeple.

Dr. Rondinelli serves on the Steering Council and Professional Development Council of the Arts Education Collaborative. Regarded as an excellent leader, she also encouraged her colleagues to improve their leadership skills through the AEC’s Leadership Academy and through the Governor’s Institute for Arts Educators.

With all of her accomplishments, Dr. Rondinelli focused on what was best for the students and on maintaining positive relationships with her staff. She is recognized as a very approachable administrator who took time to know her colleagues well.

“She is authentic and gives 100% all the time,” said Day.

“The students are always first and foremost,” adds Teeple.

Although her colleagues will miss Dr. Rondinelli, they wish her the best in her new position at Pine Richland.

“She has served Moon well as a facilitator, implementor and innovator,” said Loretta Smith, who teaches art at the middle school. “We at Moon are losing a tremendously dedicated and professional administrator, an exceptional and gifted leader in the arts, and a very warm and caring person.”

## Together We Can Do More

### by Dr. Sarah Tambucci, AEC Director



The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council and the Arts Education Collaborative recently partnered to present a regional forum on arts education. The response to an initial GPAC

Forum in February that focused on arts education was positive and passionate. The resulting momentum encouraged the organizers to consider ways in which a common agenda around arts education might become a reality.

The AEC has gathered deep baseline data from educators in an effort to understand the current status of arts education in a four county region: Allegheny, Washington, Fayette and Greene Counties. The data is rich and substantive. The implications for applying what we know have the potential for becoming far-reaching. In an attempt to process the recommendations and develop an action plan for arts education, the picture is incomplete.

*The AEC Task Force on Focusing Arts Education for the Region*, under the leadership of Dr. Linda Hippert, Superintendent of the South Fayette School District, was appointed by AEC Steering Council Chair, Bill Isler. Under Dr. Hippert's capable leadership the task force seeks to engage a larger stakeholder audience in developing a shared vision for arts education throughout the region.

GPAC members have a particular interest in the outcomes of quality arts education. Arts education at the highest levels is not only the only effective strategy to build knowledgeable, sustainable audiences for the arts, but study in the arts also helps to build the creative skills that are critical for the workforce of the future. We thank Dr. Hilary Robinson, Dean of the School of Fine Arts at Carnegie Mellon University and Dr. John Delaney, Dean of the Katz School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh for adding their expertise to this effort. As focus group leaders along with Dr. Hippert they have contributed much to the conversation.

At the recent MetLife forum, artists, arts and culture organizations, the business community and citizens at large have had another opportunity to collectively ponder the outcomes of a regional focus on arts education that is of high quality, substantive and focused.

We look forward to the recommendations of the *AEC Task Force on Focusing Arts Education for the Region* and their call to action.

## Upcoming Events

### Unseam'd Shakespeare

**What:** *The Constant Prince*

**When:** June 14-30; Wednesday-Saturday 8pm; Sunday 4pm

**Where:** Open Stage Theatre- 2835 Smallman St. in the Strip District

**Cost:** \$22/\$15

By Pedro Calderon de la Barca. Translated, adapted and directed by Rick Davis.

North Africa, 1437 - A Christian Prince at war with a Muslim King. To control one city they will shatter the world. A 17th Century tale of love, friendship, faith - of constancy - and the true legacy of martyrs, from the greatest playwright of the Spanish Golden Age.

For tickets, call ProArts at 412-394-3353.

### Quantum Theatre

**What:** *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid*

**When:** June 14 - July 1

**Where:** The Garden Theatre on Pittsburgh's North Side

**Cost:** \$25-\$32; Limited number of \$15 student tickets available

Notorious teenage gangster Billy the Kid is re-imagined by two of today's most legendary storytellers. The new drama explores the man behind the myth, and chronicles a world where peace and violence, sanity and insanity, order and chaos, are inextricably confused. Quantum unveils this world premiere at Pittsburgh's infamous Garden Theatre before the company travels to Madrid's Festival de Otono and beyond.

For more information, visit [www.quantumtheatre.com](http://www.quantumtheatre.com). To purchase tickets, call ProArts at 412-394-3353 or visit [www.proartstickets.org](http://www.proartstickets.org)

### Umoja African Arts Company

**What:** *African Arts in the Park Festival*

**When:** August 12-13

**Where:** Mellon Park - East Liberty

**Cost:** Free

An annual festival that is dedicated to the promotion of African arts of all genres through performances, workshops, demonstrations and community information dissemination.

Visit <http://www.umojacompany.com/aaip.htm> for the complete festival schedule.

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.*

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