

Essential Learning...*In The Arts*

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ARTS EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVE

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Page 1

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IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1

Leadership
Academy in the
Spotlight

Leadership
Academy 2007
Applications Due

PAGE 2

Pittsburgh is #1 Arts
Destination

What will the
Taxpayer Relief Act
of 2006 Mean for
Schools?

PAGE 3

Arts Educators as
Educational Leaders

Opportunities and
Offerings

PAGE 4

Searching for a New
Approach

PAGE 5

Upcoming Events

IN THE NEWS...

AEC Leadership Academy in the Spotlight

Over the past four years, the Leadership Academy has proven to be an essential tool for uniting and inspiring arts educators across the greater Pittsburgh region. An external evaluation completed by the University of Pittsburgh indicates that the Leadership Academy has produced positive, measurable results.

The evaluation reviewed two aspects of the Leadership Academy: the weeklong workshop in the summer and the long-term results of the experience and subsequent action plans. To assess the weeklong workshop, the researchers interviewed twenty different teachers who had participated in the Leadership Academy during the summers of 2003, 2004 and 2005. To assess the long-term results, twelve teachers who had graduated from the Leadership Academy and had been participating in continuing activities were interviewed.

The evaluators believed that the most significant findings of the evaluation were that because of the Leadership Academy:

- Teachers are becoming leaders in arts education in their schools.
- Teachers are implementing change in a variety of local school contexts.
- Teachers are changing their ways of classroom teaching.
- Teachers are becoming more active and strategic advocates of the arts and arts community.



At the Arts Education Collaborative, we believe that connecting arts educators with peers and the arts community is vital to the thriving cultural experience found in Pittsburgh. The AEC would like to congratulate the members of the 2006 Leadership Academy as the yearlong program draws to a close. Their hard work, enthusiasm and focus have been an inspiration to us and to each other. We look forward to continuing to work with them on many levels as the Leadership Academy continues to grow and make a difference.

The members of the 2006 Leadership Academy class are: **Deborah Day** (Moon Area SD); **Linda Hartman** (Bethel Park SD); **Christy Hedman** (Deer Lakes SD); **Amy Keller** (Cannon-McMillan SD); **Renae Knapek** (Highlands SD); **Deni Laskey** (Bentworth SD); **Lauren McKiernan** (Northgate SD); **Marsha Owens** (Trinity Area SD); **Russ Pedersen** (Carlynton SD); **Andrea Shockling** (Children's Museum); **Dan Stys** (Pittsburgh Public Schools); **Linda Turner** (West Mifflin SD) and **Cindy West** (Vincentian Academy).

To learn more about the Leadership Academy, visit <http://www.artsedcollaborative.org/LeadershipAcademy.html>

Leadership Academy 2007 Applications are due TODAY!!!

If you have not yet returned your application, please contact Betty Kripp at
krippb@artsedcollaborative.org or call 412-201-7431

DID YOU HEAR?

Pittsburgh is Deserving of Recent Nod as Arts Destination

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

AmericanStyle Magazine recently released the results of its 10th annual “**Top 25 Arts Destinations**” readers’ poll, and to the surprise of many, Pittsburgh placed first in the mid-sized cities category, up two spots from its 2006 ranking. Should Pittsburghers be surprised by this? Not really. Whereas sports fans have had their new stadiums to flock to since 2001, not to mention the proposed arena planned for the Penguins, developments in the arts over the past six years have grown exponentially as well. *To continue reading, visit http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/mostread/s_504756.html*

P.E. Classes Turn to Video Game That Works Legs

The New York Times

Children don’t often yell in excitement when they are let into class, but as the doors opened to the upper level of the gym at South Middle School in Morgantown, West Virginia one recent Monday, the assembled students let out a chorus of shrieks. In less than a minute a dozen seventh graders were dancing in furiously kinetic union to the thumps of a techno song called “Speed Over Beethoven.” It is a scene being repeated across the country as schools deploy the blood-pumping video game Dance Dance Revolution as the latest weapon in the nation’s battle against the epidemic of childhood obesity. *To learn more, visit <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/30/health/30exer.html>*

Old Steel City Embraces the Arts

CNN.com

A multimedia designer and artist, Jesse Hambley dabbles in Web and graphic design, photography and even film work. But when he started looking for a photography studio, the 23-year-old realized he couldn’t afford a place on his own. So Hambley and some associates decided to form the **Creative Treehouse**, a membership club for artists to share creative space in a borough just outside the city line. Their goal: to support each other’s talents and grow the grass-roots arts community here. *For the complete story, visit http://www.cnn.com/2007/TRAVEL/DESTINATIONS/04/27/pittsburgh.art.ap/index.html?eref=rss_travel*

U.S. Resolution Supporting School-Based Music Education Passes Unanimously

Market Wire News

“One of the basic reasons that every child must have an education in music is that music is a part of the fabric of our society,” said Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-N.Y.) “The intrinsic value of music for each individual is widely recognized in the many cultures that make up American life. Music helps shape individual abilities and character. Success in society is predicated on success in school. Skills learned through the discipline of music transfer to study skills, communication skills and the cognitive skills useful in every part of the curriculum.” *To read more, visit http://www.marketwire.com/mw/release_html_b1?release_id=244804*

Stage Doors Takes 900 High School Students to Radio Golf

BroadwayWorld.com

Nine hundred New York City high school students from Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and The Bronx who are currently participating in TDF’s Stage Doors and Residency Arts Project (RAP) Programs will be attending August Wilson’s *Radio Golf* on Wednesday May 16th at the Cort Theatre. We’re thrilled to have nearly the entire theatre for our students,” said TDF education director, Marianna Houston. “Our experience over the years is that August Wilson’s plays have, without exception, spoken to NYC students on a deep, emotional level. These are teenagers who have mostly never been to the theatre and this will be the perfect welcome for them.” *For the complete story, visit <http://www.broadwayworld.tv/viewcolumn.cfm?colid=18127>*

The Question is: Who Will Pay?

Pittsburgh Post Gazette

The state Legislature’s latest foray into tax reform requires school districts to put referendums on the May 15 ballot that will pit wage earners against retirees, renters against homeowners and school districts against each other. Meeting the mandates of Act 1, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 2006, has been a frustrating experience for the state’s school districts. Each had to devote inordinate amounts of time and money to develop a referendum that will give their voters a chance to change the way school taxes are collected. For the complete story, visit <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07116/780919-57.stm>

Arts Educators as Educational Leaders: A Tale of Empowerment

By Dr. Sarah Tambucci, AEC Director



This issue of *Essential Learning in the Arts* celebrates this year's Leadership Academy graduates and shares the positive impact of the Academy as proven through solid research.

The AEC leadership initiative was grounded in the belief that arts educators have both the knowledge and skills that are required of effective teachers. The problem, it seemed, had more to do with school culture. Why are the arts viewed as peripheral in the school curriculum? What are the political realities that fail to establish an education in the arts as central learning for all students? Why are arts teachers frequently perceived as entertaining babysitters? And, how can we change all of that?

Literature around the concept of leadership is dense and readily available. But, whether we are talking about leadership in the government, military, business or schools, it is the characteristics of the leader that make all the difference. The ability of a leader to empower others has no recipe. But, the results are unmistakable. Talented, capable, confident leadership makes all the difference.

I believe we have, for a very long time, not understood the critical role that arts education leadership can play in changing the culture of our schools into an environment that expects that all students be provided with opportunities to create and achieve in the arts. Our experience with Leadership Academy participants is evidence that empowered arts educators can be change agents. The stories are rich and encouraging. They tell a tale of exhilaration and confidence that because they are aware of the opportunities they can envision the possibilities.

We are working very hard - exhibiting student work, preparing for performances, researching curricular content, aligning curriculum to the standards, imbedding math and reading anchors in our instructional practices, assessing student progress, tailoring instruction to the needs of all learners, among other important and valuable activities. However, a critical part of the work of the arts educator is to develop the voice that can speak the messages that need to be heard. To develop a community of learners who work to influence the school culture in valuing the arts as part of what the Leadership Academy is designed to deliver.

We need to work smarter, not harder. Perhaps 'arts educators as educational leaders' is an idea whose time has come.

Opportunities and Offerings

Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council

What: MetLife Foundation National Arts Forum Series

When: May 29th from 5-7pm

Where: Renaissance Hotel, Symphony Room, 107 Sixth Street Downtown

You gave us your input in January, and now it's time for action! Join us for a forum and focus groups that will help shape the economic and educational future of the Pittsburgh region. Our businesses need creative, problem-solving workers; our schools need innovative tactics to reach young people; and our artists may have more to offer than they realize! Whether you are a CEO success story, an educator with some great ideas, or an artist trying to make a difference, we're looking for you. To register for this free public forum, contact ProArts Tickets at 412-394-3353, visit www.proartstickets.org, or mail to GPAC Workshops, 707 Penn Avenue 2nd Floor, Pittsburgh PA 15222.

Carnegie Museum of Art

Workshops for Teachers: Spend Your Summer with Art

What: One-day Gallery Workshops

When: Tuesdays from 9am-2pm

Where: Carnegie Museum of Art

Cost: \$25 members/\$30 nonmembers. A plated lunch in the Carnegie Cafe is included.

Treat yourself to some fascinating new insights about art, network with peers, and energize your curriculum next fall with creative interdisciplinary ideas. 5 Act 48 credits are available per workshop.

Workshops include:

Art and Narrative Writing - July 10

Art After Modernism: Themes in Contemporary Art, 1970-2000 - July 17

Writing the Artist's Statement - August 14

History and Practice of Interdisciplinary Art Education - August 21

What: Two-Session, Gallery/Studio Workshops

When: Mondays from 9am-2pm

Where: Carnegie Museum of Art

Cost: \$42 members/\$52 nonmembers. Please bring a bag lunch.

10 Act 48 credits are available per workshop.

Drawing the Human Figure - July 9 and July 16

Hand-Made Ceramic Vessels - July 23 and July 30

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

crosbyj@carnegiemuseum.org

Please submit your

Opportunities and Offerings to Jennifer at:

412-201-7402 or koeglerj@artsedcollaborative.org.

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

We Need Your Input!

How can we make the Arts Education Collaborative website more responsive to *your* needs?

Visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/>

[s.asp?u=60463847125](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=60463847125) to complete a 5 minute survey and let us know how our website can best serve *you!*

Searching for a New Approach

By Dr. Michael Cerveris,
AEC Program Associate

We're all familiar with the term "preaching to the choir." And so when we see articles that appear fairly regularly in numerous publications attesting to the importance of the arts and arts education in our lives and the lives of our children, a first reaction is "Duh!" This is not news to those of us in the trenches. Considering the complexity of the world and world events, one could even make a case that through these outlets, the arts are arguably getting their share of attention and advocacy. At the same time, however, this does seem to beg the question: then why do the arts appear to be not gaining, or are in fact, losing ground systemically relative to the seeming importance attached to them in the literature focused on the value of the arts?

Has the approach for a successful apologia for the arts become cliché and repetitive to the point of being inaudible? We seem to be saying the same things over and over to explain or justify the arts and arts education. The arts are good for you; therefore, we should have strong support for education in the arts. But has this rationale been enough? Has it produced the results we expect? It is time to look for other approaches. Other vocabulary. Other strategies. Is there something that is not being said? Something missing? Do we need to look for fresh ideas or fresh perspectives from which to make the points about the arts and support for arts education in which we all believe and endorse?

We have been given the factual data. The scientific research has been used to demonstrate the efficacy of the arts and arts education. Social studies have demonstrated the healing power of the arts to at risk constituencies and challenged profiles. Studies have also been done relative to the financial benefits of the arts to communities. Where are we not looking? Are there other alliances still to explore?

It is necessary at this juncture to state openly that there is no plan at the end of this article to reveal a global answer to the questions posed above. I have no local answer either. What I am hoping to suggest is that it is time to have a more widely ranging dialogue and debate about

looking. One of the tenets of a consumer society, which it must be acknowledged that we are, is that the economy sustains itself by creating needs, convincing us that various consumer items are necessary. Documentation from "The Tipping Point" by Malcolm Gladwell demonstrates just how trends of this nature gather momentum and crest. In his view, ideas can be dormant, waiting on the horizon for just the right set of dynamics to spark a trend. Our mothers told us spinach was good for us, ho hum. But when Popeye said the same thing...that was different. Daniel Pink has further shown the utility of "thinking outside the box." As the information age develops, looking beyond the status quo is where it's at. So, what is it about our culture that avoids acknowledgement of the universality and utility of the arts and a willingness to pay the price for that experience? What does our society do instead of investing in the power of the arts? What is the opposite of the arts? (This is a topic for an even wider dialogue.)

There is a technique used by earthbound astronomers to visually make contact with extremely faint and distant stars. Because of the arrangement of the various cones and rods of our ocular mechanism, blind spots exist for very far away pinpoints of light. However, astronomers have learned that by looking slightly to the left or to the right of where they think the object may be that it is then discernable. Do we need to be looking just slightly to the left and/or right of just how we have been promoting arts education and telling the story of their values so they become more discernable to those too blind to see?

Special Request!

One of your colleagues, Elainka Jay, has been using a series of video tapes called **Artscape** in her fourth grade art classes. The videos chronicle two children who get sucked into a painting at a gallery and have to find their way out by learning about the elements of art.

Unfortunately, Elainka has been unable to locate the teacher manual for the videos, and the series is no longer in print.

If anyone has a copy of the manual, please email Elainka at ejay@masd.k12.pa.us

Upcoming Events

Frank L. Melega Art Museum

What: Eighteenth Anniversary Dinner for Brownsville Area Development Corporation and the Seventh Anniversary of the Frank L. Melega Art Museum

When: Friday May 18th at 6:30pm

Where: The Thompson House Restaurant, 815 Water Street in Brownsville

Cost: \$25 members/\$30 nonmembers

Join featured speakers Peter West of World West Galleries and James Winegar, art educator and past president of the Artist Co-op as they represent The Artists of Washington County - the designees of the Frank L. Melega Art Museum 2007 Artist of the Pike. Following dinner, attendees will have an opportunity to preview the 2007 Artist of the Pike Exhibition, which opens Saturday May 19th and 20th from 1-5pm in conjunction with the National Road Festival.

For more information, contact Alison McConnell, Director of BARC at 724-785-9331 or amc@barcpa.com, or Patrick Daugherty, Curator of the **Frank L. Melega Art Museum** at 724-245-6120 or patrick@melegaartmuseum.org.

Red Dust

What: A collaboration between **Attack Theatre**, **Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh** and composer **Matthew Rosenblum**

When: May 18th and 19th at 8pm; May 20th at 3pm

Where: **Andy Warhol Museum**

Dance, opera and storytelling collide in this premiere based on narratives from Gertrude Stein and scenes from Ts'ao Hsueh-ch'in's *The Story of the Stone*. For tickets, visit www.proartstickets.org or call 412-394-3353

SHASDA

What: Celebrating the Arts with SHASDA

When: Tuesday May 22nd from noon-3pm

Where: Brooks Elementary School, 1720 Hassam Road in Moon Township

Cost: Free for the event; Lunch will be available at 11:15am for \$10

Join Jordan Crosby, Director of School and Teacher Programs at **Carnegie Museum of Art**; Marilyn Russell, Curator of Education at Carnegie Museum of Art; Katy Medley, Member of CMU **Master's of Arts Management** Research Team - *Optimizing Arts Education at the Local Level*; Elaine Mitchell, Nathan Baumgardner and Kristin Teeple, **Hyde Elementary School** collaborators; Margaret Myers, Associate Director of CMU's **STUDIO for Creative Inquiry**; and Kurt Shaw, Art Critic for the **Tribune Review** for this exciting and educational event.

3 Act 48 hours will be provided.

For more information and to register, call 412-262-2500 ext 2823 or 2706 or email kteeple@masd.k12.pa.us

Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council

What: *The Work of Art Awards*

When: Thursday May 24, 2007

Awards Ceremony 5:30-7:00

Reception Party - 7:00-10:00

Where: **New Hazlett Theatre** and **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh**, located next door to one another on Pittsburgh's North Side

Cost: Awards Ceremony and Reception - \$30 GPAC members/\$60 nonmembers; Reception only - \$20

The Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council invites you to join us for a night of exciting performances, delicious hors d'oeuvres and well-deserved accolades for those individuals and businesses who support the arts in our region! This eclectic lineup of dancers, musicians, circus performers and DJs is sure to make a memorable evening of GPAC's inaugural Awards Celebration. For tickets, visit www.proartstickets.org, call 412-394-3353 or mail to The Work of Art Awards, 707 Penn Avenue, 2nd Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Visit <http://workofartawards.com/index.htm> for more information.

Pittsburgh Center for the Arts and Pittsburgh Filmmakers

What: Scholarship Fund Benefit Dinner at Casbah

When: Thursday May 24th at 6pm

Where: Casbah, 229 S. Highland Avenue in Shadyside

Pittsburgh Filmmakers and **Pittsburgh Center for the Arts** join national education experts in the belief that arts education not only enhances our quality of life, but encourages greater self-confidence, creativity and critical thinking skills. The Studio Arts Scholarship Fund provides the necessary resources to children and adults who face financial challenges.

PF/PCA would like to thank **Casbah** and **big Burrito group** for selecting PF/PCA to benefit from their **Benefit Dinner program**. Casbah donates 100% of proceeds to PF/PCA. For more information, please contact Loretta at 412-361-0873 or email lstanish@pittsburgharts.org. You can also learn more at <http://www.pittsburgharts.org/school/scholarship.html>

Please submit your Upcoming Events to Jennifer at: 412-201-7402 or koeglerj@artsedcollaborative.org.

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

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