

# Essential Learning...*In The Arts*

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COLLABORATIVE

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## IN THE NEWS...

### Mon Valley Learns Draws Arts Teachers to California University of PA



The highlight of the day was a performance by internationally acclaimed modern dance company Attack Theatre. Co-Artistic Directors Michele de la Reza and Peter Kope engaged the audience in pre-performance activities and discussion to draw their attention to specific choices and details in the performance itself. Audience members were treated to an exclusive excerpt from Attack Theatre's latest work, *Someplace, Not Here*, after which Michael Cerveris, Program Associate at the Arts Education Collaborative; Jordan Crosby, Education Specialist for School and Teacher Programs; and Michele de la Reza discussed with audience members what they had just seen and how the principals of the PA Standards could be seen in that specific piece, and how those principals translate into the visual arts, music and theatre.



For the first time ever, the Arts Education Collaborative participated in **Mon Valley Learns**, a half day of professional development sponsored by **The Consortium for Public Education**, formerly The Mon Valley Education Consortium. Collaborating with the Consortium and **California University of Pennsylvania**, the arts-focused professional development drew approximately 50 teachers from all over the region, as well as a number of California University students.

Attendees learned about educational and outreach offerings from local arts organizations including **Attack Theatre, Carnegie Museum of Art, Center for American Music, The Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh CLO, and Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre** while networking and enjoying breakfast.



Audience members didn't stop with the arts, though - they went on to identify scientific and social/cultural implications as well!

Finally, attendees were broken into smaller discussion groups to participate in conversations around the topic *Empowerment: Lead, Follow, or Get out of the Way* during which they had the opportunity to share information about not only the current state of professional development in their schools and districts, but also to voice their needs, challenges, opportunities and ideas for creating a regional agenda for arts education.

**Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this day a success!**

## DID YOU HEAR?

### School of the Arts Receives Kennedy Center Award *Heraldonline.com*

The school seal at Northside Elementary School of the Arts in South Carolina features a compass with one of the school's four arts programs in each corner - music, dance, art and theater. That compass steered the school in the right direction, according to the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network, which recently named Northside one of its Creative Ticket National Schools of Distinction.

Students at Northside take art, music, dance and theater, each for 45 minutes per week. Most Rock Hill elementary schools don't offer classes in all four forms of the arts, and Northside is the only elementary school with a full-time drama teacher. Northside is not a school of choice or a magnet school. [For the complete story, visit http://www.heraldonline.com/109/story/156780.html](http://www.heraldonline.com/109/story/156780.html)

### Charge to the Task Force on the Arts at Harvard University *The Harvard Crimson*

*University President Drew G. Faust issues a charge to the task force on the arts on November 1st.*

This moment - a time of beginnings, with new deans in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Graduate School of Design, a new undergraduate curriculum, and a new campus emerging across the river - seems propitious for an ambitious rethinking of the place of arts practice at Harvard. Recent developments in the humanities and sciences, in digital technology, and in the arts themselves have called into question traditional distinctions between making and understanding. We have a historic opportunity to rethink our teaching and learning, to foster the talents of our very gifted students, to forge new interdisciplinary links across the University's far-flung programs, and to invigorate the arts at Harvard for the 21st century. [To continue reading, visit http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=520500](http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=520500)

### Arts Educators Battle No Child Left Behind *Politico.com*

Raising school test scores in reading and math remains the biggest hurdle for No Child Left Behind, with many schools nationwide performing at less-than-acceptable levels, according to government proficiency tests. But while districts scramble to improve on core subjects, educators say the latest subject to be left behind is arts education. The arts community is hoping to build a partnership with the business community to make music, dance and drawing classes more of a priority in the reauthorization of the education program. [For the complete story, visit http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1107/6715.html](http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1107/6715.html)

### Lincoln Financial Foundation Bolsters Philadelphia Education Opportunities *CNNMoney.com*

Lincoln Financial Foundation is stepping forward to support the city's struggling school system, awarding more than \$900,000 to nonprofit organizations that are providing critical academic support in the city. These education and workforce development grants come just months after the Lincoln Financial Foundation augmented arts education opportunities in the city by giving nearly \$600,000 to agencies that bring artists into the schools, provide free and reduced-priced tickets to performances, or offer in-school or after-school arts programs to underserved children in the city. [To continue reading, visit http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/NEM08129102007-1.htm](http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/NEM08129102007-1.htm)

### Can Grade 6-12 Schools Solve City's Problems? *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

In developing schools for grades six through 12, the Pittsburgh Public Schools can take a creative approach to stubborn academic problems while leveraging some of the same strengths ascribed to the more common K-8 school, administrators and education policy experts say. Superintendent Mark Roosevelt on Wednesday proposed four schools with a 6-12 configuration, making one of the first steps in his high school improvement project and marking a new stage in his 2-year-old effort to reinvigorate the middle grades. [For the complete story, visit http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07309/831202-298.stm](http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07309/831202-298.stm)

### An Unlikely Partnership Left Behind *washingtonpost.com*

It felt familiar, as if the past five years had not happened - the Republican president and the Democratic senator together again, plotting ways to reshape the nation's education system. As they sat in the Oval Office that day back in January, President Bush and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy put their schism over the war behind them and focused on the agenda at hand.... Ten months later, the optimism has vanished and the campaign to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind education law has bogged down. [To continue reading, visit http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/04/AR2007110401450.html?hpid=topnews](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/04/AR2007110401450.html?hpid=topnews)

## Upcoming Events

### Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

**What:** World Children's Weekend

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

**When:** November 17-18

**Cost:** \$7-9

"Travel the world" at the Children's Museum during this weekend of performances, hands-on activities, cultures and languages as we celebrate UNESCO's Universal Children's Day in full collaboration with the International Institute of Arts and Languages. Created to inspire understanding among the world's children, this festival invites you to dance, sing, taste and create as you learn traditions from around the globe. You'll hear lots of different languages and can try speaking a few yourself! See the full schedule on our web calendar at [http://](http://www.pittsburghkids.org/Templates/CMP_Calendar.aspx)

[www.pittsburghkids.org/Templates/CMP\\_Calendar.aspx](http://www.pittsburghkids.org/Templates/CMP_Calendar.aspx)

**What:** Atzilut: Concerts for Peace

**Where:** New Hazlett Theatre, 1 block from the Children's Museum on Pittsburgh's North Side

**When:** Sunday November 18th at 1:30pm

**Cost:** \$8-12; children under 2 are free

The highlight of World Children's Weekend is a stirring concert for all ages by Atzilut: Concerts for Peace, an ensemble of Arab and Jewish musicians exploring the shared roots of their musical traditions. Atzilut has performed their incredible music across the world, including before the United Nations. Opening the concert will be Pittsburgh's own Oriental Star Dancers!

Tickets can be purchased at the Museum front desk, via credit card by calling 412-322-5058 x240, or online at

[www.pittsburghkids.org/tickets](http://www.pittsburghkids.org/tickets)

### Playhouse Dance Company of Point Park University

**What:** Pittsburgh Connections

**Where:** Pittsburgh Playhouse in Oakland

**When:** Friday November 16 at 8pm; Saturday November 17 at 2pm and 8pm; Sunday November 18 at 2pm

**Cost:** \$18-20

*Pittsburgh Connections* celebrates Pittsburgh dance and the exceptional skill of 57 students with an evening of works by the newest member of the Conservatory dance faculty, Jason McDole; Erin Halloran, of Pittsburgh Ballet Theater; Jennifer Keller, Assistant Professor of Dance at Skippery Rock University and formerly of Pittsburgh's Dance Alloy; Nicolas Petrov, Point Park University faculty member; and Whitney Moncrief, Point Park alumna and Artistic Associate for Hubbard Street 2.

For tickets and information, call the box office at 412-641-4445 or visit [www.pittsburghplayhouse.com](http://www.pittsburghplayhouse.com)

### Focus on Renewal

**What:** Showcase of elementary (*Bringing Broadway Back*) and middle school students (*Discovering Diversity in Jazz*) and the Sto-Rox Drumming Circle (*Jammin' to a Different Beat*)

**Where:** Sto-Rox High School Auditorium, located at 1107 Valley Street in McKees Rocks

**When:** Sunday December 2nd at 3pm

**Cost:** \$4 for adults; free for children 12 and under

For more information, contact Pat Moran at 412-771-3052 or by email at [pmoran@forstorox.org](mailto:pmoran@forstorox.org)

### Pittsburgh International Children's Festival

**What:** Pinkalicious the Musical

**Where:** Byham Theater and Pittsburgh suburban locations North, South, West and East of the City

**When:** November 14-19, 2007

**Cost:** \$9.50 in advance, \$11 day-of-show

Little Pinkalicious can't stop eating cupcakes despite warnings from her parents. Her pink indulgence lands her at the doctors office with Pinkitis, an affliction that turns her pink from head to toe! Based on the children's book by Elizabeth and Victoria Kann, this delicious musical will delight children and parents alike.

For tickets and information, visit [www.pghkids.org](http://www.pghkids.org)

### Pittsburgh Public Theater

**What:** This Wonderful Life

**Where:** O'Reilly Theater in Pittsburgh's Cultural District

**When:** November 16 - December 17, 2007

**Cost:** \$34-53

Life is truly worth living in this delightful re-imagining of the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. One actor plays George Bailey, Clarence the Angel, Mary, Old Man Potter, Zuzu, and twenty more of Bedford Fall's finest citizens in this theatrical twist on Frank Zappa's timeless film. Brimming with hope and humor, *This Wonderful Life* is a must-see event that will provide the perfect start to holiday festivities.

*This Wonderful Life* is part of the Family Series; a special performance on Saturday December 8th will feature pre-show activities designed especially for families with children ages 12-17. Participating children will take home goodie bags containing toys, treats, and education pamphlets related to the show. Pre-show activities begin at 12:30pm and curtain is at 2pm. Call the Box Office for information and tickets at 412-316-1600.

### You Are Invited!

**What:** A panel discussion on "*The Audience: enhancing their role in the arts experience*"

**Where:** Carnegie Mellon, Hamburg Hall Auditorium located at 4800 Forbes Avenue

**When:** Sunday November 11th from 2-3:30pm

All members of the Pittsburgh Arts Community are invited to come for continued in-depth discussion of the role of the audience and how arts organizations can assist in promoting their ability to interact. This is the culmination presentation of a course in Cultural Policy, part of the curriculum of the Master of Arts Management program at Carnegie Mellon University. Panelists will include **Lynn Conner**, Professor, playwright and arts consultant, University of Pittsburgh; **Elizabeth Streb**, Director, Streb Lab for Action Mechanics, NYC; **Andrew Taylor**, Director, Bolz Center for Arts Administration, University of Wisconsin; **Jim Wilkinson**, Executive Director, Society for Contemporary Craft; **Thomas Douglas**, Professor, Carnegie Mellon University and Bach Choir of Pittsburgh; and **Andrew Paul**, Artistic Director, Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre. Free parking is available across Forbes Avenue in the lot.

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



When Paul Lennartz stood before the audience at Arlington School last June, he knew he was taking a risk. He proceeded to tell the assembled parents and teachers that “he would take them on the journey that their children had taken with him.” Paul’s instrumental students (grades 3-7) were meeting music students from Pittsburgh CAPA High School for the first time to make music together. Each group had rehearsed separately but now they would listen to each other and then play two tunes together. To begin,

Paul explained the process involved in the first stages of learning to play an instrument and then got out of the way. It worked. The very nervous younger students sat with the CAPA students under the basketball hoop in the gym and became part of a very unique “informance.” The audience was learning just what it takes to make that instrument work. They were learning that music class was not just fun and games but, rather, a very integral part of a child’s intellectual development.

This event was part of an action plan that started out very differently a few years ago. As a member of the 2004 AEC Leadership Academy, Paul planned to develop a communication system between elementary and middle school music teachers in order that the learning needs of their students could be better addressed. In spite of his efforts that year, his plan just didn’t work. Then, much to his displeasure, Paul was transferred to a new assignment at Arlington School, where he now was working with students from grades K-8. After a few months of uncertainty, Paul changed his focus from himself to the children. He took another look at his plan, contacted his colleague, Bernie Black, at CAPA and began the collaboration. He found that the “basic guts” of the original action plan transferred well to his new situation and he was on his way.

During his Leadership Academy experience, Paul was profoundly affected by the message that “leadership is service.” Since then, he has discovered that if he can do something for others, it opens the door to the collaborative efforts so necessary in the business of educating children. In fact, with all the emphasis on reading skills in today’s schools, Paul took a course on teaching beginning reading. As he learned about phonetic awareness, he realized that he’d been teaching the same thing all along in his music classes. But now, he could speak the “same language” as the reading teachers and work with them, not apart from them.

Paul has lots of experience in turning challenges into opportunities. As a child growing up in the projects on the North Side, he was able to focus on his trumpet with the strong support of his long time mentor, Mr. Pasquarelli. He completed both his bachelor’s and master’s programs at Carnegie Mellon University. In addition to his teaching career, Paul is now in his 25th season as a member of the River City Brass Band.

So, Paul thoroughly understands the challenges that most of his students face each day. To meet those needs, he builds opportunities to teach basic life skills into his music program. He values the strong support that he has received from the AEC through the Leadership Academy. Without that, he reflects that he might not have had the confidence to recognize his leadership skills had put his plan into place.

Paul and Bernie are now working out the details for step two of the plan - an opportunity for the Arlington students to travel to CAPA to observe the winter concert rehearsal and tour the building. And plans for step three are in the works as well. Paul is beginning to communicate with elementary teachers and Rogers CAPA teachers about duplicating the process at those levels as well. Hmm, that sounds familiar.

## Opportunities and Offerings

### Arts Education Collaborative, 3 Rivers Wet Weather and RiverQuest

**What:** River of Words workshop

**Where:** RiverQuest boat, *The Explorer*, and Carnegie Museum of Art

**When:** November 15th and December 5th from 9am-3pm

**Cost:** \$75 for both days, includes breakfast and lunch

You are invited to participate in *River of Words*, a national program that enables teachers to help their students understand environmental science and express their learnings and feelings through art and poetry. This cross-curricular approach not only meets PA Academic Standards, but also ignites passion for science, art and writing among students.

Download an opportunity alert and registration form at [http://www.artsedcollaborative.org/documents/RiverofWordsOpportunityAlertandRegistrationForm\\_000.doc](http://www.artsedcollaborative.org/documents/RiverofWordsOpportunityAlertandRegistrationForm_000.doc)

### Cabaret Pittsburgh

**What:** The Principles of Belt Singing with Tony Richards

**Where:** Benedum Center, Studio B, 4th Floor

**When:** Saturday, November 10th from 10am-12pm

**Cost:** \$60 participate/\$30 observe

Voice expert and director of artist development, Tony Richards, will work with 8 singers of varying vocal abilities and show how the principles of belt can be incorporated into any style of singing. Anyone curious about how to identify these principles in themselves and in others is encouraged to attend - especially students and their teachers. This is an interactive program.

**What:** Building a Song as a Team with Amanda McBroom, George Ball and Michele Brouman

**Where:** Benedum Center, Studio B, 4th Floor

**When:** Saturday November 10th from 1-3pm

**Cost:** \$60 participate/\$30 observe

Building a strong musical theatre show or song demands excellent communication skills and great team-work. Join nationally renowned singer/songwriter and composer Amanda McBroom as she talks about building a song utilizing the singer and the musical director. These three guest artists will work with selected singers and offer insight into the important elements that make up a great song, how to find one, and what to do with it when you’ve got it.

**Call ProArts at 412-394-3353 or visit [www.proartstickets.org](http://www.proartstickets.org) to register for one or both classes.**

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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