

# Essential Learning...*In The Arts*

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ARTS EDUCATION  
COLLABORATIVE

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## IN THE NEWS...

### Congratulations to the 2007 Arts Education Collaborative Fellows!

As participants of the AEC Leadership Academy, **Russ Pedersen** and **Andrea Shockling** created action plans that focused on an identified need within their organizations. As Fellows they will have the opportunity to delve deeper into the opportunities they see within their respective organizations to *foster student creativity and achievement in, with and through the arts* over the course of the coming year.



Pedersen, an instrumental music teacher at Carnegie and Crafton Elementary Schools in Carlynton School District, was able to launch the first unified arts day, *Tied to the Arts*, to help make connections, increase relevance and raise awareness as a result of his time at the Academy. As a Fellow, he hopes to continue making the arts more relevant to his school and community by developing a program that would afford disadvantaged students the opportunity to participate in the instrumental music program.



Shockling, a studio arts educator in both drama and visual arts at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, developed a new Teacher Residency program that facilitates informal teaching experiences for educators and enhances the standards-based content already in place in classrooms. The program was accepted by the PA Department of Education as a three credit continuing education course offered over the summer. During her time as a Fellow, she hopes to focus on her two passions in the arts education world: aesthetics and the philosophy of art, and the use of educational technology to further communication between arts organizations and school districts.

We are thrilled to have such talented, dedicated artists and educators as Fellows, and are greatly looking forward to their success!

### Congratulations are in order to Mrs. Dora Baraky, the AEC's newly appointed **Director of Operations!**



Dora will be responsible for developing, monitoring and reporting on operating, grant and special project budgets, and serve as the liaison to other departments within the Carnegie Museums, particularly Financial Services and Human Resources.

Additionally, she will recommend policies and develop procedures to guide the day-to-day management of the AEC, along with assisting the Director with administrative, personnel and financial details. **Congratulations, Dora!**

### The AEC Welcomes Apprentice Debbie Boersma!



We are delighted to announce the newest addition to the AEC family- Apprentice Debbie Boersma! Debbie is a second year graduate student in Carnegie Mellon University's Master of Arts Management program. A 2006 graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University, Debbie is an

accomplished flutist and is excited to contribute to the work of the AEC. Her previous experiences include managing the Illinois Wesleyan Civic Orchestra, working at Ravinia Festival's Steans Institute for Young Artists, and interning at Midwest Young Artists.

# DID YOU HEAR?

## **Art For Our Sake** *The Boston Globe*

In an educational system strapped for money and increasingly ruled by standardized tests, arts courses can seem almost a needless extravagance, and the arts are being cut back at schools across the country. One justification for keeping the arts has now become almost a mantra for parents, arts teachers, and even politicians: arts make you smarter. A Gallup poll last year found that 80 percent of Americans believed that learning a musical instrument would improve math and science skills.

But that claim turns out to be unfounded.

There is, however, a very good reason to teach arts in schools, and it's not the one that arts supporters tend to fall back on. In a recent study of several art classes in Boston-area schools, we found that arts programs teach a specific set of thinking skills rarely addressed elsewhere in the classroom - and that far from being irrelevant in a test-driven education system, arts education is becoming even more important as standardized tests like the MCAS exert a narrowing influence over what schools teach. [For the complete story, visit \[http://www.boston.com/news/globe/ideas/articles/2007/09/02/art\\\_for\\\_our\\\_sake/?page=full\]\(http://www.boston.com/news/globe/ideas/articles/2007/09/02/art\_for\_our\_sake/?page=full\)](http://www.boston.com/news/globe/ideas/articles/2007/09/02/art_for_our_sake/?page=full)

## **91-Year-Old Uses Arts Program to Transform Struggling Students** *The Arizona Republic*

The story of how 20,000 elementary-school children in Tucson - mostly at-risk and non-English speaking - are posting impressive achievements in math and language arts begins with a 91-year-old man and his love of music. As with many inspiring stories, this one also had seemingly insurmountable odds, predictable roadblocks, serendipity and an unlikely hero. Eight years ago, at an age when many are content to savor their achievements, H. Gene Jones, then 84, set out to transform the way children learned in the Tucson Unified School District.

For the complete story, visit <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/arizonaliving/articles/0912prize0912.html#>

## **Tony Bennett's 'Exploring the Arts' Raises Over \$1.5 Million for Arts Education** *Top40-Charts.com*

Tony Bennett's 'Exploring the Arts' raised more than \$1.5 million for arts education in public schools during the organization's inaugural event, a concert and gala dinner benefit held in New York City on Sunday night, September 9. Tony Bennett performed at Radio City Music Hall and was joined onstage by Chris Botti, k.d. lang, John Legend and James Taylor. Regis Philbin welcomed the sold out audience to Radio City Music Hall and the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts Concert Choir opened the concert with "The Best Is Yet To Come," in tribute to the Sinatra School's founder, Tony Bennett. To continue reading, visit <http://top40-charts.com/news.php?nid=35358>

## **Making the Grade** *Pittsburgh City Paper*

Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent Mark Roosevelt had turned in his 45-page report - a self-evaluation of his second year as the district's leading man. And as he entered the July 25 meeting of the Pittsburgh school board, all he needed was a grade.

At the head of the long, slender conference table in the district's Bellefield Avenue headquarters, Roosevelt sat quietly as board members debated whether he had accomplished what he set out to do in his first two years - and, subsequently, whether he deserved a pay increase of \$15,000. To continue reading, visit <http://www.pittsburghcitypaper.ws/gyrobase/Content?oid=oid%3A34973>

## **Investing in the Arts is Investing in People** *The Register-Guard, Oregon*

C.S. Lewis once said: "Friendship is unnecessary - like philosophy, like art - it has no survival value; rather, it is one of those things that give value to survival."

He was right, in that the heart does not rely on company, or a meaningful existence, or beauty to beat from moment to moment. Our vital organs can function properly in solitude, in ignorance, and in darkness. But few would disagree that existence would be a terrible burden without friends, without reasons, and without that which people in every culture throughout history have used in some form or another to record, mourn, celebrate and adorn their lives - art. For the complete story, visit <http://www.registerguard.com/news/2007/09/09/ed.col.finley.0909.p1.php?section=opinion>

## **Last Pleas for Arts Made for Georgia Schools** *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Boosters of foreign languages and the fine arts in Georgia's public high schools made one last push Wednesday to have those subjects play a more prominent role in proposed changes to state graduation requirements.

Several speakers at public hearings before the state Board of Education said the exclusion of foreign languages or fine arts as core requirements in the proposal will have dire, unintended consequences. "We anticipate a reduction of access to language education in Georgia," said Carol Semonsky, an associate professor of foreign language education at Georgia State University. Speakers told the board that new math and science requirements would freeze out other subjects like foreign languages and arts. For the complete story visit [http://www.ajc.com/search/content/metro/stories/2007/09/13/grad\\_0913.html](http://www.ajc.com/search/content/metro/stories/2007/09/13/grad_0913.html)

## Opportunities and Offerings

### Carnegie Museum of Art

**What:** School Tours of *On a Grand Scale: The Hall of Architecture at 100*

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

**When:** October - January

**Cost:** 90-minute tour \$6.50 per student; 3-hour gallery program and Oakland walking tour \$9 per student

Using digital cameras and sketchbooks, students gather material for a hand-made or digital scrapbook that represents their *Grand Tour* experience of world-class monuments in the Hall of Architecture. A three-hour program includes a tour of historic Oakland buildings with guides from Pittsburgh History and Landmarks who point out meaningful connections between local architectural motifs and those represented in the Museum.

Call 412-622-3288 to arrange your school tour.

### Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

**What:** Fall Festival of Children's Books

**When:** Friday October 19th from 8am-3:30pm

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

**Cost:** \$15 program only/\$25 program and lunch

Join us for the Fall Festival of Books, a celebration of children's books and their authors and artists! This year's featured authors/illustrators are: Sharon G. Flake, Brian Pinkney and Katherine Ayres. The event includes a light breakfast, workshops, hands-on demonstrations and book sales and signings by the featured guests. Registration with lunch option is required by October 16. To register, download the form at <http://www.pittsburghkids.org/SmoothCMS/ContentObject/211D15BA-ADFC-4C5C-817A-B32D490EF441.pdf> or call 412-322-5058 x240

### Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

#### Employment Opportunities

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra is conducting a search for a **Manager of Education and Community Programs** who will

- Provide support for the planning, implementation and follow-up for the Service Exchange Program;
- Support the implementation of the Schoolltime and Tiny Tots Concerts, Student Side-By-Side and Community Side-By-Side events, Bayer "Audience of the Future" Program, Masterclasses, Community Engagement and other programs;
- Research and actively participate in implementing Music Education Advocacy strategies to promote music education in public school settings;
- Research community events, leaders, political and policy changes, diversity initiatives, and other areas which will assist the Senior Director of Community Programs to further the PSO's work in the community and
- Maintain with the Coordinator an archive of digital media, photos, data, evaluations and documentation associated with the Service Exchange program.

Direct questions to Julia Ciesielski at [jciesielski@pittsburghsymphony.org](mailto:jciesielski@pittsburghsymphony.org)

The Symphony is also seeking a **Coordinator of Education and Community Programs**. Information regarding this position is available at <http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org/pghsymph.nsf/webemployment>

### August Wilson Center for African American Culture

**What:** Guided Gallery Tours for Students

**When:** Beginning October 5, 2007

**Where:** Gallery 209/9, located at 209 Ninth Street in Downtown Pittsburgh

**Cost:** \$3 per student

Explore African American art and culture through a guided tour of the August Wilson Center's upcoming exhibitions. *SoulScapes* features the work of Women of Vision, a collective of African American women artists in Pittsburgh. *The First Voice: A Pittsburgh International Black Arts Festival* exhibit includes collaborative murals by Pittsburgh artists Leslie Ansley and Monique Luck, and an exploration of local artist Kyle Holbrook's Martin Luther King Busway Community Mural Project. For more information and to schedule a tour, contact Education Associate Sarah Williams at 412-258-2664 or at [swilliams@augustwilsoncenter.org](mailto:swilliams@augustwilsoncenter.org)

### Mattress Factory

**What:** Factory 14s: Rocks, Paper, Robots

**When:** Saturdays, October 13, 2007 - February 2, 2008 from 1-4pm

**Where:** Mattress Factory located at 500 Sampsonia Way on Pittsburgh's North Side

**Cost:** \$115 members/\$125 non-members; Financial aid is available

Factory 14s is an introduction to installation art for high school students with Tom Sarver and the Carnegie Mellon University Robotics Institute. Professional artists serve as instructors for youth ages 14-18 in this class that mirrors the Mattress Factory's Artist-in-Residence program. Students problem-solve, collaborate, research, take risks, present proposals and execute a finished installation in one of the museum's exhibition spaces! For more information call 412-231-3169 x 213

### Frick Art and Historical Center

**What:** Professional Development Workshop for Educators

**When:** Saturday September 29 from 10am-3:30pm

**Where:** The Frick Art and Historical Center

**Cost:** \$10 teacher members/\$12 non-members

This workshop will highlight ideas for integrating math, writing and art activities with PA History. *Turn of the Century* lifestyles introduces you to a few of the residents living on Pittsburgh's Millionaire's Row and to the domestic staff who served them.

For more information and to register, call 412-205-2022 or email

[education@frickart.org](mailto:education@frickart.org). Act 48 credits available.

ALSO... The 2007-2008 School Programs Booklet is now available! Visit [www.frickart.org/education](http://www.frickart.org/education) to download a PDF of the booklet, or contact the Education Department at the Frick at 412-205-2022 or [education@frickart.org](mailto:education@frickart.org) for your copy.

### Society for Contemporary Craft

**What:** Sherry Serafini Workshop with Beaded Art Brooch

**When:** Saturday September 29th from 9am-5pm

**Where:** Society for Contemporary Craft at 2100 Smallman Street in the Strip District

**Cost:** \$80 members/\$90 non-members

Learn the basics of "capturing your cabochon" by creating a bezel with peyote stitch. Adventure into basic backstich bead embroidery, embellishment and finishing techniques. Previous experience with Peyote Stitch is strongly recommended.

For more information and to register, call 412-261-7003.

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.

## Reauthorization of NCLB: Every Teacher's Responsibility

by Dr. Sarah Tambucci, AEC Director



Few, if any, stakeholders argue with the moral motivation that precipitated the No Child Left Behind federal legislation. Who can argue that all children have the right to quality educational opportunities?

However, on the eve of reauthorization, it now becomes every teacher's right and responsibility to enter into the conversation regarding what is right and what is wrong about the law.

Politicians and parents, administrators and advocates through both formal and informal channels have presented their arguments and their support of various aspects of this controversial legislation. Position papers, white papers, proclamations and resolutions abound. Interest groups of all kinds have presented their perspectives in hope of a kinder, gentler version that focuses on the development of the *whole child*.

Perhaps the voice that has the most latent power to inform the process of what is in the best interest of children is those who are closest to the issue - our nation's teachers. Teachers are aware of the daily opportunities and burdens embedded in the overt and subliminal effects of NCLB. Imagine my delight when my listserv subscription to the Teacher Leaders Network Listserv resulted in this new and interesting report that focuses on teachers' perspectives.

"Policy makers have not had the opportunity to hear from those who are most intimately impacted by NCLB, the teachers who strive every day in classrooms across American to allow every student to achieve.

**The Center for Teaching Quality** and members of the **Teacher Leaders Network** seek to remedy this critical oversight with *The Reauthorization of No Child Left Behind: Views from the Nation's Best Teachers*. This report presents the insights of highly accomplished educators, both in text and in their own voices through embedded podcasts, to describe how this landmark education legislation has benefitted their students - and fallen short of its promise."

Recently I was invited to participate in a conversation with Congressman Jason Altmire arranged by two teachers in the AEC service area. James Reinhard of North Allegheny School District and Mark Weleski of Deer Lakes School District saw an opportunity to enter into the conversation regarding NCLB and seized the opportunity. I went along for the ride and marveled at two insights. 1) These two teachers were clear in their observations and articulate in conveying the value of an education that includes the arts and 2) as a member of the important House Education and Labor Committee, Congressman Altmire informed us that few constituents have shared with him the concerns that we expressed - that the national focus on math and literacy has had a devastating effect on arts education (and other disciplines) throughout the county. Congressman Altmire's invitation to continue to keep him informed regarding our work and insights was encouraging. You can help just like Jim and Mark.

Consider this invitation. Communicate with policymakers at all levels. They want, and need, to know what you know - that NCLB has had unintended outcomes that need to be corrected. Tell your stories, or forever hold your peace.

## Upcoming Events

### Carnegie Museum of Art

**What:** Evening for Educators: *Architecture Across the Curriculum*

**When:** Wednesday October 3rd from 3:30-8pm

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

**Cost:** \$20 includes buffet dinner with complimentary glass of wine

Teachers, earn three ACT 48 hours as you celebrate architecture - the art form in which we live! On the occasion of the temporary exhibition *On a Grand Scale: The Hall of Architecture at 100*, experience great art, hands-on activities and inspiring ideas for your classroom shared by faculty from CMU and Pitt, Pittsburgh History and Landmarks, as well as Museum of Art's Education and Curatorial staff. Call 412-622-3288 to register.

### Silver Eye Center for Photography

**What:** Artist's Talk: *Why would anyone photograph trucks?*

**When:** Saturday September 29th at 3pm

**Where:** Silver Eye Center for Photography, located at 1015 E. Carson Street in the Southside

**Cost:** Free to members and students/ \$5 non-members

Quebec photographer, Diana Shearwood, documents trucks and the huge advertising photographs that embellish them as they travel cross-country to deliver food miles from where it has been grown. Learn more about the food we eat, how it is delivered to us, and more. This exhibition features large-format inkjet prints that are both colorful and seductive.

Reception of freshly harvested local foods will begin immediately after the artist's talk.

### Attack Theatre

**What:** *Someplace, Not Here*

**When:** September 28, 29; October 1, 2, 4 and 5 at 8pm

**Where:** 4801 Penn Avenue; Pittsburgh 15224 (Adjacent to Attack Theatre Studios)

**Cost:** \$18 advance; \$22 at the door; \$35 premium seating (includes reserved seating and pre-show mixer), \$15 students and seniors

A world premiere, site-specific dance through the minefield of dating and chance encounters - with a few drinks and good music along the way. Seeking connections in a disparate world, this bar-room tale features the full-throttle energy of Attack Theatre dancers and the heart-rending sounds of Pittsburgh's own Local Honey.

For more information call 412-441-8444 or visit [www.attacktheatre.com](http://www.attacktheatre.com)

For tickets call ProArts Tickets at 412-394-3353 or visit [www.proartstickets.org](http://www.proartstickets.org)

### Gateway to the Arts

**What:** Roundtable discussion: IN THE MIX: *Hip-Hop translated for classroom use*

**When:** Wednesday October 24 from 4:30-6:00

**Where:** The Kelly-Strayhorn Theater in East Liberty

**Cost:** Free

Local hip-hop artists will discuss how elements of hip-hop music can be used as a tool for student engagement in various curriculum areas as well as a bridge between school and community culture.

To register, call 412-342-4444 or register online at [www.gatewaytothearts.org](http://www.gatewaytothearts.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.*

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