

Essential Learning...In The Arts

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ARTS EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVE

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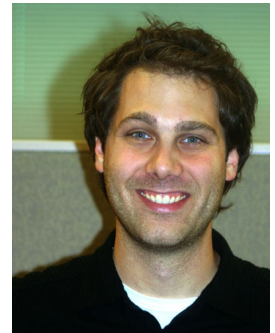
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Upcoming Events

Former Leadership Academy Teacher Earns National Certification

Pine-Richland School District announced at the end of January that Pine-Richland High School teacher Vince Thearle has earned the National Board Certification in art. Vince is a graduate of the Arts Education Collaborative's 2003 Leadership Academy and is one of only two art teachers in Pennsylvania to achieve national certification in 2007. Specifically, Vince's certification is in art for early adolescent through young adulthood and he took coursework that guides applicants through the process of national certification through the Professional Development School at Slippery Rock University. As part of the process of national certification, Vince had to create a portfolio that included a video tape of him teaching as well as copies of work that his students completed. For more information on national certification, teachers can visit [www.nbpts.org/resources/state local information/PA](http://www.nbpts.org/resources/state_local_information/PA).



Regional Arts Education Day Moving To April

Look for an official announcement coming soon regarding the keynote speaker and date for **Regional Arts Education Day 2008**. This annual, day-long regional gathering of arts stakeholders is sponsored by the Arts Education Collaborative and brings together a broad spectrum of educators, artists, cultural and business leaders, and advocates for the arts and arts education.

More information to come soon. Watch your email!

Celebrate & Share Honors AEC Director, Sarah Tambucci

Celebrate & Share is hosting their 3rd Annual Women of Achievement Breakfast on Wednesday, March 5, 2008. This year, Celebrate & Share has chosen to honor our own Sarah Tambucci along with 22 other prominent women of achievement from the region. Proceeds from this benefit will go towards Cribs for Kids®, a cause that works to bring awareness regarding SIDS to the communittee. Congratulations Sarah!

New Section In Newsletter! - Arts Education Advocacy Tips

At the Arts Education Collaborative, we are always looking for new ways for the organization to carry out its mission of *fostering student creativity and achievement in, with and through the arts*. One of our partners for advocating for arts education in the region, Pennsylvania Art Education Association's advocacy co-chairs Wendy Milne and Heide Sheetz, approached the AEC about developing an arts education advocacy section in our newsletter.

We at the AEC think that this is a great idea and look forward to working with PAEA and other potential partners in developing this new section of our newsletter. Suggestions or comments on this new section should be directed to Dana Casto at castod@artsedcollaborative.org or 412.201.7402.

A Different Lens For Viewing Arts Education

by Dr. Michael Cerveris, AEC Program Associate

In a recent address to the Performing Arts Exchange this past fall, Ben Cameron, Program Director for the Arts at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, spoke about a shift in economics and marketing that is affecting the reality of arts presenting organizations. I would like to draw a parallel to his remarks as they relate to the field of arts education.

Cameron makes the point that American culture is undergoing seismic changes due to the “ever-accelerating schedule of our lives,” the “impact of technology” and the “active involvement of the consumer.” He points out that leisure time, once thought of as the natural place for the arts in our lives, has been eroded to the point where nearly 50% of people surveyed claim that the most anticipated use of a free evening is “a good night’s sleep” as opposed to a night out at a concert or a play. In addition, technology as a marketing tool has created at least “3000 different marketing messages a typical American sees everyday.” And, the amount of time Gen x-ers and Gen y-ers spend on television and online is about 22 hours a week.

But perhaps most significantly, Cameron points out that technology is changing some basic beliefs about consumer consumption. In essence, he is saying that people, especially young people, are learning how to get their culture on-demand. iPods that create playlists of favorite music and YouTube that shares the most private tastes and individual experiences, DVD’s and MP3’s, MySpace and Blogs (a new one being created every second), Podcasts and on-demand television programming, reality TV and consumers passing judgment on “American Idol” and “So You Think You Can Dance” or selecting the leads in the current Broadway production of “Grease” all point to a culture where value will no longer be consumed; value will be co-created. Cameron goes on to make the point even clearer: “Many of us in the arts community are only beginning to appreciate the fact that we [have perceived] ourselves in service industry terms [when we are, in fact,] in a time of experience

economics.” This view supports the notion of a higher level of ownership on the part of the arts consumer. He points out that to the extent arts organizations can think of their work as a total experience for the audience rather than providing mere product, they will be more successful.

I believe there are parallels to be found in Cameron’s analysis of arts consumption that are relative to the state of arts education consumption; lessons to be learned that could result in re-shaping or even re-inventing arts education.

Arts education, when viewed as analogous to the performing arts community image as a service industry, similarly provides arts products to students. Arts education when viewed as analogous to Cameron’s notion of experience economics, allows for developing more creative partnering by students in their access to the arts. It is this total experience, the experience economics of the presenting organizations referred to, that I am suggesting could become a new lens for viewing arts education; a combination of what the arts on-demand technology of our culture today can provide in concert with personal participation and engagement in the presentation and the processes of arts education. A curriculum of total experience resonates with active participation in the arts. It is what writers like Maxine Greene and others refer to as co-authorship of the aesthetic event. Thus, an engagement centered arts program, including ownership through co-authorship plus authentic involvement in the processes of creation and re-creation provides the most total arts education program one might imagine. An arts curriculum grounded in personal discovery and the pursuit of individual identity thus becomes focused on authentic, lived experiences.

The most important effect of the co-creation culture of today is the impact on the individual. The most important “audience” for anyone actively engaged in the arts is the self. It is the ultimate confrontation. It is the reason we educate—to know ourselves.

The *Imagine Nation* Is Coming

by Dr. Sarah Tambucci, Director, AEC



"Imagination is more important than knowledge."
-Albert Einstein

One of the most frequently asked questions about the arts in education that I can recall is, "if the arts are so important in so many ways, why are they so marginalized in the schools?" Perhaps we have now reached "the Tipping Point"¹ and what has been so obvious to so many is now becoming the basis of a growing coalition.

A recent national poll² has identified a new strand of swing voters poised to support candidates and policy that ensures building capacities of the imagination in schools. The majority of the 1,000 likely voters surveyed believe that it is extremely important to have good public schools nationwide, but there is also concern that public education in the United States is behind what is offered to students in other parts of the world and that we devote less attention to developing the imagination, creative skills, and innovation than other nations.

- Almost nine in ten voters (89%) say that using the imagination is important to innovation and one's success in a global knowledge-based economy and essential to success in the 21st Century

- 88% of respondents indicated that an education in and through the arts is essential to cultivating the imagination.

Most importantly, the results of the Lake Research Partners poll suggest that a new 'imagination constituency' will take action to ensure support for guiding the capacities of the imagination among students in public schools. "These are surprising results that indicate a strong set of shared public values are not being detected by public leaders," said Celinda Lake, president of Lake Research Partners. "A significant number of voters believe that today's educational approaches are outdated, impair critical capacities of the imagination, and stifle teachers and students alike, blocking potential for innovation and cost-effective educational opportunities. These data show a large population we call the 'imagine nation' (www.theimagination.net) are hungry for

imagination in education and are going to take action accordingly-both in their local schools and at the voting booth, so that children are prepared for the world in which they will live."

Are you among the reported 30% of American voters not only dissatisfied with public education's narrow focus on the 'so-called' basics but also believe developing the imagination is a critical, but missing, ingredient to student success in 21st century schools and moving students beyond average? Are you a swing voter? Do your elected officials know what you value? Are you a member of the imagine nation?

¹ Reference to 'The Tipping Point' by Malcolm Gladwell

² For more information, visit www.aep-arts.org/files/related/012308AEP%20PressReleaseFinal.pdf

In The News...

New Arts Education Grant Opportunities Through USDE

The U.S Department of Education announced on January 22 a new grant competition for arts educators. The *Professional Development for Arts Educators* grant competition is a partnership award grant and local education agencies are eligible to apply with arts organizations, libraries, and community or faith-based organizations. Thirty or so grants will be awarded for amounts up to \$200,000 per year for four years. For more information, visit www.ed.gov/programs/artsedprofdev/index.html.

Philadelphia hosts Americans for the Arts Annual Convention

Americans for the Arts will be having their annual convention this year in Philadelphia over the June 20-22 weekend. A range of professional development opportunities are available for arts educators and arts managers including workshops on research and coaching on systemic arts education change.

A new section of programming specifically designed for the teaching artist includes topics such as *Managing A Faculty*, *Models Of Teaching Artist Professional Development*, and *What Makes A Good Teaching Artist?* For more information, visit www.americansforthearts.org/events/2008/convention/default.asp.

Opportunities & Offerings

Pittsburgh Center for the Arts

What: Open House: *Filmmakers at the Center*

Where: Pittsburgh Center for the Arts

When: February 18 & 21, 2008 from 4-7pm

Come to Pittsburgh Center for the Arts open house on either February 18 or 21 from 4-7 pm to learn more about educational programming for 7-17 year olds. Classes in filmmaking, photography, animation, web design, and more are available. For more information, call 412.361.0455.

National Endowment for the Humanities

What: Voices Across Time: Teaching American History Through Song

Where: Center for American Music at the University of Pittsburgh

Deadline: March 3, 2008

The center for American Music at the University of Pittsburgh will again offer this five-week National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for 25 teachers from July 7 - August 8, 2008. Participants will explore topics in American history through the lens of music, utilizing popular songs as primary source documents to enrich understanding of social studies and language. For more information, go to www.voicesacrosstime.org or send an email to amerimus@pitt.edu.

Pittsburgh Glass Center

What: Glass and Steel: Art Transcends Industry

Where: Pittsburgh Glass Center

Deadline: March 7, 2008

In 2008, Pittsburgh is celebrating 250 years of leadership, innovation, creativity, and inspiration with the theme "Imagine What You Can Do Here." In conjunction with this city-wide initiative, Pittsburgh Glass Center is planning an exhibition called "Glass and Steel: Art Transcends Industry" for May 2008. Artists from and living in Southwestern Pennsylvania are invited to "Imagine What You Can Do Here" and submit an application to participate in this exhibition. For more information, send an email to heather@pittsburghglasscenter.org or call 412.365.2145 x206.

Cera[m!x] Pittsburgh

What: Exhibition Opportunity

Where: Carnegie Library, Carnegie, PA

When: March 15-29, 2008

In conjunction with the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, a regional K-12 ceramic exhibition is being planned by Cera[m!x] Pittsburgh. Work for this exhibition will be selected by a panel of jurors. For more information, please contact Betsy Huffman at ehuffman1@pghboe.net.

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts & Pennsylvania Art Education Association

What: Teachers As Artists in Residence Program

Deadline: June 13, 2008

The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Pennsylvania Art Education Association is now accepting applications for their program "Teachers As Artists In Residence." The guest teacher/artist spends 50% of the time teaching and 50% demonstrating to students the multiple preparations an artist engages in to create their work. Last year's recipient, Christy Hedman, was highlighted in the January 2008 edition of the AEC newsletter. For more information, go to www.paea.org then click on the orange banner labeled "Teacher As Artist in Residence" at the bottom of the page.

Pittsburgh Glass Center

What: Classes & Workshops for Teens

Where: Pittsburgh Glass Center

Deadline: Ongoing

Pittsburgh Glass Center has designed a special program including workshops and longer classes after school and during spring break for teenagers from age 13 to 18. The after school classes are designed to fit into a busy teenager's schedule while the classes during the day are longer to accommodate home school and cyber school students. For more information, go to www.pittsburghglasscenter.org/classes/high-school.aspx.

International Poetry Forum

What: Poets-In-Person

Where: Ongoing

When: Ongoing

Poets-In-Person is a program that brings published poets into area classrooms for a series of three learning experiences. The program is geared toward middle and high school students and participating classrooms are also invited to participate in a poetry symposium in April. The program costs only \$100 and a limited number of scholarships are available. For more information and to schedule Poets-In-Person at your school, contact Elizabeth McClintock at 412.621.9893 or ipf1@earthlink.net.

Upcoming Events

Carnegie Museum of Art

What: 79th Annual *Art Connection* Exhibition

Where: Carnegie Museum of Art

When: Saturday, February 16 - Sunday, March 2, 2008

The Carnegie Museum of Art announces the 79th annual *Art Connection* exhibition. *Art Connection* is a student exhibition that has a legacy of artists including Andy Warhol, Philip Pearlstein, and Duane Michals as former students. For more information, go to www.cmoa.org.

Carnegie Museum of Art

What: *Would You Take A Seat?*

Where: Carnegie Museum of Art

When: Thursday, February 21 at 10:30 am

Have you given any thought to the chair you're sitting in? Find out more when you join CMA docents for the next Lunch & Learn *Would You Take A Seat?* to explore how chair design from the early 19th century to the mid- 20th century reflects different cultures, time periods, and expectations of comfort. Cost is \$36 for members and \$46 for nonmembers (lunch at the Carnegie Cafe is included). Teachers earn 2.5 ACT 48 hours. Call 412.622.3288 to register.

Opera Theater of Pittsburgh

What: Student matinee *Lost in the Stars*

Where: Byham Theater, Downtown

When: Friday, February 22nd at 10 am

Opera Theater of Pittsburgh presents the Pittsburgh Premiere of Kurt Weill's *Lost in the Stars*. Based on the international bestseller *Cry, the Beloved Country*, *Lost in the Stars* is a gripping music drama set amidst the backdrop of apartheid, as two fathers each lose a son in an ongoing cycle of injustice and inequality. Tickets and educational materials are free to all students, teachers, and chaperones, and bus subsidies are available. For more information, contact Jara Dorsey at 412.281.0995.

Playhouse Dance Company

What: *Playhouse Dance Company at the Byham*

Where: Byham Theater, Downtown

When: February 28 - March 1, 2008

The Playhouse Dance Company, Point Park University's student dance company, returns to the Byham Theatre February 28 - March 1 to present *Playhouse Dance Company at the Byham*. This evening of dance includes an engaging and diverse program that showcases the multifaceted training of the students. Performances will be held daily at 8 pm with a Saturday matinee at 2 pm. Tickets range in price from \$18 to \$20, and can be purchased by contacting the Pittsburgh Playhouse box office at 412.621.4445 or at www.pittsburghplayhouse.com.

Please submit your Upcoming Events & Opportunities to Dana at: castod@artsedcollaborative.org
Due to limited space, submissions will run on a first come, first served basis.

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