

Essential Learning...In The Arts

Brought to you by  ARTS EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVE

Issue Number: 54

Page 1

January 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1

Leadership Academy

New AEC
Programmatic
Offering

AEC Welcomes
New Staff Member

PAGE 2

Focus on Leadership

PAGE 3

About an Education
Agenda and What We
Are Not Hearing

In the News...

PAGE 4

Opportunities &
Offerings

PAGE 5

Upcoming Events

AEC Begins 2008 with Another Leadership Academy Seminar

2008 started out on the right foot for Leadership Academy participants as they gathered at Pittsburgh Opera's offices in the cultural district to continue their year-long professional development. Wednesday, January 9th's seminar focused on learning more about the educational offerings of Pittsburgh Opera, how to use opera in the classroom, and continuing to develop participants own action plans that focus on a need that they have identified in their school, district, or organization.

If you are an educator or an arts manager and would like to learn more about AEC's Leadership Academy, please visit our website at www.artsedcollaborative.org/LeadershipAcademy.html or contact Betty

Kripp, AEC Program Associate, at krippb@artsedcollaborative.org. To learn more about Pittsburgh Opera's educational offerings, please visit their website at www.pittsburghopera.org/edu.



New AEC Programmatic Offering

To compliment AEC's enthusiastically received visual arts aesthetics workshops, the Arts Education Collaborative is now offering a music aesthetics workshop in partnership with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Michael Cerveris, AEC Program Associate, states: "Through this workshop, we hope participants will deepen and intensify their understanding of the musical experience and invigorate their own ways of sharing that understanding with their students through the application of the Pa. Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities."

"~~What~~ *Why Music Means: How & Why We Respond to Music*" is a two-day music aesthetics workshop for music educators and is scheduled for February 20 and April 21, 2008. Participants must attend both days to receive 13 ½ hours of Act 48 credit and will have the opportunity to discuss music with world renowned musical artists, composers, and conductors along with attending a PSO rehearsal of a world premiere composition. Featured speakers include: John Corigliano, Pulitzer Prizewinning Composer in Residence, PSO; Marin Alsop, Guest Conductor, PSO; and the resident conducting staff of the Symphony.

Space for the workshop is limited. Registration must be received by **February 15, 2008**. For more information and the application, please go to: www.artsedcollaborative.org/calendar

AEC Welcomes a New Staff Member



The Arts Education Collaborative welcomes the newest member of its full-time staff, Dana Casto. Dana replaced Jennifer Koegler as Project Manager for AEC at the beginning of January and comes to the organization with a variety of professional experiences in the performing arts. Most recently, Dana completed a graduate degree in arts management at Carnegie Mellon University and also holds a bachelor's degree in music performance from Capital University in trumpet performance. Prior to his graduate studies, Dana was the Coordinator of Indianapolis Opera's Young Artist Program and Indianapolis Opera Ensemble which annually reached out to more than 50,000 students. Dana's day-to-day responsibilities at the Collaborative include research, creation of materials, and managing various aspects of AEC projects.

Focus on Leadership

by Elizabeth Kripp, AEC Program Associate

Christy Hedman kept delaying her registration for those ceramic and sculpture courses that she needed for her degree in arts education. She never had the opportunity to work with clay in high school and the process intimidated her. However, once enrolled, she soon discovered that "clay is magic." "When I got my hands into it and learned how to use the potter's wheel, I never looked back," says Christy. She worked to incorporate drawing and painting, particularly her love of line, into her functional pottery to create objects people use in their everyday lives. "Having handmade cups to drink my coffee from just makes it taste better," she explains.

As an art teacher in Deer Lakes School District High School, Christy wanted to share her love for ceramic art with as many young people as possible, beyond her work with her high school students. The AEC Leadership Academy provided the opportunity for Christy to do just that. Her leadership academy action plan focused on BEING the artist in The Teacher as Artist in Residency Program. Through this grant, she took her work to the Deer Lakes Middle School and gave those students the opportunity to see a ceramic artist at work. The project connected the students with their families and communities through their own work in ceramics. Student and parent reaction was very positive. Ideas and stories flowed freely and translated into "story mugs." One student honored his grandfather who had worked for Keebler by making a mug shaped like a Keebler tree house. Another student, who was moving from the district, created a mug about her years growing up in Deer Lakes.

Ceramics is more than just a job for Christy, it's her passion! She and her husband are currently working on sculptural pieces for a show that they will do together in the spring, a first time endeavor. They also participate in the Indiana County Potters Association "Potters" Studio Tour every October. This coming fall, Christy will teach a weekend glazing workshop at Touchstone Center for Crafts in Farmington, PA.

And that's not all. Christy organized the Faculty Exhibit for the Alle-Kiski Arts Consortium in September of 2006. Her goal was to showcase the talent of the teachers in the Alleheny Valley; a group that she considers the "best kept secret" in their schools. The success of that show led to its continuation this month under the direction of Prissy Pakula. Christy was also nominated for an Outstanding Teacher Award in 2005 and has had two students juried into the National K12 Clay Exhibit.



Of course, Christy is delighted that the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) is having its annual conference in Pittsburgh this March (www.nceca.net). Knowing that this event will not be our area again for at least 10 years, she will not only take her students to some exhibits, she will also be a presenter. Christy Hedman is making sure that Deer Lakes students have an opportunity that their teacher did not - an early experience with an art form that is over 30,000 years old.

About an Education Agenda and What We Are *Not* Hearing

by Dr. Sarah Tambucci

Director, AEC



So, here it is 2008 and our national process for identifying new leadership is running hot and heavy. Election rhetoric 2008, it seems, has some missing pieces. The candidates make repeated efforts to debate the issues. But there has been little serious discussion, about the major issue of education.

While some attention has been paid to the federal No Child Left Behind Act, the conversation has mainly centered on partisan blame or credit for the legislation. The valuable aspects of the law along with the serious deficits have received little, or no, attention in most political camps. The wait for substantive attention to the preparation of American citizens seems interminable.

We are all familiar with the adage, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it'. Then again, if it is broken why can't we fix it? Educational reform attempts appear to be inadequate relative to the serious nature of what is really happening in schools today. We have a national tradition of packing up 3, 4 or 5 year olds, buttoning up their jackets, buying a new back pack and expect 'the school' to deliver a physically, emotionally and intellectually complete package when they reach the age of 17 or 18. Our cultural idea of educating a child appears to be limited to the schools in far too many camps.

We do not share this vital responsibility.

The notion of a systemic approach to education reform is not a new idea. Most recently, David S. Seeley, professor emeritus at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York, explores the concept in a commentary published in the January 8 edition of *Education Week*. (The full article can be found here: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/01/09/17seeley.h27.html?tmp=1248435939>)

Seeley suggests, 'shifting the reform framework from the present piecemeal approach ...to one that promotes fundamental redesign of the system to make it capable of producing new levels of learning.'

There is cause for concern when education is a minor topic or non existent in the national conversation around issues. Perhaps it is our fault. Are we demanding that a systemic approach to fixing education be part of the political agenda? Are we asking for fresh thinking about how we can best redesign education to achieve 'new levels' of learning? Are we insisting that only the candidate who is prepared to offer fresh thinking about educational priorities and support for those priorities will be the only candidate who gets your vote?

In The News...

Americans for the Arts Action Fund Working to Put the Arts Center Stage for the 2008 Presidential Race

ArtsVote2008 is the latest initiative put forth by Americans for the Arts Action Fund, the advocacy and lobbying arm of Americans for the Arts. As part of the **ArtsVote2008** initiative, a 10-point brief was distributed to every candidate that is seeking the presidential nomination. This brief outlines how they can put the arts center stage for their platform. To read the 10-point arts policy brief, go to: <http://www.artsactionfund.org/pdf/artsvote/ArtsVoteIssueBrief.pdf>

National Endowment for the Arts Earmarked for Largest Increase in 28 Years

The National Endowment for the Arts on December 27, 2007 announced that President George W. Bush signed the Consolidation Appropriations Act of 2008 which earmarked \$144.7 million for the federal agency. This is an increase of \$20.1 million over 2007 and is the largest dollar increase in the appropriation for the NEA since 1979. With this increase, the NEA will be able to extend support for it's National Initiatives which include arts education programming in theater, music, dance, literature, and the visual arts. To learn more, please visit <http://www.arts.endow.gov/news/news07/Budget2008.html>

In The News (cont.)...

National Education Association's Suit Against NCLB Back in Court

On January 7, 2008, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, in Cincinnati, has revived a suit that the National Education Association filed against the No Child Left Behind Act stating that the "law imposes financial obligations on states and school districts without providing enough funding to cover the costs." This ruling moves the case to a federal district in Detroit, MI; where the original suit was filed on behalf of nine school districts in Michigan, Texas, and Illinois. If you'd like to read more, go here: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/08/education/08child.html>

Opportunities & Offerings

Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society

What: The Percussion Effect

Where: Mary Pappert School of Music, Duquesne University

When: Sunday, February 10, 2008

Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society in partnership with Duquesne University presents *The Percussion Effect*, a workshop featuring famed percussionist Matthew Duvall. Participation is free but registration is required by January 27, 2008. Lunch and refreshments included as part of this opportunity. For information, please go to: www.chambermusic.org or contact Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society at (412) 624-4129.

Cera[m!x] Pittsburgh

What: Scholarship Opportunity

Where: National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts Conference

When: March 19-22, 2008

Manchester Craftsmen's Guild is pleased to announce an exciting opportunity for Pennsylvania high school students to earn one-day passes to the 42nd annual conference held this year in Pittsburgh, PA. Application deadline is February 1. Go here: <http://ceramixpittsburgh.org/pdf/ConferenceScholarshipsApp.pdf> to download the application.

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.

Attack Theatre

What: Modern Dance Technique Class

Where: Attack Theatre Studios

When: Wednesdays from 7-8:30 pm

Taught by Michele de la Reza, these technique classes are for intermediate to advanced level students. Upcoming class schedule includes classes on January 16 & 23 (no class on January 30 or February 6). Please visit www.attacktheatre.com or call (412) 441-8444 for more information.

Art+Smart 2008

What: Scholarship Competition

Where: The Art Institute of Pittsburgh

Deadline: Monday, January 28, 2008

Sponsored by The Art Institute of Pittsburgh and the Mall at Robinson, the Art+Smart 2008 scholarship competition is an opportunity for students in grades 9-12 to receive a scholarship in the amount of \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$15,000 to the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. For more information and an entry form, please contact Carrie Butler at cbutler@aii.edu or (412) 291-6340.

Frick Art Museum

What: Act 48 Teacher Workshop: Collections & the Collector

Where: Frick Art Museum

When: Saturday, January 26, 10 am - 3:30 pm

This workshop asks the question, "in what ways does your collection reflect you?" Businessmen J.P. Morgan and Henry Clay Frick amassed two well-known art collections some of which is highlighted in the exhibition, *From J.P. Morgan to Henry Clay Frick*. Using this exhibition and Frick resources, tap into your students' interests to spark lesson plans that connect the visual arts to writing, mathematics, and history. 5.5 Act 48 credit awarded at completion of workshop. \$10 teacher members; \$14 non-members. Includes box lunch. To register, contact Carly at (412) 205-2022.

Upcoming Events

Pittsburgh Center for the Arts

What: Opening Reception for *Poppies+Heroines*

Where: Pittsburgh Center for the Arts

When: Friday, January 11, 2008 5:30-8pm

Opening reception for *Poppies+Heroines* a series of new paintings by Scott Turri. For more information, please visit www.pittsburgharts.org or call (412) 361-0873

Kelly-Strayhorn Theater

What: *50 Years of Music: Capitols*

Where: Kelly-Strayhorn Theater

When: January 11 & 12, 2008 at 7:30 pm

To commemorate our 50th year in music we have once again connected with members of Dora Hall, Michael Toliver, Eddie Hicks, Calvin Moore, and Rick Toliver. Our mission is to present our arrangements of yesterday's sound today and cover all three generations. Tickets: \$20 general/\$15 student. For more information or to purchase tickets call (412) 394-3353 or visit www.proartstickets.org.

Squonk Opera

What: *Pittsburgh: The Opera*

Where: Kelly-Strayhorn Theater

When: January 17-20, 2008, 8 pm Sunday 3 pm

To kick off Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary celebration, Squonk Opera returns home with *Pittsburgh: The Opera*, January 17-20, 2008. Squonk will weave hometown documentation with inimitable aural beauty and visual trickery. Tickets: \$12 in advance; \$15 at door for general admission; \$8 students & seniors; and \$10 groups of 10 or more. For more information or to purchase tickets call (412) 394-3353 or visit www.proartstickets.org.

Silver Eye Center for Photography

What: *Along These Rivers*

Where: Silver Eye Center for Photography

When: Saturday, January 19, 2008 2pm-5pm

The year 2008 is the 250th anniversary of Pittsburgh. Please join us on January 19, 2008 from 2-5pm to launch *Along These Rivers*, a book of poetry and photography that celebrates the artists of our city. For more information, please visit www.silvereye.org or call (412) 431-1810.

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

What: *Zany Umbrella Circus with Ben Sota*

Where: Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

When: Saturday, January 19, 2008, noon-3pm

Enjoy the circus fun and artistry of *Zany Umbrella Circus with Ben Sota* in the "Circus for Social Change" exhibit and take a ride in their rickshaw. Free with museum admission. For more information, please call (412) 322-5058 or go to www.pittsburghkids.org

Pittsburgh Glass Center

What: Martin Luther King Jr. Family Fun Day

Where: Pittsburgh Glass Center

When: Monday, January 21, 10am-4pm

Get ready for heat-defying acts of art and hands-on fun for the entire family on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Glass blowing demonstrations and mosaic making will be ongoing throughout the day, plus you have a chance to "Make It Now" with beads and sandblasted cups. Try your hand at making a glass bead for \$15 or sandblasting a design on a glass tumbler for \$5. The event is free and open to the public. For more details visit www.pittsburghglasscenter.org or call (412) 365-2145 ext. 201.

Attack Theatre

What: *Preserve and Pursue*

Where: New Hazlett Theater

When: February 1, 2, 5, and 6 2008

Attack Theatre presents *Preserve and Pursue* - an evening of dance set to the sounds of newly commissioned works by esteemed Japanese composers Somei Satoh and Miyuki Ito and the original music of Attack Theatre Music Director Dave Eggar. Performance takes place at the New Hazlett Theater, February 1, 2, 5, and 6, 2008 (Friday through Wednesday). Friday and Saturday at 8 pm. Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 pm. For more information go to www.attacktheatre.com or call (412) 441-8444.

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.

Sarah Tambucci, Ph.D.: Director
Michael Cerveris, DMA: Program Associate
Elizabeth B. Kripp: Program Associate
Dana Casto: Project Manager
Dora Baraky: Director of Operations
Deborah Boersma: Intern

Arts Education Collaborative
425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 2650
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
P: (412) 201-7405
F: (412) 201-7401
www.artsedcollaborative.org