

Essential Learning... *In the Arts*

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ARTS EDUCATION
COLLABORATIVE

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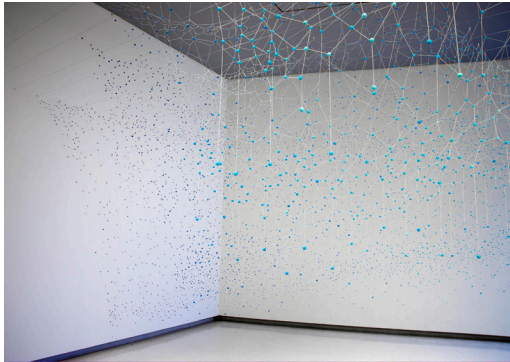
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Visual Aesthetics Workshop Revisited

Due to popular demand, the Arts Education Collaborative along with The Andy Warhol Museum and Carnegie Museum of Art are revisiting the two day professional development workshop on visual aesthetics this summer. Scheduled for July 15th & 16th, this second incarnation of this workshop will explore different approaches to teaching visual aesthetics to meet state PA Arts and Humanities standards and encourage higher-level thinking skills in the classroom. Participants will learn about the differences between aesthetic response, aesthetic philosophies from history, as well as aesthetic analysis by studying the work of Andy Warhol, Piet Mondrian, Ranjani Shettar (who will be present at the workshop) and other 2008 Carnegie International artists.



Ranjani Shettar
Just a bit more, 2006
hand-molded beeswax, pigments, and thread dyed in tea.
432 x 288 x 144 in.
Courtesy of the artist and Talwar Gallery,
New York/New Delhi,
Photo: Tom Little

Teachers will be eligible to receive 11 Act 48 credit hours and attendance is required for both days. Registration is \$100 and space is limited. Visit: www.artsedcollaborative.org/documents/AestheticsOpportunityAlertandRegistration.pdf to download a registration form. For more information or questions regarding this workshop, contact Dana Casto at 412.201.7402 or castod@artsedcollaborative.org.

AEC Welcomes Two New Staff Members

The Arts Education Collaborative welcomes two new staff members into the fold of full time employees. After spending the past academic year as an apprentice at the AEC, Debbie Boersma joins the AEC staff as a second project manager. Before joining the AEC full time, she earned a Master of Arts Management degree from Carnegie Mellon University and a bachelor's degree in music performance from Illinois Wesleyan University. Prior to joining the AEC, Debbie spent time managing the Illinois Wesleyan Civic Orchestra and working as a production assistant at Ravinia Festival's Steans Institute for Young Artists. Two projects that Debbie is current involved with are the preparations for the 2008 Leadership Academy and the North Hills Kindergarten Literacy project. This years Leadership Academy will be held the week of July 21st at Duquesne University, and she is excited to be involved in the creation of such a deep experience in support of arts educators. The project in the North Hills is a pilot project in which the AEC is creating a kindergarten curriculum for literacy integrated with the arts.



Meghan Hines has joined AEC as an intern for the summer and is a graduate student of Carnegie Mellon's Arts Management program. After finishing her bachelor's in Art History and Spanish at Southwestern University, she took on an AmeriCorps*VISTA position for a Habitat for Humanity affiliate near Austin, Texas. Meghan acted as their Volunteer Coordinator before coming to Pittsburgh to pursue her graduate studies. Currently, she's researching regional school district strategic plans and seeking out common trends related to arts education. This research aims to find opportunities to improve, enhance, or potentially expand upon the AEC's present services in order to better serve the Pittsburgh region.

Focus On Leadership

by Mariann Fox, Leadership Academy 2005



Attending the AEC Leadership Academy continues to be the pivotal point in my career thus far. It has changed the way I tend to my daily business and has given the arts a focal point not only in my school district but in the region.

I feared I would not be accepted into the Leadership Academy because I already held a leadership position within my school district. However, being thrust into full-time administration I was unprepared for the monumental tasks that lie ahead. With constant changeover in the district leadership, I was overwhelmed. But those 5 days spent at the Children's Museum opened my eyes to new ways to relate and communicate with my administrators as well as focus on my action plan.

Developing an arts assessment system was not just my action plan – it became part of my job evaluation and took center stage in my job. Having this huge goal required me to attack it in small steps that were achievable throughout the year. Before I knew what happened it was May and we had given birth to this “thing” that lives on still today.

I am a firm believer in the triad of curriculum, instruction and assessment. And, I also firmly believe that the arts can be measured, evaluated and assessed. It is vital that we as arts educators teach our students not only an appreciation and love of the arts but the skills and techniques necessary to create in the arts for a lifetime!

What I did not expect from developing this action plan were all the opportunities that have arisen along the journey. Because I am speaking the “data” language our administrators love, our arts assessments are included not only in our district's strategic plan but also in our reporting system required by the state about student achievement. We are on the same playing field as reading, writing, math and science.

In addition, this opportunity has given me a new perspective to leading change, which I also did not expect upon entering the Leadership Academy. I graduated from Seton Hill College whose motto was “Hazard Yet Forward.” I don't think I truly understood that statement until now. We must be brave enough to take risks everyday. Attending the Leadership Academy was a pretty safe risk for me, but the development of the arts assessment system was a huge risk. I had no idea if the plan would be accepted by my faculty or the administrators or even in the arts education field. Leading change is always risky but it is also rewarding. I am extremely proud of the work my faculty has done over the last three years developing and revising these assessments. It also humbles me when the work receives the recognition it does both within my school district and outside.

Take a risk – attend the Leadership Academy. Find out what makes your administrators “tick” and speak that language to them so you can bring the arts center stage into your school district and make a difference for all students.

Hazard yet forward!

**PLEASE NOTE:
THE NEWSLETTER WILL
BE ON VACATION UNTIL
THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR.**

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!

The Promise of Collaboration: Common Purpose & Common Courtesy



by Dr. Sarah Tambucci,
Director, AEC

Collaboration: When it works, it really works, and when it doesn't work, it leaves a bitter after-taste.

-Anonymous

The Arts Education Collaborative by its very name declares that together we can do more and, as we have learned, work smarter, not harder. This issue highlights only a few of the extraordinary collaborations in which we have participated most recently. Each of them is unique in terms of how they began, how they were nurtured, and how success was measured. Even the best collaborations present both opportunities and obstacles.

This article focuses on some of the lessons learned as we navigate the course of our work together to do more to support high quality arts education. The setting, whether school, community or institutional, is immaterial. Collaborations are built on good intentions, good design, and good sense.

Identify common goals. *What is the purpose of our collaboration?* There is no substitute for being on the same page. Take the time to come to the table and assess whether the possibility of collaboration is designed with a common set of goals and even common philosophy.

Assess available resources. *What does each partner have to contribute to the collaboration?* Resources, all of them, while taken for granted if you have them, are precious if you don't. Don't ignore the not so obvious, a secretary who is a crack at remembering the details, a project manager with a sense of humor who can tame the fiercest lion.

Be professional. *What does that mean?* Playing 'gotcha', 'one-ups-man-ship' or 'I am simply humoring you and am really the 'boss' in this collaboration' are unacceptable, unwanted, and always remembered.

Be kind. *What is going to make my partner collaborator feel comfortable in this pending relationship?* Perhaps setting that meeting at 'their' shop rather than your office, is a gesture that will be perceived as a kindness not forgotten. (Especially if parking is a problem.)

Be sincere. *Why are you seeking this collaboration?* Being 'up front' and simply stating the not so obvious may move the collaboration to a new level. Take the time to explain why this collaboration is in your best interest, and give your partner an opportunity to do the same.

Assess performance. *Why did this work or not work?* Bring the whole team, program, administrative, and support staff, into the sharing session that follows the collaboration. Create a form for everyone to share experience and learn from each other. What worked? Why? What didn't work? Why not?

Assess success. *Did we meet and or exceed the common goals?* A good feeling following a successful initiative is contagious, and lasting. The next time a great idea comes up, you will be the ideal partner to make it succeed.

In The News...

House Education Committee Adopts New School Funding Legislation

On June 4, the House Education Committee adopted legislation that is the first step in the legislative process to give Pennsylvania its first permanent, fair, and reliable funding formula since 1991. House Bill 2449 was approved by a 23-5 vote by the Committee. If this legislation is adopted, it would mean an increase of \$291 million in state subsidies in the 2008-2009 state budget. For more information, visit: http://ydr.inyork.com/ci_9479001.

Congress Approves \$15.3 Million Increase for NEA

A \$15.3 million increase in Congress' FY 2009 spending bill was approved last Wednesday by the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee (which sets the initial funding level for the National Endowment for the Arts). This increase, proposed by Chairman Norm Dicks (D-WA), would bring the NEA's budget to \$160 million for FY 2009 and is in contrast to the President's recent budget proposal which requested a decrease of \$16.7 million. The bill is scheduled to go to full committee and then to the House floor for final consideration. To contact your Members of Congress, go to <http://capwiz.com/artsusa/issues/alert/?alertid=11481401>.

Opportunities & Events

Father Ryan Arts Center

What: Summer Arts Education Classes

Where: Father Ryan Arts Center

Time Frame: June - July, 2008

Father Ryan Arts Center is offering a wide range of summer arts education classes for students ages 3-17 and classes for adults. Topics include: dance, drumming, and acting. For more information or to register, contact Patricia Moran at 412.771.3052, email pmoran@forstorox.org or visit www.forstorox.org to download a registration form.

Gateway to the Arts

What: Gateway Arts in Education Institute

Where: Hillman Center for Performing Arts or Washington Community Arts & Cultural Center

Dates: June 23 - 27, 2008

This five day professional development course for educators and arts specialists explores the aesthetic education model of arts-in-education. Learn how a live performance or visual work of art can be used as a "text" to inspire, inform and integrate the arts into many areas of the curriculum. In schools with more than three trained teachers, the program will continue during the school year with classroom residencies co-taught by the Gateway teaching artists focused on a live performance or a visual work of art. ACT 48 credit is available. Download a registration form at www.gatewaytothearts.org/institute.htm or contact Jamie VanderMolen at jamiev@gatewaytothearts.org or 412.342.4444.

The Mattress Factory

What: Teacher Workshop: Squish & Squeeze: Felt Making in the Classroom

Where: Mattress Factory

Dates: Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Teaching Artist: Karen Page

Enjoy an introduction to basic hands-on techniques for wet-felting wool while making beads, bobbles and other objects. Discussion will include the rich history of the ancient process of felt making and its presence in various cultures around the world. Act 48 hours available. For registration information, email education@mattress.org or call 412.231.3169.

The Mattress Factory

What: Teacher Workshop: Creative Book Binding in the Classroom

Where: Mattress Factory

Dates: Thursday, July 10, 2008

Artist: Chris Kardambikis

Participate in a one-day workshop that focuses on simple bookbinding techniques and how they can be integrated into class studies and assignments. Artist, Chris Kardambikis will teach participants two different book binding techniques: Japanese Stab Bind and Long Stitch. Participants will have the opportunity to create samples of both types of books and further explore the logistics of setting up a book binding studio in their classroom. For registration information, email education@mattress.org or call 412.231.3169.

The Andy Warhol Museum

What: Summer Teacher Workshops

Where: The Andy Warhol Museum

Time Frame: June - August, 2008

The Andy Warhol Museum is offering an array of teacher workshops this summer. Topics include: color theory, creativity, photography, and aesthetics. For more information call 412.237.8365 or to download a registration form, visit: www.warhol.org/education/pdfs/workshops%20and%20registration%202008.pdf.

New Hazlett Theater

What: Recording Arts Workshop

Where: New Hazlett Theater

Dates: July 14 -July 18; Aug. 4 - Aug. 8, 2008

This summer, local youth will have an opportunity to work alongside local musicians and audio recording professionals at the New Hazlett Theater at one of our exclusive workshops on audio recording and the digital media arts. This non-traditional summer camp creates an environment where the recording studio is your classroom and the theater's highly-trained technical staff are your mentors. Registrations are limited to insure individual attention. The workshop will cover everything from how your favorite music recordings are created to actually producing your own professional sounding recordings. Each participant will leave workshop with a self-produced CD with graphics. For more, visit: http://www.newhazletttheater.org/event/?event_id=141.

Opportunities & Events (Cont.)

The Frick Art & Historical Center

What: Teacher Workshop: Turn of the Century Lifestyles

Where: The Frick Art & Historical Center

Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2008

This hands-on workshop offers the opportunity to explore 19th century lifestyles, comparing and contrasting the lives of the wealthy and the workers who served them. Author of the young adult novel, *New World Waiting*, Guest Lecturer Anne G. Faigen profiles one 19th century character, an immigrant girl making her way in a strange land. Learn how primary source documents and artifacts of the era can be used to make history and art come alive and connect to your lesson plans. \$10 for teacher members; \$14 for non-members, includes boxed lunch. Advance registration and pre-payment required. 412-205-2022.

Carnegie Museum of Art

What: Summer Arts & Architecture Camps

Where: Carnegie Museum of Art

Dates: June 16 - August 15, 2008

Alert your students or register your own children for fun-filled, summer art camps for kids and high school workshops. Carnegie Museum of Art in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon School of Architecture offers more than 50 camps and workshops in one- and two-week sessions. Choose from a wide array of half-day and full-day experiences that suit your summer schedule. The perfect blend of summer fun and creativity is inspired by the museum's renowned collection of original art, architectural drawings, and models from the ancient world to the present. Supervised lunch and pre-and post-camp care are available. http://blog.cmoa.org/schools_teachers/special-events.php

Silver Eye Center for Photography

What: The Point of View Writing Workshops

Where: Silver Eye Center for Photography

Date: July 25 & 26, 2008

This is a collaboration between Silver Eye and Sherrie Flick, artistic director of the Gist Street Readings series (www.giststreet.org). These three-session writing workshops introduce a new way of looking at and responding to photography. Through a series of generative writing exercises, participants construct short stories related to the gallery's current photography exhibition. Our session in August will be focusing on teachers and how this activity can translate to the classroom. Contact Sylvia Ehler, Education Coordinator at sehler@silvereye.org or 412.431.1810, for more information.

Pittsburgh Glass Center

What: Summer Classes

Where: Pittsburgh Glass Center

Date: June - August, 2008

Pittsburgh Glass Center this summer is offering an exciting line-up of week-long intensive classes. You'll see several popular artist instructors in addition to many new instructors and classes to hone your skills. For more information and a list of classes, visit www.pittsburghglasscenter.org/classes/summer-intensives.aspx.

Manchester Craftsmen's Guild

What: 2008 Summer Studio Intensive

Where: Manchester Craftsmen's Guild

Date: June 23 - July 31, 2008

Creativity heats up at MCG when the school year ends. For six weeks during the summer, our four arts studios—ceramics, design, digital and photography—are the cool place to be. Eligible teens are encouraged to join the fun, create your own works of art or just master the art of creativity. Regardless of prior experience or skill level, this is sure to be the highlight of your summer! For more information, visit www.manchesterguild.org/Youth/summer_programs.htm.

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