

# Essential Learning... *In the Arts*

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ARTS EDUCATION  
COLLABORATIVE

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## October 12, 2009: Regional Arts Education Day



The Arts Education Collaborative will be hosting Regional Arts Education Day on Monday, October 12, 2009. This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Mariale Hardiman. Dr. Hardiman is the Chair, Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Assistant Dean, Urban Schools Partnerships at Johns Hopkins University School of Education. She is the author of "[Connecting Brain Research with Effective Teaching: The Brain-Targeted Teaching Model](#)" (2003). Hardiman served as a principal, department chair, teacher and professional development specialist for more than 30 years in the Baltimore City Public School System. As the principal of Roland Park Elementary Middle School for a decade starting in 1993, she led the school to its designation as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

In a May 2009 article for the Dana Foundation, Hardiman wrote: "Our current system of judging schools—based primarily on achievement scores in reading and mathematics—is moving American public education in the wrong direction. It has resulted in a well-documented narrowing of the curriculum, especially in urban settings where budgets are tight and many educators believe that children require more time to work in the tested subject areas. These practices are inconsistent with our nation's need for workers capable of collaboration, innovation, and creative problem solving. Those are the very skills identified as necessary for the work force of the future by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills."

The day's activities will be from 9 am to 3:30 pm at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh. Participants are eligible for 5.5 ACT 48 credit hours and the cost for attending is \$75. For more information and the registration form, go to: <http://www.artsedcollaborative.org/calendar.html>.

## AEC 2.0 - Redefining AEC's Online Presence

At the end of the month, the Arts Education Collaborative will reveal its newly redesigned website to the general public and we couldn't be more excited about it. The new site is a reflection of more than a year and a half of work that directly reflects AEC's recently completed strategic plan and is an effort to redefine AEC's position on the web. A key feature of the new website is **AEC Connect** - our online community where arts education professionals may...

- Register for AEC's professional development opportunities online
- Sign up for electronic newsletter and personalized e-mail updates
- Read the latest news and research for arts education
- Exchange best practices and discuss challenges on the message board
- Network and connect with arts educators in the region

Specific resources for arts & cultural organizations will include the ability to:

- Promote your organization's educational programming via our arts education calendar
- Create an organizational profile that will be featured on the AEC Connect landing page

Arts education professionals that work in school districts can:

- Access educational opportunities from regional arts and culture organizations
- Promote student events (musicals, festivals, exhibitions, performances or recitals)

The goal of AEC Connect is to encourage a dynamic dialogue among arts education professionals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. We look forward to being able to share these new resources with the arts education community soon.

For any immediate questions, please contact Dana Casto at [castod@artsedcollaborative.org](mailto:castod@artsedcollaborative.org) or 412-201-7402.

## Focus on Leadership

by Elizabeth Kripp, Program Associate, AEC

A group of strangers, all arts educators, assembled at the Society for Contemporary Craft on July 27th. Each came with a list of high expectations about the Arts Education Collaborative's Leadership Academy.

These expectations included a hope that the experience would strengthen their work in promoting, growing and improving the arts education at their schools and cultural arts organizations.

Some emphasized a desire for networking and collaboration opportunities. Others anticipated a revitalized ability to rethink the arts programming at their workplaces. All were focused on student learning.

Throughout the intense week, **Katie Barnard** (Westmoreland Museum of Art), **Amanda Bashioum** (Charleroi Area SD), **Ashley Biega** (Blackhawk SD), **Michael Bockoven** (North Allegheny SD), **Jara Dorsey** (Carnegie Museum of Art), **Stephen Ehrlich** (East Allegheny SD), **Donna Fox** (Peters Township SD), **Lisa Griffin** (Moon Area SD), **Daniel Kovacic** (Brownsville Area SD), **Jodi McKeever** (Mt Lebanon SD), **Susan Metelsky** (Beaver Area SD), and **Rich Taylor** (Gateway SD) talked, reflected, listened and learned together. Each brought a unique set of professional knowledge and experience that collectively formed a stimulating setting where participants could examine how they could make a real difference for their students. All participants could then begin to translate their goals into individual action plans.

Fueling these powerful sessions was the "Teacher as Artist" component that gave everyone an opportunity to focus on art making. Visual Art, Music, Theater and Dance are central to the lives of each of these educators and that work often gets pushed to the sidelines as they focus on their

students. But this is not the case at the Leadership Academy. As one LA member remarked, "I feel like I've returned to the "roots" of what gives inspiration and motivation." Daily connections to the arts allowed each participant a chance to experience his or her own art as well as to explore an unfamiliar discipline.

The work begun this summer will continue throughout the year. Four follow

up seminars are scheduled where LA members will join their peers to discuss action plan progress as well as build upon their skills and knowledge in identified areas of need. Along the way, a network of support is provided that will equip each member with the tools to maneuver through the challenges of their work as well as to recognize and celebrate successes.

The AEC will continue to work along with these educators all year to fulfill those expectations. We welcome the opportunity to work with this very committed group of individuals who now share a common bond.



2009 Leadership Academy

back row (L-R): Rich Taylor, Deborah Boersma, Lisa Griffin, Ashley Biega, Katie Barnard, Stephen Ehrlich  
middle row (L-R): Sarah Tambucci, Jara Dorsey, Jodi McKeever, Amanda Bashioum, Betty Kripp  
front row (L-R): Daniel Kovacic, Susan Metelsky, Dorra Fox, Michael Bockoven

### In Memory of Kathy Cecotti



After a heroic five-year battle with cancer, Kathy Cecotti passed away on Monday, June 29, 2009. Kathy spent 15 years teaching Theatre and English at Thomas Jefferson High School. Kathy's greatest passion has been her involvement with the drama club at TJHS, where she has directed many plays and musicals which have involved thousands of students. Kathy was also a graduate of the 2003 Leadership Academy and a member of AEC's Steering Council.

Kathy has touched the lives of many people throughout the greater Pittsburgh region and will be sadly missed.

## Regional Arts Education Day & Essential Questions



by Dr. Sarah Tambucci,  
Director, AEC

On Monday, October 12 the Arts Education Collaborative will once again host an opportunity to stimulate our thinking, stir our curiosity, and motivate us to consider the possibilities.

Regional Arts Education Day has become an anticipated professional development event that is a nexus for informing work in arts education. This year, Dr. Mariale Hardiman of Johns Hopkins University School of Education will deliver the keynote address. Dr. Hardiman is neither artist nor an art educator. She describes her support for arts education as the result of her first hand witness as a school administrator. She will take us on a journey that is rich and powerful. Fueled by her desire to help students, she began to explore the intersection of brain research and arts integration.

While much is yet to be learned about how the brain functions, we have little evidence that what we do know has translated into daily instruction. How can an increased understanding of brain research inform lesson design and assessment of student learning? Informed by that research, how can arts educators raise the bar on expectations for student learning as well as their own?

Arts integration has become a strategy for capitalizing on student interest and motivation in the arts as a tool for learning in all content areas. The crowded curriculum, high stakes accountability testing and tightened school budgets have positioned arts integration as a viable model for school reform. But when and how does integration impact student learning? How has what we know about the human brain support integration as an instructional strategy? And what constitutes quality arts integration while the integrity of the arts is maintained?

Afternoon breakout sessions for RAED will focus on four implications of the keynote address: Collaborative Professional Learning: The AEC Music and Visual Arts Frameworks as professional development tools will focus on how high quality professional development influences academic rigor for teachers and benefit students; The AEC Parent Education Program as an advocacy process will showcase the important role of parents in advocating for high quality standards-

based arts education; The AEC Interactive Website as a strategy for sharing best practices, materials, resources and information; and The AEC Planning Forward is a session designed to provide and solicit input to making the thoughtful initiatives outlined in our first Strategic Plan a regional reality.

Please accept our invitation to attend, engage, question, comment and grow with colleagues at the seventh annual Regional Arts Education Day.



### Art & Poetry for Our Watershed

3 Rivers Wet Weather – Arts Education Collaborative  
Carnegie Museum of Art – RiverQuest

Carnegie Museum of Art and RiverQuest will be hosting a two day professional development workshop that combines art, writing and science in exploring our environment entitled *River of Words*. *River of Words* is a cross-curricular approach that not only meets PA Academic Standards, but also ignites passion for science, art and writing among students.

The workshop will be Thursday, November 5th (RiverQuest) and Wednesday, November 18th (Carnegie Museum of Art) from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The cost for attending is \$75 and participants will receive a total of 10 ACT 48 hours. For more information and to download the registration form, go to <http://www.artsedcollaborative.org/calendar.html>.

## AEC Upgrades Email Distribution Service

As part of our website upgrade and in order to better serve our constituents, AEC will be changing email distribution services. This change will take affect in the coming weeks and we wanted to ensure that all of you had the opportunity to update your safe senders list or address book to include our new distribution email address:

**Arts\_Education\_Collaborative@mail.vresp.com.**

If you have any questions regarding how to do this, please contact your organization's IT department or computer support professional. Please do take a few moments to take care of this as it will guarantee uninterrupted communication from AEC.

# Opportunities & Events

## Manchester Craftsmen's Guild

### What: Art After Dark

**Date:** September 9-November 19, 2009

Art After Dark evening classes offer area arts educators, working artists, and hobbyists the opportunity to work with high-quality materials in a collaborative and creative environment. Moreover, Pittsburgh Public Schools teachers can earn Act 48 credits and may qualify for reduced tuition. Fall workshops of varying duration run between September 9 – November 19. Courses in digital video-making, screenprinting, traditional photography, and functional pottery will not only help you improve your artistic skills but are a fun way to expand your networks! For more information, visit [www.manchesterguild.org](http://www.manchesterguild.org) or call 412-322-1773 x.302.

## Regional Arts & Technology Mini-Conference

**Date:** September 26, 2009

Join your colleagues for a day of professional development as we explore the integration of arts and technology! Earn Act 48 hours while exploring your arts discipline, meeting other arts educators and discovering new resources in your content area. The conference, held simultaneously at nine intermediate units around the state, will feature hands – on sessions in adaptive technology, emerging technologies, the creative and performing arts, leadership and advocacy. Presentations are focused on the arts and relationships between the arts and technology with focus on the uses of technology to support arts content in instruction. All nine locations will be part of an interactive video conference with the Keynote speaker, Bill Pearce. Contact Annie Gilbreath ([alg@bviu.org](mailto:alg@bviu.org)) or Leslie Kunkel ([kunkell@bsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:kunkell@bsd.k12.pa.us)).

## Father Ryan Arts Center

**What:** Sweetwater's "Muvano Festival"

Free Art Workshops for Children

**When:** September 26 & October 3, 2009

Sweetwater is partnering with the Father Ryan Arts Center to host art workshops for kids during its Muvano Festival on Saturday, September 26 (10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) and Saturday, October 3 (10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.). These specialized workshops

will focus on African art and famous members of the African American art community. FREE for children ages 6 to 10. For more information or to register, please call 412.771.3052.

## August Wilson Center for African American Culture

**What:** Philadanco! Educational Performance & Dance Masterclass

**Where:** August Wilson Center

**When:** September 28, 2009

K-12 educators are invited to bring their students to this program featuring performances and educational talks by Philadelphia Dance Company members. Cost for the performance is \$7/person.

The master dance class, led by Philadanco! dancers, is geared for intermediate through advanced-level dance students and adult dancers. Cost for the master class is \$25/person. For more information, visit [www.AugustWilsonCenter.org](http://www.AugustWilsonCenter.org) or call 412.258.2700.

## City Theater

**What:** Tenth Annual Young Playwrights Festival

**Date:** September 29-October 4, 2009

Experience the City Theatre Young Playwrights Festival—featuring compelling plays written by some of the region's finest middle and high school playwrights and produced by professional theatre artists. Bring your students for a great introduction to the world of theatre and a showcase of the talent and potential of their peers. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for students to all performances. Order tickets by calling 412.431.CITY.

For more information on the Young Playwrights Festival, visit [www.citytheatrecompany.org/education](http://www.citytheatrecompany.org/education) OR contact Kristen Link, Director of Education, at [klink@citytheatrecompany.org](mailto:klink@citytheatrecompany.org) or 412.431.4400 x 225.

## Frick Art & Historical Center 2009-10 School Programs Booklet

Our 2009-10 School Programs Booklet is now available and it's filled with standards-based, multi-disciplinary tours and workshops for grades k-12! Download a copy from the teacher resources page of our website ([thefrickpittsburgh.org](http://thefrickpittsburgh.org)) or email [Education@TheFrickPittsburgh.org](mailto:Education@TheFrickPittsburgh.org) for a copy. Special exhibitions this school year include: *Icons of American Photography: A Century of Photographs from the Cleveland Museum of Art*; *Children's*

## Opportunities & Events (Cont.)

*Hospital 1951: Photographs by Esther Bubley;* and *1934: A New Deal for Artists.* And as a special bonus, all programs in September are half-price so call 412-205-2022 today! Many of our programs fill quickly so schedule your trip to the Frick early this year.

### The Andy Warhol Museum & Mattress Factory Teacher Open House

**Date:** October 15, 2009

Join us as we team up with The Mattress Factory for a special night of lectures, gallery discussions, and art-making activities. Special previews of two new exhibitions, *Shepard Fairey: Supply and Demand* at The Warhol, and *Likeness* at The Mattress Factory will be given. Participants will receive Act 48 credit hours and information about school partnership opportunities.

The open house will begin at The Andy Warhol Museum. For more information and to register please email [dezelonn@warhol.org](mailto:dezelonn@warhol.org) or call 412-237-8365.

### Donors Choose

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, through [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org), is offering a "Double Your Impact" challenge for all college preparatory projects submitted from high-need (40% or more students eligible for free/reduced lunch) and/or rural high school classrooms! Any project posted to [www.DonorsChoose.org](http://www.DonorsChoose.org) that meets either or both of these criteria will be eligible for 50% funding. This funding will activate automatically to bring your project to life when other donors choose to join in and fund the rest of the project!

To benefit from this grant, full-time public school teachers who teach at high-need or rural high schools should submit one or more project request(s) for resources that will increase student readiness for college at [www.DonorsChoose.org](http://www.DonorsChoose.org). In order to qualify for funding, teachers' submissions must explain how the resources they request will help

prepare their students for college. For additional information, go to: <http://keyarts.wikispaces.com/Grant+Information>.

### Point Park University's Conservatory Dance Company

**What:** 2009 - 2010 Season

Point Park University's Conservatory Dance Company presents an enticing mélange of concerts, choreographers and genres this season, which opens October 2, 2009 and runs through April 11, 2010. The five-show season line-up includes:

- *Student Choreography Project*  
October 2 – 4, 2009
- *Pittsburgh Connections*  
November 13 – 15 & 20 – 22, 2009
- *The Bench (world premiere)*  
December 11 – 13 & 18 – 20, 2009
- *Conservatory Dance Company at the Byham*  
February 11 – 13, 2010
- *Dance with Me*  
April 9-11, 2010

Further information can be obtained by calling the Pittsburgh Playhouse box office at 412.621.4445 or visiting [www.pittsburghplayhouse.com](http://www.pittsburghplayhouse.com).



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

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