

# Essential Learning... *In the Arts*

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## Frameworks for Music and Visual Arts Education

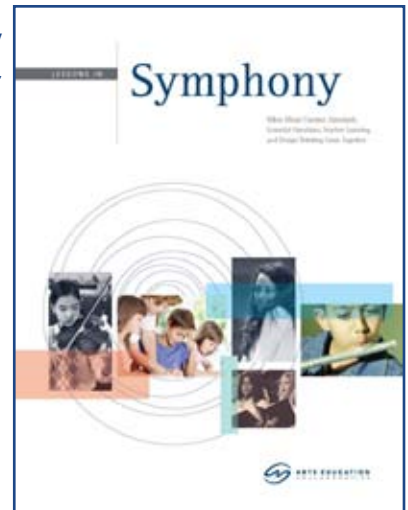
Since the summer of 2004, Arts Education Collaborative (AEC) has been working with experienced music and visual arts educators to write two separate frameworks; one for the visual arts and one for music. This spring, AEC will publish both frameworks under the titles of *Lessons in Symphony: When Music Content, Standards, Essential Questions, Teacher Learning, and Design Thinking Come Together* and *Lessons in Imagination: When Visual Arts Content, Standards, Essential Questions, Teacher Learning, and Design Thinking Come Together*.

These frameworks are a direct response to a need expressed by area arts educators for a comprehensive map leading to a sequential pattern of learning in music and in the visual arts for K-12 education that considers the elements that must be addressed to ensure quality arts education. "To the design team, the idea of a framework was, at first, an interesting and novel idea," stated AEC director, Sarah Tambucci, reflecting on the initial reaction that the design team had to the idea of writing music and visual arts frameworks. She went on to clarify the importance of these frameworks by saying:

Dedicated undergraduates often spend hours hard at work developing the studio skills necessary to teach but little time, if any, focused on the pedagogy of teaching and learning. The curriculum is simply too crowded – the malady that echoes the experience of school children everywhere. But when the basic skills of how to structure and evaluate learning experiences that can be translated to all learning are minimized, the result is students who are also limited in asking essential questions and getting the 'big ideas'.

Both frameworks make use of an "essential question" that guides the progression of units and shapes the content. In describing the initial stages of the process, Tambucci recalled that: "Visual arts educators began with the essential question, 'What is real?'. By asking this question, the team looked to embed critical and aesthetic response along with

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## Leadership Academy 2009 Application Deadline



**Friday, May 8** is the deadline to submit an application for the Arts Education Collaborative's 2009 Leadership Academy. This year-long intensive professional development experience is like no other. Participants will learn valuable teaching skills and acquire confidence needed to increase the visibility and credibility of arts programs in their

schools, districts, and organizations. Additionally, they will develop their own artistic skills, collaborate and share best practices with other educators from across the region, and design a plan for their own learning. For more information and a copy of the application, visit: <http://artsedcollaborative.org/LeadershipAcademy.html>.

# Advocating Arts Education in Southwestern Pennsylvania

by Glenn Bailey, Jr, AEC Apprentice

President Barack Obama has publicly acknowledged a platform for the arts that includes the vitality of arts education within our school systems. Unfortunately, increased pressure from standardized testing and certain legislation have placed arts programming on a continual decline. Pennsylvania, like many states across the nation, has experienced budget cuts that force many school districts to reduce staffing and classroom instruction in the arts. In some areas, arts instruction has even been reduced to *once* a month for students. While corporations are failing, stock markets are crashing, and the highest unemployment rate in years is upon us, it leaves little hope for change on a singular level.

With current legislation moving through Congress that will appropriate \$53 million for national arts instruction through the U.S. Department of Education, we all have the ability to advocate for change. As a graduate student who recently returned from a trip to Washington, D.C. for Arts Advocacy Day, I wanted to share some of the information that I learned while attending workshops hosted by American's for the Arts.

## Take the time to understand federal arts legislation and its impact on your individual community or organization

One of the most important events for federal advocacy is American's for the Art's Arts Advocacy Day. This year fifteen Masters of Art Management students from the H. John Heinz III College of Carnegie Mellon University with members of the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council (GPAC) set off to Capitol Hill. This event brings together several constituencies each year to participate in training sessions and meetings with members of Congress.

These students, alongside GPAC, were able to get a first-hand look into the proper strategies and tactics of congressional lobbying in support of arts legislation, like the \$53 million appropriation for arts education and the \$200 million for the National Endowment for the Arts. In the offices of Congressmen Murtha, Doyle, Murphy, and Altmire, the true spirit of advocacy in Pittsburgh came to fruition, as we were able to garner support. Remember that this is only one group of individuals vying for change. Imagine what would happen if there were several hundred individuals who visited these Congressmen in person or logged on to their websites, understood their platforms, and urged them to continue to support the arts.

## Utilize resources through local and state organizations to advocate more efficiently for your constituency

Currently there are several state and local organizations that offer advocacy toolkits to better prepare your case. The Pennsylvania Art Education Association, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts have all compiled research, quotes, letters of support, visuals, and contacts to urge local policy-makers for support.

## Build networks with individuals that have similar arts policy agendas to advocate with greater proficiency

With the incorporation of many social media techniques, like blogs, networking sites, and even video-streams, the ability to spread information is greater than ever. Policy-makers will listen to all forms of communication. The arts provide the opportunity to creatively portray the issues that plague our school systems and organizations. Utilizing these technological resources can be effective strategies in stating the importance of your position.

One thing that I always keep in the back of my mind, even for those with no affiliation to the arts, is that no matter what happens in this economy or through decisions made by the government, the arts stay alive. In the caves of Lascaux, France, where fading pigments depict the stories of the Neanderthal man; art lived. It lived long before our native English tongue, before Melvin Dewey and his decimal system, and long before the crashing stock market. In this year's 22nd Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture for Arts & Public Policy, keynote speaker and master jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, wooed us all with an endearing lecture about the arts and our cultural heritage. It is only fitting that this article end with a selection by Marsalis that speaks on behalf of the importance of arts education in our current economy.

...the answer is not more education, but more substantive and more culturally-rooted education. The primary justification for the value of education is not some competition with other countries for technological jobs, or to win the so-called science race, or to beat anyone. Our arts **DEMAND** and **DESERVE** that we recognize the life we have lived together. In this time, we need to be educated in who we are, and with the arts, education extends far outside the classroom.

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the process of production. Music educators began with an essential question, 'How does structure change perception?'. This led them to consider a new notion of music education that includes, but is not limited to, holiday and spring performances."



Making use of age appropriate concepts and scaffolding content, the units in each framework channel the teaching of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities in music and visual art through recommended process and content indicators. Also included are suggestions for special needs instruction, together with supplemental and enrichment assignments. In addition, units provide examples of formative and summative assessments aligned to the content and the Standards. Finally, the frameworks carefully trace the design process engaged in by each creative team as a model for other groups of educators to develop their own customized structures to meet institutional and district goals.

AEC would like to thank the many individuals who put in countless hours of time and effort to bring both of these projects to fruition. These individuals represented every level of K-12 education in a range of schools found in

urban, suburban, and rural areas of the state. We could not have done it without your generous gifts of time and talent.

A range of engaging workshops based on the units in the frameworks and the teams' experiences are in the planning process and the frameworks will be made available only through participation in these upcoming professional development workshops. Times and dates for workshops will be announced in the near future. To view excerpts from each of the frameworks, visit: <http://www.artsedcollaborative.org/educator.html>. For more information, please contact AEC at [info@artsedcollaborative.org](mailto:info@artsedcollaborative.org) or 412-201-7405.

## In The News...

### New National Service Legislation Includes the Arts

The U.S. House of Representatives recently approved a national service bill that strengthens the role of the arts in the national service programs. At the end of March, the Senate approved their version of the legislation, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. The Senate version had an amendment offered by Sens. Shaheen (D-NH) and Gregg (R-NH) that expressly includes music and arts education in the Education Corps activities. On March 31, the Senate version was approved by the House and now the legislation waits for President Obama's signature. For more details, visit: [www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/09\\_0331\\_recovery\\_summary.pdf](http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/09_0331_recovery_summary.pdf).

### Wynton Marsalis Gives Lecture at National Arts Advocacy Day

On March 30, Jazz at Lincoln Center's artistic director, Wynton Marsalis, gave the Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy which is the featured keynote of Arts Advocacy Day (organized by Americans for the Arts). His lecture, entitled "The Ballad of the American Arts," focused on the centrality of the arts

to the American identity and how our country has used "homegrown arts to make us into one people, to teach us who we are." For a Newsweek article reflecting on his lecture, visit: [www.newsweek.com/id/192474](http://www.newsweek.com/id/192474). To read a transcript of the lecture, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/nancyhanks>. To watch the video, visit: <http://blog.artsusa.org/2009/04/07/the-22nd-annual-nancy-hanks-lecture-on-arts-public-policy/>.

## Opportunities & Events

### Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

**What:** Rediscovering Rachmaninoff

**Date:** April 1 - 19, 2009

By surveying a combination of well-loved and little-known works of Rachmaninoff, this comprehensive festival argues that this composer, long penalized for his popularity, deserves reconsideration as a twentieth-century master.

Tickets are \$5 - \$79 for concerts, recitals and films. Lectures and masterclasses are free. For the festival schedule, visit: [www.pittsburghsymphony.org/pghsymph.nsf/web/rachfest.html](http://www.pittsburghsymphony.org/pghsymph.nsf/web/rachfest.html).

# Opportunities & Events (cont.)

## The Mattress Factory

**What:** Evening for Educators

**Date:** April 15, 2009

**Time:** 4pm - 7pm

Experience a preview of our newest show, *Thaddeus Mosley: Sculpture (Studio/Home)*. Meet the artist, Thaddeus Mosley, and enjoy conversation with him and colleagues. RSVP: [education@mattress.org](mailto:education@mattress.org).

## August Wilson Center for African-American Culture

**What:** Contemporary Dance Master Class

**Where:** Dance Alloy Theater

**Date:** May 1, 2009 from 11am - 1pm

Intermediate to advanced dance students and dancers in modern and or African dance are invited to work with Ronald K. Brown, praised by The New York Times as "one of the most profound choreographers of his modern dance generation." Brown's technique and choreography blends history, tradition and dance forms from Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa with modern and urban dance.

This master class is free and limited to ages 16+. Pre-registration is required. For information and to register, contact Sarah Williams Devereux at 412.258.2664 or [swilliamsdevereux@AugustWilsonCenter.org](mailto:swilliamsdevereux@AugustWilsonCenter.org).

## Frick Art & Historical Center

**What:** Special Lecture Series

**Where:** The Frick Art Museum Auditorium

**Date:** May 2 at 7pm & May 3 at 1:30pm

On May 2 and 3, the Frick Art & Historical Center will host a celebration of the work of Jean-Louis-Ernest Meissonier, whose final masterpiece, *1806, Jena* is on view at The Frick Art Museum. On Saturday, May 2 we are proud to host a lecture by Ross King, NY Times best selling author of *Brunelleschi's Dome: How a Renaissance Genius Reinvented Architecture*; *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*; and *The Judgment of Paris: The Revolutionary Decade That Gave the World Impressionism*. On Sunday, May 3, Constance Cain Hungerford, Provost of Swarthmore College, speaks on *The Flash of Sabers: Meissonier's Cult of Napoleon*. Act 48 credit is available. Call Beth Braugher at 412-371-0600, ext. 540 for more

information or 412-371-0600 to register for one or both programs. For more information, including a link to a YouTube video of Dr. King, visit our website, [www.TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://www.TheFrickPittsburgh.org).

## The Studio at Contemporary Craft

**What:** Workshop: Pop-up Paper Structures

**Where:** The Society for Contemporary Craft

**Date:** May 2 & 3, 9:30am - 4pm

A special kind of creative magic awaits students in this workshop. Learn basic on-the-fold pop-up structures, then progress through a series of more complicated three-dimensional glued constructions. Props, platforms, spirals, V-folds and straddle pop-ups are taught. Emphasis is on developing an understanding of the mechanics involved in this art of "paper engineering."

Carol Barton is a book artist, curator, and teacher who has published several editions and has organized both local and national shows of artists' books. Her work is exhibited internationally and is in numerous collections, including the Library of Congress, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. She served as curator for the Smithsonian Institution's exhibition *Science and the Artist's Book*.

Tuition: \$250, Includes material fee and 13 hours of Act 48 credits. To register: call 412-261-7003 X 25.

## The Mattress Factory

**What:** Teacher Workshop: Exploring Installation Art

**Date:** May 2, 2009

**Time:** 9:30am - 3:30pm

A day long hands-on workshop that explores the history of installation art, its relevance, and how to incorporate it into your curriculum. 5 Act 48 hours. Email: [education@mattress.org](mailto:education@mattress.org) for further information.

## The Pittsburgh Foundation

**What:** Art in Public: Expressing Youth Voices in Pittsburgh

**Deadline:** May 20, 2009

Help inspire a better world through the artistic expression of youth. The Pittsburgh Foundation & the Grable Foundation are looking for projects that empower youth to demonstrate what's important to them through well-designed, sustainable public art. Ideas will be posted online for everyone to review and discuss. The community will be invited to select the best two ideas to receive funding. The

## Opportunities & Events (Cont.)

winner(s) of this online vote will receive the \$25,000 in grant funding to make their ideas happen. For more information go to [www.changemakers.net/artinpittsburgh](http://www.changemakers.net/artinpittsburgh).

### Manchester Craftsmen's Guild

**What:** Arts Courses for Teens - Summer Studio Intensives

**Date:** July 6-August 6, 2009

**Time:** Monday - Thursday, 1pm - 4pm

Creativity heats up at MCG when the school year ends. For five weeks during the summer, our four arts studios—ceramics, design, digital and photography—are the cool place to be. Teens between 13–18 years old 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! Applications will be available by the beginning of May! For more information, visit: [www.manchesterguild.org/Youth/summer\\_programs.htm](http://www.manchesterguild.org/Youth/summer_programs.htm).

### Pittsburgh CLO Academy

**What:** Pre-Professional Performers' Intensive

**Date:** July 27-August 4, 2009

**Time:** Monday - Friday, 4pm - 8:30pm

Interested in the performing arts? Spend 2 weeks studying with professional actors, directors and choreographers. Experience an inside look at the rehearsal process for Pittsburgh CLO's *Into the Woods*. This new program is perfect for any aspiring theater artist in grades 9 through 12. Each day includes technique classes, hands-on training in directing, musical directing or choreography, and informal presentations and feedback from professional faculty and peers. Participants will also visit the Benedum Center for the Arts and attend a studio and technical rehearsal for *Into the Woods*, meet the Director, and work with the Ensemble in a Master Class. Call 412-281-2234 for more information or visit [www.pittsburghCLO.org](http://www.pittsburghCLO.org) to download an application or register.

### Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

**What:** World Class Stained Glass in Pittsburgh

**Date:** May - October, 2009

This year Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation is offering a special series of public lectures and tours based on our book, *Charles J. Connick: His Education and His Windows in and near Pittsburgh*, by Albert M. Tannler. Any member or non-member who registers and pays for the whole series of events by May 12 will be given an autographed copy of Albert Tannler's book at the Keynote Lecture on May 24. (The retail price is \$19.95). Series price: \$130 members; \$230 non members. For more information, visit: [www.phlf.org/phlf-tours-events/](http://www.phlf.org/phlf-tours-events/).

### Carnegie Museum of Art

**What:** ART and NATURE

**Where:** Carnegie Museum of Art

**Timeframe:** April, May, or June 2009

New! Bring your K-12 art and science students to Carnegie Museum of Art in April, May or June for Art and Nature. Choose a Gallery Tour or Studio Workshop that explores two exciting new contemporary art exhibitions featuring the artwork of Maria Grazia Rosin and Naoko Matsubara. Through object-based learning, plus the option of inquiry-based writing exercises or a hands-on art-making experience, kids will discover crucial connections between studying our world through art and through science. Call the Group Visits office to register: 412-622-3288. For more information, send an email to [crosbyj@carnegiemuseums.org](mailto:crosbyj@carnegiemuseums.org). Information regarding upcoming exhibitions can be found at <http://cmoa.org/exhibitions/upcoming.asp>.



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