

Essential Learning...*In the Arts*

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ARTS EDUCATION
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Opportunities & Events

AEC & MCG Jazz Residencies Highlight Wealth of Jazz Talent in the Region

As part of an ongoing jazz education project, MCG Jazz and the Arts Education Collaborative continue their partnership to develop a residency program that utilizes three artists from Pittsburgh's jazz community. The primary goal of this portion of the project is to connect the wealth of jazz talent available in southwestern Pennsylvania with schools to stimulate jazz education in the region. Last November, educators had the opportunity to submit an application to host a jazz residency. Over twenty applications were received for three available residency locations and each residency will be fully tailored to meet the needs of the school and the teacher(s).



Sean Jones

Sean Jones, lead trumpeter of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and the Professor of Jazz Studies at Duquesne University, will be working with Ayisha Morgan-Lee at St. Benedict the Moor. In addition to his roles with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and Duquesne University, Sean is an active recording artist with his sextet and is about to release his latest album, *The Search Within*. The goals of the residency at St. Benedict will be to heighten student awareness of jazz as an art form and explore connections between jazz and dance.

James Moore, director of jazz ensembles at West Virginia Wesleyan College, will be working with Mark Killinger and Laura Piecknick at Charleroi High School in Washington County. James also leads his own quartet and is a freelance jazz trumpeter while also playing with the Roger Humphries Quintet and the Three Rivers Jazz Orchestra under the direction of Mike Tomaro and Steve Hawk. The goal at Charleroi High School for this project is to use the residency as a catalyst to create a consistent and comprehensive jazz program.



James Moore



Kim Nazarian

Kim Nazarian, a founding member of the Grammy award-winning jazz vocal group New York Voices, will be working with Becky Dougan at Pittsburgh Dilworth Traditional Academy. Kim tours around the world with the New York Voices and their most recent recording project provided them the opportunity to work with Paquito D'Rivera on his latest release, *Brazilian Dreams*. Additionally, Kim is in the process of completing an educational book and video/DVD that focuses on her approach to vocal technique. The goal of residency at Pittsburgh Dilworth Traditional Academy will be to focus on improvisation and to develop an appreciation for the cultural and historical context of jazz.

These residencies are supported by a generous grant from the Benedum Foundation and will enable MCG Jazz and AEC to lay the ground work for future jazz residencies in addition to developing jazz education materials and resources. For more information on MCG Jazz visit www.mcgjazz.org and to stay up-to-date on AEC opportunities visit www.artsedcollaborative.org/calendar.html.

In The News...

President Obama Gives His First Speech On Education Reform

On Tuesday, March 10th, 2009 President Obama said that the nation must overhaul its education system and address the issue of the increasing dropout rate in a speech that he made at the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. "Every so often, throughout our history, a generation of Americans bears the responsibility of seeing this country through difficult times and protecting the dream of its founding for posterity. This is a responsibility that has fallen to our generation." In response to critics saying that the Administration is taking too much on too fast and making too many changes, the President said: "... we don't have the luxury of choosing between getting our economy moving now and rebuilding it over the long term... By 2016, four out of every ten new jobs will require at least some advanced education or training."

During the address, President Obama outlined the following four "pillars of reform" for education in America:

1. Investing in early childhood initiatives
2. Encourage better standards and assessments
3. Recruit, prepare, and reward outstanding teachers
4. Promote innovation and excellence in America's schools

More specific information will be outlined by Congress in the coming weeks on the president's agenda to improve American schools. Finally, President Obama set a goal of the United States having the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020. To view the speech, visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/09/03/10/Taking-on-Education/>.

Handbook on Teacher Professional Development in Arts Instruction

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission, San Francisco Arts Commission and Santa Clara Office of Education have launched *Designing the Arts Learning Community: a Handbook for K-12 Professional Development Planners*. This Handbook is a tool to show how to provide high-quality systemic professional development in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts for teachers.

The handbook has a national perspective drawing on the experiences of arts education professionals



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development programs from across the United States, and features a searchable database of 50 model programs from across the country (to see AEC's profile, visit: <http://handbook.laartsed.org/models/index.ashx?md=19>). The tool is designed to be used online but offers options to print out sections or the entire handbook. To find the handbook, visit: <http://handbook.laartsed.org>.

Deciphering the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009

In the last few weeks, two resources have been made available for tracking developments and finding current information related to the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 for school districts and non-profit arts and cultural organizations.

- Learning Point Associates has launched the Education Recovery and Reinvestment Center as a one-stop shop for educators and policymakers. The Center can be found at www.learningpt.org/recovery.
- The National Endowment for the Arts released its granting guidelines for applying for economic stimulus and job recovery arts funds. Information can be found at www.nea.gov/recovery/nea-recovery-programs.html.

Mattress Factory Innovates Audience Engagement With Social Media

The Mattress Factory has been experimenting with how art and technology intersect to provide an avenue for their visitors to engage beyond the walls of the museum. MF iCONFESS and MF SCREENtxt are two unique projects designed to build a deeper relationship for visitors and gives them the ability to share and engage in a dialogue with one another regarding the Mattress Factory.

MF iCONFESS offers visitors the opportunity to broadcast thoughts or responses to the question: "What does the Mattress Factory mean to you?" and then the responses are stored and shared using YouTube. MF SCREENtxt provides visitors the opportunity to directly message one another using text messages and photos that are then displayed on a 42-inch flat screen tv in the museum lobby and can be viewed online (allowing for visitors to maintain an ongoing discussion with visitors or the staff). MF SCREENtxt was created with the help of BrightKite, a location-based social network company in Denver. For more information, visit: <http://artyoucangetinto.blogspot.com/>.

Congress Asks: Has arts education been cut back since NCLB?



by Dr. Sarah Tambucci,
Director, AEC

When Congress wants information, the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) gets to work. In February 2009 the GAO published GAO-09-286, a report to congressional requesters that investigated an expressed concern that student access to arts education has changed since No Child Left Behind (NCLB) was made in to law. Congress asked: (1) has the amount of instruction time for arts education changed and, if so, have certain groups been more affected than others, (2) to what extent have state education agencies' requirements and funding for arts education changed since NCLB, (3) what are school officials in selected districts doing to provide arts education since NCLB and what challenges do they face in doing so, and (4) what is known about the effect of arts education in improving student outcomes?

The GAO found that teachers at schools identified as needing improvement and those with higher percentages of minority students were more likely to report a reduction in time spent on the arts. However, the survey used did not include questions about why instruction time changed and GAO was, therefore, not able to determine the reasons for the disparities identified in the analysis. In addition, basic state requirements for arts education in schools have remained unchanged in most states while funding has both increased and decreased in the states. Arts education officials attributed funding changes to state budget changes rather than NCLB.

Principals reported several strategies to provide arts education but struggle with decreased budgets and competing demands on instruction time. Seeking outside funding and collaborative arrangements in the arts community are budget strategies. They also report competing demands on instruction time were due to state education agency or school district actions taken to meet NCLB proficiency standards.

Finally, the report sites inconclusive evidence that the study in the arts improves student outcomes.

While some studies found a small positive effect on math and reading achievement, others found none.

A new study of NCLB implementation that the Department of Education plans to undertake may collect information on the uses of instruction time, among other topics. However, they have not yet determined if it will collect information on the reasons instruction time changed for certain groups.

Clearly, this report has set us up to ask even more questions. It also provides a window of opportunity to keep this conversation alive. This study was conducted in response to increased concern that arts education may be cut back. The GAO recommends that the planned NCLB implementation study ask survey respondents why changes in instruction time that they reported occurred.

Perhaps more definitive results would have been reported if the methodology had included a larger sample. While 50 state arts officials were surveyed, interviews with officials in 8 school districts and 19 schools hardly seems representative of a national outcry that the curriculum continues to narrow and the arts are really being left behind.

For the full GAO report, *Access to Arts Education: Inclusion of Additional Questions in Education's Planned Research Would Help Explain Why Instruction Time Has Decreased for Some Students* (GAO-09-286), visit: www.gao.gov/new.items/d09286.pdf.

Opportunities & Events

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

What: Wilksburg Community Engagement Concert

Where: Wilksburg High School

Date/Time: March 17 at 7 pm

Join the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra for an affordable, uplifting evening of music and community at the PSO's sixth Wilksburg Community Engagement Concert. All ticket proceeds from the concert will benefit the music programs of the Wilksburg School District. PSO Resident Conductor Daniel Meyer will conduct, and Andrew Stockey of WTAE will join the PSO during the concert to narrate Benjamin Britten's "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra," in honor of

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the creation and growth of the Wilkinsburg School District's Elementary Band program. Pittsburgh Opera Center Artist Deborah Selig will also join the PSO for the performance of three Italian arias. Tickets cost \$3 for students K-12, and \$7 for adults and seniors. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 412-871-2125.

Carnegie Museum of Art

What: Spring Educator Open House

Where: CMA Theater

Dates: Saturday, March 21

Time: 1:30 pm (lecture) & 2:30 (workshop)

Discover connections between the creative processes of art and science as you explore *Matsubara: A Celebration in Pittsburgh* and *Forum 62: Maria Grazia Rosin*. Learn helpful strategies for exercising visual thinking in your classroom. Come early for a lecture by curator Sarah Nichols on the work of glass artist Maria Grazia Rosin, who explores a multifaceted interest in science, from biology to physics.

Earn four Act 48 hours with curator's lecture. Call the Group Visits office to register 412-622-3288. Registration is \$15 and includes dinner and a glass of wine. Special discount for art and science teacher teams! (\$10 each for art and science teachers from the same school).

ToonSeum

What: Sketchy Jr.: Video Game Divas

Where: Art Institute of Pittsburgh

Date/Time: March 28, 2-4:30 pm

What is Sketchy Jr.? It's a life drawing jam session for middle school and high school students. Featuring models dressed in costume as popular video game characters, music by DJ Zombo, games, prizes and much more! This is a rare opportunity for students to participate in a fun life drawing session at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, hosted by the ToonSeum. Tickets are \$10 at the door and only \$8 online at sketchyjr.com. Admission price includes a sketchbook. Advance ticket purchase is highly recommended! Contact joe@toonseum.com for more information.

Shakespeare-in-the-Schools

What: Tomato Plant Girl

Where: Stephen Foster Memorial, University of Pittsburgh Oakland Campus

Date/Time: April 4-5, & April 11 at 10 am

Bring the whole family to Shakespeare-in-the-

Schools' new production of *Tomato Plant Girl* by Wesley Middleton. Our adventure unfolds in a magical neighborhood garden with Little Girl, her Bossy Best Friend, and an ailing tomato plant that comes to life. This new offering for our youngest audiences captures their imagination while underscoring the importance of making up your own rules, standing up to bullies, and communing with the natural world. Tickets are \$10 for kids and adults. Touring shows, school matinees, and in-school workshops also available. For more information, visit www.shakespeare.pitt.edu or call 412-624-3459.

Frick Art & History Center

What: Model-T Jubilee

Where: Car and Carriage Museum

Date/Time: April 18 & 19, 11 am - 4 pm

Join us for a weekend of special tours, art activities, hands-on fun and even a piece of birthday cake as we celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Model-T. The highlight of the weekend is a lecture on Sunday at 1:30 by Rick Sebak, who will talk about his recent cross-country trip on the Lincoln Highway, America's first coast-to-coast highway. Teachers who pre-register for the Rick Sebak lecture by calling 412-205-2022 receive free admission! Visit TheFrickPittsburgh.org for more information.

Frick Art & History Center

What: Studio Workshop and Guided Hike

Where: The Frick Art Museum & Frick Park

Date/Time: April 25, 9:30-noon, family program for adults and kids 12 and under; 1:00-4:30 pm, adult program

Experience art the Barbizon way! Two half-day programs, cosponsored by the Frick Art & Historical Center and Venture Outdoors, start with a special tour of *The Road to Impressionism: Barbizon Landscapes* from the Walters Art Museum. Then it's off to Frick Park for a guided walk with an expert leader from Venture Outdoors. In the morning session, families will then return to the Frick to create a colorful and fanciful landscape while adults in the afternoon session will create a landscape from their plein air sketches made in Frick Park. Call 412-205-2022 for family program or 412-371-0600 for adult workshop.

The Andy Warhol Museum

What: Art & Society: Brazil/U.S. Educational Partnership

Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 28

The Andy Warhol Museum and The Center for Latin American Studies recently applied for a Fulbright-Hays grant to conduct a professional development program in Brazil. Contingent upon receiving

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funding, they would like to invite middle and high school educators to participate in Art & Society: Brazil/U.S. Educational Partnership during summer 2009. The goal of this project is to enable U. S. social studies and art educators to teach about Brazilian culture and society through the lens of the visual, literary, and performing arts. Participants will conduct research and acquire educational materials to design interdisciplinary, middle/high school level curriculum on Brazilian culture. Teachers who are interested should contact Nicole Dezelon, Associate Curator of Education – The Andy Warhol Museum, at 412-237-8365 or dezelonn@warhol.org.

Arts Education Collaborative

What: 2009 Leadership Academy

Deadline: Friday, May 8

The Arts Education Collaborative is pleased to announce that applications are now available for the 2009 Leadership Academy. Each year up to twelve arts educators from the region are selected to participate in the Arts Education Collaborative 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.

Friday, May 8 is the deadline to submit an application for this year's Leadership Academy. For more information and a copy of the application, visit: <http://artsedcollaborative.org/LeadershipAcademy.html>. Please contact Betty Kripp at krippb@artsedcollaborative.org or 412-201-7431 or Deborah Boersma at boersmad@artsedcollaborative.org or 412-201-7453 with any questions.

Pittsburgh Glass Center

What: Neighborhood Mosaic Project

Where: Pittsburgh Glass Center

Date: Through June 14, 2009

Students of all ages will enjoy a live hot glass blowing demonstration, plus a guided tour of our newest glass art exhibition the "Neighborhood Mosaic Project." This project is particularly exciting because it is a 360 degree glass mosaic panorama of Pittsburgh that was created by local artist Daviea Davis with help from many local students. In addition to tours and demonstrations, hands-on activities are a great way to enhance the experience. We have a special Mosaic Workshop that we are offering in conjunction with the Neighborhood Mosaic Project through June 14. Students of any age can join Davis in the gallery to individually create their own mini glass mosaic. Included with the workshop is a live glass blowing demonstration. The cost is \$20 per person. Tours, demonstrations and hands-on activities are easy to arrange, call Heather Joy at 412-365-2145 ext. 201 or email hpuskarich@pittsburghglasscenter.org. Visit www.pittsburghglasscenter.org for more information about PGC.

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. Information regarding upcoming exhibitions can be found at <http://cmoa.org/exhibitions/upcoming.asp>.

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