

Ayers' Air

Sorry about the delay in getting the newsletter to you, but I wanted to wait until Michael Kaiser and I met with the Secretary of Education before I wrote my next Ayers' Air. At the meeting, we had a good discussion about the role of the Kennedy Center in arts education. The Secretary was impressed by the volume of work we're accomplishing. We also discussed the current state of education and the Secretary expressed his concern about maintaining high standards while broadening the curriculum. He was specifically interested in *Any Given Child*, and wanted to be advised as that initiative moves forward. We have had 25 inquiries from various communities about *Any Given Child*. If your community is interested, I would recommend submitting an application for the program as soon as possible because we will only be able to work with a few communities this coming year. Along those same lines, I would be interested in working with one or two states in the *Race to the Top* program. The Kennedy Center would not need funding from a *Race to the Top* state proposal, but feel we could be a significant partner for those who are applying for this program. If you are involved in one of these proposals and feel we could help, please let me know.

I know it is a challenging time for many of you. Please let us know if you feel there are ways in which we can help. Michael has already been to 15 communities as part of his *Arts In Crisis 50 State Tour*, and by the time he is finished, he will have visited 60-70 cities. We are still working on the fall schedule and will be fleshing out the winter/spring schedule soon.

We are poised on the edge of another school year and arts season. I look forward to a positive and meaningful year for all of us.

Darrell

Partners in Education Accepting Applications for 2010 Institute

Partners in Education is accepting applications for new teams interested in joining the program at the 2010 Institute, which will take place May 5-8, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. The four-day Institute is designed for arts organizations and school districts interested in partnering together to initiate or expand professional development programs for teachers. The Kennedy Center will select up to 14 two-person teams from around the country, each consisting of an administrator from an arts organization and an administrator from a neighboring school district. At the Institute, each team develops a plan that specifies how the partners will establish or expand arts-based professional development programs for teachers in their communities. Presenters will include dance educator Randy Barron and performance poet Glenis Redmond.

Suggestions of arts organizations and school districts that would make good candidates for the Partners in Education program should be sent to Kelsey at KRMesa@kennedy-center.org. In an effort to strengthen the network, we're looking to encourage culturally-diverse organizations as well as organizations from states that are not currently represented in the Partners in Education program to apply. The Kennedy Center will mail out application information in August, though the application and further information is available online at www.kennedy-center.org/partners. Completed applications are due back to our office on October 31, 2009. Successful applicants will be notified in January 2010. Call (202) 416-8806 with any questions.

Any Given Child

The Kennedy Center's **Any Given Child** initiative, which is now a National Partnerships program, is designed to assist communities throughout the nation to strengthen and expand arts education for their students. The goal of the initiative is to ensure that all young people in the community have access to a complete, affordable arts education through music, dance, drama, and visual art. With the assistance of expert consultation services provided at no cost by Kennedy Center staff and other professionals, community leaders develop a long-range plan for arts education that is tailor-made for their school district and community. "[The Any Given Child] approach utilizes the resources in the schools, the resources of local arts organizations and other agencies, and the resources of the Kennedy Center to create a community-specific approach to arts education," wrote Michael Kaiser in his weekly [blog](#) on the Huffington Post, "The beauty of [it] is that it focuses and coordinates the education efforts of arts organizations while providing a consistent arts education approach." For more information, call (202) 416-8806.

Introducing Kennedy Center Teaching Artist Sandra Phaup

Sandra Phaup knows about the visual arts' powers of engagement. "The brain is activated when people bring who they are to the artwork—brain research supports this." Sandra experienced this connection with art first-hand when, as a English and art student interested in her Norwegian heritage, last-minute research into Edvard Munch for a paper eventually led her to spend an exciting year in Norway, exploring Norwegian art. "People engage when they have enough time with art, when they ask deliberate questions about it," she says. In her workshop for teachers, "*Using Visual Art to Encourage Thinking and Writing*," Sandra introduces two criticism processes that teachers can use to support their students' careful consideration of and engagement with art.



The first, formal art criticism process can be broken down into four parts: describe, analyze, interpret, and evaluate. Sandra shows teachers how deliberate observation and analysis of an image can lead students to forming topic sentences and writing description. The second process asks students to draw the image and describe it, but goes on to ask questions: Why did you choose this image? What does it remind you of? How could the image change? What might cause it to change? Teachers can tailor questions to their curriculum. Questions about an image's environment may lead to a conversation about natural science, while questions about its subject or meaning teach reading and literary analysis skills. By asking questions, students relate to the images and to meaning. "Visuals are more accessible," Sandra says, and as they "activate students' brains," a deeper, more exciting, and sometimes surprising kind of learning is possible. It's not just students who can be engaged by artwork, though—Sandra wants teachers to leave her workshop having gained curriculum tools, but also something personally enriching. She wants them to walk out thinking, "I didn't know I could do that." For more information on "*Using Visual Art to Encourage Thinking and Writing*," or to bring Sandra Phaup to your community, contact her at Sphaup@verizon.net.

National Partnerships UPDATE August 2009

The Qualities of Quality: Understanding Excellence in Arts Education Report Released

Harvard's Project Zero has released a report on *The Qualities of Quality: Understanding Excellence in Arts Education*, the research study presented by Dr. Steve Seidel at the 2009 Annual Meeting. *The Qualities of Quality: Understanding Excellence in Arts Education* addresses the multiple challenges of achieving and sustaining quality in arts education, across major as well as emerging art forms in rural, urban, and suburban settings. The report is available as a free download from [Project Zero](#) and [The Wallace Foundation](#). Hard copies of the report are available at <http://www.pzpublications.com/414.html>.

Partners in Education News

Partners in Education...Did You Know...?

Making the Best Use of Your Advisory Committee Representative

One of the greatest resources for making sure your needs are met in the Partners in Education program is the Advisory Committee. As leaders in the program, Advisory Committee members make policy decisions for Partners in Education and plan the Annual Meeting—responsibilities for which they need your input.

When your Advisory Committee representative contacts you, please be sure to respond. Your feedback and suggestions are used in planning for the upcoming Annual Meeting, and the Advisory Committee meetings are a wonderful opportunity to address any ideas or concerns you have regarding the program. If your representative doesn't hear from you, your input cannot be considered. At the Annual Meeting, your Advisory Committee representative will be leading discussions during the regional meetings—but they're available to you throughout the Annual Meeting to answer questions or to hear comments and concerns.

Consider the Advisory Committee members as mentors; they know the network more broadly. If you find yourself in need of advice or resources, your representative can help you directly or connect you to someone who can. Take advantage of your Advisory Committee members. Use them not only as a resource, but as your voice in the network. Questions? Contact Barbara at (202) 416-8806.

Partners in Education Members Named Educators of the Year

Kanawha County Schools Arts Curriculum Specialist and **West Virginia 2001 Team Member Fonda Lockhart** was honored at a Kanawha County School Board meeting in June. Fonda was chosen as the Kanawha County Schools Educator of the Year for 2009. Congratulations, Fonda!

KCAAEN News

Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education 2009 – 2012 Strategic Plan

The Network Leadership Committee unanimously adopted the KCAAEN 2009 – 2012 Strategic Action Plan on July 30, 2009. This plan will guide the work of the KCAAEN in its five focus areas: Build Collaborations, Position the Arts, Generate Informational Resources, Provide Professional Development, and Recognize Innovation and Achievement. A public version of the plan will be made available on the KCAAEN website. The full Strategic Action Plan will be sent electronically to KCAAEN members this month.

Partnership Team Updates

AK 1993 – Executive Director **Tom Quass** of the Kodiak Arts Council replaces **Nancy Kemp**, who has retired. Tom's contact information is kodiak-arts-council@gci.net or (907) 486-5291.

AZ 2001 – This team welcomes Program Coordinator **Tammy Hinds**, who will represent Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. She can be reached at tammyh@sccarts.org or (480) 874-4610.

IA 2003 (Iowa City) – **Judith Hurtig** has retired from Hancher Auditorium.

IL 1995 – Education Director **Jill Potter** now represents Urban Gateways on this team. Her e-mail address is jpotter@urbangateways.org and her phone number is (312) 922-0440.

KY 1999 – This team welcomes **Jana Beth Slibeck Francis**, Director of Assessment, Research and Curriculum Development for Daviess County Public Schools, who replaces **Leesa Moman**. Jana Beth's contact information is (270) 852-7000 ext. 236 or janabeth.francis@daviess.kyschools.us.

MS 2007 – Executive Director of Assessment and School Improvement **Amy Carter** joins this team as the new representative for Meridian Public School District, replacing **Lucy Keene**. Amy can be reached at amcarter@mpsd.k12.ms.us or (601) 482-8245.

TX 2001 – College Station Independent School District and Bryan Independent School District are no longer member organizations.

Alana Adams of South Carolina 1992 was named Educator of the Year by the Arts Council of Beaufort County and was honored at the council's annual meeting. Alana is the Director of Education at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina on Hilton Head Island and also leads art residencies at local schools. Congratulations, Alana!

ArtsEd Washington Executive Director Interviewed by KeepArtsInSchools.org

Under the leadership of **Executive Director and NLC Member Una McAlinden**, **ArtsEd Washington** has secured more than ten state-level proclamations and resolutions in support of Arts Education Month. Her [interview](#) with [KeepArtsInSchools.org](#) includes some food for thought regarding success in local advocacy and keeping arts in schools.



News and Resources

Accessing Stimulus Funds for Arts Education

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act includes a number of expanded funding opportunities that could be available to assist arts education providers. This resource [guide](#) from Americans for the Arts outlines programs and policies to help arts education advocates understand and access stimulus funds. *Accessing Stimulus Funds for Arts Education* offers details about each program that was funded through the ARRA stimulus legislation, details of arts education's fit within each program, and guidance on accessing the funds.

Service in Summer and Beyond

Arts organizations active in projects in service to their communities can join the United We Serve campaign by [registering](#) their projects and sharing information about the impact of their efforts. While the following themed weeks have been identified, projects outside of these areas of focus are always welcome in the registry:

- July 27: Education
- August 3: Energy & Environment
- August 10: Health
- August 24: Safety & Security
- August 31: Interfaith Service
- September 11: National Day of Remembrance and Service

Although United We Serve is currently designated as 81 days of service running through September 11, 2009, plans are underway for the initiative to become an ongoing promotion of service initiatives throughout the country.

NEA Support Saves Jobs

Federal grants to 64 [orchestras](#) will preserve jobs in communities nationwide, thanks to orchestra awards totaling \$2.6 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, announced by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). "America's orchestras fuel local economies, attract new business development, spark the imaginations of young people, and, through the power of music, unite individuals and cultures in times of challenge as well as celebration," said League of American Orchestras President and CEO Jesse Rosen. "These stimulus funds will enable orchestras to continue making meaningful contributions to community cultural life while helping to stabilize their local economies." Orchestras across the United States will use federal funds to preserve full and part-time administrative and artistic positions that were in jeopardy of being eliminated.

First Lady Stresses Arts Exposure

Addressing the winners of the annual National Design Awards, [Michelle Obama](#) remarked, "An educational foundation is only part of the equation. In order for creativity to flourish and imagination to take hold, we also need to expose our children to the arts from a very young age." She said Albert Einstein had it right when he said imagination is more important than knowledge. "We need to ensure that our children have both — knowledge and imagination...They deserve to have access to a good education and access to ideas and images that will spark their creativity." She also spoke of her efforts "to break down barriers that too often exist between major cultural establishments and the people in their immediate communities. So we've been sending a lot of role models out there in the far reaches of this city and then inviting kids to come back here to the White House. That's been a big part of the messages of every single event that we've done here at the White House. These kids who are living just inches away from power and prestige and fortune and fame, we want those kids to know that they belong here, too... and in the museums, and in libraries, and laboratories all over this country."

2008 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts

Arts Participation 2008: Highlights from a National Survey features top [findings](#) from the *2008 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts*, the nation's largest and most representative periodic study of adult participation in arts events and activities, conducted by the NEA in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau.

Fellowship for Emerging Arts Leaders of Color

The Chicago-based Joyce Foundation has renewed its support for Americans for the Arts' Professional Development Fund for Emerging Arts Leaders of Color. A total of five Joyce [Fellows](#) from the Great Lakes region (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin) will be selected to participate in this program in 2009. Fellows will receive stipends of \$3,000 to support their attendance at the 2009 National Arts Marketing Project Conference, Arts Advocacy Day 2010, and the 2010 Americans for the Arts Convention. In addition, fellows will have special opportunities to meet field leaders, work alongside mentors, and receive career coaching. An additional 5 fellows will be selected in 2010. Deadline: August 14.

President Obama, Secretary Duncan Announce Race to the Top

President Barack Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan [announced](#) that states leading the way on school reform will be eligible for \$4.35 billion in Race to the Top competitive grants to support education reform and innovation. Between the 2009 budget and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), more than \$10 billion in grant money will be available to states and districts that are driving reform. "This competition will not be based on politics, ideology, or the preferences of a particular interest group. Instead, it will be based on a simple principle—whether a state is ready to do what works. We will use the best data available to determine whether a state can meet a few key benchmarks for reform—and states that outperform the rest will be rewarded with a grant. Not every state will win and not every school district will be happy with the results. But America's children, America's economy, and America itself will be better for it," President Obama said.

White House Hosts Students, Country Music Artists for Workshop

"Now, I know folks think I'm a city boy, but I do appreciate listening to country music," President Barack Obama said to guests gathered in the East Room for a performance by country musicians Alison Krauss and Union Station. Brad Paisley and country music legend Charley Pride also entertained the audience, which included first lady Michelle Obama, Cabinet secretaries and lawmakers. The performance, along with a morning workshop for students, was the second in a [music series](#) that Mrs. Obama launched last month to encourage arts and arts education. The first session was devoted to jazz. A classical music workshop is planned for the fall.

House Approves \$15 Million Increase in 2010 Arts Funds

The House of Representatives [voted](#) on June 26 to pass the fiscal year 2010 Interior Appropriations bill with an increase of \$15 million in the funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), bringing the proposed budget to \$170 million for the coming year. The budget sent to Congress by President Obama would have raised the arts endowment's spending to \$161.3 million over the current funding of \$155 million. The measure passed the House without controversy over the federal arts spending.



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Americans for the Arts, ArtsEd Digest, Associated Press, Huffington Post, KeepArtsInSchools.org, League of American Orchestras, U.S. Department of Education, National Endowment for the Arts, United We Serve



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