

December 2009

Ayers' Air

There are so many things that can negatively impact our work: the economy, our co-workers, students, family, health, etc. The list goes on and on. I believe there is an answer for every challenge we face, but sometimes the answer is not one we want to hear. When challenges come, we can seek answers through consulting with others, we can sit back and hope that the answer will magically appear, or we can go out there and find it. In this age of information and technology, never before have people had so much information at their finger tips.

I challenge you not to sit back and wait for things to happen. You are the one who needs to take action and needs to step forward. Other people can be good resources, but remember that you have the best perspective on your problem and you truly can find a solution to your dilemma. I know it is easier said than done, but as Teddy Roosevelt says in our new production of *Teddy Roosevelt and the Ghostly Mistletoe*, "In a moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The next best thing is the wrong thing. And the worst thing you can do is nothing." So take action and make the decisions that will move your organization forward.

Darrell

The 2010 Annual Meeting is Just a Couple of Months Away!

The 2010 Annual Meeting—*Arts Education in Motion: Taking Bold Strides*—is one you don't want to miss!

From **February 9-12, 2010**, national leaders in the arts education field will come together in Washington, D.C. to share ideas and learn from colleagues from around the country. Participants will experience **Liz Lerman's** "Animated Keynote," which will include a speech by the world-famous choreographer and MacArthur Fellow, along with demonstrations by Liz Lerman Dance Exchange company members. Other memorable speakers will include **Eric Booth** (21st Century Skills), **Deborah Brzoska** (Developing Professional Learning Communities in Schools and in Arts Organizations), **Amy Duma** (Program Design for Arts Integration Schools – CETA), **Una McAlinden** (Anchoring Arts Education: the Role of the Elementary School Principal), **Paddy Bowman and the Louisiana 1993 team** (Incorporating Folk Arts and Artists into Classrooms), **Narric Rome** (moderating a panel on arts and arts education policy), a **Workshop Sampler** with three Teaching Artists: Daniel Sklar (drama), Cynthia Elek (music), and Sandi Hammonds (visual arts), **Katha Kissman** (Board Development), and **Janet Brown** (the current funding climate). Other exciting experiences include a **Teaching Artist "Meet and Greet,"** which will feature Teaching Artists from the Kennedy Center roster; **"Topic Tastings,"** which will include wine tastings and Topic Tables combined; a performance of *The Sleeping Beauty* by the **Mariinsky Ballet**; and an interview with **Michael Kaiser**, Kennedy Center President, who will speak about his Arts in Crisis tour to all 50 states and the Any Given Child program. Join us for a week of inspirational sessions, timely discussions, networking opportunities, and unforgettable memories!



The early registration deadline is just around the corner! Register by **December 15** to receive the **new low registration fee of \$199** (more than \$150 off the regular fee). After that date, the registration fee is \$299. Please contact Kelsey Mesa at krmesa@kennedy-center.org with any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you in February!

The Kennedy Center Performing Arts Series

The Kennedy Center Performing Arts Series presents two distance learning programs in December. On **Thursday, December 3** from **11 AM-12 PM ET**, the director and cast members from the Gate Theater's (Dublin) production of *Waiting for Godot* discuss Samuel Beckett's most popular play and delve into the many questions that surround this classic work.

Students get a glimpse into how Beckett masterfully examines the tedium and hope of human existence. A study guide containing background information, resources, and instructional activities is included online with this program. Of special interest to upper level students and adults is the new series, "Up Close and Personal", which features some of the most celebrated lyricists and composers of stage, TV, and screen. On **Thursday, December 3** from **1-2 PM ET**, legendary composer Charles Strouse discusses the creation of his Tony award-winning musicals *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Applause*, and *Annie*, and Broadway artists perform several of his memorable compositions. These programs are available via satellite, cable, and the Performing Arts Series distance learning website at www.kennedy-center.org/pwvtv.



Arts in Crisis 50 State Tour: December

This month, Kennedy Center President **Michael Kaiser** will travel to Texas, Florida, and Hawai'i to address the challenges facing not-for-profit arts organizations in such areas as fundraising, building more effective Boards, budgeting, and marketing. Visit ArtsinCrisis.org for details.

December 1—Houston, TX—Moore's Opera House, 9:30-11 AM

December 2—San Antonio, TX—San Pedro Playhouse, 10-11:30 AM

December 9—Orlando, FL—Crowne Plaze Orlando, 9-11:30 AM

December 10—Miami, FL—Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, 9-11:30 AM

December 16—Honolulu, HI—Mission Memorial Auditorium, 9-11:00 AM

December 17—Maui, HI—Maui Arts & Cultural Center, 9-11:30 AM

Save The Date!

2011 Annual Meeting Dates:

Feb. 15-19, 2011

2012 Annual Meeting Dates:

Feb. 15-19, 2012



"People who might not speak a single word of the same language, who might not have a single shared experience, might still be drawn together when their hearts are lifted by the notes of a song, or their souls are stirred by a vision on a canvas. That is the power of the arts -- to remind us of what we each have to offer, and what we all have in common; to help us understand our history and imagine our future; to give us hope in the moments of struggle; and to bring us together when nothing else will."

- First Lady Michelle Obama

Register Now for the Kennedy Center Conference, *Arts Integration Schools: What, Why, and How!*

The Kennedy Center's Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA) program will host a national conference entitled, **"Arts Integration Schools: What, Why, and How"** from **April 7-10, 2010**. This four-day intensive conference will share a decade of the Kennedy Center's experience in 20 Washington, D.C. area schools aimed at building a school-wide philosophy for and practice of arts integration. Participants will learn about arts integration, participate in one of two workshops, and have the opportunity to visit a CETA school, observing teachers and conversing with principals and Arts Coaches.



Conference Registration Options

There are two registration options available for the conference: full or partial attendance.

- Full attendance is for teams* from schools districts and arts partnering organizations interested in learning about what and why of arts integration schools and the how—applying a strategic planning process for developing an arts integration elementary school. This option is recommended for schools interested in beginning or refining their programs. Participation is open to teams by application. Teams include five or more members: 1) arts organization staff, 2) school principal, 3) teacher leader(s), 4) arts specialist(s), 5) school district staff development or curriculum director.
- Partial attendance is for individuals from school districts or arts organizations interested in learning about the what and why of arts integration from the Kennedy Center's perspective.

Participants attending the full conference will engage in a strategic planning process to consider program design, and will also have the opportunity to attend Terrence McNally's *Master Class*. Conference presenters include Darrell Ayers, Amy Duma, Rosalind Flynn, Melanie Layne, Sean Layne, and Lynne Silverstein, as well as CETA teachers and principals. Applications are now being accepted. **The application/registration deadline is December 15.** For further information, please contact Michelle Carney at mcarney@kennedy-center.org.

National Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.

National Arts Advocacy Day will take place on **April 12-13, 2010** in Washington, D.C. With the incredible advocacy success that the arts have had this year, including \$50 million in the federal economic stimulus bill for arts jobs and now the \$12.5 million increase in NEA and NEH budgets, it is important to keep building on this **positive momentum**.

Introducing Kennedy Center Teaching Artist **Glenis Redmond**



Whether Kennedy Center Teaching Artist **Glenis Redmond** is performing, teaching, or writing

poetry, she aims to give her gifts of words, language, and self-expression back to the community. In her workshop *"Poetry Off the Page,"* which is taught in two parts for teachers of grades 5-8, participants experience poetry in terms of reading, writing, speaking, and performing. "I am a big believer that the literary arts and spoken art forms go hand in hand," Glenis states. "Poetry is not just what's written on the page; we need to breathe life into poetry."

In the first session of her workshop, teachers explore ways to help students write poetry, using brainstorming, imagery, and the layering of vocabulary. In session two, teachers examine ways to involve students in embodying poetry, using memorization, communication, and vocal projection. "You don't have to be a poet to teach poetry," Glenis claims. "It's not just a head thing, it's a heart thing."

Also known as a "performance poet," Glenis performs for audiences of diverse age groups around the country, telling autobiographical and narrative stories. Her award-winning and published poems recently earned her a nomination as Poet Laureate of North Carolina, which will allow her to highlight the poetry of her home state. "Poetry is for everyone, and I want to share my art with others." For more information about Glenis and her work, visit www.glenisredmond.com, or contact her at poetica11@aol.com.



Branding is more than just the tagline and logo for your organization. It is how the public interacts with your organization, what they see as your core values, and the specific benefit your organization brings to the community. By understanding these principals, organizations can improve their relationships with those they serve and those who fund them. For more information and practical exercises to help develop your organization's brand, download the audio recording and slides of [Network for Good's How to Build Your Nonprofit's Brand to Engage Today's Value-Conscious Supporters](#) workshop.



Partners in Education

Partnership Team Updates

CA 2005—This team welcomes **Annie Millar**, Director of Curriculum and Instructional Services for Healdsburg Unified School District, who replaces Linus Lancaster. Annie can be reached at (707) 431-3483 or amillar@husd.com.

FL 2005 (Melbourne)—Peggy Nolan, Art/Drama Resource Teacher, joins as a representative for Brevard Public Schools. Peggy's phone number is (321) 663-1000 x 361 and her e-mail is nolan.peggy@brevardschools.org

IN 1991—Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator **Karen Carter** replaces Lisa Lantrip as representative of MSD Wayne Township. She can be reached at (317) 227-8623 or karen.carter@wayne.k12.in.us.

KS 1991—**Patrick Kelly**, Fine Arts and Career and Technical Education Specialist for Lawrence Public Schools, replaces Ann Bruemmer. Patrick's contact information is (785) 832-5000 x 2405 or pkelly@usd497.org.

KY 1999—This team welcomes back **Julie White**, Fine and Performing Arts Specialist for Owensboro Public Schools, and **Roxi Witt**, General Manager for the RiverPark Center. Contact Julie at Julie.white@owensboro.kyschools.us or (270) 686-1000, and Roxi at rwitt@riverparkcenter.org or (270) 687-2770.

LA 1993—The Acadiana Arts Council has changed its name to the Acadiana Center for the Arts.

OH 1995—**Robb Hyde**, Executive Director of Wayne Center for the Arts, replaces Lisa Zemancik on this team. Robb's contact information is (330) 264-2787 or robbyhde@wayneartscenter.org

Secretary of Education to Hold a Town Hall for Students

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will host a Town Hall meeting during the Department of Education's television program, *Education News Parents Can Use*, live from a Public Broadcasting System station WETA on **December 15**, at **2PM EST**. Duncan will take comments and questions from students in the audience and via telephone, e-mail, and video. Students can contribute to the conversation by visiting www.ed.gov/edtv or calling the show during the live broadcast at **1-888-493-9382**, from **2-3PM EST**.

News and Resources

Michelle Obama Presents the Coming Up Taller Awards

First Lady Michelle Obama, honorary chair of the President's Committee on Arts and Humanities, has presented 15 programs with the [Coming Up Taller Award](#), which is bestowed to arts and humanities organizations that reach underserved youth. This year's recipients include the Shakespeare Remix program in New York City, where inner-city teens adapt and perform Shakespearean texts, and the Harmony Project in Los Angeles, which provides free music instruction to at-risk children.

MetLife Foundation Awards \$125,000 Grant to Liz Lerman Dance Exchange

Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, an internationally recognized contemporary dance company, has been awarded a MetLife Foundation grant for \$125,000 to create the [MetLife Foundation Healthy Living Initiative](#) at Liz Lerman Dance Exchange. This national program is designed to meet the growing demand for the skilled integration of art and artistic methods into the medical and health/wellness fields. The MetLife Foundation Healthy Living Initiative at Dance Exchange incorporates three activities to expand access to arts programs for patients nationwide, including artistic work with patients in healthcare settings, training of health professionals and caregivers in innovative artistic tools, and professional development for teaching artists who work with patients and caregivers.

President Obama Names Members of Arts Committee

President Obama named 25 members to the Committee on the Arts and Humanities. While President Obama appointed each member, first lady Michelle Obama is the honorary chair of the Committee, with film producer George Stevens Jr. and theater producer Margo Lion named as co-chairs. The Committee engages the public and business community in the arts, focusing on arts and humanities education, cultural diplomacy, economic revitalization through the arts and humanities and special events. The [list](#) of 25 people spans the arts and entertainment world, including actress Sarah Jessica Parker, Oscar winner Forest Whitaker, cellist Yo Yo Ma, *Vogue* editor Anna Wintour, philanthropist Teresa Heinz, architect Thom Mayne, and ballet dancer Damian Woetzel.

Government Involvement in Arts Issues on the Rise

On October 29, Congress passed a \$12.5 million [funding increase](#) as part of the FY 2010 Interior Appropriations bill for both the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The nation's two federal grant-making cultural agencies will now each have budgets of \$167.5 million, a \$12.5 million increase and their highest funding levels in 16 years.

Reasons to Support the Arts

Dan Willingham, a cognitive scientist at the University of Virginia, published an article in the *Washington Post* entitled "Six Practical Reasons Why Arts Education is Not a Mere Luxury." The "reasons" were presented at the Learning, Arts, and the Brain conference on May 9, 2009. The [six reasons](#) include: providing students with opportunities to feel successful, and to feel that they belong at school; offering a sense of creativity; presenting a unique means of communication, using representations in the mind other than words; creating the chance to participate in the arts, which allows children to see the importance of creating beauty; allowing children to work together for the benefit of others; and permitting children to express feelings that they otherwise might be unable to express.

Harlem Children's Zone Closes Achievement Gap

A new [study](#) from the National Bureau of Economic Research shows that Harlem Children's Zone—a New York City program in which charter schools are rounded out with services such as parenting workshops, early-childhood education, and health initiatives—closed the achievement gap between black and white students in most categories examined. The Obama administration has praised the initiative as a model for community schools. President and CEO of Harlem Children's Zone, Geoffrey Canada, presented the keynote address at the 2009 Annual Meeting.



News and Resources

NEA Education Leaders

Institute Requests Proposals

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will convene the fifth NEA Education Leaders Institute (ELI) to foster thinking on K-12 arts learning. The ELI, a partnership between the NEA and the Illinois Arts Council (IAC), will convene at a three-day conference in Chicago, IL, from July 26-28, 2010. Up to five teams, each from a different state, will be selected to participate. [Submissions](#) must be received by January 15, 2010. Questions may be directed to Tatiana Gant at tatiana.gant@illinois.gov.

“The Big Read” Now

Accepting Applications

“[The Big Read](#),” a program funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, is accepting applications from nonprofit organizations to conduct month-long, community-wide reads between September 2010 and June 2011. Organizations selected to participate will receive a grant ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000, access to online training resources, educational and promotional materials, an inclusion of organizational activities on The Big Read website, and the prestige of participating in a highly visible national program. Approximately 75 organizations from across the country will be selected by a panel of experts.

The Dana Foundation

Releases New Book

The Dana Foundation has released *Neuroeducation: Learning, Arts, and the Brain*, its newest free education resource. The [book](#) summarizes the culmination of a summit sponsored by The Johns Hopkins University School of Education’s Neuro-Education Initiative, and focuses on the convergence of neuroscience research as well as teaching and learning emphasizing the arts. The concerns and hopes of those working in the field are presented in a summary of the roundtable discussions that served as the centerpiece of the summit.

Virginia Teacher Uses Music to Improve Achievement

Virginia high-school teacher [Sharon Dravvorn](#) says her students' math scores have improved since she started blending sound effects and classical music with her teaching. Dravvorn, who recently won a Milken Educator Award, uses classical music to relax students and sound effects to help students focus and retain information. In 2008, all students who took Dravvorn’s class passed the Standards of Learning (SOL) test.

White House Hosts Music Day

In early November, the White House hosted a day of classical [music](#), and President Obama thanked musicians for sharing their passion for music. Guitar player Sharon Isbin, pianist Awadagin Pratt, cellist Alisa Weilerstein and violinist Joshua Bell performed in an evening concert in the East Room. This day of classical music included master classes and discussion sessions with 120 musicians from eight music schools around the country. The event is the fourth in a White House music series that draws students from around the country to work with well-regarded musicians, and highlights the importance of arts education.

Student Essay Competition Held by Theatre Association

The Educational Theatre Association is accepting submissions for its second annual Arts Education [Student Essay Competition](#), with the prompt, “How creativity can change the world.” The winner and a chaperone will receive \$1,500 toward expenses to attend Arts Advocacy Day, sponsored by Americans for the Arts, from April 12-13, 2010, in Washington, D.C. The winning essayist will take part in all scheduled Arts Advocacy Day events and their essay and photo will appear in *Dramatics Magazine*. Essays must be submitted by e-mail no later than February 15, 2010.

Music Used to Stimulate Memory Loss

The Wall Street Journal recently reported that familiar songs can help advanced-dementia patients reconnect with their memories and with each other. Neuroscientists are starting to identify the underlying brain mechanisms that explain how [music](#) connects with the mind and body, and they are starting to work with music therapists to develop new programs.

VSA arts and CVS Caremark Call for Artwork Submissions

VSA arts and CVS Caremark “All Kids Can” are calling for artwork submissions for [All Kids Can... CREATE!](#), a national call for children’s art. All artwork submitted before **February 5, 2010** will be included in an online art gallery and considered for display in a national touring exhibition in Washington, D.C. The June exhibition will feature artwork from every state and the District of Columbia. Teachers are eligible to receive \$1000 for their classrooms by submitting their students’ artwork.

Issue of *Principal Leadership* Focuses on Arts Education

The November 2009 [issue](#) of *Principal Leadership* from the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) focuses on the importance of arts education in schools. It features articles on reforming and transforming education with the arts, the importance of the arts in education, research studies of excellence in arts education, and highlights school arts programs, arts students, and special projects.

New Research on the National Arts Education Initiative

Arts Education for All: Lessons from the First Half of the Ford Foundation’s National Arts Education Initiative, a recent [publication](#) from the OMG Center for Collaborative Learning, provides research and progress on the first half of the National Arts Education Initiative. This initiative, developed by the Ford Foundation in 2004, addresses issues of equity and access in arts education, and advances a new and significant framework for increasing access to quality arts integration for all children. This publication covers roughly the first half (2004-2007) of the initiative, which is now in its final phases and is scheduled to conclude in 2011.

With Tight Budgets, Schools Cancel Trips

As schools across the country face massive budget cuts and parents face their own financial shortfalls, [field trips](#) are getting cancelled in droves. More than one in six schools plans to eliminate trips this year, according to a survey by the American Association of School Administrators. By next school year, one in four schools will need to cut field trips, according to the survey. In addition to cutting back on field trips, schools are also implementing larger class sizes, shorter school weeks, and teacher layoffs. To help this cause, school districts are raising money from parents or other outside sources.

New Publication on California Education

The California Alliance for Arts Education (CAAE) and California County Superintendents Educational Services Association announced *Achieving Balance in Districtwide Arts Assessment Systems*, authored by SRI International. The [report](#) reviews issues in district-wide arts education assessment systems and aims to clarify issues that California school districts will face in developing assessment systems, improving program quality, and enhancing reciprocal accountability for arts education.



National Partnerships Contact Information

Partners in Education

(202) 416-8806
www.kennedy-center.org/education/partners/

KCAAEN

(202) 416-8817
www.kennedy-center.org/education/kcaaen/

FAX

(202) 416-8802

Partners in Education Advisory Committee

Sharon Brooks
Bess Fredlund
Ray Gargano
Eileen Manganaro
David Platts
Michael Sandner
Candy Schneider

KCAAEN Network Leadership Committee

Kristy Callaway
Carol Fineberg
Amber Harper
Leslie Johnson
Una McAlinden
Gail Mukaihata Hannenmann
Penny Wallin

Email

BBShepherd@kennedy-center.org
JMAbodeely@kennedy-center.org
ACutler@kennedy-center.org
KRMesa@kennedy-center.org

Mailing Address

National Partnerships
Education Department
The Kennedy Center
PO Box 101510
Arlington, VA 22210

National Partnerships Staff

Barbara Shepherd, Director
John Abodeely, Program Manager
Adriana Cutler, Program Coordinator
Kelsey Mesa, Program Assistant
Monica Covitt, Part-time Assistant

Sources for this issue of UPDATE include:

Americans for the Arts, Arts Education Partnership, *Baltimore Sun*, www.boozallen.com, California Alliance for Arts Education, The Dana Foundation, The National Association of Secondary School Principals, The National Bureau of Economic Research, National Endowment for the Arts, The OMG Center for Collaborative Learning, President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, *Reuters*, *VSA Arts*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*



The Kennedy Center

Stephen A. Schwarzman

Chairman

Michael M. Kaiser

President

Darrell M. Ayers

Vice President, Education

Funding for the Kennedy Center's National Partnerships program is provided by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

The U.S. Department of Education supports approximately one-third of the budget for the Kennedy Center Education Department. The contents of this document do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.