

**Welcome to the Arts Education Network Weekly News
Representing you Nationally - Serving you Locally**

The Weekly News is always available online!

www.AmericansForTheArts.org/ArtsEducation/WeeklyNews

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1. AN ONLINE DEBATE ON ARTS EDUCATION: WILL OUR CULTURE SUFFER IF WE DON'T DO MORE TO TEACH THE ARTS

Join leaders in the arts for a discussion on the state of arts education. This is a one-week virtual conversation with 15 leaders in arts and education on ArtsJournal.com - December 1-5, 2008.

A Debate on Arts Education: Will our culture suffer if we don't do more to teach the arts?

For decades, as teaching of the arts has been cut back in our public schools, alarms have been raised about the dire consequences for American culture. Artists and arts organizations stepped in to try to take up some of the slack. Foundations funded programs to take art into the schools. But producers of art aren't primarily in the education business. Schools increasingly focused on meeting basic skills benchmarks have less and less time to make room for study of the arts. And technology has spawned a vast, crowded, and alluring marketplace of creativity competing for attention. New research sponsored by the Wallace Foundation suggests that a generation of Americans has not developed the knowledge or skills to engage with our cultural heritage. Without that engagement, the arts as we know them are unsustainable over the long run. Can anything be done?

Participants include:

- Sam Hope, executive director, The National Office for Arts Accreditation (NOAA)
- Jack Lew, Global University Relations Manager for Art Talent at EA
- Laura Zakaras, RAND
- James Cuno, Director, Art Institute of Chicago
- Richard Kessler, Executive Director, Center for Arts Education
- Eric Booth, Actor
- Midori, Violinist
- Bau Graves, Executive director, Old Town School of Folk Music
- Kiff Gallagher, Music Nation Service Initiative Founder
- Bennett Reimer, Founder of the Center for the Study of Education and the Musical Experience, author of A Philosophy of Music Education; Edward -Pauly, the director of research and evaluation at the Wallace Foundation
- Moy Eng, Program Director of the Performing Arts Program at The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

-John Rockwell, critic
-Susan Sclafani, Managing Director, Chartwell Education Group

<http://www.artsjournal.com/artsed>

2. IMPACT OF FEDERAL ELECTIONS ON THE ARTS

After a historic campaign season that saw Sen. Barack Obama defeat Sen. John McCain in the race for president of the United States, Democrats will have the majority in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate starting with the 111th Session of Congress.

Democrats now enjoy a 255–175 edge in the House, with five races still without a declared winner as of this writing. In the Senate, Democrats currently hold a 58–40 advantage, as two races are still undetermined. Both the Senate Cultural Caucus and the Congressional Arts Caucus will see considerable changes.

Learn more about the changes in Washington by following Americans for the Arts Action Fund's complete coverage of the federal elections and its impact on the arts in both legislative chambers, including the incoming administration's comprehensive plans for arts and arts education.

(PDF) <http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/specialreports/electionimpact>

Also, Judith Winston, general counsel for the Department of Education in the Clinton administration, and Professor Linda Darling-Hammond of Stanford University are heading President-elect Barack Obama's transition team at the Department of Education.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2008/11/13/abcs-of-the-education-department-transition/>

3. ADVOCACY TOOLS & TIPS

CONTRIBUTE TO ARTS EDUCATION ADVOCACY

A new online effort implores arts education professionals to share their stories. "Send your stories about your work in arts education to: arts.ed.advocates@gmail.com. They will be posted at 1_story.posterous.com. Once we have reached a critical mass of stories, a press-release will be sent out, officials will be contacted, parents will be illuminated, and doubters will see the light!"

http://1_story.posterous.com/1-story

4. NEWS

-THE DEFINITION OF ARTS INTEGRATION
Supposedly. Feel free to edit.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arts_integration

-HIGH PROFILE PLAY ABOUT ARTS ED AND NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

This NPR Story offers commentary from the show's writer/actor Nilaja Sun as well as <http://tinyurl.com/6fynht>

-TIME ONLINE IS GOOD FOR TEENS

America's youth are developing important social and technical skills online, often in ways adults do not understand or value. "It concludes that learning today is becoming increasingly peer-based and networked, and this is important to consider as we begin to re-imagine education in the twenty-first century."

<http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/news/story.jhtml?id=234700015>

-EDUCATION T.V.

This website hosts a round-up of videos about education.

<http://aftered.tv/>

-LOS ANGELES DISTRICT TAKES ON ARTS EDUCATION POLICY

Woodland School District's music department will be helped by a possible school board visual and performance art education policy.

http://www.dailydemocrat.com/news/ci_11056416

-'TRUE BLOOD' ACTOR FOR THE ARTS

Nelsan Ellis, who has a featured role on HBO's "True Blood," credits his two arts teachers for changing the course of his life.

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/commentary/1294123,CST-EDT-edit23a.article>

-ABOUT READING FIRST

The "Reading First Impact Study: Final Report" showed that the Reading First program "has a positive impact" on first-graders' decoding skills; phonics, and fluency skills. However, the evaluation also found "no statistically significant difference in reading comprehension..." between students participating in the program and those not.

<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2008/11/11192008.html>

-THE ROLE OF CAREER AND TECH EDUCATION

A report called "Learning to Work, Working to Learn" explores the role of career and technical education in education reform efforts.

<http://www.nasbe.org/index.php/news/49-spotlight/489-new-nov08>

-"CREATIVE BILL OF RIGHTS"

The delegates of the Oregon Arts Education Congress created a first draft of an "Oregon Bill of Creative Rights" in support of sustainable, equitable experiences in all art forms for K-12 students.

http://www.salem-news.com/articles/november212008/art_congress_11-21-08.php

-NEW RESOURCE: THE ARTS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TOOL KIT

The Arts and Civic Engagement Tool Kit: Planning Tools and Resources for Animating Democracy in Your Community features customizable worksheets and examples to help users plan, design, and partner to create meaningful engagement activities.

<http://ww2.americansforthearts.org/vango/core/orders/product.aspx?catid=1&prodid=961>

JOIN THE CONVERSATION WITH NEW BLOGGERS

Twelve members have answered the call to become year-round bloggers for ARTSblog, Americans for the Arts' official blog.

<http://blog.artsusa.org>

-MASSACHUSETTS 21ST CENTURY SKILLS REPORT

A report released Tuesday by the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's 21st Century Skills Task Force underlined the importance of creative learning and teaching artists in schools.

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/boe/docs/1108/item1.pdf>

-WALLACE GIVES \$7.7M TO SEATTLE ARTS

The Wallace Foundation has announced grants totaling \$7.7M to foster growth in Seattle arts attendance and participation.

<http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/news/story.jhtml?id=235000018>

5. FUNDING

-STUDENT FITNESS

The General Mills Champions for Healthy Kids encourages communities to improve the eating and physical activity patterns of young people. Deadline: Jan 15.

<http://www.generalmills.com/corporate/commitment/champions.aspx>

-SURDNA FOUNDATION

The Surdna Foundation's Arts Program is national in scope and supports the artistic advancement of teens (ages 12-18) through high-impact, long-term experiences creating art, in all disciplines.

http://www.surdna.org/programs/programs_list.htm?attrib_id=12040

-STATE FARM COMMUNITIES

The K-12 Public Schools category targets teacher quality, service-learning programs, and educational reform. Requests may be submitted throughout the year.

http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/cogrants.asp

-TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Fund for Teachers provides grants to PK-12 classroom teachers so that they can participate in training and enriching activities that will improve and enhance their skills and capacities as teachers. Deadline: Jan 30.

<http://www.fundforteachers.org/>

-MUSIC-BASED PROJECTS BY YOUNG PEOPLE

DoSomething.org and the GRAMMY Foundation are looking for young people who have an idea or existing project that uses music to make a difference.

<http://www.dosomething.org/grants/keychange>

-ARTS EDUCATION

LINC is launching a new cycle of grants open to all exemplary, diverse American arts organizations through its grantmaking program, ARTOGRAPHY: Arts in a Changing America.

<http://www.artsinachangingamerica.net/>

6. OPPORTUNITIES: GET INVOLVED, CONFERENCES, JOBS & AWARDS

GET INVOLVED:

-THE BIG READ

The Big Read is accepting applications from non-profit organizations to conduct month-long, community-wide reads between September 2009 and June 2010.

<http://www.NEABigRead.org>

-THE CREATIVE AGING TEACHING ARTISTS DATABASE

Lifetime Arts is identifying, recruiting and preparing to train teaching artists to work in the growing and important field of creative aging.

<http://www.lifetimearts.org/cgi-bin/dbform.pl>

CONFERENCES:

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JOBS:

Full Americans for the Arts Job Listings are online.

Post, search, apply. Hundreds of jobs; Thousands of applicants.

<http://jobbank.artsusa.org/>

AWARDS:

-CREATIVE SCIENCE TEACHERS

The Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence recognizes educators who elevate the level of science literacy through creativity in the classroom and motivation of students. Deadline: Feb. 2.

<http://www.amgen.com:80/citizenship/aaste.html>

7. QUOTE OF THE WEEK!

"With the exception of vouchers, which siphon scarce resources from public schools, no issue should be off the table, provided it is good for children and fair to teachers."

-President of the American Federation of Teachers, Randi Weingarten, signaling her openness to a number of school reform ideas that have been unpopular with teacher unions

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