

**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. WISCONSIN TASK FORCE ON CREATIVITY RELEASES
RECOMMENDATIONS**

An unprecedented task force, co-chaired by Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton and state Superintendent Libby Burmaster, has released its recommendations for improving arts education and creativity in Wisconsin.

Its recommendations include making sure all students have access to arts and creativity education and revising state school tests and standards to make sure developing creativity is a part of all schools' curriculum. The task force also called for more research to improve arts and creativity education.

The full report is online.

<http://www.creative.wisconsin.gov/>

2. IS YOUR DISTRICT A "BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION"?

Since 1998, the NAMM Foundation has been conducting the Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) Survey, a nationwide search for communities whose programs exemplify commitment to music education. The initiative recognizes and celebrates communities and their school administrators, teachers, board members, parents, community leaders and students for their support and commitment to their music education programs. The program also acknowledges community and school district commitment to assure access to music education for all students.

Americans for the Arts is proud to play a part in this important national recognition effort, and we encourage you participate in it as well by completing the tenth annual Best Communities for Music Education in America (BCME) survey. The 2009 survey will be conducted in collaboration with The Institute for Educational Research and Public Service of Lawrence, KS an affiliate of the University of Kansas.

Visit The NAMM Foundation January 15, 2009 through March 13, 2009 to review and complete an online survey form on behalf of your community. If you prefer, you can

forward this message to a school administrator, teacher, or Board of Education member who has more of the data close at hand.

Over the years, school districts have reported that being designated a "Best Community for Music Education" helped them gain valuable recognition for their communities that in turn aided their efforts to sustain and grow their music education programs. We encourage you to participate now on behalf of your community.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=AIVH5MMFgwPixwvjp_2fqT_2bA_3d_3d

3. ADVOCACY TOOLS & TIPS

UPDATE FROM OBAMA ON HIS ECONOMIC RECOVERY GOALS
From the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education

President-elect Barack Obama presented his "American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan" in a speech on January 8, 2009 at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

According to the President-elect, the current economic crisis is a result of "...an era of profound irresponsibility that stretched from corporate boardrooms to the halls of power in Washington, DC."

The President-elect's American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan, ".....represents not just new policy, but a whole new approach to meeting our most urgent challenges. For if we hope to end this crisis, we must end the culture of anything goes that helped create it - and this change must begin in Washington. It is time to trade old habits for a new spirit of responsibility. It is time to finally change the ways of Washington so that we can set a new and better course for America."

The proposed plan will create at least three million jobs in the private sector and save public sector jobs of teachers, police, firefighters, and others who provide vital services in the priority areas of energy, education, health care, and infrastructure. The following goals are proposed in the plan:

- Double the production of alternative energy in the next three years.
- Modernize more than 75% of federal buildings and improve the energy efficiency of two million American homes.
- Create new jobs for American workers in the energy field.
- Ensure all medical records are computerized within five years to improve the efficiency of our health care system.
- Equip schools, community colleges, and public universities with 21st century classrooms, labs, and libraries.
- Rebuild America's infrastructure and update our electric system.
- Expand access to technology and broadband.
- Invest in science, research, medical research, and technology.
- Provide immediate relief to states, workers, and families through a \$1,000 tax cut.
- Extend unemployment insurance and health care coverage.
- Support an unprecedented effort to eliminate unwise and unnecessary spending.
- Ensure that pet projects and earmarks are not included in this package.
- Address the foreclosure crisis.

--Reform a "weak and outdated regulatory system so that we can better withstand financial shocks and better protect consumers, investors, and businesses from the reckless greed and risk-taking that must never endanger our prosperity again.

According to President-elect Obama, "We have to make tough choices and smart investments today so that as the economy recovers, the deficit starts to come down. We cannot have a solid recovery if our people and our businesses don't have confidence that we're getting our fiscal house in order. That's why our goal is not to create a slew of new government programs, but a foundation for long-term economic growth."

http://change.gov/newsroom/entry/dramatic_action/

4. NEWS

-ARTS ED WEB RESOURCES

Dana Foundation's publications expert Ben Mauk publishes online arts ed resources each month.

<http://www.dana.org/news/artseducationinthenews/detail.aspx?id=8734>

-TEACHING TOOL: THE WORK OF DAN PINK

This teacher has a series of blog posts about how he taught the content of Dan Pink's book, A Whole New Mind.

http://thefischbowl.blogspot.com/search/label/Dan_Pink

-SUPERINTENDENTS FOR HIRE TALK ABOUT THE ARTS

One of the four supes for a job in this high-achieving district said the arts program was a draw. He's also a former art teacher.

<http://tinyurl.com/9ansx2>

-ARTS EDUCATION PARENT ADVOCACY GROUP

Bow Arts Advocacy is a community-based group of parents and others who want to enhance arts education in our schools.

<http://tinyurl.com/7tu7zd>

-G.M. SLOWS FUNDING TO ARTS ED GROUPS

GM has already notified about a dozen arts groups in Detroit not to expect any annual support in 2009 that will cost the local nonprofit arts community more than \$1M.

<http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/news/story.jhtml?id=240500014>

-2008 SCHOOLS RANKING BY STATE

The 13th annual Quality Counts report provides a state-by-state analysis of 35 educational indicators in three categories.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2008/01/10/index.html>

-THE ARTS AND THE RUST BELT

The Cleveland area Community Partnership for Arts and Culture released a white paper entitled "From Rust Belt to Artist Belt: Challenges and Opportunities in the Rust Belt Cities".

(PDF) <http://tinyurl.com/7nwt5w>

-AUSTRALIA IS LIKE THE U.S.

Arts education remains excluded from the Australian government's proposed national curriculum and early childhood education framework.

<http://tinyurl.com/9zgvxk>

-N.C.L.B. AUTHOR HAS DOUBTS

Michael J. Petrilli writes that he's "gradually and reluctantly come to the conclusion that NCLB as enacted is fundamentally flawed and probably beyond repair."

<http://tinyurl.com/8w85rx>

5. FUNDING

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

GET INVOLVED:

-

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:

-EXCELLENT SCHOOLS AWARD

The Intel Schools of Distinction program recognizes schools throughout the U.S. that excel in math and science education. Deadline: Feb 17.

<http://www.intel.com/education/schoolsofdistinction/>

-NONPROFIT AWARD

American Express Building Leadership Award recognizes nonprofit organizations for their leadership in developing and investing in the people of the charitable community. Deadline: Feb 16.

<http://www.independentsector.org/programs/leadership/OrganizationalAward.htm>

-KIDS' CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

Igniting Creative Energy competition encourages K-12 students to offer their energy solutions. Deadline: Mar 13.

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

7. QUOTE OF THE WEEK!

"I hope the coming changes in Washington will advance and strengthen all of the positive accomplishments at the NEA. The next appointed chairperson after Gioia steps down in January ... will inherit a revitalized agency. Hopefully, they will recognize Gioia's legacy as the wind at their back and continue to champion his important vision."

-Janet Eilber, in "Arts Chairman Leaves a Proud Legacy in His Wake in Arts Education in the News. Janet is artistic director of the Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance and advisor for Arts Education in the News.

<http://www.dana.org/news/artseducationinthenews/detail.aspx?id=13982>

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