CREATIVE LEADERSHIP EXERCISE

VISUALIZING ISSUES TO ADDRESS
Chief Creative Officers
Advocate for Change

Change Agents:
1. Ask Essential Questions
2. Reflect on Insights
3. Visualize – then Address Issues
4. Decide Next Steps
Translating Insights into Action

4 Artistic Processes in new National Core Arts Standards

- Create
- Present
- Respond
- Connect
Creative Leadership Exercise

Address the Elephant in the Room
or
Get Issues On the Table

✓ Consider issues discussed. What has not yet been addressed—that could impact arts education progress?

✓ What’s the “elephant in the room”—seems invisible but is fundamental and could stall efforts?

✓ What challenges must arts leaders face and “get on the table”—starting here and now?
Creative Leadership Exercise

Visualizing Barriers

Artists’ work serves as a metaphor and inspiration to spark ideas for how you will visualize the issues.

Artist Inspiration from the Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies:
Frank Stella, Helen Frankenthaler and Laurie Simmons
Essential Questions:

- What are key issues arts leaders must address to be successful in the transition to ESSA?
- What assumptions exist today that may not be true when ESSA is implemented?
- What barriers or misunderstanding do arts leaders need to address as states and districts establish their policies?
- What will states and districts need from arts leaders to inform their decisions?
- Who might be like-minded education thought leaders and collaborative partners to help the efforts?
- Who do arts leaders need to convince and what would be compelling for those decision makers?
- How would you craft compelling messages, thinking of what matters to those decision makers?
- How can your organization become a valued resource to the new decision makers?
- When do these conversations need to occur to impact policies and practices?
- Where are promising practices from other districts/states, relevant to decision makers?
Consider points from Essential Questions discussion.

Visualize “what’s the elephant in the room?”

What “needs to get out on the table?”

Create a crayon-watercolor resist. It reveals what lingers but is not seen. Draw issues with white crayon on white paper. They will be invisible until painted over with paint pen/watercolor wash.

Glue paper frame around art. Articulate action steps and key messages. Black paper & metallic markers = metaphor “Emerging from Darkness—Unknown Space.”

Prepare to share art & insights.
CREATIVE LEADERSHIP EXERCISE

1. Watercolor Resist
2. Time, Energy, For Community
3. NEW! Metallic Markers
4. People at workshop
5. Use Scene Card to Motivate Be available, approachable Focus on a core team, listen, look for opportunities
Present & Respond

1. Describe your visual. What issues were the “elephant in the room” ever-present but not addressed? What needs to “get out on the table”?

2. How did considering others’ points-of-view (Essential Questions discussion) influence your art?

3. How did visualizing lingering issues make the challenges and opportunities more tangible?

4. What patterns in key issues and messages emerged in the artwork?
Connect: Reflective Prompts

What helps people embrace change and convince them to broaden their point-of-view?

- Reflect on the power of both research & emotion.
  - While facts provide important documentation, stories change people’s minds! What stories about art’s impact on students would be emotionally engaging?
  - Consider what decision makers are afraid of. How can addressing their fears get “issues on the table?”

- “So what?” Sure arts in education matters to you…
  - Consider why it might matter to others.
  - How will you customize comments, based on their point-of-view?
  - How can you reveal the elephant in their room?

- “What if…” People are more likely to change when they imagine what could be different.
  - Consider what arts in education can do to help them accomplish their goals. Paint that “what if…” story.
Next Steps

• How will these insights influence your discussion during the rest of the symposium?

• Would you implement a similar exercise when you return to your organization/community?

• What from this exercise was most helpful to you in planning your next steps?