

Arts at the Core

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARTS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM FROM THE OKLAHOMA ARTS COUNCIL

Workshop Reminder: ArtsRelief! Saturday, May 20

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Thurman White Building
College of Continuing Education
University of Oklahoma, Norman

Sponsored by the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts

All artists, arts therapists, arts educators and counselors are invited to attend the ArtsRelief! Workshop on Saturday May 20, 2000 at the Thurman White Forum Building of the Oklahoma College of Continuing Education on the campus of the University of Oklahoma in Norman. The workshop will focus on the role of the arts in trauma or crisis intervention and resolution. Cost of registration is \$35 and includes workshop materials and lunch. **Registration deadline is April 14.** Sessions include:

Soothing the Strife through the Arts Presenter: Debbie Simms, LMFT, LPC, ATR-BC

The arts are an exquisite way to soothe emotional disturbances caused by community disaster. This session will provide information about psychological crisis reactions, and how these effects can result in disarray, disrupting behavior and healthy living. Attendees will participate in an art activity to integrate these concepts into their particular manner of working, generating ideas of their own and how they can help others in the future.

Weaving World Within Presenter: Cindy Cotner, Artist-in-Residence, Oklahoma Arts Council

The arts and personal reflection can take the parts of our world that seem fragmented and weave them whole. Participants will create a wordweaving of significant phrases, colors and images that relate to the self, revealing ways that art, reflection and personal writing can help connect empathetically with victims of trauma.

Creating a Safe Place-Coping Through Art Presenter: Sharon Heath, MBS, LPC, ATR-BC

Through guided imagery, workshop participants will imagine a safe place and create a mixed media work of art. Participants will then focus on an anxiety trigger and through cognitive restructuring create a positive affirmation to enable a sense of safety and security.

In addition to the workshop, six communities hardest hit by the tornado disaster last year, have been invited to design summer arts programs for children. For more information, contact Paulette Black, arts education director, 405.521.2931.

“Getting There...From Here” Summer Music Teacher Conference Planned

“Getting There...From Here” is a statewide music educators’ conference being sponsored by the Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra Society, Inc. with an Artist and Educator Collaborative Grant from the Oklahoma Arts Council. The conference is scheduled for June 16-17 and will be held concurrently with the Louise D. McMahon International Music Competition. It will take place at the McMahon Auditorium in Lawton, the Percussive Arts Society International Headquarters, the Museum of the Great Plains and Lawton High School. The format will involve an opening session with keynote address followed by two days of rigorous hands-on music education workshops for elementary, middle and high school teachers. The goal of the conference is to create greater awareness of the importance of music in education and to provide lesson ideas for implementing the Priority Academic Student Skills in General Music. For registration information, contact the Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra Society, Inc. 580.248.2001.

Rural Artists-in-Residence Initiative

The Oklahoma Arts Council is launching a Rural Artists-in-Residence Initiative beginning next fall. The purpose of this Initiative is to increase the visibility and use of the Artists-in-Residence Program in rural schools and communities throughout Oklahoma. Especially targeted are those sites that have never sponsored the AIR Program or have not done so in recent years. Eligible sites are rural when not considered urban, suburban or in metropolitan areas, generally with low-density populations and located in areas not easily accessible to city resources.

The Initiative will enable eligible sites to apply for one-to-one matching funds for one-week residencies even if they have previously sponsored one. The match will provide half (or \$300) of the professional fee of \$600. The OAC will also continue to provide the site planning and relocation fees. Roster artists contribute to the mission of schools by:

- *Contributing specific knowledge and skills not otherwise available;*
- *Providing additional approaches to curriculum and instruction;*
- *Providing teachers new insight and techniques in the arts;*
- *Providing greater understanding and appreciation of different art forms and the arts of diverse cultures;*
- *Providing students with an opportunity to work closely with professional artists; and*
- *Providing ideas for integrating the arts with other core curriculum subjects.*

For more information concerning the Rural Artists-in-Residence Initiative, please contact Leslie Johnson, artist-in-residence coordinator at 405.521.2931.

Attention Artists! A-I-R Recruitment Begins

Artists interested in working in various schools and communities throughout the state are encouraged to apply for admission to the Oklahoma Arts Council roster for the Artists-in-Residence Program. Applicants should have a demonstrated commitment to their art form and be able to engage participants of various ages in the hands-on creative process. They should also have excellent communication and organizational skills and have the ability to plan, design and sequence residency activities in partnership with the sponsoring organization.

Roster categories include: **creative writing**—poetry, fiction, nonfiction, scriptwriting; **dance**—modern, creative movement, ethnic/jazz/folk, ballet, choreography; **music**—instrumental, blues, popular, contemporary, jazz, vocal, composing; **theatre/storytelling**—acting, creative drama, mime; **traditional arts**—music, dance, traditional hand-crafted art (beadwork, quilting, fiberwork, baskets, applique, leatherwork) out of a cultural tradition; **visual art**—(graphic art, painting, photography, design arts, media arts including film, video, etc.).

APPLICATION PROCESS CALENDAR

April 1, 2000	Applications Available
April 1 - July 1, 2000	Artist Recruitment Period
August 2000	Panel Reviews
July 1, 2001	Roster Artist Start Date

The completed application must be submitted to the Oklahoma Arts Council or postmarked no later than Monday July 3.

To receive an artist application form, contact Leslie Johnson, artists-in-residence coordinator at 405.521.2931.

Down from the Shimmering Sky: Masks of the Northwest Coast School and Museum Partnership

Charles Page High School in Sand Springs, recently completed a School and Museum Partnership project with Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa. The project focused on the exhibition, Down from the Shimmering Sky: Masks of the Northwest Coast. The exhibit included more than 150 masks, dating from the 1700s to the present day and were created by artists of the 10 First Nations indigenous to the Western Canadian coast. Nearly 500 Charles Page students visited the exhibit, along with eight faculty members. Pam Tameny, who coordinated the project, shared highlights of the project including:

1. Teachers visited the exhibit with docents before the students did and served in turn, as docents for the student tours;
2. Teachers worked with museum staff, including Deborah Burke, program administration coordinator and were given a lecture by Kevin Smith, museum education curator;
3. Six of the thirteen skills from the state curriculum were addressed as a result of the project, with two being the focus. These included: Explain the relationship between a work of art, culture and history and Create original works of art with a variety of art media from observation, memory and imagination.
4. Student tours included teacher commentary on exhibition pieces. As an added treat – two museum guards gave impromptu speeches, which provided additional background information and insight into the culture and customs of the 1st Nations Tribes and the exhibit.
5. A hands-on experience with guest artist, Richard Bay, provided the opportunity for students to make their own masks, which received coverage in the local media.
6. Classroom resource/curriculum materials were developed.

Alliance for Arts Education Awarded Partnership Grant

The Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education has been awarded a matching grant by the Oklahoma Arts Council to identify a minimum of six regional coordinators who will make public awareness presentations about the status of arts education in Oklahoma. The presentations will include the showing of “The Arts & Children...A Success Story,” by the Maryland Alliance for Arts Education, featuring actress Meryl Streep.

“Young people who learn the arts do better in every phase of their lives,” says actress Streep in the 12-minute piece created for the Arts Education Partnership. The Partnership is a national coalition of business, education, arts and government groups committed to maintaining and enhancing arts education in the nation’s schools.

“This video powerfully captures the need for quality arts education in our schools,” said U. S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley. “I urge school administrators and school boards across the country to consider its message.”

With scenes of elementary and secondary school students engaged in the visual and performing arts, the video uses narrative from business and academic experts who assert that studying the arts increases the intellectual capacity and performance of students.

The tape and its accompanying printed materials will provide the basis for an informational program that will inform various communities about the importance of arts education for all students. For information about the project, contact Aarone Corwin, OAAE Board member at 405.769.3073.

The OAAE is a statewide non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage and strengthen the arts in all educational processes within the state, including as core curriculum. They annually sponsor the State Superintendent’s Awards for Arts Excellence this year, recognizing approximately 90 talented high school seniors in various arts disciplines. The organization is a member of the Kennedy Center Partnership for Arts Education network. Board Chairman is Jack Herron, with the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics in Oklahoma City.

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Technology Tips for Teachers

MUST SEE web sites for innovative teaching ideas and links:

Web sites with lesson plans and other arts
resources:

Cultural Funding: Federal Opportunities

www.arts.gov/federal.html

Sounds of the Symphony

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/interact/longterm/horizon/121196/symphony.htm

Discovery Channel School

school.discovery.com/

The Global School House

www.gsh.org/site/allsearch.html

Pioneer Library System

www.pioneer.lib.ok.us/plssub.html

Disney Learning Partnership

disney.go.com/disneylearning/clc

National Gallery of Art

www.nga.gov/education/education.htm

National Portrait Gallery

www.npg.si.edu/

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

www.scholastic.com/artandwriting/about.htm

Teachers & Writers Collaborative

www.twc.org/