

# Arts at the Core

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

## **ArtsRelief! Workshop Scheduled Saturday, May 20**

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

“Her own house, too, must be fixed; she informs me as she begins a painting with only brush and water—no color. I show her how to dip the brush in the paint, but she wisely ignores me and pursues the more satisfying pleasure of an invisible painting. You can't lose what you can't see.”

—Joan Phillips, Licensed Professional Counselor and Art Therapist  
From her journal of working with tornado victims in Moore, Oklahoma

The workshop will focus on the role of the arts in crisis or trauma resolution and recovery. Sponsored by the Oklahoma Arts Council with a special grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the workshop is designed for artists, teachers, counselors or others interested in the healing aspects of the arts in the face of trauma—especially in working with children. Partnering with the Arts Council in this workshop is the College of Continuing Education, University of Oklahoma, the Art Therapy Association of Oklahoma and VSAarts Oklahoma (formerly Very Special Arts Oklahoma).

The NEA grant was made possible as the result of the devastating tornado outbreak last May. The purpose of the workshop is to lead artists, educators and counselors in greater understanding of the role of the arts in trauma or crisis intervention. Through facilitated discussion, sharing insights, guided reflection and arts experiential activities, the following areas will be addressed:

1. Understanding the stages of trauma or crisis – natural or man-made disasters
2. Psychological aspects of trauma (individual as well as community)
3. Re-discovering and connecting the empathetic with the aesthetic
4. Identifying signs for more rigorous intervention or referral (behavior and/or other forms of expression)
5. Typical issues faced by people in trauma including long-term implications
6. Applications for healing – connecting the arts process to the ailment

Registration is \$35.00 and includes a workshop packet, certificate of attendance and lunch. A university credit option is also available. For additional information, contact the Oklahoma Arts Council 405.521.2931.

## Snow-bound guest artists visit from Kennedy Center

Two artists from the Kennedy Center Partners in Education Program in Washington, D.C. visited the Oklahoma Arts Council during the recent snow days that caused the cancellation of an arts integration conference. Kimberli Boyd, dancer, performing artist and artist educator from Madison Heights, Michigan and Dylan Pritchett, storyteller from Williamsburg, Virginia, discussed the Kennedy Center program and working with teachers throughout the nation.

An important goal of their workshops is to help teachers learn the process of critical thinking about an art form and how to help students develop that skill. Asking good, open-ended questions is essential in this process. They emphasized the importance of the arts beyond entertainment and view the arts as a powerful learning opportunity.

"The arts will energize you and your students. Imagine if students left school everyday with new energy and enthusiasm for learning," Boyd said. "In my workshops, I ask teachers to recognize how they feel at the beginning of the professional development experience and again at the end. Generally, they feel like they could go out and teach another few hours and this is after a three hour movement workshop!"

Pritchett agreed and said his workshops are not intended to turn teachers into storytellers, but will help them to use the arts in their teaching. "Storytelling can reinforce lessons already being taught in other ways. It can strengthen character education and a basic understanding of universal courtesies like please and thank you, respect for others and non-violence to solve problems."

Storytelling also teaches good listening skills, public speaking and communication as does dance, especially when students are asked solid, open-ended questions throughout and at the end of the experience.

Boyd added, "The process of art can support and facilitate learning in a real and authentic way. I ask teachers and students, How can you take any particular knowledge and apply that knowledge to your own life? In movement, that may be

recognition of personal space and learning how people can touch respectfully, as in dance and not through violence. Through movement exercises, participants can learn what their comfort level is and practice how to effectively ask for distance and respect," Boyd concluded.

They both added that teacher participation along with their students' is important to student learning. "If teachers are in the back of the room grading papers, students notice they are not fully engaged in the arts process. The message is sent to the students that the arts are not that important," Pritchett said.

Patrick Riley, Visual Art Coordinator for Oklahoma City Public Schools who hosted the team, said this is the fifth year Kennedy Center artists have provided professional development in Oklahoma City. The district is a member of the "Partners in Education Program" with BLAC! Inc. According to Anita Arnold, Director of BLAC! Inc., the arts integration conference will be rescheduled this spring. Call 524-3800 for additional information. [www.oktech.org](http://www.oktech.org)

## Champions of Change - New Research Just Released

*Champions of Change: The Impact of the Arts on Learning* has just been published by the Arts Education Partnership. The report presents the results of seven major studies providing important new evidence of enhanced learning and achievement when the arts are an integral part of the education experience, both in and out of K-12 schools. Both qualitative and quantitative data is included, showing that the learning and achievement of students improved in a variety of arts experiences. The report offers clear evidence of how the arts can improve academic performance, energize teachers and transform learning environments.

Among the findings:

Students with high levels of arts participation outperform "arts-poor" students on virtually every measure.

Learning through the arts has significant effects on learning in other domains.

Arts experiences enhance "critical thinking" abilities and outcomes.

The arts enable educators to reach students in effective ways.

The arts have a measurable impact on students in “high-poverty” and urban settings.

The arts in after-school programs guide disadvantaged youth toward positive behaviors and goals.

The report states, “When well taught, the arts provide young people with authentic learning experiences that engage their minds, hearts and bodies. The learning experiences are real and meaningful for them. While learning in other disciplines may often focus on development of a single skill or talent, the arts regularly engage multiple skills and abilities.”

The publication is available on the ArtsEdge web site: [artsedge.kennedy-center.org](http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org) or by contacting the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities by sending an e-mail request to [pcah@neh.gov](mailto:pcah@neh.gov).

### **Business Circle for Arts Education Reaffirms Commitment**

The annual meeting of The Business Circle for Arts Education was held in December, with over 35 members in attendance. Presentations were made by Cliff Hudson, Sonic Corp, Ira Schleziger, INTEGRIS Health and Jeanette Elliott, Ackerman McQueen.

Members shared why they believe arts education is important, relating how it has affected their lives and influenced their current success. Recurrent themes included learning teamwork, focus and concentration. Several also acknowledged the importance of the arts in economic development. LaVern Phillips, Woodward said, *The arts are an absolute key to the economic development of our towns.* Members received copies of remarks made by Ken Ferguson to the Legislative Task Force on Student Assessment. Ferguson stated, *We believe testing in any curriculum area is an indication of student learning. Testing offers assurance that instruction has taken place. We are pleased that the legislature has maintained its support of testing the core curriculum and that the arts are included in that initiative at grades 5 and 8. We support this without hesitation.*

*We are troubled, however, that testing in the arts was not maintained at the high school level. We know that there is specific content and knowledge in the arts that are important for all students at every level, including high school. To omit testing at the high school level is alarming because it suggests the arts are less important than other areas of the core curriculum. From a business perspective, this simply is not true. The experience the arts provide will give them the types of qualities employers increasingly look for. Because testing insures instruction, we support it as good for the business sector as well as for students.*

The Circle welcomed new members: Wanda Bass, First National Bank of McAlester; Stan Clark, Eskimo Joe’s, Stillwater; Ira Schleziger, INTEGRIS Health, Oklahoma City; Ron Stanley, Phillips Petroleum, Bartlesville; and Joe Williams, American Heritage Bank, El Reno.

Continuing members include: Ann Alspaugh, Red Stone Energies; Bob Berry, Bass & Sons Construction; Ron Bogle, University of Central Oklahoma; Hans Brisch, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; Rand Elliott, Elliott + Associates; and Sandy Garrett, Oklahoma State Department of Education.

Also, Kay Goebel, Ph.D.; Jim Halsey, The Halsey Institute; Clifford Hudson, Sonic Corp.; Mark Kanter, Oklahoma Cable Advertisers; Chris Keesee, Kirkpatrick Oil Company; John Kirkpatrick, Kirkpatrick Foundation; Karen Leveridge, The State Chamber; Robert Lorton, Tulsa World; Judy Love, Love’s Country Stores; Stanley Lybarger, Bank of Oklahoma; Susan McCalmont, Kirkpatrick Foundation; and Larry Mathis, Mathis Brothers Furniture.

Additional members: Frank Merrick, The Merrick Foundation; Melvin Moran, Moran-K Oil Enterprises; George Nigh, former Governor; Dr. Roy Peters, Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence; LaVern Phillips, Woodward Industrial Foundation; J.B. Pratt, Pratt Foods; Betty Price, Oklahoma Arts Council; Gene Rainbolt, BancFirst; Richard Ratcliff, Ratcliff’s, Inc.; John Rex, American Fidelity Assurance Company; Donna Rinehart, Allied Arts; Richard Rush, The State Chamber; James Tolbert, First Oklahoma Corporation; Wayne VonFeldt, VonFeldt and Associates, Inc.; and Roger Whaley, Bank of America.

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## **On Stage Oklahoma! A Showcase of the Oklahoma Arts Council Touring Roster**

Friday, April 7, 2000, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Rose State College, Performing Arts Center  
I-40 and Hudiburg Drive, Midwest City  
Call 405.521.2931 for information

### **Technology Tips for Teachers**

MUST SEE web sites for innovative teaching ideas and links:

*ArtFul Minds*  
[library.advanced.org](http://library.advanced.org)

*Bravo TV in the Classroom*  
[www.bravotv.com](http://www.bravotv.com)

*Center for Media Literacy*  
[www.medialit.org](http://www.medialit.org)

*Cultural Arts Resources for Teachers and Students*  
[www.carts.org](http://www.carts.org)

*Drama, Storytelling and Readers Theater  
Resources for K-12*  
[falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/drama.html](http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/drama.html)

*Kodak*  
[www.kodak.com/global/en/  
consumer/education/lessonPlans](http://www.kodak.com/global/en/consumer/education/lessonPlans)

*Humanities Interactive*  
[www.humanities-interactive.org](http://www.humanities-interactive.org)  
Music is...and the Value of Music in Education  
[pionet.net/~hub7](http://pionet.net/~hub7)

*National Gallery of Art*  
[www.nga.gov/education](http://www.nga.gov/education)

*Oklahoma Technology Administrators*  
[www.oktech.org](http://www.oktech.org)

*Percussive Arts Society*  
[www.pas.org](http://www.pas.org)

*VH-1 Cable in the Classroom*  
[www.vh1musicstudio.com/index.html](http://www.vh1musicstudio.com/index.html)