One of my passions and objects of study has long been group dynamics. There is something fundamentally different about the way we act as individuals and the way we act in groups. Groups take on their own personalities, and depending on the circumstances, groups can be powerful or completely dysfunctional.

What are some conditions that can enhance group interaction and help the group achieve the goals set for it?

First, facilitation is key. The person guiding the group needs a particular skill set. Facilitators are

**News from the Kennedy Center**

**New Education at the Kennedy Center E-Newsletter**

The September edition of the Kennedy Center Education e-newsletter is now available. The newsletter is distributed three times per year and includes information from the Kennedy Center regarding national and local education programs and resources. To subscribe, visit [www.kennedy-center.org/account/login](http://www.kennedy-center.org/account/login), login or create a new account, and select “Education Events” under the Interest section of your My Account page. *(more...)*

**The Power of the Arts in Fresno, California**

Research has proven that high-quality arts programs benefit not only students and schools, but also their communities. Fresno, CA, an Any Given Child site, has released their new action plan for increasing arts education. Aligning with the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, there has already been demonstrated progress seen through the addition of new teaching positions, the purchase of over 1,000 new musical instruments, and the offering of professional learning opportunities. *(more...)*

**New Staff in National Partnerships**

Cecily Hart has joined the National Partnerships team as Program Assistant. Cecily recently completed her master’s degree in museum education from George Washington University. A native of the D.C. area, she has interned at the Textile Museum and with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Cecily previously worked as a part-time Assistant for National Partnerships, and is excited to be back at the Kennedy Center! She can be reached at (202) 416-8843 and cchart@kennedy-center.org.

**The Millennium Stage Presents Free Daily Performances Online**

The Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage presents free performances for visitors every single day of the year. Part of the Performing Arts
“neutral on content, but can be very assertive about process.” This quote comes from the book, Consensus-Oriented Decision-Making by Tim Hartnett – a book I highly recommend. The facilitator sets the frame for the discussion, outlines ground rules, manages the discussion and ensures all voices are heard, and deals with conflict resolution, among many other things.

Second, group members need to agree on a vision or goal for the work they are undertaking together. In the Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child program, the very first activity we conduct is one that includes all group members in fashioning a vision for their work. This helps to focus each group member when they may never have worked with this group of people before. The vision/goal statement also becomes an important touchstone for conversations and recommendations. If the group seems to be straying from the purpose, the vision statement brings everyone back to their core values.

Additionally, the group must know how decisions will be made. Will decisions be made by simple majority vote? Or does everyone need to agree before moving ahead? Or is there an executive committee that will have the final decision-making power? Whichever it is, group members need to know this early in the process so no one is surprised or disappointed.

While I could list more for Everyone (PAFE) initiative, the shows present a wide array of artistic genres, from ensemble plays to school choirs to modern dance. The shows are streamed live every day at 6:00 PM Eastern and archived online here. Anthony Barbir, Program Coordinator for National Partnerships, recently performed on the Millennium Stage as part of the Kennedy Center’s Local Dance Commissioning Project. View the performance online here.

New ARTSEDGE Resources Available Online

Five(ish) Minute Dance Lesson
Latin Dance: Level 2 is the follow-up to the first lesson, and teaches more challenging, fun moves for the Merengue, Salsa, and Bachata.

Getting Wired for Learning
Both technology and the arts can help teach 21st century skills to students. Check out these “tips for tech-savvy arts learning.”

News from Partners in Education

Partners in Education Accepting Applications for 2014 Institute
Partners in Education is accepting applications for new teams interested in joining the program at the 2014 Institute, which will take place April 23-26, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. The four-day Institute is designed for arts organizations and school districts interested in partnering to initiate or expand professional learning programs for teachers. The Kennedy Center will select up to 14 two-person teams from around the country, each consisting of an administrator from an arts organization and an administrator from a neighboring school district. Applications must be received by October 31. Contact Kelsey Mesa at krmesa@kennedycenter.org or (202) 416-8806 for information. (more...)
conditions for successful group dynamics, I will close with the assertion that groups need to be participatory in nature. Members must be actively involved in conversation and problem solving; in strategy development and resource identification. Group members want to contribute, and have their time and talents used and valued. Successful groups are able to take advantage of each member's talents, skills, and connections.

May the groups you participate in, and those you facilitate, be productive!

Barbara

## Upcoming Dates of Interest

**Any Given Child Exchange**  
February 11-12, 2014

**Partners in Education Annual Meeting**  
February 12-15, 2014

**KCAAEN Meeting**  
March 23, 2014

## National Partnerships Staff

**Barbara Shepherd**  
Director

**Kelsey Mesa**  
Assistant Manager

**Anthony Barbir**  
Program Coordinator

**Cecily Hart**  
Program Assistant

(202) 416-8817

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### New Study Highlights the Importance of School Field Trips

The *Educational Value of Field Trips*, a study from the University of Arkansas (which the AR 1991 team participated in) highlights the ability of field trips to foster students' critical thinking, tolerance, and interest in visiting art museums. These increases are especially marked in under-resourced, minority, and rural school groups. Researchers from the study urge schools not to cut field trips during budgeting because of the enormous benefits they offer students across the table. *(more...)*

### Partnership Team Directory Updates

**MS 2003** – This team welcomes a new representative from Greenville Arts Council, Community in Arts Coordinator Saundra Lane, who replaces Mackenzie Stroh. Saundra's contact information is (662) 332-2246 and execadmin@greenville-arts-council.com.

**MO 2003 (St. Louis)** – Director of Interchange Mark Cross joins the team as an additional representative from Center of Creative Arts. He can be reached at (314) 725-1834 ext.134 and mcross@cocastl.org.

**NV 2012** – Kindra Fox, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, is the new representative from Washoe County School District, replacing Martha O'Neill. Kindra's contact information is (775) 861-4472 and kcfox@washoeschools.net.

**NY 1996** – Coordinator for Outreach Arts-In-Education Sonia Arora joins the team as a representative from Great Neck Arts Center, replacing Tracy Warzer. Her contact information is (516) 829-2570 and sonia@goldcoastarts.org.

**SC 1996** – This team welcomes an additional representative from Spartanburg School District Six, Director of Elementary Music Education Vicki Bishop. Vicki can be reached at (864) 576-4212 ext.4362 and bishopvj@spart6.org.

**WA 2010** – Gail Sehlhorst, Director of Education, joins the team as a representative from Book-It Repertory Theatre. She replaces Annie Lareau. Gail's contact information is (206) 428-6266 and gails@book-it.org.

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### News from the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network

**KCAAEN and NSBA Award Now Accepting Nominations**  
Online nominations are now
being accepted for the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network and National School Boards Association (KCAAEN and NSBA) Award. This award recognizes a local school board for outstanding support of the arts in education. The winning board receives a plaque presented at the NSBA Annual Conference, along with a cash award of $10,000 to use for their arts education programs. Full details and nomination materials can be found online. Nominations must be received by November 1. (more...)

New Network Leadership Committee Member

Peter Alexander, Executive Director of the Maine Alliance for Arts Education, will assume Jane Hansberry’s position on the Network Leadership Committee through 2015. Peter can be reached at (207) 522-7040 and peter@maineartsed.org. We look forward to Peter’s participation on the committee and send best wishes to Jane as she moves on from Think 360 Arts Complete Education.

Resources

Apply to YoungArts

YoungArts provides emerging artists (ages 15-18 or grades 10-12) with experiences with renowned mentors, access to significant scholarships, national recognition, and other opportunities throughout their careers to help ensure that the nation’s most outstanding young artists are encouraged to pursue careers in the arts. Support is offered in ten artistic disciplines: cinematic arts, dance, design, jazz, music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice, and writing. Applications are being accepted through October 18. (more...)

Review of High School Arts Standards Open

The National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS) is conducting a public review of substantive portions of draft high school national core arts standards for dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts beginning September 30 and ending October 21. Everyone with an interest is welcome to participate in the public review. To find out how to participate in the review process and to view all public documents related to the arts standards, visit the NCCAS website. (more...)

InnOVATION Grant Awards for Schools with STEAM Programs

Ovation has partnered with the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities and Americans for the Arts to offer the second annual innOVATION Grant Awards Program. This year’s grant awards will be made to schools that have developed model STEAM
YoungArts Foundation, National Guild for Community Arts Education, The Daily Progress, hootsuite, National Association for Business Economics Foundation, Ovation TV, National Coalition for Core Arts Standards

Past editions of UPDATE are available online.

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) programs in an effort to raise awareness about the importance of integrating the arts into educational curriculum. The deadline is October 28. (more...)  

Arts Education Council Nominations
Americans for the Arts (AFTA) is currently accepting nominations for members of its Arts Education Council. Council members advise AFTA staff on programs and services to build a deeper connection to the field and network membership. Their job is to connect the national work of AFTA to the local level. The deadline for nominations is October 9 and nominees must be members of AFTA. (more...)  

Teaching Artist Track Offered at Annual Conference
For the first time, the National Guild for Community Arts Education is offering a special Teaching Artist track, facilitated by Eric Booth, at their annual national conference in Chicago. Establishing a track marks the Guild's recognition of Teaching Artistry as a major resource to the field. Registration closes on October 17. (more...)  

Innovative Crossroads: The Intersection of Creativity, Health, and Aging
The Grantmakers Partnership Project brings together several organizations focused on grantmaking, aging, and the arts to discuss benefits of the arts in aging and healthcare environments. A result of these discussions is a new report, Innovative Crossroads: The Intersection of Creativity, Health, and Aging. (more...)  

Apply for The NABE Foundation's Scholarship Award
The NABE Foundation, the charitable arm of the National Association for Business Economics (NABE), is awarding its sixth annual Americans for the Arts scholarship to encourage the integration of the arts into the economic education process. The scholarship is open to both recent high school graduates and current college undergraduates who are majoring in economics and/or the arts. The amount of the award is $5,000. The deadline is October 18. (more...)  

Tina Fey Speaks at Inaugural Arts Education Talk
Award-winning actress, screenwriter, and author Tina Fey stepped up as the first speaker in a series of arts education talks sponsored by the University of Virginia (UVA). Fey studied playwriting and acting at UVA, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in drama. She returned in September as the first speaker in UVA's President's Speaker Series for the Arts, proposed to be an annual event calling attention to the importance of the arts in education and life. (more...)  

How Arts and Cultural Organizations are Building Global Audiences Online
The San Francisco Ballet and Scottish Ballet are two performing arts groups that use social media to connect to their audiences. These two interviews with hootsuite provide insight into how the groups harness the unique properties of social networking sites to provide exciting content, which helps to build and retain their audiences. (more...)