

**Arts for Youth
Programs sub-committee summary notes
August 5, 2008**

Update on the RFP for a leadership entity:

- Revised draft of RFP is currently being reviewed by Leadership and Infrastructure, and Steering committees
- Formal release of RFP anticipated for early September
- September 15th – Bidders Conference Call (details will be provided in revised RFP)
- The Arts for Youth Framework is one of the attachments to the RFP. This framework is to assist the community and the responding partners to have a uniform understanding of the main areas of work to achieve the Arts for Youth Ten Year Vision.

The purpose of the next series of sub-committee meetings is to gain feedback and comments to this framework and arrive on a “gentle consensus” about the main areas of work.

Key suggested additions/changes to the Arts for Youth Framework

Contextual Analysis:

- Highlight the cultural and socio-demographic diversity of Philadelphia children and youth, emphasize diversity and multitude of languages spoken at home
- Stress major transitions within the school district, particularly the Office of Language, Culture, and the Arts and current restructuring that includes the elimination of arts supervisors/coaches
- Stress national and regional economic slow-down

Assumptions:

- This effort will establish and develop mechanisms to provide a minimum baseline of arts education experiences and instruction for children and youth in the region.
- New funding and sustainable dollars will be identified.
- The partnership approach is necessary for this work. Working in partnership can bring about greater benefits and sustainable systemic change that no single organization can.
- The sustainability of this effort depends in part on deep, long-term relationship and partnership building with diverse community stakeholders.
- Change is constant, in order for this initiative to be successful appropriate systems and infrastructure needs to be developed to mitigate the potentially negative impacts of change.
- This effort is an ambitious undertaking that will require long-term commitment and strategic leadership.
- This work requires a very strong conceptual shift among key stakeholders to embrace systemic change and be willing to set aside individual and organizational agendas for the success of the Arts for Youth effort.

Programs - Key activities:

- Support the development of student level assessments (in tandem with state, regional, and local policy influentials). Develop systems to systematically support the collection of student level data and impacts of arts education opportunities on children and youth.
- Explore the use of technology to support the scaling up of arts education programming. (add outcomes related to technology)
- Establish thresholds of school readiness and commitment to work with outside arts providers. Provide technical assistance and support to schools and district and regional administrators to increase school readiness and willingness to support arts education.
- To second bullet under activities: add “formative and summative assessment” and “individual artists”
- Place emphasis on culturally relevant and inclusive programming.
- Engage with higher education and pre-service teacher training programs to establish a pipeline of highly qualified arts educators for the Philadelphia region.
- Design and provide professional development for key school stakeholders including principals, district, and regional administrators to build understanding, buy-in, and support for arts education.
- Conduct on-going arts education program assessment and capacity building to increase and sustain program quality.

Program – Short-term outcomes:

- Student level outcomes and benchmarks are established.
- Formalized assessment in the arts is being piloted.
- Add technology-related outcomes.

Additional comments:

Pg. 2. short-term outcomes “an authority”

Pg. 4. policy change activities: include development of standardized assessment in the arts or mechanisms to measure student progress systematically

Next Programs subcommittee meeting: September 16th 9:30 – 11:30. For the next subcommittee meeting we will return to setting parameters of quality arts instruction and discuss parameters for “baseline” arts education provision.