

Arts for Children and Youth in Philadelphia
Community Meeting
Work Group Synthesis

Group: Infrastructure & Leadership #1	Facilitator: Gerri Spilka
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Part I. Ideal Vision

- There is a need to more clearly define what is included in the term “arts”—it is important that this include the full arc of arts-related experiences.
- Need to include a definitive policy ask in the vision (ex. a budget line item).
- Out of school time should be a more significant component of the vision.
- Parents should be a more significant component of the vision; they should have roles outside of advocacy. This is also a method for increasing diversity of participants.
- Add the fact that arts plays a role in violence reduction- although this was debated by the group (see areas of conflict).

Part II. Work Group Questions

- The group chose to address: *What is a framework that we can use for leadership and infrastructure?*
- **Stakeholders:** a wide variety of stakeholders should be involved in planning and implementation. By using the broadest definition of “arts education” you will bring different types of people to the table. This should include civic leadership, school district leadership, corporations, cultural organizations, parents, students, higher education, PTO/PTA, religious organizations, children’s advocates, etc.
- **Leadership:** We may need a charismatic individual like Gigi to lead the effort. Important to have multiple leaders, because different speakers will resonate with different groups. Work with current leadership that exists in communities; and built out necessary talent. It is not likely that one organization has all of the necessary skills. Shared leadership model is a good approach for Philadelphia. Cultural organizations need to be heavily represented in leadership roles. Having spokespeople from popular culture would be a good way to bring excitement to this issue.
- **Leadership Skills Required:** Needs to be recognized as an arts and education authority, have talent in convening diverse and broad stakeholders to the table, data collection and analysis, communications and advocacy, fundraiser, politically savvy, know a lot about arts programming, know a lot about public education and after school arts delivery systems, passionate for the issues and children.

- **Funding:** Adequate funding for the arts in general is important- you don't want this initiative to be about survival for cultural organizations. They should not be jockeying for position and competing with one another, rather they should work together. Gigi noted that individual donors and private local foundations were the bread and butter of Big Thought initially.
- **Angles:** Need to promote the value of the arts from different angles. For example, engage the medical community about the mental health benefits of arts education (Society for the Arts and Health Care Conference); 21st Century Skills argument will bring in the business community and emphasize the importance of creativity in a quality education.
- **Data:** There is a lot of data collection in the works (SDP survey of cultural institutions, GPCA cultural index). SDP has a beginning database from which to start. Important to bring forward all this information. Data is necessary for advocacy. Specifically, we need to identify the quality and quantity of out of school time arts programming.
- **Structure:** Need to create an initiative infrastructure that reduces red tape, develops an economy of scale (ex. liability insurance through PAEP). Build on existing capacity; start with a vision; build out governance and possibly have a governance group let out an RFP for leadership for this work.
- *Area of conflict:* Role of evaluation- How much assessment is necessary to provide accountability and measure progress without being overly focused on testing like No Child Left Behind?
- *Area of conflict:* Distinction between arts for arts sake and using the value of arts towards other goals (i.e. violence reduction, stress reduction). Is it constructive to pitch arts as the silver bullet?

Parking Lot

- Is this initiative exclusively in the city or does it include the greater Philadelphia region?
- What kind of communications or ad campaign could support this work?