



Creating Pennsylvania's Future through the Arts and Education

**New Report from
The Education Policy and Leadership Center
March 2012**



EPLC's Beliefs about the Arts

- **All arts experiences provide opportunities for learning, and access to the arts in its many forms is essential to nurturing an educated citizenry in Pennsylvania.**
- **PK-12 arts education programs and arts experiences for all youth are essential for their intrinsic value and because they support the broader educational goals of the Commonwealth.**
- **Effective public policies can enhance access to the arts for all citizens, assure valuable arts educational experiences for all youth, and raise public awareness of the social and economic value of the arts in communities.**



Challenges

- **Erosion/abandonment of effective policy and advocacy efforts in the past.**
- **Failure to sufficiently enforce or fulfill current policies/efforts.**
- **Cuts in state funding for arts, schools, cultural organizations.**
- **Fears of some professionals about job losses.**
- **Too few policymaker champions.**
- **Too little effective advocacy from the broad-based field.**



The Initiative, June 2010-February 2012

- **Regional meetings and convening**
- **Support from Heinz Endowments, William Penn Foundation, Buhl Foundation**
- **32-member Study Group; 13-member Advisory Committee**
- **Policy and advocacy scan**
- **Website, e-newsletter; creative online forum; social media**
- **PA and national presentations; eight Regional Community Forums**
- **Interest from Arts Education Partnership; Americans for the Arts; Kennedy Center Alliance**
- **Fall Symposium: State Museum of PA**
- **Surveys of superintendents, arts educators, cultural organizations**



Major Principles of the Report

- **The arts are essential to human development, creativity, and imagination.**
- **The arts are valuable for all citizens—for their intrinsic value; their role in nurturing an educated workforce and citizenry; their contribution to vibrant and prosperous communities.**
- **The arts are core, PK-12 academic subjects supported by state standards as well as requirements for instruction and local assessment.**
- **Arts education in schools is the foundation for arts in communities, and it supports many aspects of learning, including the development of 21st-century skills.**
- **Public policy and policy advocacy should address the arts and arts education—and all ways the arts and education intersect.**



The Report

- **Not intended to point fingers or assess blame, but instead to cite needs and opportunities to improve.**
- **Not only about money, but funding implications cannot be ignored.**
- **Some new policies.**
- **Some recommendations emphasize the restoration—or better implementation of—existing or past policies.**



5 Goals framing the Report's Recommendations

- **#1 – High-quality arts opportunities for all PA citizens**
- **#2 – Comprehensive, standards-based arts education for all P-12 students**
- **#3 – Highly-qualified and effective teachers**
- **#4 – Ongoing collaborations between artists, arts organizations, schools, and arts educators**
- **#5 – Effective collaboration across various arts and education communities for more effective state and local advocacy**



Select Recommendations: P-12 Arts Education

- **#6 – Strengthen HS graduation culminating project**
- **#7 – Enforce and assist local assessment of arts education**
- **#8 – Districts require arts credit for HS graduation**
- **#10 – Reinstate the Governor’s School for the Arts**
- **#12 – Create arts education information system**
- **#13-17 – Preparation, professional development and evaluation for arts teachers**
- **#28 – Full-time arts advisor in PDE is critical to fulfillment of existing responsibilities and implementation of some recommendations**



Select Recommendations: PCA

- **#1 – 1% construction costs/public facilities to art/artists**
- **#2 – Regional asset mapping, assessments, planning**
- **#3 – Access for artists and participants with disabilities**
- **#15 – Work w PDE to design professional development**
- **#18 – Work w PDE to strengthen teaching artists training**
- **#29 – Add Secretary of Education to PCA**
- **#29 – Increase communications efforts (build awareness of arts, role of state, role of arts for quality of life/economic development (i.e. annual report, web, e-newsletter)**
- **#30 – Legislative members as advocates and “bridge” between PCA and other legislators**
- **#22 – Supporters of arts need to support independent, non-partisan, proactive, appropriately staffed, statewide advocacy organization**



Select Recommendations: The Governor

- **#3 I – Encourage state agencies to operate collaboratively in pursuit of common arts and education goals; use unique leadership role to promote PA as a state of creativity**



Select Recommendations: General Assembly

- **#30 – Establish an Arts and Culture Caucus with voluntary membership from House and Senate; create rules directing arts and arts education bills to specified committees; reinstate Speaker’s annual “Arts Education Awareness Day”**



Next Steps

- **Wide dissemination of Report—PA and nationally**
- **Report to launch broader discussions about arts policy and advocacy**
- **Spring Regional Community Forums**
- **Fall Symposium: the State Museum of PA**
- **Draft statutory and regulatory language**
- **Work with interested lawmakers**
- **Help with development of PA arts education advocacy**
- **AEI to be a resource and partner for other advocates and organizations**
- **The *AEI Note* and www.aei-pa.org**



The Education Policy and Leadership Center (EPLC)

800 North Third Street, Suite 408

Harrisburg, PA 17102

Phone: 717 260 9900

www.eplc.org

The Arts and Education Initiative (AEI) of EPLC

www.aei-pa.org

Ron Cowell, EPLC President

cowell@eplc.org

Jordan Crosby, AEI Director

crosby@eplc.org