Partnerships between schools and the professional arts sector

Welcome

There is currently a growing body of research focused on school/arts sector partnerships both in Australia and internationally. This research is beginning to uncover the many advantages of effective partnerships in arts and creative practices in school education.

The notion of creativity is also high on the national policy agenda and is reflected in the new Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) supports a range of partnerships between arts organisations and schools through the Strategic Partnerships Program. These partnerships provide student learning programs and professional learning for teachers that are linked to Departmental priorities and initiatives. Arts Victoria also supports a range of school/arts sector partnerships, including artist in residence programs as well as programs and projects in schools, galleries, museums and performing arts centres across Victoria. These programs provide for learning ‘in’ and ‘through’ the arts. They also increase student engagement with the arts, arts practice and creative and innovative approaches to learning and teaching.

This edition of the Research eLert is a product of a research partnership project between DEECD and Arts Victoria. The report, Partnerships between schools and the professional arts sector, includes the results of a literature scan of relevant material focused on arts partnerships as well as a number of examples of school/art sector partnerships which have taken place in Victoria.

Victorian government schools strive to achieve improved student learning, enhanced student engagement and wellbeing and successful transitions and pathways. With these goals in mind this timely research investigates the link between school/arts sector partnerships and improving educational outcomes in Victoria.

Creative and performing arts will be included in the second phase of the national school curriculum, to roll out in 2011.

I trust that you will find this report of interest and encourage you to share your ideas by providing feedback to: <research@edumail.vic.gov.au>.

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Feature article

Partnerships between schools and the professional arts sector

This report is one product of a research partnership between Arts Victoria and DEECD. Broadly speaking the objective was to identify and evaluate partnerships between schools and the professional arts sector. Part one of this project, presented here, is a literature review which aims to identify national and international research in the area of schools/arts sector partnerships as it relates to: student engagement; social learning; personalised learning; creativity; and the development of arts-related knowledge and skills. The report also includes some examples of successful school/arts sector partnerships which have taken place in Victorian schools as part of the Artists in Schools program, Extended School Residencies program, the Community Partnerships program and the Organisations program.

The summary of literature in the report reveals the growing body of national and international research currently being produced around the arts in education. Many of the studies surveyed reveal the positive benefits of school/arts sector partnerships as well as new ways of configuring classroom dynamics and learning objectives in a creative context. The case studies outlined in the report also reveal a range...
of positive and enriching experiences of creative partnerships of varying duration which have taken place in primary and secondary schools in Victoria.


Related research

Educating for the creative workforce: rethinking arts and education

This report analyses the claims for the arts in education, concentrating on research studies which have gathered robust empirical data on arts in education programs and their claimed beneficial outcomes. It identifies the research strategies and methods used by arts in education researchers and provides an assessment of the rigour of the research and the research culture of arts in education. Overall, the report provides a review designed to inform policy, provide evidence, and identify major gaps in the existing literature.


Creative Partnerships: initiative and impact

The UK Creative Partnerships was set up in 2002 to give young people in disadvantaged areas across England the opportunity to develop their creativity and ambition by building partnerships between schools and creative organisations, businesses and individuals. This report evaluates the effectiveness of Creative Partnerships initiatives in six areas of the country established as part of Phase 1. In the schools sampled, involvement in the initiatives helped students to develop good personal and social skills. Some of the attributes of creative people were also developed.

Ofsted 2006, Creative Partnerships: initiative and impact, Ofsted, UK. Available at: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Arts in education and creativity: a review of the literature

This review examines the development of arts education and its relationship to the concept of creativity. Although not intended to be a detailed history of the development of the arts in education, a broadly historical approach has been taken. Some of the broad questions addressed in this study include: What explicit or implicit arguments were advanced for the value of the arts in the curriculum? What were the major influences on thinking about the arts? What are the implicit theories of art which underpin approaches to arts in education?


Artists working in partnerships with schools: quality indicators and advice for planning, commissioning and delivery

There is widespread recognition that active partnerships between an artist and school can offer long-term development opportunities that are central to raising achievement. This document attempts to provide some best practice guidelines for commissioning practice and effective partnerships for artists working in schools. Whilst the information largely refers to artists, many of the suggested practices will be useful for other agencies and sectors working with schools, such as museums and galleries and the architecture, film and creative industries.


Creative School Change Project: interim report

This report is based on a series of commentaries and reflections on the Creative Partnerships London East. It includes strategies developed through case studies and action research about different preferred learning styles of students.


Educating through Art in secondary education

This article focuses on education through the arts in a secondary education context. It argues that most educational systems of the world today, notably at the secondary level, are outdated. The redefinition of the aims of secondary education implies pedagogical innovations and, therefore, a renewal of learning content and of teachers and school principals training programs. Art education is a key component. It is commonly recognised that arts education has a positive influence on children and adolescents’ overall development, and contributes to their personal wellbeing. Additionally, educational research has shown that students’ personal well being has a significant impact on their academic achievements.


Every child, every opportunity
Arts integration - frameworks, research and practice: a literature review

In this literature review, the authors describe what has been written between 1995 and 2007 regarding arts integration. The emphasis is on arts integration in the United States and looks at topics such as the role of teaching artists, arts partnerships, the preparation of arts teachers and classroom teachers, school reform, budgets for the arts and political considerations relevant to the arts.

Burnaford, G et al. 2007, Arts integration, frameworks, research practice: a literature review, Arts Education Partnership. Available at: www.aep-arts.org/publications/info.htm?publication_id=33

Trends in Arts education collaborations

Several national initiatives have been working to convene partners, to teach the art of collaboration, to document exemplary partnerships, and to encourage active collaboration at the state level. Collaborations between arts organisations and American schools have become more sophisticated and the challenges that remain. The paper builds upon earlier work and recent research in educational partnerships. It explores definitions, processes, collaborative planning, assessment and evaluation, and organisational principles that apply to the collaborative process.


Resources

Arts in Education links on Arts Victoria's website

With more than 110 organisations operating in the arts in education arena, there is an extraordinary and diverse array of programs and partnership opportunities offered to Victorian students and teachers. From performance groups which visit schools across the state to digital media workshops in the city, Victoria’s broad range of programs and projects challenge, enrich and engage school students of all ages. The ‘Arts in Education’ section of the Arts Victoria website contains details of the organisations working in the five areas of Arts in Education, together with a link to their website. They are listed in the following categories:

- Galleries and Museums
- Performances
- Professional Learning and Teaching Resources
- Reading and Writing
- Workshops and Residencies

The Australian Centre for the Moving Image

An innovative example of an arts and education partnership can also be found at the Digital stories section of the site. The Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) offers teacher training in the production of digital stories. Available at: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/knowledgebank/digitalstories/default.asp

Creative Capacity +: Arts for all Victorians

Creative Capacity +: Arts for all Victorians (CC+) is the Victorian government’s ten year arts and cultural policy. CC+ illustrates the Government’s commitment to education, arts and culture. The policy focuses on strategies for harnessing the value of the arts, not just within our schools but through a well resourced network of libraries, museums, galleries and arts centres that offer lifelong learning to Victorian children and adults. Arts Victoria is committed to creating places which are welcoming and attractive, both for Victorians and tourists. The report highlights its three goals: arts for all Victorians; a culture of participation; on the threshold: an economy based on innovation; creative place: dynamic arts sectors. Followed from these three goals are four strategies: developing artists, ideas and knowledge, engaging creative communities, building creative industries, creating place and space. In particular, Strategy 2: Engaging Creative Communities sets out the government’s commitment to engage more school students and community organisations in arts and cultural learning in partnership with DEECD. Available at: www.arts.vic.gov.au

Upcoming events

Below is a list of conferences which may be of interest. For a comprehensive list of conferences, workshops and events, visit the Education Network Australia site at: http://www.edna.edu.au/edna/go

DEECD Research Partnerships Forum: Advancing 0–18 Learning and Development (21 Jul) Melbourne, Vic

Find out how new research findings are advancing the Blueprint’s 0–18 learning and development agenda and how it can inform and support practitioners and service providers. Presentations from schools, universities and research organisations will cover a range of topics including developmental curriculum, transition points, meeting diverse needs, family-school partnerships, and inclusion strategies for students in the middle years. Research reports, resources and tools will be available at the forum. You will also find out about the partnership arrangements the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has in place with universities and research organisations, together with funding opportunities available for education and early childhood practitioners to undertake future research. http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/research/researchforum_Resea rchPartnershipsForum.htm
World Forum on Early Care and Education (16–19 Jun) Belfast, Northern Ireland

The World Forum in Belfast will showcase international perspectives on a wide range of early childhood issues, and provide a first-hand look at the history of the ‘troubles’ and how early childhood education is now bringing communities together. A number of Australian early care and education experts will present at the forum.


IADIS International Conference e-Learning (17–20 Jun) Algarve, Portugal

The IADIS e-Learning 2009 conference aims to address the main issues of concern within e-Learning. It will cover both technical as well as the non-technical aspects of e-Learning in the following seven main areas: Organisational Strategy and Management Issues; Technological Issues; e-Learning Curriculum Development Issues; Instructional Design Issues; e-Learning Delivery Issues; e-Learning Research Methods and Approaches; e-Skills and Information Literacy for Learning.

http://www.elearning-conf.org/

ADSA: Boom or bust: economies of production & exchange in theatre, performance & culture (30 Jun – 3 Jul) Perth, WA

The Australasian Association for Theatre Drama and Performance Studies is the peak academic association promoting the study of drama in any performing medium throughout the region. ADSA represents members of staff and postgraduate students of Australasian institutions of tertiary education who are engaged in teaching, research and practice in theatre, drama and performance studies. At this conference, ADSA invites participants to metaphorically re-imagine the Western Australian boom and bust phenomena in cultural and aesthetic terms. The 2009 ADSA Conference is hosted by Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Edith Cowan University, Curtin University and Murdoch University.

http://www.adsa.edu.au/

ACMA & QUT: Improvise (2–4 Jul) Brisbane, Qld

The Queensland University of Technology, in association with the Australasian Computer Music Association, will host the Australasian Computer Music Conference for 2009. The theme of ‘Improvise’ aims to encourage new ideas and greater levels of participation in the conference by emphasising improvised and collaborative music making and providing attendees with more time to network.


CONASTA58: Science Education: A bridge to the future (4–7 Jul) Launceston, Tas

The Conference of the Australian Science Teachers Association offers targeted professional learning opportunities for science teachers, science educators, pre-service teachers and the scientific community in the areas of: Science – future problem solver; Educational change and the national curriculum; Science in a rural context; Science and literacy.


AATE/ALEA National Conference for Teachers of English and Literacy: Bridging Divides: ensuring access, equity and quality in literacy and English education (9–12 Jul) Hobart, Tas

Five outstanding international speakers will deliver plenary addresses at the conference, which will also include presentations by high profile national academics and teacher educators, teachers, authors and students.

Registrations for the conference have closed, but papers will be posted to the website at:

ASME XVII National Conference: Musical Understanding (10–14 Jul) Launceston, Tas

The Australian Society for Music Education Conference is open to school instrumental and classroom music teachers, private music teachers, tertiary educators and academics, community-based musicians, choir and instrumental ensemble directors and their members, music therapists, composers, performers, and students. ASME XVII will feature high quality performances by a variety of local and interstate performing groups in addition to workshops, posters and papers within the theme of Musical Understanding presented by music educators from Tasmania and throughout the nation.


AAMT Conference 2009: Mathematics: It’s mine (13–16 Jul) Fremantle, WA

The Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT) is Australia’s premier organisation of mathematics educators. AAMT aims to support and enhance the work of teachers; promote the learning of mathematics; and represent and promote interests in mathematics education.


VITTA: Oodles of Moodle Day (22 Jul) Melbourne, Vic

Victorian Information Technology Teachers Association has brought together a panel of experts to help you set up Moodle in your school and if you have Moodle set up, take you to the next step. Moodle is an open source Content Management System, a Learning Management System and a Virtual Learning Environment. It is used throughout the world by schools and...
universities and it will greatly enhance the teaching and learning at your schools. Also learn to start or enhance your Personal Learning Network by using edna's me.edu.au, a professional networking site for educators. The panel includes a variety of educators, primary and secondary teachers who will share their Moodle expertise with you.


Professional Development Network Leadership Conference 2009 (6–7 Aug) Broadbeach, QLD

The conference, titled 3 Rs of Leadership: Revolutions, Revelations & Reality, offers school leaders an opportunity to engage with the future of education and discuss ways to drive academic and cultural changes in schools. Speakers include Professor Allan Walker (The Chinese University of Hong Kong), Professor Barry McGaw (McGaw Group Pty Ltd) and Ms Katherine Kirby (The University of Melbourne).


ACER Research Conference: Assessment and Student Learning: collecting, interpreting and using data to inform teaching (16–18 Aug) Perth, WA

The annual Australian Council for Educational Research conference will explore the information that can be gained from quality classroom and system-wide assessment and how effective teachers use that information to guide their teaching. It is recognised that quality assessments are an integral part of good teaching.


ANSN: Curriculum design: Breaking down the walls (17 Aug, 18 Aug & 9 Nov) Melbourne, Vic

The Australian National Schools Network has designed this three day professional learning opportunity to support teachers to develop deeper levels of understanding on how curriculum that involves community partnerships can be utilised to strengthen teaching and learning.

http://www.anSN.edu.au/curriculum_design_breaking_down_the_walls

ARACY Conference 2009: Transforming Australia for our children's future: Making prevention work (2–4 Sep) Melbourne, Vic

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth recognises that prevention is the most effective approach to addressing the problems affecting young people. The challenge is to make the radical shift to a preventive orientation, and to apply knowledge in specific social and political contexts. Primary prevention means identifying and dealing with the factors that lead to problems, rather than waiting until a problem shows up and treating the end result. This conference will focus on how we can best learn from one another and work together to innovate and take action to improve outcomes for young Australians.


Cultural Development Network & RMIT: Regenerating Community: National Arts, Community and Governance Conference (2–4 Sep) RMIT University, Melbourne

The Generations project explores the links between engagement in community-based arts activities and active civic engagement. There is a growing literature around the correlation between involvement in creative or ‘artistic’ activity and improved health and wellbeing, but the links between creative communities and civic engagement are less well documented. The Generations project will build on existing research data to explore the contribution of cultural vitality to the sustainability of local communities. The conference will explore ways in which global issues are being addressed locally through collaborations between artists, communities and local government.

http://www.cdn-generations.net.au

IAEA 35th Annual Conference: Assessment for a Creative World (13–18 Sep) Brisbane, QLD

This International Association of Educational Assessment event brings together leading educational certification agencies, educational assessment experts, and examination providers from across the world. The conference provides a forum for participants to share professional expertise and strengthen mutual understanding and relationships, to build a global educational assessment community.

http://www.iaea2009.com/

ACEL conference: Tipping points: Courageous actions, powerful stories (26–28 Sep) Darwin, NT

Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL) is an organisation devoted to the improvement of and communication between principals and educators in Australia and the Asia Pacific region. Keynote speakers include Alma Harris and Ben Levin.


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