



Florida Alliance  
for Arts Education



2010  
**FAAE**

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT  
PROCEEDINGS



# FAAE 2010 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

## ARTS ACHIEVE! 67 PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Thursday, June 17, 2010 Preconference

### **FAAE Board Meeting**

The FAAE Board of Directors met to review the events and accomplishments of the past year and look ahead to the coming year. A report by Sherron Long on advocacy and Florida Cultural Alliance plans outlined the legislative issues. Restructuring of the Division of Cultural Affairs grant programs requires legislators and advocates alike to learn how the new program funds organizations.

Executive Director, Susan Burke, offered an overview of FAAE goals and programs. The accomplishments in the past year and plans for the coming year were reviewed. This same presentation was given to Statewide Partners and Summit attendees as orientation to FAAE.

### **Statewide Partners Meeting**

The FAAE Board was joined by representatives of Statewide Partners. Representatives shared a success and a challenge for their organization. These introductions provided starting points to develop working relationships. The discussion led to resources that can be shared or developed among the group. The need for an action plan was identified. These introductions provided starting points for developing our working relationships. The discussion led to resources we can share or develop among ourselves. Need for an action plan to implement some of these ideas was identified.

### **Network Partners Meeting**

Representatives of local coalitions, Network Partners, met to share ideas, report on their work and the status of arts education in their locale, and develop a plan for the coming year. This group met again at the end of the summit to integrate new ideas and finalize plans. The Network Partners Action Plan is available at: [www.faae.org/2010netpartnersactionplan.pdf](http://www.faae.org/2010netpartnersactionplan.pdf)

### **AAMS Awards Dinner**

**Keynote: Derrick Ashong**

Arts Achieve Model School (AAMS) Committee Chair, Frank Howes led the awards presentation. Thirteen schools were recognized as Arts Achieve! Model Schools for 2010-2013. Three new schools:

- Cypress Elementary School, Osceola County
- Horizon Middle School, Osceola County
- Gocio Elementary School, Sarasota County

Ten schools renewed their Arts Achieve! Model School status:

- Bak Middle School of the Arts, Palm Beach County
- Cypress Lake High School Center for the Arts, Lee County
- Davenport School of the Arts, Polk County
- Diplomat Middle School, Lee County
- Harrison School for the Arts, Polk County
- North Port High School, Sarasota County
- Riverview High School, Sarasota County
- South Miami Middle School, Miami Dade County
- U.B.Kinsey/Palmview Elementary School of the Arts, Palm Beach County
- West Port High School, Marion County

Royal Voices of Hope, Royal Theater Sweetbay Conservatory (St. Petersburg, FL) students presented a moving spoken word performance on personal identity. Herbert Murphy, director of the conservatory, introduced the students.

Derrick Ashong provided the keynote address. He spoke of his experience growing up as a third culture kid - living all over the world as his family moved to work with international companies - and how his parents maintained his identity as a Ghanaian through music and legends. In visits to his home country of Ghana during graduate school, he saw the proud culture that had endured through colonialism and slavery decimated by pop culture of 'gansta' rap. From this experience, Ashong recognized that arts education is essential to society. The importance goes beyond the classroom, beyond dropout prevention, higher test scores, and greater academic achievement. The arts are how we will preserve and understand our culture and history and build a shared sense of identity.

## Friday, June 18

### Harrison School for the Arts

#### FAAE Leadership Award Breakfast

Harrison School for the Arts Principal Craig Collins welcomed the summit. Gail F. McKinzie, Ph.D., Polk County Superintendent gave brief comments.

FAAE Awards Committee Chair, Bob Raddock and board chair, Jennifer Coolidge recognized the 2010 Leadership Awardees.

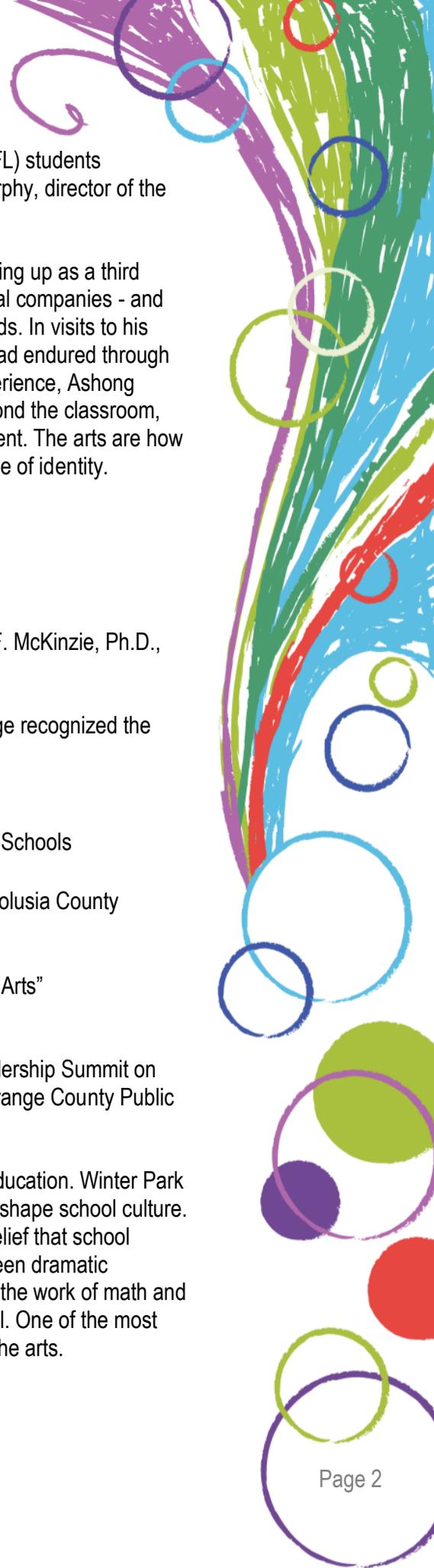
- Representative Anitere Flores, District 114 (Miami)
- Representative Kurt Kelly, District 24 (Ocala)
- Superintendent Leadership Award, *Dr. Michael Grego*, Osceola County Schools
- Arts Educator, *Leslie Lacktman*, Sarasota
- Community Volunteer, *Betty Johnson*, Library Director and Professor, Volusia County
- ACE of Hearts, *Frank Howes*, Polk County

Musical presentation by Royal Arts Theater students. "Imagine A World Without Arts"

#### Remarks by Florida Commissioner of Education, Eric Smith

Florida Commissioner of Education, Eric Smith, addressed the 2010 FAAE Leadership Summit on Friday, June 18, 2010. He was introduced by Ron Blocker, Superintendent of Orange County Public Schools.

Commissioner Smith expressed his profound commitment to the arts and arts education. Winter Park High School, where he served as principal, showed him the power of the arts to shape school culture. From personal observation of schools across the state, he has developed the belief that school culture is an important factor in school improvement. In schools where he has seen dramatic improvement in student achievement the focus for improvement was not just on the work of math and reading and science, but also on building and improving the culture of the school. One of the most obvious, effective and visible ways to affect the culture of the school is through the arts.





Providing arts education for all students builds talents, skills, and appreciation of the arts. Students studying and creating art create relationships, build a common purpose and have a reason to show up and engage in the school. The arts encourage quality work, discipline and creativity - these are qualities that transcend the arts and drive the entire school to better performance.

Commissioner Smith encourage FAAE to continue its work. He acknowledged that it was important for supporters of arts education to stay together and build awareness and support for the arts. Our work should be at the local level: local businesses, local school boards, and local school administrators and educators. It is important that the community outside the school sees the arts so that they can understand the value. The community must in turn tell the School board and superintendents that they value the arts.

It is a different time in education now. Accountability is playing a key role and arts education will need to find evaluation and accountability methods that meet the requirements. It is essential that we rise to this challenge; that we broaden and deepen arts education. Because the skills learned in the arts - creativity and innovation that are vital to our state and our nation.

### **Executive Summary**

#### **Roundtable Discussion with Florida Commissioner of Education, Eric Smith and Educators at the Florida Alliance for Arts Education Leadership Summit June 17, 2010**

Commissioner Smith has been hosting a series of roundtables with educators around the state to get their perspective on education reform initiatives. At the Florida Alliance for Arts Education (FAAE) Leadership Summit on June 17, in Lakeland Florida, the Commissioner's Roundtable was held with educators from around the state following the commissioner's address to Summit attendees. Sheila Beach, teacher liaison for the Florida Department of Education, facilitated the roundtable along with Tom Pearson, incoming president of the FAAE. The Commissioner was joined by Frances Haithcock, Chancellor of Pre-K - 12 public schools.

During the roundtable educators expressed continued concern about ever-deeper cuts in arts education. In the absence of mandates for arts education, school districts continue to cut the arts to balance budgets and provide reading and math remediation. As related to reform and education, cuts to arts education are especially incongruent. School administrators see a role for arts teachers in education reform as leaders of authentic tasks, helping teachers to understand how to evaluate students according to rubrics.

Mandated intensive reading programs also prevent Level 1 readers from participation in the arts. A study conducted by the University of Florida has evidence that the arts improve student achievement. For the past three years they have gathered data on three Title I schools and will continue the study for two more years. Despite the data, evidence, and capable and willing arts educators; arts are being eliminated in schools, and advocacy seems to have little effect in educating the general public on the value and potential for arts education as part of education reform.

If Florida is successful in its application for Race to the Top (RTTT) funds, the ability to measure student progress will be key as RTTT links teacher evaluation to student progress. Florida's arts educators are already responding to this focus on assessment. The Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) for the Arts, currently under development, are designed to be measurable. Professional arts education service organizations are developing statewide assessment tools. These efforts bring classroom experience to the development of standards that meet DOE and legislative requirements.

The Commissioner recognized the importance of the arts in education, and even mentioned that he was interested in starting a Suzuki violin program in a Title 1 Pre-K classroom. The opportunity for arts educators to share their successes and concerns with the Commissioner was a positive experience both Commissioner Smith and Chancellor Haithcock, as well as the arts educators.

Prepared by Jayne Ellspermann  
Principal, West Port High School  
Marion County Florida

### ***Integrating Arts Education, Workforce and Economic Development Strategy***

*Bob Allen, IDEAS Orlando, Jud French, Digital Media Alliance Florida and Banner Center for Digital Media, Jim Brazell, The Radical Platypus*

This was an outstanding session. The three presenters were very well prepared, knowledgeable and visionary. Participants were highly engaged and interested in the information. It was fast paced and eye opening - featuring thinking and ideas beyond the expected. Because time was short, there was not time for questions. This is a topic that should be revisited in the future.

### **The Arts Mean Business**

Sherron Long, Florida Cultural Alliance, and Tyler Owens from Florida State Representative Kurt Kelly's office presented "How to be a Better Advocate." With "insider" information and years of experience represented by the presenters, this session was of great interest and included both conceptual and practical information.

### **Arts Integration Symposia**

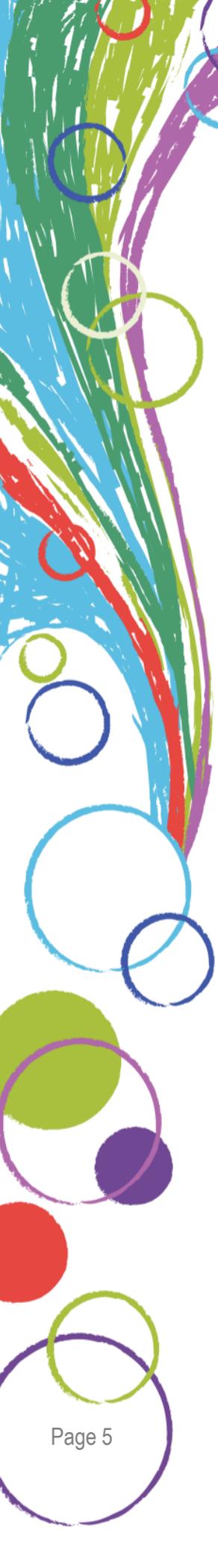
*Tom Pearson, Scott Evans, Cindy Balistreri substituted for the scheduled presenters in this session.* The presenters each summarized the symposia in Palm Beach, Orlando, and Tampa. Teachers who attended the symposia contributed their take-aways from the sessions and the concept of arts integration was discussed.

### **Lunch with impromptu performance by Royal Arts Theatre Academy Students**

### **DOE-DCA-FAAE Status Reports**

Participants rotated through 20-minute status reports from DOE, DCA, and FAAE.

*Linda Lovins, Arts Education Specialist, Florida Department of Education (by teleconference):* Updated on the status of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) currently being written. A framers committee completed their work using Big Ideas as the framework for the standards writers. Lovins continues to work on NAEP standards.



*Laura Lewis Blischke, Cultural Project, Manager, Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs. (by teleconference). Updated participants on the revised grants programs, grant cycles, and funding levels for the Division of Cultural Affairs.*

*Susan Burke, Executive Director, FAAE: Review goals and priorities of FAAE along with the accomplishments in the past year and challenges/goals for the coming year.*

**Florida Network of Arts Administrator (FNAA)** (FNAA) meeting. This group of arts administrators convened during the breakout sessions.

**Urban Arts: Establishing an Oasis for Culture, Arts Education, and Creativity.**

*Herbert Murphy Director, Royal Theatre Arts Academy.*

Mr. Murphy spoke about planning an setup for an urban arts after-school program. He presented building blocks for getting started and presented his outreach strategy. He closed with ideas of building program capacity.

**School Tour**

Craig Collins, principal, led a tour of the Harrison School for the Arts which opened in the fall of 2009. Fundraising and planning for the school was a seven-year process and the result of that process is seen in the physical facility. The philosophy and policies of the school emerged throughout the tour. The school is much more than bricks and mortar - even the extraordinary bricks and mortar that make up the Harrison School for the Arts.

**Partner Opportunities with your local Museum**

*Leticia Miller, Education Curator, Polk Museum of Art: provided an overview of models for education partnerships and programs working with the school district. Provided tips on cultivating access to local educational resources.*

**Reception:** Polk Museum of Art, Daniel Stetson, Executive Director of the Polk Museum of Art lead informal tours and welcomed the group to the museum.

**Saturday, June 19**

**Social Networking I & II,**

*Brittney Daley, Marketing - Orange County Arts Education Center offered two hands-on sessions with Facebook and Twitter and how to use social media to promote organizations and activities*

**Trends in Arts Education: FMEA, FDEO, FAEA, FATE Status Report**

This was a well-attended and well-received session. FMEA, FDEO and FAEA presented thoughtful and thought-provoking session on their work, trends in their field and the conditions in the state. FATE representatives were unable to attend and provided a written report that was shared with those in attendance.

Content about trends and issues was rich. Participants shared information and asked pertinent questions. FMEAS provided a strong "advocacy context" at the end of the session. There was strong interest from all for more interaction between the four professional organizations.

**Art in History: Tools to Integrate the Arts**

Richard Chatham and Phillip J. Mikula presented a hands-on session where participants decorated clay pots using motifs of southwestern US Native Americans. Presenters demonstrated how history, culture, geography and other subjects are integrated with the art activity. Art in History works with schools, museums and other cultural organizations. This was an excellent choice at the end of an intense conference. Participants were delighted to relax their brains and put their hands to work.

**Closing**

FAAE Board President, Jennifer Coolidge, provided an overview of the summit. FAAE Board Member Donna Wissinger and David Suarez of the Bright Futures Academy presented a flute duet to close the summit.

**AAMS Taskforce** - convened to review Arts Achieve Model School (AAMS) application and review process and recommend revisions to the form and process. Using the experience from completing, collecting and evaluating AAMS applications, the Taskforce provided guidance for developing a self-assessment tool for schools, a requirement of the 2010-2011 Florida Department of Education, Arts for a Complete Education (ACE) grant.



**Florida Alliance For Arts Education**

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