National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
KNOWLEDGE ★ REPRESENTATION ★ COMMUNITY

State Arts Agency Arts Education Managers & State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education 2015 Professional Development Institute
Proceedings

September 23 – 25, 2015
Jackson, Mississippi

For more than 20 years, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) have supported the Professional Development Institute (PDI) for state arts agency arts education managers. The PDI provides meaningful leadership development and technical assistance for this diverse field. As a result, arts education managers are knowledgeable leaders in their field through a peer network that new and seasoned managers find invaluable.

The 2015 Professional Development Institute marked the second joint convening of arts education directors from state arts agencies (SAAs) and state education agencies (SEADAE). The purpose of this year's joint PDI was to maximize impact in arts education at the state, regional and national levels by examining stakeholder roles, strengthening key relationships and leveraging shared resources. The 2015 PDI was designed to offer shared learning experiences for both state education agency and state arts agency arts education representatives, as well as to provide separate meeting time for both groups to address their unique planning and professional development goals.

This document summarizes the PDI and highlights what was learned during our time together.

PDI Speaker and Artist Biographies

PDI Objectives

In keeping with the NEA's emphasis on collective impact, PDI attendees strengthened targeted management skills and shared adaptable resources and strategies in service of the guiding question:

> **How can state arts agency and state education agency arts education directors build and sustain relationships and resources to improve arts education policy and practice in our states?**

Building on themes from previous PDIs, such as effectively communicating the value of arts education and positioning state arts education leaders as drivers of change, the 2015 PDI outcomes were:

- **Outcome 1:** Discover new strategies for building and sustaining effective relationships with key stakeholders.
- **Outcome 2:** Examine the overlap between state, regional and federal level stakeholders in order to maximize resources and streamline initiatives for impact.

Wednesday, September 23

The 2015 PDI began with an optional joint SAA-SEADAE preconference training on the new National Core Arts Standards, presented by New Hampshire Department of Education Arts Consultant Marcia McCaffrey and SEADAE Project Manager Cory Wilkerson. The training also was attended by arts education stakeholders from across Mississippi. This session provided an overview of the National Core Arts Standards, including the artistic processes, anchor standards and performance standards. The presentation incorporated elements of the website, and attendees learned how to unpack the multiple entry points into the standards for each user's personal needs.

A New Managers Luncheon offered an opportunity for five SAA arts education managers and six SEADAE members in their first year of service to meet with NEA Arts Education Director Ayanna Hudson to share stories of inspirational and transformative arts education experiences in their lives.

Following the luncheon, all SAA arts education managers traveled by bus to the Mississippi Craft Center in Ridgeland for a Flashes of Inspiration session. At this session, seven SAA arts education managers shared five-minute PechaKucha-style presentations on state level initiatives or programs highlighting the PDI theme of building, deepening or sustaining relationships to advance the work of arts education in their states. Descriptions of the presentations follow:

> **Maine:** The successes and challenges in the Maine visual and performing arts education landscape have been sustained because of a commitment to collaborations, community, and never forgetting to celebrate!
>
> **Alabama:** Building Relationships for Statewide Impact was a presentation on the working relationship among Alabama's 22-member Arts Education Leadership Team, a diverse group of executive level stakeholders and our Junior Leadership Team, which consists of 22 students age 15-23. All are working together as a think tank in support of the development of our statewide plan for arts education that is inclusive of student voice.
>
> **California:** Who's at the table? And what can I bring? This presentation was a reflection on the key relationships at work in the CREATE CA collective impact coalition for arts education.
>
> **Mississippi:** The Mississippi Arts Commission, in conjunction with VSA and the Kennedy Center, is providing specialized training for teaching artists, fine arts specialists and special education teachers. This successful trio is delivering arts-integrated lessons for the special education classroom in the Mississippi Whole Schools initiative.
>
> **North Carolina:** Forming, Storming, Norming and Performing was a presentation on how responding with agility has allowed us to persevere, build relationships and move with the changes that challenge us all.
>
> **South Carolina:** It is hard to believe, but through thick and thin, governors' vetoes, recessions, and more, the ABC Project Partnership still thrives!

Washington: A pilot project involving four of our grantees built capacity around program evaluation and strengthened relationships between arts organization staff and school/district partners.

Following the presentations, there was time for guided Q&A and unstructured discussion among session attendees.

After the SAA Flashes of Inspiration session, SEADAE members arrived at the Mississippi Craft Center to join SAA arts education managers for informal networking and a joint opening dinner, which included remarks from Mississippi Craft Center Executive Director Nancy Perkins, First Lady of Mississippi Deborah Bryant, Mississippi Representative Willie J. Perkins, Sr., and a keynote address from Ayanna Hudson. Attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the work of five Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi members who were installed throughout the space. After dinner, attendees listened to a short musical performance by Mississippi Arts Commission rostered artist Scott Albert Johnson.

Reference Materials:

- National Core Arts Standards presentation

Agenda Recap:

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	**Optional Preconference Training: Building Partnerships and Sharing Learning Expectations through the New Voluntary National Core Arts Standards** (Joint SAA/SEADAE) Mississippi Arts Commission Woolfolk Office Building, 501 N. West Street, Room 145 Marcia McCaffrey, Arts Consultant, New Hampshire Department of Education Cory Wilkerson, Project Manager, State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE)
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	**New Arts Education Managers Luncheon** with Ayanna Hudson, Arts Education Director, National Endowment for the Arts (Invitation only; joint SAA/SEADAE) The Capital Club 125 S. Congress Street
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	**Arts Education Flashes of Inspiration** (SAA only) Mississippi Craft Center 950 Rice Road, Ridgeland Andrea Coleman, Whole Schools Initiative Director, Mississippi Arts Commission Christine Fisher, Director of the Arts in Basic Curriculum Project, South Carolina Arts Commission Shelly Gilbride, Programs Officer, California Arts Council

Diana Green, Arts in Education Program Manager, Alabama State Council on the Arts
Sharon Hill, Arts in Education Director, North Carolina Arts Council
Lisa Jaret, Arts in Education Program Manager, Washington State Arts Commission
Argy Nestor, Director of Arts Education, Maine Arts Commission

Facilitators: Tatiana Gant, Executive Director, Illinois Arts Council Agency, and Bonnie Koba, Arts in Education Program Manager, Connecticut Office of the Arts

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. **Opening Dinner / Keynote / Performance**
(Joint SAA/SEADAE)
Mississippi Craft Center

Ayanna Hudson, Arts Education Director, National Endowment for the Arts
Ann Brunson, Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi: Jewelry
Tag Gamblin, Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi: Chair Caning
Elaine Maisel, Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi: Painting
Martha Scarborough, Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi: Jewelry
Lyle Wynn, Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi: Blacksmithing
Scott Albert Johnson: Harmonica
Chalmers Davis: Keyboard

Emcees: Marcia McCaffrey, Arts Consultant, New Hampshire Department of Education, and Chuck Winkler, Program Administrator/Education, Texas Commission on the Arts

Thursday, September 24

All PDI participants gathered at the Woolfolk Office Building, where the Mississippi Arts Commission is headquartered, to hear remarks by Mississippi State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carrie Wright. Wright spoke about the importance of arts curricula as a core component of a well-rounded education for all Mississippi schoolchildren. She praised the partnership in place between the Mississippi Department of Education and the Mississippi Arts Commission that works in support of this value.

Following Dr. Wright's remarks, a moderated discussion took place among a panel of experts from the Mississippi arts education landscape. Facilitated by Oregon Arts Commission Arts Education Coordinator Deb Vaughn, this conversation explored responses gathered from a survey, which PDI participants were encouraged to complete prior to the conference, about building and sustaining effective partnerships among agencies and stakeholders. The panelists from Mississippi shared detailed responses to the survey questions and the audience was invited to comment on how their own experiences across the states were similar to or different than those of the panelists.

The next conference session, a joint Open Space Technology event, took place at the Arts Center of Mississippi, a short walk from the Woolfolk Office Building. PDI participants

gathered as a full group to unpack the PDI guiding question by proposing small group conversations according to the Open Space Technology format. Once the topics were proposed, participants selected one or more small group conversations to investigate more deeply. After an hour, the full group reconvened to share and reflect on the outcomes of the breakout conversations. This session concluded the joint programming between SEADAE members and SAA arts education managers for this day.

SAA arts education managers reconvened after working lunches in regional groups for an afternoon session at the Mississippi Museum of Art. Cofacilitated by daniel johnson of the Mississippi Museum of Art, Emily Kohring of the Montana Arts Council and Susan Oetgen of NASAA, the Territory & Trust workshop offered SAA arts education managers three different approaches to exploring and experiencing the role of trust in the process of building and sustaining relationships with partners, stakeholders and other constituents of state arts agency arts education work. After brief framing remarks, participants rotated through three participatory mini-workshops in groups of 10-15 people, then reconvened as a whole group for a closing reflection. In daniel johnson's workshop, Map the Territory, participants explored the museum's grounds to experiment with their assumptions about physical and conceptual arts education spaces, asking how our individual and social perceptions about the nature and meaning of these spaces impact our relationships to them. In Emily Kohring's workshop, Act with, Not for, participants practiced cultural competency skills by engaging questions of belonging/not belonging, power dynamics and equity through image theater activities and dialogue, to understand better how physical spaces like schools or conceptual spaces like networks may be perceived as safe for some but not for others. In Susan Oetgen's workshop, Tools of Trust, participants learned and discussed trust building methods and concepts useful in creating and sustaining pathways of trust for constituents, colleagues and other arts education stakeholders, with an emphasis on Appreciative Inquiry strategies.

The final event of the day was an optional members' reception hosted by the Mississippi Museum of Art in celebration of the opening of a retrospective exhibit of the work of Mississippi artist Marie Hull.

Reference Materials:

- Survey Says survey results
- Tools of Trust supplemental materials

Agenda Recap:

9:00 – 9:15 a.m. **Welcome**
(Joint SAA/SEADAE)
Mississippi Arts Commission
Woolfolk Office Building, 501 N. West Street, Room 145

Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Education, Mississippi Department of Education
Ayanna Hudson, Arts Education Director, National Endowment for the Arts

9:15 – 10:15 a.m. **Survey Says? Exploring the Mississippi Arts Education Network**
(Joint SAA/SEADAE)
Mississippi Arts Commission, Room 145

Andrea Coleman, Whole Schools Initiative Director, Mississippi Arts Commission
Limeul Eubanks, Division Director, Visual and Performing Arts and Library Media, Mississippi Department of Education
Althea Jerome, Teaching Artist, Mississippi Arts Commission
Charlotte Smelser, Arts Education Director, Mississippi Arts Commission
Charlotte Tabereaux, Education Director, Mississippi State University Riley Center for Education and Performing Arts

Facilitator: Deb Vaughn, Arts Education / Poetry Out Loud Coordinator, Oregon Commission on the Arts

10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **Open Space Technology Session**
(Joint SAA/SEADAE)
The Arts Center of Mississippi
201 E. Pascagoula Street

Facilitator: Cathy Jensen, Fine Arts Content Specialist, Utah State Department of Education

12:45 – 1:45 p.m. **SAA Working Lunch: Regional Meetings**
(SAA only)
Mississippi Museum of Art
308 S. Lamar Street

1:45 – 2:30 p.m. Break

2:30 – 5:30 p.m. **Territory & Trust: Building the Skills to Open up and Move between Arts Education Spaces**
(SAA only)
Mississippi Museum of Art

Facilitators: daniel johnson, Director of Engagement and Learning, Mississippi Museum of Art; Emily Kohring, Arts Education Director, Montana Arts Council; and Susan Oetgen, Professional Development Institute Manager, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. **Optional Mississippi Art Museum Members' Reception**
(Joint SAA/SEADAE)
Mississippi Museum of Art

Friday, September 25

On the last day of the PDI, SAA participants convened for a final session. Maryland State Arts Council Arts in Education Program Director Christine Stewart moderated a facilitated dialogue, which included a panel of three state arts agency arts education managers and the three guest artists from the Delta Music Institute Mobile Music Lab's Healing with a Groove program. The panel and audience discussed how state arts agencies can facilitate and contribute to conversations about race, equity and the needs of disenfranchised communities, as well as the need for authentic community engagement and strategies for building and sustaining effective relationships with key—but often overlooked—arts education stakeholders.

After the dialogue, Healing with a Groove staff presented an overview of the program, provided an interactive example of program activities and invited audience members to tour the DMI Mobile Music Lab bus.

SAA attendees then reconvened with SEADAE colleagues for final remarks from Mississippi Arts Commission Executive Director Dr. Tom Pearson and a brief closing session, which expanded upon the previous day's Open Space Technology workshop by prompting participants to identify actionable next steps and collective resources in their work to advance arts education in their states.

The 2015 PDI adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Reference Materials:

- DMI Mobile Music Lab Healing with a Groove Program Logic Model
- Session Notes from Healing with a Groove: A Model Program and Conversation on How SAAs Can Promote/Support Racial Equity through the Arts
- Session Notes: Return to Open Space Technology

Agenda Recap:

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Delta Music Institute Mobile Music Lab Bus Tour**
(SAA only)
Mississippi Arts Commission
Woolfolk Office Building, 501 N. West Street, Room 145

Travis Calvin, Program Coordinator, Healing with a Groove, Delta Music Institute Mobile Music Lab
Michael Hargrove, Healing with a Groove Program Participant
Jarrick Finkley, Healing with a Groove Program Participant

9:00 – 10:45 a.m. **Healing with a Groove: A Model Program and Conversation on How SAAs Can Promote/Support Racial Equity through the Arts**
(SAA only)
Mississippi Arts Commission

Travis Calvin, Program Coordinator, Healing with a Groove, Delta Music Institute Mobile Music Lab

Michael Hargrove, Healing with a Groove Program Participant
Jarrick Finkley, Healing with a Groove Program Participant
Shelly Gilbride, Programs Officer, California Arts Council
Jean Irwin, Arts Education & Folk Arts Manager, Utah Division of Arts and Museums
Erika Lowe, Arts Education Programs Manager, Vermont Arts Council

Facilitator: Christine Stewart, Arts in Education Program Director, Maryland State Arts Council

10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Return to Open Space, Round-Robin Style**
(Joint SAA/SEADAE)
Mississippi Arts Commission, Room 145

Dr. Tom Pearson, Executive Director, Mississippi Arts Commission

Moderator: Cory Wilkerson, Project Manager, SEADAE

12:00 p.m. PDI ends