Local Learning

The National Network for Folk Arts in Education

2nd quarter News Bulletin, June 6, 2016

Paddy Bowman and Lisa Rathje, Editors

From the Director Paddy Bowman at WKU

For many educators in schools, museums, and universities, summer brings a short breather—a time to renew, read, learn. As you reflect on the closing school year and the one that lies ahead, we would love to hear your thoughts on teaching today. How are you incorporating folk arts or ethnography into your curriculum?

As I think about teachers I’ve met around the country this year, I am awed by your resilience, creativity, and compassion for your students. A recent symposium on cultural sustainability renewed my passion for engaging with educators, students, artists, and activists. It inspires me to consider how to incorporate cultural sustainability into education and encourage young people to be cultural stewards.

I invite readers to explore provocative new resources (see Summer Reading) and to check our website for summer workshops in folklife and oral history that can be part of your summer renewal.

--Paddy Bowman

News

Cultural Sustainability

The Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Alliance for California Traditional Arts, and Royal Textile Academy of Bhutan hosted an invigorating symposium at the National Museum of the American Indian in DC on May 12. Presenters from around the globe included artists, linguists, folklorists, educators, and activists. They shared exemplary efforts to sustain local artistic practices and cultural identities in the face of accelerating globalization. Topics included the intersection of folklife and health care, intellectual rights to traditional music and culture, entrepreneurship and traditional crafts, and indigenous language preservation and education. [1]Click here for the roster of Cultural Sustainability in the Age of Globalization presenters, including Grammy
winner Angélique Kidjo.

In her book Spirit Rising, Kidjo shares stories from her work as a UNICEF ambassador and as founder of the Batonga Foundation, which gives African girls access to education.

AFC 40th Anniversary

The American Folklife Center is hosting events throughout the year to celebrate its 1976 founding. On May 17, AFC Director Betsy Peterson and former directors Alan Jabbour and Peggy Bulger discussed AFC’s historical initiatives and future prospects. Cliff Murphy, Director of the NEA Folk and Traditional Arts Program, moderated the roundtable, which illuminated changes in the field of folklore that have influenced AFC policies and programs.

Trustee Pat Atkinson of the Nevada Arts Council presented AFC Director Betsy Peterson with a lariat and leather commemorative piece commissioned from Nevada leather artist Jeffery Myers to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the AFC.

On May 25, Kiran Singh Sirah, President of the [2]International Storytelling Center, gave a Botkin Lecture on the power of storytelling as a great community-building tool that can foster peace and collaboration. Before coming to the U.S., he established arts, cultural, and human rights programs at the National Museums Scotland and peace and conflict resolution initiatives exploring issues of religious, ethnic, and sectarian conflicts in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

AFC will post videos of these talks online in the [3]Botkin Lecture archive.

Kudos!

Local Learning Board President Anne Pryor is retiring as Folk and Traditional Arts Specialist for the Wisconsin Arts Board. We congratulate her on her many accomplishments, including the Wisconsin Teachers of Local Culture Network, Wisconsin Folks website, numerous publications, and a robust Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program. We wish her many more adventures in folk arts in education as well as curling, pie baking, and traveling!

AEP Transitions

[4]The Arts Education Partnership has moved to the Education Commission for
the States in Denver. As a partner organization, Local Learning welcomes the new director, Jane Best. She wrote in a recent blog post about the importance of developing resources supporting implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The national forum will be Oct. 5-7 in Denver.

Lomax 1934 Prize

Congratulations to Jane Vidrine, winner of our Lomax 1934 Prize for lesson plans using the website produced by folklorist Josh Caffrey, John and Alan Lomax in Louisiana, 1934; www.lomax1934.com. A music educator at L.J. Alleman Arts Academy in Lafayette, Jane is ardent about connecting students with their traditional culture and regional music.

Summer Riches

Get away on your own or with family for a weekend of classes, music, and dance at the Augusta Heritage Center in Elkins, WV. Take cultural sustainability workshops or the Discovering Community Institute at the Vermont Folklife Center in Middlebury. Or explore Arts in Traditional and Contemporary Culture, 10th Annual Arts Education Leadership Institute at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. Presenters include Christine Ballengee-Morris and Lisa Rathje of Local Learning. Workshops and presentations will support interdisciplinary instructional practices and focus on tradition, identity and power. Find these and other learning opportunities in our annual roster on the LL homepage.

LL@VV

South Louisiana educators are invited to the fourth annual LL@VV institute, Music in Our Community, Aug. 1-2, at Vermilionville in Lafayette. This theme will guide professional development and residencies in the coming year. Northside High students who operate the school’s FM station will interview traditional musicians to produce radio programs, and musicians will have residencies there and in other parish schools. For info email Melanie Harrington education@bayouvermiliondistrict.org.

Year 3 students of French teacher Mario Charest at Lafayette High worked with John Sharpe of the Center for Louisiana Studies and Vermilionville education director Melanie Harrington to produce a video documentary on Vermionville folk artists. The video previewed during the citywide Arts Expo May 14 at the Acadiana Center for the Arts and will be shared throughout the region.

IN THIS ISSUE:
Alan Govenar and his Documentary Arts team launched [13]Masters of Traditional Arts, a beautiful, comprehensive website celebrating the NEA National Heritage Fellows. Users fluidly navigate through photographs, biographies, videos, and audio recordings of over 400 Heritage Fellows.

The site includes the [14]Masters of Traditional Arts Education Guide, with interdisciplinary activities and units of study that ground young people in their personal traditions as they research and experience the traditions of Heritage Fellows.

The traveling exhibition Extraordinary Ordinary People: American Masters of Traditional Arts, curated by Alan Govenar and Marsha MacDowell, offers another way of experiencing the artistry and mastery of the Heritage Fellows. [16]Learn more on the Documentary Arts site.

Congratulations to Marsha MacDowell and co-authors on Quilts and Human Rights, University of Nebraska Press. This book offers a new understanding of the history of global human rights through textiles of awareness and activism. It pays tribute to individuals “who have used needle skills to prick the conscience and encourage action against human rights violations.” Available on Amazon.

International Storytelling Center’s teaching tools include a storytelling toolkit and Common Core connections.

The [17]2016 AFS Folklore and Education Section Newsletter is available online announce the editors, Rosemary Hathaway and Gregory Hansen. Join the section for $10, no need to join AFS.


[19][jpeg]
The Creative Alliance seeks a Community Arts Manager to manage and develop new community-based programs that serve and strengthen the communities of Southeast Baltimore.

[20]Learn More...

Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau Arts and Culture Coordinator

[21]Learn More...

MINDPOP seeks a Program Director to manage Arts Partnership relations, professional learning for teaching artists and the development of pathways between schools/students and the creative industries.

[22]Learn More...

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KEEP IN TOUCH:

Web: [23]locallearningnetwork.org

[24]Join us on Facebook

[25]Send us an Email

How are we serving you?

After taking several of our workshops, third-grade educator Ashleigh D’Aunoy of Lafayette, LA wrote,

“These folk arts professional development training opportunities have been invaluable to me as an educator, and I have developed many cross-curricular projects using elements of the various workshops."

Please continue to let us know how you are using JFE and other resources by taking our [26]short survey. We use this information to help us learn how people are using our resources and how we might better serve the field.

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[27]http://locallearningnetwork.org

References