



Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance



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annual report

SUPPORTING ARTS EDUCATION FOR ALL MARYLAND SCHOOLCHILDREN

Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance is a statewide partnership dedicated to advancing the cause of arts as a basic component of public education.

VISION STATEMENT:

AEMS Alliance actively advocates local and statewide educational policy to ensure that every child in Maryland has high-quality opportunities for learning both in and through the arts.

MISSION:

To achieve the goal of high-quality, systemic arts education—in dance, music, theatre and visual arts—for all Maryland schoolchildren.

2008—ANOTHER YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT

Fulfilling Our Mission

In the past year, AEMS sustained its support of high-quality arts education programs; initiated numerous new partnerships and task forces; implemented an array of interrelated arts education programs; and expanded its organizational capacity. The list of our accomplishments is long and detailed, but here are some of the highlights.

During the past year, AEMS organized and presented a number of well-attended and well-received programs, including the ninth annual Cultural Arts for Education (CAFE) conference, the annual Maryland Artist/Teacher Institute (MATI), the first Artist/Teacher Institute International, and numerous workshops and professional development sessions throughout Maryland. Our programs and conferences continue to be the preeminent forums in Maryland where arts educators and arts education supporters meet, exchange ideas and best practices, and generate concrete initiatives and programs that promote, develop, and support arts education efforts on the local level.

AEMS initiated a statewide Arts Integration Outreach Program to provide on-site workshops throughout Maryland where teachers, arts specialists, and school leaders could receive detailed information on using arts integration as an instruction model to improve overall academic achievement as well as increase classroom instruction in the arts. AEMS also participated in Maryland State

Department of Education sponsored professional development workshops to provide in-service training to teachers in the use of the online *Maryland Fine Arts Instructional Tool Kit* and Maryland's Voluntary State Curriculum (VSC) in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts. We are the only organization providing instruction in the use of the online Instructional Tool Kit, and our participation helped teachers increase their understanding of relationships among curriculum, instruction, and the assessment process. AEMS also helped to expand the Teaching Artist Institute (TAI), a professional development program for teaching artists, and the multi-institutional Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Arts Integration program.

AEMS also created an organizational brochure to enhance information dissemination to the arts education field and others interested in arts education and produced and distributed the DVD "Hard Fun: Transforming Education Through the Arts," as well as quarterly e-mail newsletters.

Our staff, headed by John Ceschini, an experienced educator and enthusiastic advocate for arts education, pushed the organization to new levels of accomplishment and prominence. We believe that next year John and our able staff will be even more effective in accomplishing our goal to advance the arts in Maryland's public schools.

OUR TANGIBLE ACHIEVEMENTS DURING FISCAL YEAR 2008

9th Annual Cultural Arts for Education (CAFE IX) Conference

Held on May 27, 2008 at Towson University's Center for the Arts, the conference hosted presentations and information sessions on state and national issues affecting the field of arts education. CAFE is the only conference within the the State that specifically focuses on those issues affecting the arts and education in Maryland. CAFE offers the state's arts education supporters a rare opportunity to network with their peers, present to their peers in their area of expertise, and to learn directly from specialists about the most pressing arts education issues. Attendees bring the knowledge gained from CAFE back to their respective school districts and then use that information to promote and enhance arts education initiatives on the local level. Survey results and feedback gathered from previous CAFE conferences have inspired the creation of a number of AEMS Alliance programs including the Teaching Artist Institute and *The Maryland Fine Arts Online Instructional Tool Kit* professional development workshop sessions. The attendance and public visibility of this event continues to grow each year.

Administration of the Maryland Artist/Teacher Institute (MATI)

Working in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland State Arts Council, AEMS Alliance administers the Maryland Artist/Teacher Institute. MATI is an intensive professional development program for elementary and middle school teachers and administrators, conducted by master teachers, artists, and artist-educators in a residential university setting in the summer, with follow-up through the academic year. Through lectures, seminars, and workshops, teachers are provided with opportunities to enhance their knowledge of the relationships among content areas and of ways that the arts can be used to integrate curriculum, content, processes, and skills. MATI was established to explore and demystify the arts as a

force in a child's development and to enable teachers to become more knowledgeable, creative, and skillful in using the arts to engage children in active learning. Extremely high demand for this program has resulted in full capacity enrollment for the past five years, and an excess beyond capacity of over 115 applicants who could not be accommodated in the summer of 2008 because of resource limitations.

Administration of the International Artist Teacher Exchange (IATE) program

IATE provides an opportunity for Maryland educators to obtain George Mason University graduate credit through professional development training in arts integration that focuses on the arts and culture of Italy. Participants tour the country, experience its arts and culture, work with Italian artists and develop lesson plans based on their experiences. This year, the program had 40 participants.

Expansion of the Teaching Artist Institute (TAI), a professional development program for teaching artists

Initiated in FY 2007, TAI is conducted in partnership with Young Audiences/Arts for Learning of Maryland, the Maryland State Arts Council and AEMS Alliance. The TAI program trains teaching artists in the use and understanding of the Fine Arts Voluntary State Curriculum as well as arts integration strategies that will enable them to more effectively engage teachers and students during their school residencies and other programs. TAI will offer two programs during FY 2009 to accommodate increased demand for training. The Kennedy Center Education Department National Partnerships Program has awarded a grant for this program that requires matching funds.

OUR TANGIBLE ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2007

Expansion of a multi-institutional program leading to a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Arts Integration

The AEMS Alliance Higher Education in the Arts Task (HEAT) Force created this in-service credential in 2006 and six additional graduates were awarded the certificate in 2008. Three new cohorts from Anne Arundel, Baltimore City and Montgomery County school systems have been added with a total of 50 students who are enrolled in the 2008-09 program that is hosted by Towson University in partnership with the University of Maryland, College Park; University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and Johns Hopkins University.

Establishment of the Artist/Teacher Institute International (ATI International)

A joint project of AEMS Alliance and MSDE, ATI International is modeled after the MATI program and is open to educators from within and outside the U.S. During the summer of 2008, 22 participants from Italy, Mississippi, and Maryland attended the first week-long session of this new initiative.

Establishment of concurrent sessions of ATI International and the newly created National Music Learning Leadership Certificate Institute (MLL Institute)

Music-In-Education National Consortium in partnership with AEMS Alliance helped present a team professional development certificate program. The Consortium and AEMS believe that the formation of site-based Music Learning Leadership teams can transform schools into music-in-education “learning laboratory” environments that will demonstrate that active engagement in music benefits all children’s cognitive, personal, social, and aesthetic development when achieved in the context of music and arts-based school improvement/reform plans. The first MLL Institute had 31 participants from

Maryland, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Arizona, New York, and California. The AEMS Alliance facilitated and hosted a Music-in-Education National Consortium Music Learning Leadership Seminar in March, 2008 to formulate the content of the MLL Institute.

Initiation of a state-wide Arts Integration Outreach Program to provide on-site workshops throughout Maryland.

Workshops on the arts-integrated approach to instruction were presented for teachers, arts specialists, and school leaders from 12 school systems. The goal was to introduce schools to arts integration as an instructional model and to develop formal networks of arts integration schools supported by online resources and mentoring.

Presentations of MSDE sponsored professional development workshops for school systems throughout Maryland.

This program provided professional development training to the school systems of Baltimore City and Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Charles, Dorchester, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George’s, St. Mary’s, Talbot, and Washington counties. This unique initiative provides in-service training for teachers and education practitioners in two areas: 1) *The Maryland Fine Arts Instructional Tool Kit*: an online resource that has been developed to enhance understanding of the relationships among curriculum, instruction, and assessment processes as they affect teaching and learning, and 2) the Maryland State Department of Education’s Voluntary State Curriculum (VSC) in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts. Workshop activities include navigation of the online *Instructional Tool Kit* and a review of the grade-by-grade (PreK through 8) content standards and measurable objectives present in the Voluntary State Curriculum. AEMS Alliance is the only organization currently providing statewide professional development workshops in the use of the online *Instructional Tool Kit*.

Facilitation of local arts education program development

AEMS has worked with the Baltimore City Public School system to support the awarding of a series of Ford Foundation grants for the planning and implementation of a systemic arts integration program across the middle grades. A not-for-profit organization, Arts Everyday - Baltimore Partners for Enhanced Learning, was launched in the spring of 2006 as part of this initiative.

Creation of an AEMS Alliance organizational brochure to enhance information dissemination

AEMS created an organizational brochure to enhance information dissemination to the arts education field and others interested in arts education.

AEMS also redesigned and revised the *Parents Tool Kit* that now includes an introduction from AEMS Alliance and additional case studies from Maryland school systems. AEMS continued distribution of printed materials and publications such as the *Evaluation Tool Kit*, the brochure entitled *Arts Education Research*, the 14 brochure series summarizing the Maryland State Department of Education's Essential Learner Outcomes for the Fine Arts, and the MSDE four-volume collection entitled *Better Practices in Arts Education for Music, Visual Art, Dance and Theatre*.

Distribution of DVD "Hard Fun: Transforming Education Through The Arts"

AEMS has presented this widely acclaimed video to over 5000 individuals including legislators, principals, supervisors, educators, teaching artists, arts organizations etc.

The articulation of Portfolio Plus in partnership with MSDE

AEMS has partnered in the development of a comprehensive set of strategies that will ensure accountability for the quality of arts instruction aligned with the Voluntary State Curriculum and included traditional and longer-term assessments. Using the assessment strategies encompassed in Portfolio Plus, MSDE believes that teacher will be better able to evaluate student learning and to hone instruction and that school systems will be better able to measure the effectiveness of arts education programs. AEMS has facilitated communication to the education field regarding Portfolio Plus in the context of state policy for arts education.

AEMS participated in state and national presentations

AEMS advocated for quality arts education opportunities and detailed research concerning the benefit of arts inclusion in the school curriculum. AEMS reached several thousand arts educators and arts supporters by participating in a half dozen national conferences and an equal number of state and local conferences.

AEMS helped implement the Fine Arts Voluntary State Curriculum

AEMS partnered with MSDE, the Maryland Fine Arts Education Advisory Panel, and Maryland arts organizations to induce the implementation of the Fine Arts Voluntary State Curriculum (VSC) into state policy. The Maryland State Board of Education accepted the VSC on May 28, 2008.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

STATEMENT OF REVENUE COLLECTED AND EXPENSES PAID FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

REVENUE	Amount
Contributions	\$100,240
Grants	15,903
Investment Income	11,146
Conference and workshops	154,761
In-kind contributions	—
Net Assets released from restrictions	<u>451,082</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$733,132</u>

EXPENSES	Amount
Program Services	\$ 640,448
Management and General	73,466
Fundraising	<u>18,196</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 732,110</u>
Change in Net Assets	1,022
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>117,867</u>
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 118,889</u>

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