



August 1, 2012

Dear Authorizing Official,

On October 15, 2012 arts education leaders from across Arizona will gather at the **Joint Arts Education Conference** to explore key areas and trends in education reform, including **Arizona's Common Core Standards** and **Teacher Evaluation System**, and the significant role arts educators play in these arenas. Presented by the Arizona Department of Education and the Arizona Commission on the Arts and hosted at the Mesa Arts Center, this day-long event will help arts educators engage in **solution driven learning and discussions** as they look to create stronger, higher quality and sustainable programs in this era of tight budgets and limited resources.

This conference is designed especially for **art, dance, music and theatre educators, general classroom teachers, administrators, teaching artists** and those vested in providing an arts education to all students. Participants will create action-oriented strategies to help Arizona schools and communities build a sustainable future including the arts for our students.

Participants in the Joint Arts Education Conference will have the opportunity to interact with and learn from some of the leading thinkers and researchers in the field of arts education. Guest speakers include **Dr. Peter Boonshaft, Professor of Music at Hofstra University**, and **David Dik, National Executive Director of Young Audiences** as well as **Kathy Hrabluk** and **Roberta Alley, department leaders for Standards and Assessment** at the Arizona Department of Education. Participants will:

- Envision what the future can look like for their students – including integration programs that **connect the arts to Arizona's Common Core Standards**.
- Be among the first to view the **new National Core Arts Standards** and **have a voice** in shaping their development.
- Connect with colleagues engaged in similar work across Arizona, and learn how to **remain connected through online Professional Learning Communities** following the conference.

We welcome participation from your school and/or organization at the Joint Arts Education Conference, and encourage you to consider sending a team of educators, teaching artists and advocates to attend. A team can help cover multiple breakout sessions during this short, day-long event, as well as support each other in building sustainable, high quality programs back in your school and community.

Thank you for considering this opportunity on behalf of your staff, community advocates and educators. We look forward to working with you as we work together to build a complete and quality education including the arts for Arizona's students.

Sincerely,

Lynn Tuttle
Director of Arts Education
Arizona Department of Education

Alex Nelson
Director of Arts Learning
Arizona Commission on the Arts