

Morning Breakout Session – Community Arts Learning

Session Facilitators: **Korbi Adams, Childsplay**
 Mandy Buscas, Mesa Arts Center
 Elizabeth Johnson, Arizona State University

Session participants represented non-profit organizations, schools, teachers, blogger, professors, universities, ballet, culture, community, visual, theater, dance

Circle activity -- step in the middle say something about where you come from

Keywords from activity:

- collaboration is key
- native, dance
- dangerous sometimes
- another country
- very rural, not a lot of arts
- celebrate large indigenous population
- city that values festival culture, dance in the streets on stilts
- work with people from all different backgrounds, diverse population
- cultural diversity is abundant
- cowboys are a reality
- they wish they had more collaboration
- people sing
- wide variety of artistic opportunities and outlets
- blue skies are abundant with sandy beaches
- lots of plants
- have to carry a water bottle everywhere
- used to be cotton and alfalfa and now its suburban
- this is a beautiful dance
- community involvement is essential
- it is never too late to find out what you want to do with the rest of your life
- surrounded by water
- sometimes feel like I'm alone on an island
- there are many horses and green fields
- my students inspired me everyday
- we integrate arts and academics

What did you notice about the activity?

- don't want to be in the center, but want to participate
- circle got tighter
- difference in physical space and comfort
- difference in others faces
- group dynamic created

Community Arts Learning - what does it mean?

- expanding experience of students, authentic opportunity
- being able to relate the arts to things in everyday life, values, experiences
- limited art experiences, poverty, minority, isolation, there isn't connecting - idea that arts can help bridge gender, race, class
- arts not for just one gender, race, etc.
- enrich lives in community
- why arts are so important
- arts should be fun
- bring experts to the classroom
- accessible for communities of poverty
- free and accessible
- application
- trigger interest to pursue further
- program for community
- connecting
- change

What is Community Arts Learning NOT?

- isolated
- observational
- not interactive
- non intergenerational
- not just one way
- not outcomes (is process)
- one dimensional
- selfishly
- no growth

Highlights

- changes happening that are positive, political people and artists working together, advocates, discussion of frustration, arts are inter-related, literacy and drama example
- forces personal and collaborative creativity, news ways to fund, reach out to community, get creative, the arts are not a stand alone thing, working with science, math, etc - inter-related
- dialogue, knowledge empowers application, remembering past values and experiences, building new traditions, creativity adding to old traditions, starting with selves, starts with us, share, using art to heal, participate together, history of your community
- creative act is opening things up to assemble into new parts

5 take aways

- I'm not alone
- there's hope
- I can make a difference
- Seek help from each other
- Share inspiration