

**Afternoon Breakout Session – Visual Arts**

**Session Facilitators: Robert Benson, Peoria Unified School District  
Kathryn Blake, Phoenix Art Museum**

- What are some of the concepts?
  - Organic
  - Structure
  - Common words
    - Critical thinking
    - Change
    - Laughter
  
- Common Core
  - Some, not all teachers in group have seen this in their school
  - Many arts teachers don't have enough support in this area
  - Common Core is thought to be a checklist often
    - Teachers often felt pressure to treat as such
    - Teachers have a hard time finding different ways to implement this
  
- Goals
  - All teachers are responsible for growth in certain areas, i.e., reading
  - Literacy development is extremely important for arts educators
    - Children need to understand that visual literacy is no different than reading
    - Common Core skills can be used to gain many different skills
    - Children can use common core to understand symbols, to ask questions, to communicate, think about another culture, compare and contrast, etc.
  - Leadership
    - Don't ask permission to attempt to implement things that will help kids
    - Teachers should be coaching critical thinking skills, Common Core can be used for this
    - Don't let technology interfere
      - Find the unique quality when viewing artwork in person, not just online
      - Teachers need to take steps to ensure that children can develop inference skills