Backstage

A Monthly Newsletter from EBRPSS Department of Fine Arts

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Happy New Year

Backstage

EBRPSS Department of Fine Arts’ “Backstage” is our EBR School Community monthly email newsletter celebrating all things Fine Arts in the District. During such an unprecedented time in our global community, Backstage is our attempt to stay connected, informed and united as we push forward during this academic year. We welcome celebrations, and newsworthy events for each issue, and encourage you to send information that you would like highlighted. Each issue includes current and past national news articles highlighting education in the Arts. Thank you for your tireless efforts as Arts Educators. Enjoy this issue!

Overview:

- All-Parish Honor Choir
- LSU MOA Photographs of the New South
- Holiday Greeting Card Design Winners
- MMAM’s Choral Department Receives Grant Funding
- Northeast High Virtual Band Concert
- January Tech Bites
- Grant Opportunities
- Celebrations
- Funding
- Arts News Spotlight - Arts Education Policy Trends in 2021

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Roxi Victorian, Editor
Sean Joffrion, Director of Fine Arts

‘Science will get us out of this, but the Arts will get us through this’
After a hiatus of several years, the EBRPSS high school Choir directors have re-formed the All-Parish High School Honor Choir. Due to COVID, the ensemble was formed by director nomination, and unfortunately will not be able to put on a concert, but hope to be back on stage performing in-person for the 2021 - 2022 school year. Congratulations to all students who were named to this lofty group!!

Wildwood Elementary Receives Art Supplies

Marthalee Marron would like to thank the generous donors who enabled art students at Wildwood Elementary to receive their own individual bags of art supplies. Ms. Marron and students are extremely grateful. Generous donations were made by several individuals and businesses. Supplies included individual pencil bags, paints, brushes, markers, drawing pencils, colored pencils and gel pens.

LSU MOA Photographs of the New South

Opening October 22 at the LSU Museum of Art is Southbound: Photographs of and about the New South, featuring fifty-six photographers’ visions of the South over the first decades of the twenty-first century. Accordingly, it offers a composite image of the region. The photographs echo stories told about the South as a bastion of tradition, as a region remade through Americanization and globalization, and as a land full of surprising realities. The project’s purpose is to investigate the senses of place in the South that congeal, however fleetingly, in the spaces between the photographers’ looking, their images, and our own preexisting ideas about the region.

Northeast Jr/Sr HS Virtual Winter Concert.

Northeast Junior and Senior HS Virtual Winter Concert was a success and broadcast live on YouTube on December 17, 2020. The successful virtual Holiday presentations during the weeks preceding the break are a prime example of the resilience and creativity of our EBRPSS arts educators. The show must go on — always. We continue to be extremely proud of our educators and students during this time and commend all of them for their commitment to artistic excellence in every endeavor. Job well done!
Ms. Foundation for Women Grant Opportunity

The Ms. Foundation is launching a multi-year programmatic strategy to strengthen the financial sustainability and leadership development capacity of organizations led by women and girls of color in the U.S. South. Their initial grantmaking of $1,000,000 will support WGOC-led groups in the U.S. South across the spectrum of organizing and supporting our communities.

The Ms. Foundation for Women welcomes requests for general operating support from groups working in the United States, Puerto Rico and U.S. territories. Organizations are invited to apply for up to $50,000 per year for up to two years. For more information on the Ms. South Grant and other open Grant Opportunities from The Ms. Foundation for women, visit the website at www.forwomen.org.

Do you, or someone you know, or an organization that you know of, have an acoustic piano - upright, baby grand, grand - that is no longer needed and looking to do something with it? Why not donate it to the EBRPSS so the next generation of students can play it? Contact Glenn Scheuermann at gscheuermann@ebrschools.org for more information on how a piano can be donated. PUT THAT PIANO BACK TO WORK!!

Don’t Forget to Apply for Debose 2021!!
Celebrations

Each year, the EBRPSS Fine Arts Department holds a parish-wide Holiday Greeting Card Design Contest. One elementary, one middle, and one high school entry are selected for the district's annual holiday greeting cards mailed to district stakeholders and supporters. This year's winners are:

FIRST PLACE
Dev Iyer, 5th Grade
Buchanan Elementary School
Art teacher: Kelly Haskew

Alexandra Hernandez, 7th Grade
Park Forest Middle School
Art teacher: Salma Hasan

Victoria Williams, 11th Grade
Baton Rouge Magnet High School
Art teacher: Cetin Ates

SECOND PLACE
Dhruv Adusumilli, 5th Grade
Buchanan Elementary School
Art teacher: Kelly Haskew

Devone Anton Webb, 7th Grade
Park Forest Middle School
Art teacher: Salma Hasan

Camille Piner, 9th Grade
Baton Rouge Magnet High School
Art teacher: Cetin Ates

THIRD PLACE
Scott Isbell, 5th grade
Parkview Elementary School
Art teacher: Kelly Haskew

Ceryi Lozano-Aguilar, 8th grade
Park Forest Middle School
Art teacher: Salma Hasan

Margaret Bagot, 10th grade
Baton Rouge Magnet High School
Art teacher: Cetin Ates

HONORABLE MENTION
Milanda Liu, 4th grade
Parkview Elementary School
Art teacher: Kelly Haskew

Cadyn Bui, 8th grade
Sherwood Middle Academic Magnet School
Art teacher: Mary Trigg

June Peterson, 8th grade
McKinley MiddleArt teacher: Cetin Ates

Latavia Tircuit, 9th grade
Scotlandville Magnet High School
Art teacher: Amy Griffin

A Donors Choose project written by the EBRPSS Fine Arts Department has been fully funded for the purchase of forty eight instrument bell covers for student use. Instrument bell covers fit over the end of a band instrument, acting as a ‘mask’ for the instrument, and allowing the student to play the instrument indoors. The project, totaling $680, was funded by several donors, including the Dow Corporation. Many thanks to the donors and Donors Choose!!
The 2020 AEP Virtual Gathering may feel like it happened years ago, but it’s only been three months! At this year’s gathering we reflected on the past 25 years and looked ahead to the next 25. We also considered drivers of change in arts education policy and practice as we continue to navigate uncertainty and unrest. As this year ends, we are reflecting on the great ideas shared at the event and looking forward to the work that will lead arts education policy and practice into 2021.

Racial Equity and Justice:
In 2020, conversations about the COVID-19 pandemic’s disproportionate impact on communities of color, as well as sustained public attention on police violence and systemic racism, spotlighted equity work in policy. Quanice Floyd, Amir Whitaker, and Jeff Poulin’s session presented ideas about who arts education is for, who serves as a gatekeeper in arts education spaces, and how human rights issues are reflected — or not — in arts education. Janel George’s keynote provided a reminder of how far we’ve come in federal education policy and how far we still need to go in both policy and implementation. She reminded us that we are still striving for an education system where children thrive. James Haywood Rolling Jr. and Mario Rossero spoke about why racial injustice has moved into the greater public consciousness as we navigate the pandemic. Rolling also shared some of the work he has done to support anti-racist arts education practices. We anticipate these conversations will drive policy change well beyond 2020.

Uniting and Healing Through the Arts:
With the shift to remote learning and the resulting isolation for both children and adults, the role of the arts in unifying and healing are anticipated to remain top of mind for districts and states. Heleya de Barros, Olisa Enrico and James Miles presented a session on strategies for improving pedagogy and connecting with learners. Ashley Hare, Paula Ortega and Micky Johnson built on these strategies and highlighted three concepts that must be present to promote creative youth development: racial equity and social justice, youth voices and collective action.

In his keynote presentation, Paul Siefken shared the work of Fred Rogers Productions, focusing on modeling attitudes of curiosity and kindness. He emphasized that families, teachers, and community members are all educators and listening first is how they can best support children’s emotional well-being.

Through a panel discussion, Susan MacLaury, Gina Lyles, Andre Robert Lee, and Hasan Davis spoke to the importance of sharing power with students, schools, and communities to build greater collaboration and creative approaches to education. Reflecting on the film Virtually Free, Lee and Lyles described the importance of building trust between youth and artists, manifested through the process of creating a virtual reality jail cell including youth voices and artwork to foster empathy during police training in Richmond, Virginia. These themes of honoring young people’s experiences, listening to communities, and trust-building will remain central to arts education and policy throughout 2021.

Funding Opportunities:
Mary Luehrsen, Jim Palmarini, and Lynn Tuttle presented a session on Title IV-A, a federal block funding grant for a well-rounded education, safe and healthy students, and educational technology. Prior to widespread shutdowns and the financial downturn, school districts spent at least $6.7 million in Title IV-A funds to support arts education during the 2019-20 school year. The shift to online and hybrid learning prompted school districts to shift funding to educational technology, and the presenters reminded us that school districts can continue to tap into Title IV-A funds to support safe remote, hybrid and in-person arts instruction.

Karla Estela Rivera, Jason Helfer and Jonathan VanderBrug shared a case study on the Illinois state arts ESSA indicator. The indicator serves as a statement that Illinois prioritizes arts education, and presenters shared that they see it as an opportunity for advocacy as funding tightens and school districts make decisions about spending limited funds.
While we can’t predict what the next year — or 25 years — will bring in arts education, we do know that AEP’s partner and affiliate organizations will lead the way in making progress. In 2021, AEP will continue to build leadership capacity and share the collective expertise of our partners on racial equity and justice, uniting and healing through the arts, and funding opportunities for arts education.

Author Profile

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As director of the Arts Education Partnership, Jamie works with over 100 partner organizations to support arts learning across the United States. Prior to joining Education Commission of the States, Jamie worked for Arts Education Collaborative in Pittsburgh and was previously the state arts curriculum advisor at the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Jamie is also an active musician who spends time on the weekends rehearsing or performing with various groups.