

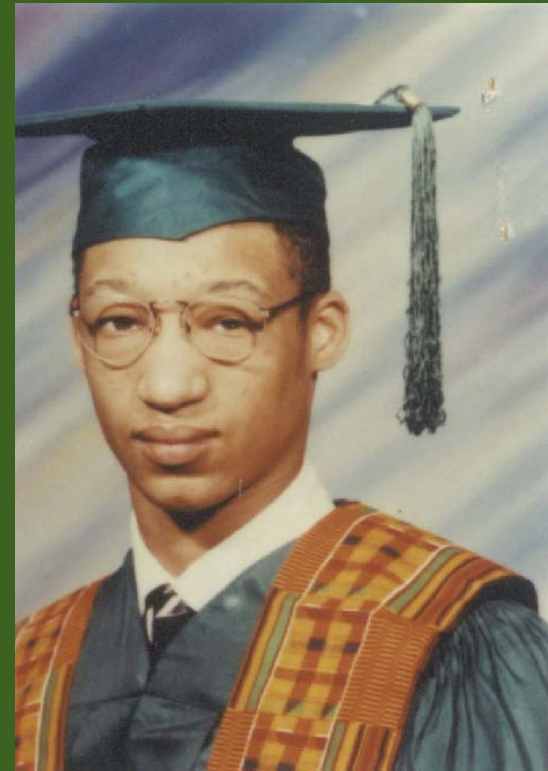
WELCOME TO

“The Importance of the Arts to Education”

Presented by **Anne Ostholthoff**, CEO of ArtsNOW

Rome Rotary Club | August 20th 2009

Before I begin, a personal story about Kevin. It's 1993 and I am in Chicago. He is in 5th grade.



"I am doing fine, thanks for asking. I am preparing to graduate 8th grade and go to high school".

We hear repeatedly that the arts are proven to help students succeed.

“A growing body of research points to the important role of the arts in improving students’ achievement and preparing them for an economy that demands creative solutions to challenging problems.

There is also evidence that the arts in education can increase students’ engagement in learning as well as their social and civic development.”

Education Commission
of the States 2009

We hear this from both educational experts & reformers; from well respected strategists and leaders such as Daniel Pink and Thomas Friedman.

They all know the arts prepare our youth for this “21st century workplace of ideas.”

Why do we hear this
How do they know this

There a zillion news reports and
research studies that prove this fact:



Students engaged in
the arts **out-perform**
students who are not.

Period.

The benefit of
engaging students
with the arts:

- Improves cognitive skills
- Increases student attendance and engagement
- Motivates students to learn
- Reaches and increases the performance of students who often struggle
- Promotes students' self-confidence and fosters better relationships

Ed. Commission of the States/ Policy Issue
Site in Arts in Education - 2009

What is the data behind
such strong assertions

Let's look at the research.

[There's a copy with the fine print for you to take with you.]



DID YOU KNOW



When students engage with the arts,
Engagement with the arts
they become better thinkers, readers,
motivates students to learn and
mathematicians, and problem solvers.
improves their self-concept.

ArtsNOW

Igniting creative
teaching and learning

Our work to equip teachers to bring more creative and engaging instruction into the classroom reflects these same results.

ArtsNOW

Igniting creative
teaching and learning

One school system reports lower discipline referrals & increased attendance.

One school reported double digit increases in student science test scores, the area of focus for their arts integration strategies.

The experts agree and we have plenty of data to support this claim:

The arts help students succeed.

**What do the practitioners
we respect say about this?**

Do they agree?

Other Georgia Practitioners in support of the claim that the arts help students succeed include:

Kathy Cox

State Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Martha Reichrath

Deputy State Superintendent,
Standard, Instruction, & Assessment

Sue Snow

Associate Superintendent for
Standard Based Learning

Pamela H. Smith, Ed.D

Interim Director Division
of Academic Standards

and a host of leaders in this
community. [ask around!]

Leanne Maule,

2009 Georgia Teacher of the Year says:

"I have been teaching for over 13 years, and we have seen first hand the value of teaching children in ways that use engaging, hands-on strategies, to include arts-based learning. When students are successful in this kind of learning, their **GREATEST** feat is acquiring self-esteem through achievement."

Teachers know
that the best
teaching engages
our WHOLE brain.

“We must engage
students socially,
physically, emotionally,
reflectively, cognitively
– at the same time.”

Given (2002); Teaching to
the Brains' Natural Learning Systems

True or False?

1. When the body is still, the brain learns at its highest capacity.
2. We learn both linguistically (i.e., through language) and non-linguistically (i.e., through artistic expressions, charts, maps, etc.)
3. The brain is naturally wired to learn best through lectures.
4. The arts have many outlets for illustrations of learned content that produce critical thinkers and problem solvers.

True or False?

1. When the body is still, the brain learns at its highest capacity.

False

2. We learn both linguistically (i.e., through language) and non-linguistically (i.e., through artistic expressions, charts, maps, etc.)

True

3. The brain is naturally wired to learn best through lectures.

False

4. The arts have many outlets for illustrations of learned content that produce critical thinkers and problem solvers.

True

MORE SUPPORT FOR
ARTS IN EDUCATION:

The law states that the arts are a core subject, a critical component to learning, as part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002.

MORE SUPPORT FOR
ARTS IN EDUCATION:

Our Secretary of Education, Arnie Duncan has emphasized this in a national letter to school leaders just last week (8/09):

"At a time when you are making critical and far reaching budget and program decisions for the upcoming school year, I write to bring to your attention the importance of the arts as a core subject and part of a complete education for all students."

Of top ten SAT performing states, **Georgia is ranked #8 across US** [with 70% of students] **and #18 in US** [with 50% of students].

SAT / 2008 Mean Scores

70%+ Student Test Participation Rate

Rank	State	Part. Rate	Total
1	* New Hampshire	74%	1555
2	Massachusetts	83%	1552
3	* Connecticut	83%	1535
4	* New Jersey	76%	1504
5	* Delaware	70%	1487
6	* Pennsylvania	71%	1478
7	* New York	84%	1473
8	Georgia	70%	1466
9	* Maine	87%	1396
10	District of Columbia	84%	1390

* Have an Arts Coordinator/Consultant

Source: College Board

50%+ Student Test Participation Rate

Rank	State	Part. Rate	Total
1	* Washington	52%	1568
2	* New Hampshire	74%	1555
3	* Oregon	53%	1553
4	Massachusetts	83%	1552
5	Vermont	64%	1549
6	* Connecticut	83%	1535
7	* Virginia	68%	1522
8	* New Jersey	76%	1504
9	* Maryland	69%	1498
10	* North Carolina	63%	1489
11	* Delaware	70%	1487
12	Rhode Island	66%	1486
13	Indiana	62%	1485
14	* Pennsylvania	71%	1478
15	* Florida	54%	1474
16	* New York	84%	1473
17	* Texas	50%	1473
18	Georgia	70%	1466
19	* Maine	87%	1396
20	District of Columbia	84%	1390

We are doing okay, but we can do better.

*asterisk denotes the state has full time arts coordinator/consultant.

A majority of top performing school systems have a full time fine arts coordinator/consultant in place.

Georgia does not.

Georgia Dept. of Education is aware of this need and fully in line with our goals to make the arts a priority.

It is just a matter of funding.

GDOE and schools must make tough choices these days. Most often between getting students to school or having an arts program.

What can we do to
help Georgia schools
do what is best for
their students



SUGGESTION

1

Advocate with us by hosting this presentation in other venues to educate the business & political communities to the importance of the arts to education.

SUGGESTION **2**

Work closely with us to train teachers to bring the arts into the general curriculum.

SUGGESTION

3

Help support your local school system's efforts to make the arts a larger part of their school reform plans.

We all want the best for our children.

All children.

Yours, your grand children, your friend's
children, your colleagues children.

Kevin.

Let's help Georgia educators **prepare them best** for the 21st century and make arts in education a priority!

Harbin Clinic | Floyd Medical Center | Redmond Medical Center

Combined total contribution of over \$20,000:

[a] to engage 60 students in the 'Patchwork Painting' process in Rome through our Corporate Arts Program which also

[b] contributed \$9000 toward our \$100,000 goal to provide the educators of Floyd County Schools and the Northwest Georgia RESA with the foundational training & follow-up ArtsNOW professional development services they desire.

THANK YOU

We are grateful to **Laura & Ken Davis** for many introductions and **Barbara Briley** for joining in as our first individual donor and ambassador!

ArtsNOW

Igniting creative
teaching and learning

Thank you for your time.

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