Community Arts Partnership Act (1994): Report 05

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COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1993

CONCEPT PAPER

TITLE: This bill will be known as the "Community Arts Partnership Act of 1993."

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Act is to provide Federal funds to link community cultural resources with the children and youth who are most at-risk of dropping out of society in order to enable those children to understand and appreciate the most positive aspects of the world around them. This Act intends that such positive reinforcement will promote enhanced educational performance and enable those who participate to compete and succeed in society.

The Federal government has invested in elementary and secondary education when it has been in the perceived national interest to do so. For twenty-five years, it has supported those groups who have historically been unserved or underserved — the poor, the disabled, and those with limited-English proficiency. These programs have worked, but as Jonathan Kozol so eloquently reminds us, "savage inequalities" persist between "haves" and the "have nots" in our society.

We all intuitively know that most children who succeed come from families with more educated parents, have more money spent on their health care, their education, and for their leisure enrichment. We all know that most children who succeed are those that go to museums and plays, have music and dancing lessons, and spend time at the local public library. Yet, even though the State of New York mandates art education for children, sixty-seven percent of the schools in New York City in 1992 have no art or music classes!

Children who succeed are raised in a positive environment that stretches their imagination and encourages them to reach for a better, brighter, and bigger future. If we examine our competitors' societies, Germany's and Japan's, we see that their children are taught from a very early age to appreciate the culture, music and art, that history has left to them and to strive to keep and improve upon the best aspects of the world for their future. If our children are not encouraged to appreciate their world and to use their imaginations to the fullest, our future and theirs will be a very dark place.

Previous programs have accentuated the negative. Stop failing! Stop dropping out! Stop taking drugs! It's time to change the approach. This proposal is an attempt to accentuate the positive. It is in the national interest to use the power of the Federal government to leverage the resources of our best cultural institutions for the benefit of those who "have not."
GRANTS AUTHORIZED/ELIGIBILITY: Grants authorized under this proposal are intended to provide coordinated services between local school districts and the cultural communities in which they exist to provide services for in-school and out-of-school at-risk children and youth. Eligible entities might include, but would not be limited to, museums, libraries, and recognized postsecondary institutions that specialize in the arts.

TARGET POPULATION: The targeted population includes those children and youth who are already recognized by the Federal government as being most at-risk of dropping out of society.

AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES: Authorized activities may include any activities that encourage positive linkage between the cultural entities of a community and children and that promote the educational performance of children and youth in an attempt to level the playing field between those in the community who "have" and those who "have not." Funds may be used for planning, materials, and any activities that encourage children to expand their imaginations and promote a better understanding of the cultural world. Funds may be used during regular school hours, before and after regular school hours, on weekends, during the summer and other vacation periods. Funds may be used in conjunction with programs activities to provide child care and encourage active participation of parents in their children's learning.

FEDERAL PAYMENTS: The Federal government will pay eighty percent of the grant and funds expended under this program will be used to supplement and not supplant local efforts. The intent of this requirement is to ensure commitment at the local level to the goals of this program.

FUNDS PROVIDED: The Federal government is authorized to provide $50,000,000 for fiscal year 1993, $75,000,000 for fiscal year 1994, and such sums as may be necessary for the duration of this Act. Grants will be provided on an equitable geographical basis and will include participation of eligible entities in both rural and urban areas serving high populations of at-risk children and youth.
COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP ACT
SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Actors' Equity Association
Albany State College
Alliance of NY State Arts Councils
American Architectural Foundation
American Arts Alliance
American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretas (AABGA)
American Association of Museums
American Association of School Administrators (AASA)
American Center for Design (ACD)
American Council for the Arts
American Design Council
American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
American Guild of Musical Artists
American Guild of Variety Artists
American Institute of Architects (AIA)
American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA)
American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)
American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
American Symphony Orchestra League
Arizona for Cultural Development
Arts Action Alliance & Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan
Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids, Inc.
Arts Council of Winston-Salem
artsgenesis
Associated Actors and Artistes of America - AFL-CIO
Association of Art Museum Directors
Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design
Association of Performing Arts Presenters
Association of Professional Design Firms (APDF)
Boothbay Register
California Confederation of the Arts
Caribbean Cultural Center
Center for Arts in the Basic Curriculum (CABC)
CityArts, Inc.
Colorado Alliance for Arts Education
Council for Basic Education
Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS)
Dance/USA
Denver Center for the Performing Arts
Design Management Institute (DMI)
El Museo del Barrio
Florida Cultural Action Alliance
French Art Colony
Hebrew Actors' Union, Inc.
Hudson River Museum
Illinois Arts Alliance
Indiana Advocates for the Arts
Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA)
Institute of Business Designers (IBD)
Italian Actors' Union
Jacques Marchais Center of Tibetan Art
Judaica Museum
Manchester Craftsmen's Guild
Maryland Citizens for the Arts
Maryland Institute, College of Art
Metropolitan Museum of Art
Michigan Museums Association
Museums at Stony Brook
National Art Education Association
National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies
National Association of Artists' Organizations (NAAO)
National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators (NAFEPA)
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
National Dance Association
National Education Association (NEA)
National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts
National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts
National PTA
National School Boards Association (NSBA)
Nevada Alliance for the Arts
New Orleans Museum of Art
New York Chamber of Commerce & Industry/ New York City Partnership, Inc.
New York Foundation for the Arts
New York State Alliance for Arts Education
New York State Education Department
OPERA America
Oregon Advocates for the Arts
Pacific Northwest College of Art
Package Design Council (PDC)
Parsons School of Design
Pierpont Morgan Library
Repertorio Espanol
Rhode Island School of Design
San Diego Unified School District (ELS, Inc.)
Scholastic Art and Writing Awards
School of Visual Arts
Screen Actors' Guild
Snug Harbor Cultural Center
Society for Environmental Graphic Design (SEGD)
Society of Newspaper Design (SND)
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
South Carolina Arts Alliance
State Arts Advocacy League of America (SAALA)
Theatre Communications Group
United Federation of Teachers
Wisconsin Arts Board
WNET