

## Arts Education and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning AEP to Develop a New Research and Policy Agenda for the Field

The Arts Education Partnership (AEP), a national coalition of arts, education, business, philanthropic and government organizations dedicated to ensuring the arts remain a vital part of every child's education, is developing an *Arts Education and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Research and Policy Agenda*. The Agenda will provide a conceptual road map to guide the next generation of educational research and ensure that it drives and is informed by educational policy.

Across the country, education is increasingly focusing on 21<sup>st</sup> century knowledge and skills. The arts, as the historic foundation of creativity and imagination, must play a key role in this revolution. The *Research and Policy Agenda* will highlight areas where new research can and must explore the role of the arts and creativity in the learning that prepares students for success in school, work and life.

The purpose of the *Arts Education and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Research and Policy Agenda* is to help build and refine the body of knowledge of the role of arts and creativity in the learning that all people need to succeed in a highly complex, technological, and multi-cultural world. It will be designed to provide critical guidance to educators, practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and funders of research.

This new Agenda will build on a legacy of AEP support for high quality research as demonstrated through the development and publication of several previous national-level research agendas, including *Priorities for Arts Education Research* (1997), and *The Arts and Education: New Opportunities for Research* (2004).

In order for the road map to be an effective navigation tool, it should be designed with the input of users. That is why the AEP is using a participatory process that includes:

- Interactive small group sessions in its two National Forums in 2009
- Interviews with and surveys of constituents in education, the arts, and 21<sup>st</sup> century learning
- A dedicated Webspaces for reviews and comments to successive drafts of the Agenda

The *Arts Education and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Research and Policy Agenda* will be available in hardcopy and PDF in early 2010.

For additional information or to find out how you can become involved in the development of the *Research and Policy Agenda*, contact Michael Sikes at [michaels@ccsso.org](mailto:michaels@ccsso.org) or 202.336.7028.

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