



AMERICA 2000
Arts Partnership

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
ARTS



Produced by the U.S. Department of Education
and the National Endowment for the Arts.

AMERICA 2000 Arts Partnership

Dance, theater, music, the visual arts. . . Through each of its disciplines, art represents a distinct way of exploring and understanding our common humanity and surroundings. Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander has said: "If I were helping to rethink the curriculum of a school in my hometown, I would want instruction in the arts to be available to every student." Yet today, a rigorous and comprehensive education in the arts is available to only a fraction of our children.

All students can benefit from appropriate arts instruction. For students with disabilities, gifted children, those with limited English proficiency, as well as all others, the arts are an important part of a well-rounded education. Acting Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts Anne-Imelda Radice believes that: "Infusing the creative spirit of the arts in our schools is an important part of revitalizing American education." A good arts curriculum helps students understand our nation's evolving cultural heritage as well as those of other civilizations. The arts enhance creativity and cultivate each student's ability to make informed aesthetic judgments. Additionally, the arts can be used to enhance teaching and learning in all subjects. Properly integrated, arts education helps students develop an appreciation for individual arts disciplines as well as for how those disciplines relate to other subjects.

To improve students' knowledge, appreciation, and skills in the arts, the U.S. Department of Education, with the National Endowment for the Arts, is working to advance the AMERICA 2000 Arts Partnership. James D. Wolfensohn, Chairman of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, has agreed to head a group of private citizens to propose options for the Partnership. The AMERICA 2000 Arts Partnership as presently envisioned will include the following seven major components.

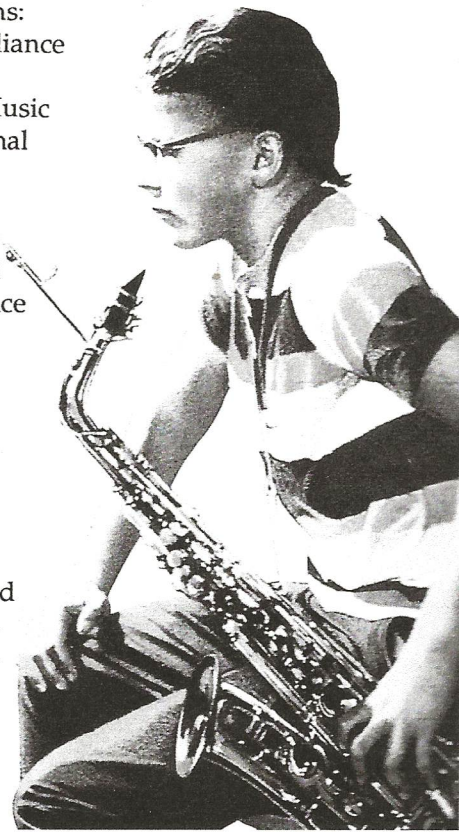


Developing World Class Standards in the Arts

The U.S. Department of Education, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities have joined to support a national effort to develop World Class Standards that describe the knowledge, skills, and understanding that all students should acquire in the arts. These voluntary, national standards will complement similar standards in science, mathematics, English, history, geography, civics, and other subjects. National standards in the arts will establish a dramatic vision of what is possible and will encourage teachers and students to strive towards the best in arts education for all children. Standard-setting in the arts will be coordinated by a consortium of four organizations:

the American Alliance for Theatre and Education; the Music Educators National Conference; the National Art Education Association; and the National Dance Association.

The effort will be broad-based involving respected individuals from a variety of backgrounds who are interested in arts education, including nationally recognized educators and artists.





Involving AMERICA 2000 Communities

The U.S. Department of Education will work with AMERICA 2000 communities to emphasize the importance of the arts for all students and to help local coalitions improve arts education. Priority will be placed on developing comprehensive and rigorous school curricula in the arts. Community arts institutions and organizations will also be enlisted as partners to broaden students' access inside and outside of school to a wide range of arts experiences, including museums, lectures, live performances, and local artists. Communities will be encouraged to consider including the arts as part of their AMERICA 2000 education strategies. The National Endowment for the Arts, with its partners, the 56 state arts agencies, encourages and funds the creation of collaborative partnerships between state and local arts organizations and the education community.

Helping States Implement High National Standards

The U.S. Department of Education supports states in the creation of their own K-12 curriculum frameworks based on the voluntary, national standards in the arts. These frameworks will constitute the state's own vision of the education every child should receive, helping to ensure every child the opportunity to learn the arts. They will provide the basis for improving teacher education, professional development, and assessment.

Creating a National Center for Arts Education

The U.S. Department of Education supports the creation of a National Center for Arts Education, which will involve respected school professionals, scholars, and artists in research and in projects to improve arts education. The Center's activities may include: helping to provide professional development for teachers; supporting artists in schools; assisting in the development of World Class Standards in the arts; building a national resource network of exemplary programs, curricula, research, and ideas made available through videos, software, printed materials, and other means. The Center will also work with AMERICA 2000 communities and recognize outstanding local initiatives.

Expanding the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

In cooperation with the National Endowment for the Arts, the U.S. Department of Education plans to expand the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) to include assessment of students' knowledge and abilities in the arts. Preliminary work to develop an assessment framework will begin in July 1992. Support for this phase of the national arts assessment is being provided by the National Endowment for the Arts in collaboration with the Getty Center for Education in the Arts, a program of the J. Paul Getty Trust. Plans call for the NAEP arts assessment to be in place by 1996. Development will be coordinated with the parallel effort to develop World Class Standards describing what all students should learn in the arts. The new assessment will be informed by NAEP's experience assessing the arts in the 1970s, as well as by current exemplary assessments in different states and localities.

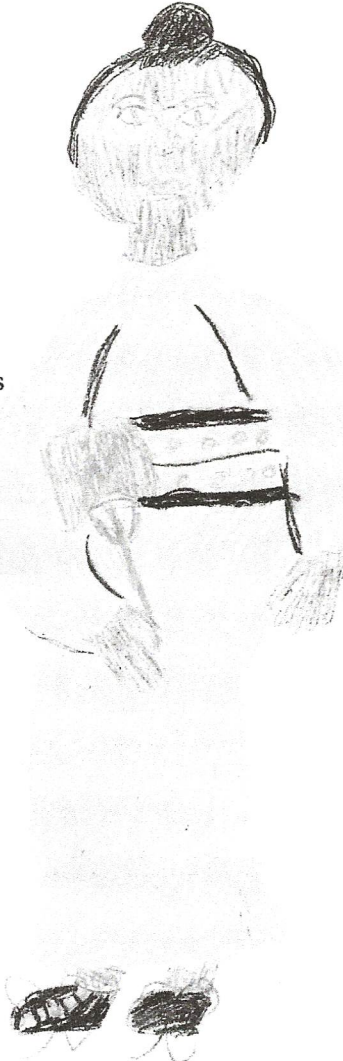


Developing a Research Agenda in Arts Education

A national conference in May 1992 in Annapolis, Maryland, launched the process of developing a research agenda for the next decade in arts education. The conference, convened by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Arts, brought together policymakers, teacher educators, artists, and representatives of arts professional organizations. Follow-up meetings are planned in different regions of the country.

Designing a National Arts Education Dissemination Network

To improve dissemination of quality arts education programs to those on education's "front lines," the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, under a contract from the National Endowment for the Arts, has begun work to design a national arts education dissemination network. When fully implemented, the network will provide referral services, dissemination of exemplary programs, and a nationwide telecommunications network linking educators interested in the arts.



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Children's art:

Courtesy of Luxmanor Elementary School, Rockville, MD
panels 7 and 8, unsigned
panel 3, Monica Amieva
panel 5, Shannon Carroll

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