

2021 AEP Virtual Gathering

Virtual Arts Education Beyond the Pandemic

Presenters

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Session Description

The pandemic required arts organizations to pivot swiftly from "in-person" arts education programming to "virtual." Many discovered that even in a time of great social isolation, the arts are a conduit for meaningful connection and interaction. As schools reopen and virtual programming becomes less essential, what is the value in continuing virtual programs? How can arts organizations utilize virtual platforms to break down economic and distance barriers and broaden access to arts education? In this session, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts will share strategies for designing responsive, interactive virtual arts education programs by highlighting examples of its virtual programming. Additionally, participants will explore opportunities, challenges, and potential solutions of continuing virtual programming beyond the pandemic through a visioning exercise. Discussion topics will include: assessment of demand, communication tactics, inclusive virtual learning experiences, and teaching artist training and support.

Learning Objectives

Participants will:

- Learn about Wolf Trap Foundation's multi-modal approach to virtual learning (which utilized synchronous and asynchronous programs; social media; and the use of digital platforms) for various grade levels/ages.
- Explore strategies for promoting meaningful connections and interactivity in virtual programs by participating in interactive virtual learning experiences with a teaching artist, and hear lessons learned regarding transitioning their work to virtual.
- Brainstorm implications for continuing virtual programming beyond the pandemic and explore challenges and opportunities.
- Share creative solutions to approaching virtual programming related to topics such as accessibility, teaching artist training, and communication tactics.
- Envision how the field might utilize virtual platforms beyond the pandemic to broaden access to arts education. Participants will leave the session with documentation of the visioning exercise.

Session Outline and Summary

Participants will first learn about two of Wolf Trap's virtual programs, Virtual Stage and Field Trip Fridays. Participants will then learn about Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts' programmatic shift to virtual learning and participate in an interactive virtual arts experience. Lastly, participants will engage in a guided discussion about the opportunities and challenges of virtual programming, and discuss the future of virtual programs. Participants will leave the session with documentation of the visioning exercise.

Supplemental Materials

Jamboard:

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/18zTwmPcKSXFdCtO4nhZJf9iS7vhztyjYlJewjxRyMDU/edit?usp=sharing>

Powerpoint:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/15DOVTnEsjsFRINwm56FzGV9HZUx8Lspe/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=103523458576207100190&rtpof=true&sd=true>