Connecticut Arts Administrators Association

Advocacy Consortium: Initial Ideas

Notes from meetings/Conversations August, 2019

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*Themes:* Advocacy Priorities, Arts Education Institutions, CAAA Professional Development Topics, State Education Organizations, State Leaders

**ADVOCACY PRIORITIES—Strength in Numbers**

* Create Common Arts Advocacy Talking points
* Educate and build support with local and state leaders
* Build Strong Relationships-Focused Communication with state arts and arts education organizations to educate schools and communities

With these Advocacy priorities the following actions were suggested:

**PRIORITY 1**

**Create Common Advocacy Talking Points**

1. Work with arts organizations to identify and articulate common advocacy agendas
2. Embellish CAAA Website with advocacy updates –Post
3. Apply for grants: COA has $1,000 grants to give arts to kids.

TALKING POINTS

**ArtFactstoGO Business Cards :** with an ARTS EDUCATION FOCUS**:**

**10 Word Talking point cards—posts: DID YOU KNOW THAT….?**

Initial Talking Points Topics discussed:

\***HS requirements**

\***Well-being/health**.

**\* School to prison Pipeline**: What do the arts contribute to this? Bonnie will have more information in January

**\*21st Century Skills**-Vision of the Graduate—HS Goals for graduating seniors

\* **Readiness, accessibility, diversity, and inclusion** --How do the arts promote them? \***Opportunity Gap --**Capitalize on this

\***Social Justice/Equity**

*Challenges*: Equity is much more difficult than diversity. Accessibility—e.g. transportation and the elderly, young parents with no child care. Can we create a list of resources that the arts in Connecticut bring to this table?

“The arts for arts sake are important, but the arts also bring engagement, attendance in community arts events and performances. We change perspectives-we have a different way of pulling people together for a common purpose. No one can do this better than the arts. The arts unify people.” (Bonnie Koba)

**Should we create a subcommittee to work on these ideas?**

**PRIORITY II Educate and Build Support with local and state leaders**

1. Gather a panel of arts education leaders to serve as the collective voice for arts education at the state organization meetings, with the Governor and the new Commissioner of Education
2. Meet with the Legislative Education Committee
3. Schedule regular meetings with the committee and individual members. Highlight the benefits of the arts for a healthy economy and other talking points.
4. Next Summer: Get out to vote efforts; Candidate’s Forum
5. Invite Johanna Hayes to speak with introduction by Luke Bronin at ArtsAdvocacy Day
6. Invite New Commissioner of Education to address Arts Advocacy Day
7. Work with Connecticut Arts Alliance on *Create the Vote* (CAAE participated in this)
8. Add VISUAL ART to the Advocacy Breakfast (Maureen and Andrea can develop a rotating art exhibit) in addition to music ensemble
9. Arts Slam: QR Codes so people can hear testimonials from students. Have kids paining, creating art so that people can see the work that goes into this. Have the Poetry Out Loud Champion recite poetry.

**PRIORITY III Build Strong Relationships-Focused Communication to educate Schools and Communities**

1. Continue to strengthen relationships with CT Arts Alliance (CAA), CABE (Board of Education), and CAPSS (Principals and Superintendents), Symphonies (HSO, New Haven, BRAVO and others.
2. Develop and share common advocacy priorities with state organizations
3. Arm principals and Superintendents with facts—educate them so they understand the significance of arts education
4. Put the YOUTUBE video of the Gospel Choir on the CAAA website. Testimonials from Simsbury’s Gospel Choir and performance on Arts Advocacy Day.

**STATE EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS—Initial List** (Note: these are notes in no particular order from our initial meetings and conversations

\*CAPSS: Have all kinds of internal groups –arts conversations… different groups to be on….bring them on board--Huge group for policy

\*\*Link CABE/CAS/CAPSS to CAAA Website. John Prins CABE/CAS

\*\*Have John create a quarterly post on CABE/CAS EDUCATING boards of education and school administrators about the benefits of arts education

\*Governor’s Council on Women and Girls—Has a STEAM focus. Many subgroups will be forming.

\*Closing the Achievement Gap—Bonnie is on this taskforce

\* CAA—Connecticut Arts Alliance. Bonnie is on this organization, affiliated. Bonnie would like a CAAA rep at those meetings. Hartford Stage, Bushnell, Cornerstone information, New Britain, etc.

9 regional service organizations across state. CAA led the *Create the Vote* initiative and CAAE participated in the work. Need to fill the gap—arts audiences are created by children who have had training in the arts. Need to have an ‘in’ with the arts in the CAA organization and the governor.

Arts Organizations—from Jackie’s files

Aubrey, Suzanne [Suzyaubrey@gmail.com](mailto:Suzyaubrey@gmail.com)

Shakespeare Productions: [rbrown@shakesperienceproductions.org](mailto:rbrown@shakesperienceproductions.org)

Rebecca Brown

West Suzuki Rebecca Christensen

[Director@westsuzuki.org](mailto:Director@westsuzuki.org)

Annie. [Dimartino@longwharf.org](mailto:Dimartino@longwharf.org)

[Info@ctdanceall.com](mailto:Info@ctdanceall.com) Jill Henderson

[Jnorman@contemprinps.org](mailto:Jnorman@contemprinps.org) Julyan

Connecticut Commission

Council for the Humanities

Dance Theatre Inc.

Learning Consortium

Drama Asso

Theatre Ed asso

Broadcasting

Song Writers asso

NB Museum of Art

NE Academy of Theatre

NE Association of Schools & Colleges