

Fact Sheet: Arts and Education

May 2010



Arts and education is a key policy concern for government arts funding agencies worldwide. As the global network for such agencies, the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) has undertaken several projects to encourage information sharing between policy makers, researchers and practitioners, about arts and education. This pamphlet outlines the various arts and education projects that IFACCA has undertaken to date.

Arts and Education Mini-Summit, Australia

An arts and education 'mini-summit' was convened in September 2005 by IFACCA and the Australia Council, with the assistance of Arts Victoria in Melbourne, Australia. Of the 29 delegates who attended, most were senior officials from government agencies or national and international organisations that have a responsibility for, or interest in, improving the quality of arts education in their country. They came from 16 countries in five continents (Australia, Canada, PR China, Denmark, England, Germany, India, Ireland, Kenya, Namibia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Tanzania, Thailand and the USA).

The mini-summit included presentations by Sir Ken Robinson on his work to advance the role and status of culture and creativity in education systems in the UK and numerous other countries; and Professor Anne Bamford on the preliminary findings of her global research compendium (see over).

There was much agreement among delegates about the current state of arts and education policy internationally. Delegates agreed on four key areas that require action by governments to improve the implementation of arts and education policies, and especially to equip young people for the 21st century:

- Identifying persuasive arguments in making the case for arts in education
- Enhancing the training and development of artists and educators.
- Refining methods of accountability.
- Improving collaborations with key partners.

The report on the mini summit, *Moving Forward on Arts and Education*, is available on IFACCA's website, www.ifacca.org.

UNESCO World Conference on Arts and Education, Portugal

IFACCA's Chair, Risto Ruohonen, presented the mini summit's report to the *World Conference on Arts Education: Building Creative Capacities for the 21st Century*, held in Lisbon, Portugal, in March 2006. The conference, organised by UNESCO and the Government of Portugal, was attended by 1,200 participants from over 97 UNESCO member states. Conference reports are available at UNESCO's 'Links to Education and the Arts' website.

International Seminar on Arts and Education, Chile

In 2007 IFACCA participated in the International Seminar on Arts and Education: *Challenges for Democratic and Quality Access*. This Seminar was organised by the Consejo Nacional de la Cultura y las Artes de Chile and took place in Santiago de Chile on October 29-30. IFACCA's Latin American coordinator,

Santiago Jara, presented as part of the panel: International Cooperation and Arts and Education.

World Alliance for Arts Education and the World Creativity Summits

One of the outcomes of the UNESCO World Congress in Portugal was the formation of the World Alliance for Arts Education (WAAE). This alliance brought together the International Drama/Theatre Education Association (IDEA), the International Society for Education through Art (InSEA) and the International Society for Music Education (ISME). Since then, the World Dance Association has also joined WAAE.

Since 2006, the WAAE has held annual World Creativity Summits and a range of other international meetings.

In July 2007, IFACCA's Executive Director, Sarah Gardner, participated in the first World Creativity Summit in China, Hong Kong SAR. Over 100 delegates attended the Summit which aimed to bring together outstanding innovators from the realms of education, arts, science, policy making, industry and journalism into intimate dialogue to design strategies and partnerships to advocate the creative pedagogies of the 21st century.

In November 2009, Sarah Gardner participated in the third World Creativity Summit held in NewcastleGateshead, England, which brought together over 100 experts from about 30 countries to prepare strategic proposals for the 2nd UNESCO World Conference. Also in November 2009, IFACCA's Latin American coordinator, Santiago Jara, participated in the steering committee organising Arteducación09, a conference held in Bogotá, Colombia, designed to prepare recommendations to be presented to UNESCO.

IFACCA has offered to partner with the WAAE as it develops its future strategic plan related to the advocacy, networking and research into arts and education.

UNESCO Second World Conference on Arts Education, South Korea

Sarah Gardner will attend the UNESCO Second World Conference on Arts Education in Seoul, South Korea on 25-28 May 2010. As well as representing IFACCA, she will be a member of a team of people who are part of, or partners of, the WAAE. IFACCA will hold a short meeting on 24 May for all IFACCA members attending the conference to meet their counterparts, and to discuss key themes and objectives.

Sarah Gardner was invited, but was unable to attend, the UNESCO Network of Arts Education Observatories – Regional Preparatory Meeting to the Second World Conference on Arts Education held in Bangkok, Thailand in January 2010.

The Wow Factor

Written by Professor Anne Bamford and based on surveys conducted jointly by IFACCA and the Australia Council, *The Wow Factor: Global Research Compendium on the Impact of the Arts in Education* is a ground-breaking analysis of research on arts and education. Published for the UNESCO World Conference on Arts Education in Lisbon in March 2006, this comprehensive report is of major interest to policy-makers, educators and artists. Comparing data and case studies from more than 60 countries, the book analyses the differences between 'education in the arts' and 'education through the arts'.

The project began in 2004, when IFACCA was approached by Prof. Bamford, then at the University of Technology Sydney, to collaborate in developing an international compendium of research on the impact of arts-rich programmes on the education of

children and young people, with a particular focus on students who may be marginalised or 'at risk' in terms of fulfilling their educational and artistic potential. IFACCA used its extensive global network to identify and contact experts in arts and education, then asked them to complete a survey. The responses were collated by IFACCA and the Australia Council, and analysed by Dr Bamford.

The resulting publication, *The Wow Factor* (Waxmann, 2006), provides a global overview of the qualities of effective arts and education partnerships, including: identifiable details of the impact of arts and education partnerships; and appropriate models of data collection and research methodology for investigating the impact of arts and education partnerships. Case studies resulting from the survey process are available at UNESCO's 'Links to Education and the Arts' website.

The findings documented in the compendium were a focus of the UNESCO Summit on the Arts in Education held in Lisbon in March 2006 and have been used to inform international arts and education policies around the world. For example, Mr Vagn Jelsøe from Kunststyrelsen, the Danish Arts Agency, attended the mini-summit in Melbourne 2005 and reported that

“After attending the mini-summit and hearing Professor Bamford present her study, we engaged her to make a case study of arts education in Danish primary schools... and now our Minister for Education has agreed to consider her recommendations to raise the level of arts education.”

In 2009 *The Wow Factor: Global Research Compendium* was published in Spanish (El factor ¡WUAU! El papel de las artes en educación) by publisher Octaedro. It has also been translated into Korean, Norwegian and German.

Arts and Education topic page

IFACCA has created a topic page on arts and education, on its website (<http://www.ifacca.org/topic/arts-education-research/>). Users will find news items, publications and events relating to the topic published since October 2000.

ConnectCP

www.connectCP.org is a database of 780 cultural policy experts from 103 countries. Launched by IFACCA in 2006, the database aims to stimulate the interaction of people with knowledge in the cultural policy sector, mobilise human resources, and facilitate the flow of cultural policy information. A keyword search for 'education' presents profiles for 232 experts.

Possible future initiatives

IFACCA believes that there would be value in developing a web portal (or enhancing or contributing to existing portals) to enable people working in arts councils and ministries of culture, and anyone interested in arts and education policy, to share resources on education and arts research, such as evaluations, links, case studies, data, models of innovative programs, conferences and news. By using social networking technologies the portal would also enable greater interaction between policy makers, researchers and other key networks and inform advocacy initiatives. IFACCA will also look at partnerships to develop research in this area.

For information on this or other IFACCA projects, please contact Sarah Gardner, Executive Director, IFACCA, info@ifacca.org