



## **Arts Learning Task Force Meeting**

**Monday, November 17, 2014 • 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Garrison School of Visual and Performing Arts • 649 W. Jones St., Savannah, GA 31401  
Savannah Arts Academy • 500 Washington Ave., Savannah, GA 31405

**Attendees:** Thomas Lockamy, Gladys Wyant, Woody Leonard, Debi West, Amy Duke, Molly Howard, Karen Hallacy, Pam Smith, Charisse Williams, Atiba Mbiwan, Helen Rice, Barry Schrenk, Karen Pay, Allen Bell

**9:00 am Review of Schedule and Agenda for the Day**

**9:05 am Welcome and Tour of Garrison School (K-8)**

Principal James Heater took the Arts Learning Task Force members on a tour of Garrison School of Visual and Performing Arts, a K-8 arts magnet school with 730 students. The tour included observing sixth grade programs in visual art, band, orchestra, chorus, theatre, and dance. The tour concluded with a Q & A with Principal Heater.

**10:00 am Guest Speakers from Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools System**

The Task Force listened to comments by two guest speakers: Catriona Schaeffer, Visual Art Specialist, and Brandon Tucker, Performing Arts Specialist, with Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools System. Ms. Schaeffer described the visual art programs throughout the SCCPSS system, and Mr. Tucker described the performing arts programs throughout SCCPSS. Both speakers discussed the role of arts integration and arts partnerships in their programs.

**10:45 am Travel to Savannah Arts Academy**

**11:00 am Welcome and Tour of Savannah Arts Academy (9-12)**

Principal Gif Lockley took the Arts Learning Task Force members on a tour of Savannah Arts Academy, a 9-12 arts magnet school with 800 students. The tour included observing programs in ballet, strings, chorale, communication arts, orchestra, visual art, the costume shop, and the art gallery. The tour included a Q & A with Principal Lockley.

**12:15 pm Working Lunch with Guest Speakers from Savannah Music Festival, Savannah College of Art & Design, and Savannah Philharmonic Orchestra**

Jenny Woodruff, Education Director at Savannah Music Festival, discussed the Musical Explorers program produced by Savannah Music Festival. The K-2 program serves 9,500 students in 54 schools in the Savannah area.

Steve Aishman, Dean of Academics at Savannah College of Art & Design, discussed STEM at SCAD and shared a video about the program. He also talked about the workforce opportunities for students engaged in the program.

Melissa Bailey, Education Director at Savannah Philharmonic Orchestra, talked about the organization's work with schools, including performances, master classes, in-school ensembles, and work with instructors.

The guest speaker presentations were followed by a Q & A with the Task Force members.

### **1:25 pm      Discussion**

The Arts Learning Task Force members engaged in a discussion of the arts learning programs observed during the day and the arts partnerships presented in the afternoon.

Discussion included:

- The importance of district-level leadership
- The importance of involving teachers in the process
- The importance of community involvement
- The importance of parent involvement
- The importance of managing the budget to include arts learning
- The importance of community arts partnerships

Discussion of potential recommendations included:

- A guide for superintendents to develop effective community arts partnerships
- Professional development for effective community arts partnerships
- A curriculum guide aligned with standards for teachers to use the arts in the classroom
- Community asset mapping for arts learning partnerships
- Reviewing programs in other states for discipline-based arts education and arts integration

### **1:55 pm      Closing Information**

### **1:50 pm      Adjourn**