



## **Arts Learning Task Force**

### **Meeting Minutes • August 26, 2014 • GDEcD, 12<sup>th</sup> floor**

**Attendees:** Erin Hames, Karen Paty, Ann Cramer, Gladys Wyant, Atiba Mbiwan, Woody Leonard, Thomas Lockamy, Amy Duke, Helen Rice, Karen Hallacy, Lisa Love, Shawn Bender, Molly Howard, Pam Smith, John White, Charisse Williams, Pam Beagle-Daresta, Debi West, Barry Schrenk, Allen Bell

**10:00**

#### **Welcome**

Karen Paty, Executive Director, Georgia Council for the Arts, welcomed the task force members. The task force members introduced themselves. Additional comments were added by: Chris Carr, Commissioner of Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD), John Moffatt, CFO, GDEcD, and Pat Wilson, COO, GDEcD.

Allen Bell, Arts Education Manager, Georgia Council for the Arts, also welcomed the task force members.

**10:10**

#### **Overview of Governor Deal's Education Priorities**

Erin Hames, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Nathan Deal, provided an overview of Governor Deal's education priorities, including 1) Students reading on grade level by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 2) STEM to STEAM, 3) All students graduating and completing college or technical college, 4) Teacher & Leader Effectiveness (evaluations and support for educators) 5) Local choice and flexibility .

**10:30**

#### **Task Force Member Introductory Comments**

Each task force member talked about why arts education is important and what they would do to improve arts learning in Georgia. Predominant themes included:

##### **VALUE:**

- Increased graduation rates, attendance rates and better test scores
- Opportunities for self-expression
- Increased self-esteem & focus
- The arts create opportunities to engage students and inspire passion and commitment to school & education
- Provides an important part of a well-rounded, holistic education
- Provides skills in visualization, which is critical to literacy
- Students exposed to the arts are more likely to be involved in the arts later in life
- Arts learning encourages innovation, creativity, critical thinking, and other cognitive skills
- For some students, the arts are the only career track that is a good fit for them
- Recent research has shown that arts learning is crucial for brain development
- Arts learning helps bridge the achievement gap for students living in poverty and for English language learners

##### **IMPROVEMENTS:**

- Fine arts requirement for HS graduation



- Create a fine arts specialist position at the DOE
- Create curriculum based arts education resources and professional learning opportunities for classroom teachers
- Create/find the time in a student's day for arts based learning
- Integrate assets in arts industries with needs in arts education to provide additional resources
- Implement writing across the curriculum
- Encourage greater community involvement, including local artists and teaching artists collaborating with educators
- Provide training for those teaching the arts who are not trained as artists or educators (i.e., parents or volunteers)
- Collect and make available better data about access to arts learning
- Explore the possibilities for providing online professional development for arts education and arts integration

- 11:50**      **Review of the Executive Order**  
Erin Hames reviewed aspects of the Executive Order which created the Arts Learning Task Force.
- 12:00**      **Lunch Break**
- 12:30**      **Review and Discussion of Task Force Charge and Work**  
Allen Bell reviewed the scope of work, logistics, working groups, meeting structure, communications strategy, and proposed future meetings for the Arts Learning Task Force.
- 12:40**      **Discussion I: The Case for Arts Learning**  
The task force members continued their discussion about why arts learning is important.
- 1:00**      **Discussion II: Arts Learning in Georgia**  
The task force members discussed Arts Learning in Georgia, including data from a draft of "Arts Education in Georgia." Discussion topics included access to arts learning, measures of quality arts learning, arts instructor qualifications, arts learning resources, and principal perspectives on arts learning, such as obstacles and ways to improve arts learning.
- 1:50**      **Closing Information**  
Allen Bell reviewed information for the next Task Force meeting, communications, and suggestions for future meetings.
- 2:00**      **Adjourn**