

Report to OCDSB Education Committee

OCDSB Advisory Committee on the Arts 2005-2006

1. ACA Meetings

The 2005-2006 inaugural meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Arts (ACA) was held on September 20, 2005. At this meeting, the committee elected Co-Chairs Brad Christakos and Katherine Stauble. At the November meeting the ACA, Arts Community member Gary Goodacre was elected Secretary.

2. Arts Recognition Awards 2004-2005

These awards are presented annually by the ACA to individuals, groups or organizations, and for special projects and events, in recognition of outstanding service in the area of arts education. Nominees include OCDSB teaching staff and community members.

The 2004-2005 Awards Ceremony took place in the presence of trustees and senior staff at the OCDSB headquarters on October 17, 2005. Award recipients were:

- Elementary Drama Award: Barb Friesen, Goulbourn Middle School
- Elementary Music Award: Phil Nolan, Henry Larsen Elementary School
- Elementary Visual Arts Award: Lise Seguin, Elgin Street Public School
- Secondary Drama Award: Paul Griffin, Canterbury High School
- Secondary Music Award: Deb Flynn, Merivale High School
- Secondary Visual Arts Awards: Michael Goodson, John McCrae S. S.; Joanna Swim, Colonel By Sec. School.
- Elementary Event Awards: Hawthorne Public School, for *Hawthorne Music Recital* (Tracey Heard, organizer); Adrienne Clarkson Elementary School for *Artrageous '05* (Kathy Smith, Sue LaForge, and Lauralee Comeau, coordinators).
- Secondary Event Award: Brookfield High School, *Waves of Hope Benefit Concert* (Jeannie Hunter, coordinator)
- Leadership Award: Reg Lavergne, Osgoode Township H.S.
- Community Award: Catherine Carroll, volunteer at Castor Valley E.S.
- Marjorie Loughrey Lifetime Achievement Award: Jean Buchanan, Bells Corners Public School

3. Arts Consultant

The ACA is very pleased with the OCDSB's decision to hire a full-time Arts Consultant. We are proud of our role in making this recommendation to the Board and feel the decision signals an important contribution to arts education in Ottawa. Arts Consultant Dale Taylor has enriched arts programming in many significant ways, including the following:

- playing a leadership role and providing professional development to teachers in the areas of learning *in* and *through* the arts. Her initiatives include workshops for teachers and the creation and distribution of three arts binders.
- providing an invaluable resource to teachers; acting as a kind of information clearing house on the arts and arts education. This has been especially important for Primary and Junior non-specialist teachers who do not always have access to such information.
- acting as a catalyst and collaborator for new initiatives in arts education, including the Cappies Awards program.
- providing a link between the OCDSB and other organizations, such as the Catholic Board, with which she has forged an effective working relationship through her counterpart Shelley Smith-Dale.
- helping to integrate arts education activities with broader initiatives, such as activities promoting positive social behaviour. Examples include a partnership that mounted the anti-bullying musical "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" and the Afghanistan project, mounted in conjunction with Foreign Affairs Canada.

4. ACA Projects

The ACA was involved in three new projects this year.

i) Encore Instrument Donation Program

The ACA, in partnership with Child and Youth Friendly Ottawa (CAYFO), organized a city-wide collection of used musical instruments, collecting over 60 good instruments. A total of 35 instruments were donated to 22 OCDSB schools, including six Beacon schools. Another 26 instruments were donated to ArtsCan Circle.

ArtsCan Circle is an independent, volunteer-run group dedicated to linking creative artists with Native youth at risk in Canada. Founder Mike Stevens has been traveling to communities in Labrador and northern Ontario for the past 6 years, distributing hundreds of harmonicas to young people. Now, ArtsCan Circle supports small groups of volunteer musicians and artists who accompany Mike.

ArtsCan Circle has established musical instrument lending libraries in Natuashish and Sheshatshiu Labrador, and Mishkeegomang, Pikanjikum and White Dog, Ontario. Plans for 2006 include the establishment of a musical instrument lending library in Iqaluit City in Nunavut.

Other partners in Encore provided free media exposure, including the Ottawa Sun, the Ottawa Citizen, Rogers TV, CTV, and radio stations Hot 89.9 and The Bear. A number of Ottawa area car dealers and hotels acted as drop-off points. Spooner & Sons Auctioneers provided transportation. Principal Trudy Brand-Jacobsen of Fisher Park Public School provided storage space for the donated instruments.

The ACA was very pleased with the success of this drive and has heard from teachers expressing gratitude for the donations.

ii) Marjorie Loughrey Award

The ACA has lent its support to the objectives of the newly established Marjorie Loughrey Endowment Fund. The annual Award provides funding to a selected Beacon school for one Artist-in-the-Schools program.

iii) Education Foundation of Ottawa

Brad Christakos represented the ACA as a member of the Grant Review and Recommendation Committee of the Education Foundation of Ottawa.

5. Discussion and Research

The ACA discussed and researched a number of new ideas.

i) Summer School for the Arts

Working with Arts Consultant Dale Taylor, the ACA discussed the possibility of providing extended and enhanced opportunities for high school students to obtain arts credits through summer courses. Anna Bowles of the OCDSB made a presentation on the summer arts program for Primary-Junior students.

ii) Arts Accreditation

A number of arts community organizations expressed interest in an initiative to streamline the process of acquiring high school accreditation for external arts programs. A sub-committee has been formed, consisting of Amanda Lewis of the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama, Audrey Churgin of MASCS, Nancy Burgoyne of the City of Ottawa, Jeff Stellick of the Ottawa School of Art, Loretto Beninger, Margie Barkley and ACA Co-Chair Katherine Stauble.

iii) Arts Education Directory

Katherine Stauble has researched and prepared a listing of Arts Education programs in Ottawa. The committee has discussed the possibility of having it printed and distributed to teachers and/or mounted on a web site. It is hoped that this project will become an on-going joint venture between the OCDSB, OCCDSB, arts community and City of Ottawa.

6. Ongoing Priorities

The ACA plans to continue its efforts in 2006-2007 with the following initiatives:

- i) Encore Instrument Donation Program
- ii) Accreditation project
- iii) Review of the ACA's 2004-2005 Recorder Program (see the 2004-2005 ACA Annual Report)
- iv) Recruiting volunteers members of the ACA, especially teachers and parents
- v) Arts Education Directory
- vi) Secondary Summer School for the Arts (Addendum, 22 June 2006)
- vii) ACA Arts Recognition Awards (Addendum, 22 June 2006)