

ArtFBI

ArtFax

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A Faxazine of Arts Information from Cyberspace to the Mid-Atlantic Community

NATIONAL REPORT WILL FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE IN ART EDUCATION

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and Goals 2000 Arts Education Partnership are joining efforts with educators and administrators to present a national report highlighting school districts that are achieving excellent arts education with their students.

Over the past fifteen years, as America's school districts have struggled to provide arts education to all of our nation's students, certain school districts have consistently provided arts programs and created an environment which fosters learning in and through the arts. The coalition has been identifying these model schools.

Site research is scheduled to being this fall. Case study research will conclude in the winter, at which time the report will be drafted, with a planned release in spring 1998.

This "best practices" report will speak especially to school boards and administrators, who make decisions which shape the environment in which a school can operate. Individual schools will not be a

focus. Instead, schools working as part of a district-wide strategy for reaching all students will be considered — including portions of school districts, public and non-public systems, and collaborations among schools and institutions.

Superintendents, principals, and school board members, respected practitioners and experts are being called upon to provide insights throughout the process, and a survey of literature on effective arts education will create a context for the project.

"The report will shine a light on various school districts whose policies and practices may offer useful insights to school decision-makers trying to build their own programs," says Goals 2000 Arts Education Partnership on their web site at <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/aep/aep.html> Contact Goals 2000 Arts Education Partnership, One Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20001-1431 tel: 202-326-8683 Fax: 202-408-8076 Email: aep@ccsso.org

Princeton Center Reports On Participation In Arts

The Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Studies at Princeton University has made available **Resources For Studying Public Participation In The Arts: An Inventory And Review Of Available Survey Data On North Americans' Participation In And Attitudes Towards The Arts.**

Compiled by Becky Pettit, the report, released earlier this year, contains descriptive information, evaluative information, contact information and a study-by-data-element matrix about selected studies on public participation in the arts collected from cross-sectional samples of local, state, or national populations.

The report explains that studies included fall into two broad categories. The first includes studies that focus on participation in the arts such as the National Endowment for the Arts' 1982, 1985, and 1992 Surveys of Public Participation in the Arts or the Americans for the Arts surveys undertaken by the Louis Harris Organization.

"Because such studies are devoted to the arts, they tend to contain particularly rich collections of questions about people's cultural activities and, in some cases, attitudes towards the arts and culture," the Center states. "At the same time they suffer from the disadvantage of having less room for questions about personal characteristics and demographic background, or about attitudes towards issues unrelated to the arts."

To balance this, the second category comprises broadly focussed,

or "omnibus" social surveys that include a selection of questions about participation in or attitudes toward the arts, such as the 1993 General Social Survey, which appended approximately 15 minutes of questions about the arts and culture to an ongoing national population survey, or statewide surveys fielded by local research centers in Kentucky, New Jersey, Maryland, and South Carolina.

The Center notes that they regard the project as open. They plan to add documentation of similar surveys conducted outside of North America, as well as information about surveys from the U.S. and Canada not already included. They also plan to create a forms-searchable data base and a chat room for researchers working with the data sets in the surveys. They invite readers to contact them through the Web site to nominate additional studies for inclusion in this data base.

Source: **Resources For Studying Public Participation In The Arts** is available both as a hard-copy working paper and on the Web site of The Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Studies at Princeton University at <http://www.princeton.edu/~artspol/> Tel: 609.258.4530. Posted on Arts Wire.

Violent Music Hearings Called "Disaster" For Freedom Of Expression

The Senate Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring, and District of Columbia Subcommittee held a two hour hearing on November 6, in order to discern the "possible ef-

CLINTON SIGNS
INTERIOR BILL
Expresses Concern
About Arts Funding

President Clinton officially signed the FY98 Interior bill into law on Friday afternoon, November 14th, according to a report from Americans for the Arts. The final budget figures for cultural agencies for FY98 are NEA — \$98 million; NEH — \$110.7 million and IMLS — \$23.3 million.

The President added the following Administration comments to the Interior Bill upon signing on Friday afternoon: "The National Endowment for the Arts will continue to provide active and visible support to important American arts communities and is funded at \$98 million, \$1.5 million below the FY 1997 level. The Act also provides \$111 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities, I remain concerned, however, about the low level of funding for these agencies that provide important cultural, education, and artistic programs for communities across America."

Clinton also denounced several logging riders attached by Republicans at



the last moment. According to Washington Post, he called them a "grave disservice to the people of the United States," and accused Republicans of attempting to "interfere with the responsible management of our national forests." However, the Post reports that, according to administration sources, a veto would have invited repercussions from congressional Republicans so was ruled out.

The Post notes that "some Democratic lawmakers viewed the Interior bill as a major victory because it retained funding for the NEA and other cultural programs."

Sources/Resources:

Americans For The Arts tel: 202-371-2830 fax: 202/371-0424, <http://www.artsusa.org>

Joby Warrick "Clinton Claims Environmental Gains in Interior Bill" Washington Post, <http://www.washingtonpost.com> Saturday, November 15, 1997; Page A07

The National Endowment For The Arts, <http://arts.endow.gov> Arts On The Line, <http://spot.colorado.edu/~finkelst/aotl.htm>

facts of violent music on society," according to a report from The Massachusetts Music Industry Coalition. (Mass. M.I.C.)

"Senator Sam Brownback's subcommittee hearing on the possible effect of music violence on society was a major disaster for music and freedom of expression," Nina Crowley writes in a detailed report of the hearing. Her first hand account is available on the Mass. M.I.C. website at <http://www.ultranet.com/~crowleyn/mmhc.html>

Mass M.I.C. reports that the hearing had a very restricted list of speakers. Cherie Harder, Chair Senator Brownback's (R-KA) staff member in charge of overseeing the panels "was doggedly dedicated to preserving the short and biased list of speakers, refusing to consider additional speakers or an extended hearing time allotment," Crowley writes.

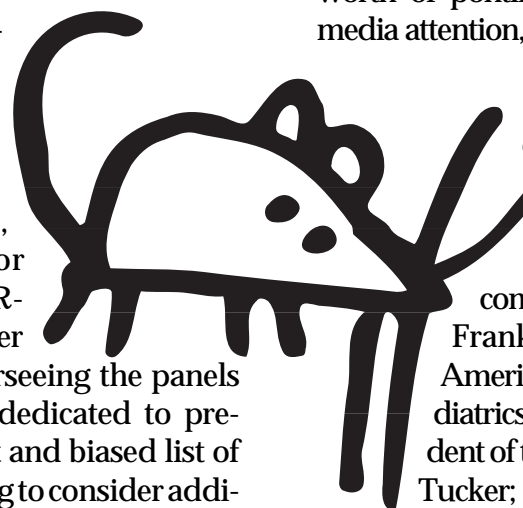
In his opening statement Senator Brownback, outlined society's current ills including a jump in teen suicide, pregnancy, crime, and drug use, which, without reference to supporting statistics, he partially attributed to "a marked increase in explicit violence and misogyny in popular music," according to Mass. M.I.C.

He ended saying, according to Mass. M.I.C., that "it stands to reason that prolonged exposure to such hate-filled lyrics . . . could have an effect on one's attitudes, assumptions, . . . decisions, and behavior. Understanding the nature and extent of the influence of music violence may

well be the first step . . . for ensuring a more civil society."

Senator Joseph Lieberman, (D-CT) the first to testify, spoke of our "broken culture", our "surreal, Alice-in-Wonderland" culture in which kids our better armed than police. After his testimony, he preceded every question to a panelist with another 3 or 4 minutes further outlining his beliefs, says Nina Crowley.

"He effectively manipulated the situation to provide himself with 2 hours worth of pontificating and captive media attention," Crowley writes.



Other speakers included Mr. Raymond Kuntz of Burlington, North Dakota whose son committed suicide; Dr. Frank Palumbo, of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Hilary Rosen, President of the RIAA; C. Delores Tucker; and Dr. Donald F. Roberts of Stanford University. In addition to Brownback and Lieberman, committee members are Arlen Specter (R-PA), Robert Bennett (R-UT), and M. Cleland (D-GA).

Source: Nina Crowley "Senate Subcommittee Hearing" The Massachusetts Music Industry Coalition (Mass. M.I.C.) -<http://www.ultranet.com/~crowleyn/mmhc.html>. Posted on Arts Wire.

NYC Street Artists Protest Environmental Control Board Policies

At the end of October, A.R.T.I.S.T. (Artists Re- 

sponse To Illegal State Tactics) demonstrated inside the NYC E.C.B., (Environmental Control Board) according to an A.R.T.I.S.T. email alert.

“We members of A.R.T.I.S.T. are here today to protest the City’s use of this so-called court to illegally harass, intimidate and violate the rights of artists, vendors and other honest, hard-working small business people,” they stated.

According to A.R.T.I.S.T., although in June of this year NYC street artists won a major Federal lawsuit against Mayor Giuliani and the City, and subsequently the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear Giuliani’s appeal, Giuliani has countered by ordering the police to give out hundreds of E.C.B. summonses to artists instead of illegally arresting them.

“The sole purpose of these summonses is to threaten, intimidate and harass artists into leaving the street in order to satisfy his backers in the real estate industry. Having to spend a day in E.C.B. court is itself a form of cruel and unusual punishment,” A.R.T.I.S.T. states. “The Mayor and those he takes orders from mistakenly believe that

we street artists will give up our struggle if they just apply enough harassment. They are wrong.”

Among the problems cited by A.R.T.I.S.T. are that there are no court appointed lawyers to represent defendants; due to attorney costs, most people represent themselves or just plead guilty and send in a check; and almost all defendants who plead not guilty are found guilty regardless of the facts in their case.

A.R.T.I.S.T. also points out that defendants are never advised of their rights, and that it is necessary to pay the fine before appealing a guilty verdict. They further note that a majority of the defendants are immigrants, speak little English and have no understanding of U.S. law, yet the court has no interpreters.

Source: For more information on A.R.T.I.S.T call: Robert Lederman 718-369-2111; Email: ARTISTpre@aol.com or visit the A.R.T.I.S.T. web site at: <http://www.openair.org/alerts/artist/nyc.html>. Posted on Arts Wire

WASHINGTON AREA
LAWYERS FOR THE
ARTS WORKSHOPS

Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts (WALA) conducts ongoing workshops on business and legal issues of interest for artists in the DC metro area. Upcoming programs include:

December 4: Freelance Writer Contracts, co-sponsored with Washington Independent Writers (WIW).

December 9/January 22: Non-profit Workshop for those considering starting a 501(c)(3) organization.

For information on times and cost, plus a list of their other workshops, contact Paige Conner Totaro, WALA, at 202.393.2826, ext. 22.

End
Transmission

