

**Youth and Community Development: How the Arts Serve Economically
Impoverished Communities.**

USSEA/InSEA Regional Conference

**State University of New York at New Paltz
New Paltz, New York**

Call for Proposals: deadline September 30, 2009

Friday June 11-Sunday June 13, 2010

Featured Speaker: Glen Coutts, InSEA World Councilor and Professor at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. Coutts specializes in community programs and presents similar programs in his new book. (Coutts, Glen, & Jokela, Timo (2008). *Art, community and environment: Educational perspectives*. Chicago: IL: University of Chicago Press).

Mission of Conference:

In a global climate of economic decline, the arts are in even more danger of becoming expendable. This conference seeks to recognize the arts as critical to community building, and therefore, needs to be, as ever, a partner in regenerating our culture. We intend to challenge the boundaries of art education by exploring partnerships with art therapy, public art, and the Internet community. While this conference is directed towards those communities currently economically disenfranchised, it will also broaden conversations to include all communities, especially those who may become weakened in future economic situations.

Shirley Brice Heath's (1999) extensive research found that community organizations fill the institutional gap left between families and schools in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. She found that aimless activity during the critical hours after school in both urban and rural settings indicated that adolescents did not have sustained quality interactions with adults. "Increasing numbers of children and youth beyond the age of eight spend no more than a few minutes weekly with adults who give them positive support in joint activities" (p. 9).

The intergenerational nature of community projects resolved this problem. "They (arts organizations) encourage young people to develop multiple talents that place 'intelligence' not just in the individual, but also in group collaborative effort and resourcefulness for community benefit" (p. 8). Arts organizations have multiple positive results in not only engaging youth in productive activity and learning critical career skills, but also in exercising their social responsibility through civic engagement.

Suggestions for Session Topics:

1. How can the arts be used as a school-to-work strategy, youth development strategy, and an economic enterprise strategy?
2. How can adults put youth in the leadership position in community partnerships?
3. How to engage multiple facets of the community in the learning process of youth?

4. How can youth create their own opportunities for growth where schools, states, funding have failed?
5. What are the specific similar and contrasting problems of rural and urban communities?
6. How does cultural difference affect learning?
7. What are the perceptions of the benefits of formal art education amongst different youth social groups?
8. How and when are cultural values and educational experiences perceived as important?
9. How can Art Education be used to galvanize community-cultural educational experiences that support social and financial benefits?
10. How can teachers and students co-construct learning environments that extend beyond the school?

Other considerations concerning the cultural / financial / social dynamic are as follows.

1. Creating group collaborative efforts for community benefits, e.g., performance, exhibitions, etc., for family members and community residents.
2. Creating mentoring and peer learning situations.
3. Creating sustainable arts-related businesses.
4. Creating partnerships between schools, the business community, and local organizations.
5. Creating grassroots, school-site projects.
6. Creating quality adult interactions with youth.

Registration Fees:

USSEA members:	\$85.00
Non-members:	\$100.00
Students:	\$55.00

Location:

The surrounding area of the Shawangunk Mountains is famous for its white granite rocks and world-renowned rock climbing in Minnewaska State Park and the Mohonk Preserve. The French Huguenot Settlement is in the town of New Paltz. It is also the site of organizations such as the Mill Street Loft, OASIS, and other organizations that serve the economically impoverished community.

General Travel and Lodging Information:

The closest airport is Stewart Airport in Newburgh, New York. There are no shuttle buses or public transportation from the airport to New Paltz. Taxi service is about \$50.00

However, we will make arrangements for those who are coming by air to have bus service from the college. We will also make arrangements if desired to lodge with a SUNY New Paltz student. Otherwise, you may book reservations at one of the nearby

lodges. We suggest Minnewaska Lodge (<http://www.minnewaskalodge.com>) and Lefevre House B&B (<http://www.lefevrehouse.com>). Lefevre is in walking distance to the campus, Minnewaska Lodge is a 15-minute drive, and suggested for those who will be driving to New Paltz.

Please check the following options, which you will need so that we can make appropriate arrangements for you:

- Hotel
- Home of student

You will be traveling by:

- Car
- Plane

For Questions Contact:
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