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New York State Council on the Arts - Arts in Education Blueprint From the ESP Web site

This FAQ was developed to describe the collaborative efforts of statewide representatives to map the arts in education services currently being provided across the state through service organizations, NYSCA AIE-funded initiatives, and/or networks.

What is the AIE Blueprint?

Through a variety of mechanisms, including the Services to the Field grant category and the Local Capacity Building Initiative Re-Grant Program, NYSCA works to support and develop the Arts in Education field by offering opportunities for AIE constituents to:

- Network on local, regional and statewide levels;
- Advocate for the role of the arts in education;
- Disseminate information on issues and actions relative to the field;
- Learn and build capacity in AIE through professional development; and
- Access AIE partnership funds at a local level.

When completed, the AIE Blueprint will be the result of a collaborative effort to map the arts in education services currently being provided across the state through service organizations, NYSCA AIE-funded initiatives, and/or networks.

Who is mapping the AIE Blueprint?

Representatives from a host of cultural organizations that were funded through the NYSCA Services to the Field grant category to implement programs that will ultimately benefit the field at large as well as organizations funded to administer specific initiatives on behalf of the NYSCA AIE Program. The organizations and highlights of the initiatives are:

- the Association of Teaching Artists (*for the Teaching Artist Training Initiative and to co-host the Common Ground Conference*);
- the Metropolitan Opera Guild (*for fiscal sponsorship of the Empire State Partnerships Professional Development Program*);
- the New York Foundation for the Arts (*for the Teaching Artist Training Initiative, Chalkboard, and to co-host Common Ground*);
- the New York State Alliance for Arts Education (*for co-hosting Common Ground*); and
- Partners for Arts Education (*for the School Arts Partnership grants and the Technical Assistance Program and to administer and co-host Common Ground*).

Also involved are the Center for Arts Education (another NYSCA funded organization) and other AIE Program constituent networks and consortia that offer stakeholders the opportunity to learn from and with one another and to address issues of concern are involved. The networks include:

- the Arts in Education Regional Roundtables (*nine regionally-based coalitions of AIE stakeholders*);
- the Regional Leadership Networks (*seven regionally- based coalitions of grantees of the ESP School-wide Improvement grant program*);
- several topic-based networks that include members from across the state (*Arts for Special Populations in Alternative Education Settings, the Museum Education Network, and the Design Education Network*); and
- the AIE Program's Local Capacity Building (LCB) Initiative Re-grant Program (*24 sites across the state that receive a block grant from NYSCA to re-grant to the field to support small and first-time forays into arts in education and provide professional development.*)

Why does the AIE field need a Blueprint?

The Blueprint is being created to ensure that the broad range of services provided by organizations funded by NYSCA to administer specific initiatives are being delivered in a coordinated, comprehensive, and non-duplicative way.

What does the Blueprint include so far?

The Blueprint Team visually mapped the services that are currently being provided through the aforementioned organizations, initiatives, and networks. The services were then organized into broad categories —Advocacy, Professional Development, Networks, and Information. To complete the exercise and identify gaps, needs, and overlap of services, the representatives listed the delivery system (electronic, print, listserv, etc.), stakeholder group, timing of the service (weekly, monthly, annually, etc.), and purpose of the work for each service.

What were the results so far?

- A need for, and an absence of, a centralized website that could provide links to information about Arts in Education in New York State and beyond.
- A gap in tools and training for stakeholders involved in advocacy
- A gap in professional development targeted for teaching artists, cultural organization administrators, and parents
- A gap in connecting with various stakeholders such as parents, State Teachers Associations, School Boards, policymakers, etc.

What are the next steps and how will the Blueprint help me?

- Documentation of the process, as well as the final Blueprint itself, will be disseminated to the field in print and electronic formats through the communications mechanisms of the partner organizations and representative networks and consortia.
- The document will help current constituents find the information and resources they need to effectively work in the field.
- The Blueprint will provide a means of outreach to those constituents who are not currently "in the know," and that all stakeholders in the field will benefit from better-coordinated and more comprehensive service programs.