

Arts Education: Meeting the Challenge for College and Career Ready Students

This forum on community support for arts education is a program of the Arizona Citizens for the Arts Education Outreach and Advocacy Initiative, made possible in part by support from Americans for the Arts and DMB Associates, Inc.



Arts education makes significant contributions to higher student achievement, to cultivating creative and critical thinking, as well as problem-solving and communication skills. This interactive discussion will explore the state of arts education in Arizona's schools and the remarkable potential of arts education to prepare young people for success in a 21st Century world.



John Abodeely

Deputy Director, President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities

Created in 1982 under President Reagan, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) is an advisory committee to the White House on cultural issues and works with federal partners and the private sector, to address policy questions in the arts and humanities, and support key programs in those disciplines and to recognize excellence in the field. Prior to PCAH, Mr. Abodeely worked at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, directing national arts education partnership initiatives, and at Americans for the Arts.



Mary Luehrsen

Executive Director, The NAMM Foundation

As Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations for NAMM (*National Association of Music Merchants*), Executive Director of NAMM Foundation, and a former music teacher and professional musician, Mary has helped NAMM and its partners with policy issues and legislation that impact access to music education in the United States. Mary spearheaded the development of the SupportMusic Coalition and created partnerships with high profile music advocates such as former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee and music icon Quincy Jones.



Jacky Alling

Chief Philanthropic Services Officer, Arizona Community Foundation

Jacky Alling serves as a member of the Arizona Community Foundation executive staff and oversees ACF's donor services, statewide affiliates, new fund development, and competitive grants. Jacky plays a leadership role in ACF's community initiatives focusing on community development, civic engagement, innovation prizes and impact investing. Prior to coming to ACF, Jacky served as Executive Director for the Arizona Alliance for Arts Education and as the Director of Education and Outreach for several other Arizona arts organizations.



Todd Sanders

President, Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce (GPCC) is to support the growth and development of business, strengthen the quality of life in the community, champion the voice of business in government and keep its members informed, connected and prosperous. Prior to his position as President, Todd was the Vice President of Public Affairs and Economic Development for the GPCC, and served as a legislative research analyst at the Arizona House of Representatives for seven sessions.



Dr. Steven J. Tepper

Dean, Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, Arizona State University

Dr. Steven Tepper is a leading writer and speaker on U.S. cultural policy and his work has fostered national discussions around topics of cultural engagement, everyday creativity, and the transformative possibilities of a 21st century creative campus. Prior to coming to Arizona State University, Steven was on the faculty at Vanderbilt University where he was a chief architect of the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise and Public Policy, a national think tank for cultural policy and creativity.



Catherine "Rusty" Foley

Executive Director, Arizona Citizens for the Arts

A lifelong Phoenician, Ms. Foley has spent her career as a communications and public affairs professional and a community leader. As an arts activist, she also has served on the boards of Childsplay and the Arizona Theatre Company, and on the Phoenix Art Museum Corporate Council. She was named the Phoenix Arts and Business Council's Arts Board Member of the Year in 2007, and received Phoenix Theatre's "Women Who Care" award for outstanding achievement in 2009.