ARTSCAPES

WYOMING ARTS COUNCIL NEWS • SUMMER 2014



WYOMING

WAC manager bids farewell PAGE 2
Governor names new board members PAGE 22
Summer arts classes for teachers PAGE 28
Poetry Out Loud state finals PAGE 30



OUR MISSION

The Wyoming Arts Council (WAC) provides leadership and invests resources to sustain, promote and cultivate excellence in the arts.

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MAGAZINE

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ON THE COVER: The Wild Festival in Jackson Hole will feature the Nature's Beauty competition. In this photo, Jackson High School student Oliver Hollis captures Nature's Beauty model Hanneke Bouvmeester as typical spring snow falls on Jackson.



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WYOMING ARTS COUNCIL

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ARTS EDUCATION

TEACHERS WILL BE "STARSTRUCK" THIS SUMMER IN LARAMIE

By Katie Christensen

According to leading U.S. arts and education organizations, including Americans for the Arts, National Guild for Community Arts Education and the National Education Association, the arts are part of a balanced education, providing America's learners with essential skills and knowledge they need to be productive, college- and career-ready citizens. Listed as a core academic subject of learning, the arts are supported by a rigorous set of Wyoming education standards that provide and improve sequential arts learning in our public schools.

Many Wyomingites value a quality arts education in our schools. By investing in certified arts educators, students gain the opportunity for a sequential, standards-based education in the arts. In an ideal situation, certified non-arts educators in schools (math, science, English language arts, etc.) also expand students' opportunities for arts learning by providing curricular connections among the arts and other subjects.

The three-legged stool of strong arts education is built with certified educators, both in and out of the arts-legs one and two-with the third leg provided through Wyoming's cultural organizations, community arts organizations, and teaching artists like our WAC Roster Artists. From this community based support, students gain deeper, additional, often standards-based arts learning experiences through opportunities provided outside of the school day. It is the convergence of the contributions of all partners and opportunities that provides a quality arts

education for our students. It takes a village, a community and a whole state of support. Our statewide arts advocacy organization, Wyoming Arts Alliance, puts it best: "Together we are stronger!"

Despite the rich body of data demonstrating how students benefit from quality arts education, many American children lack access to it in their schools. Wyoming is fortunate to have music and visual arts educators in most of our schools, but we still have further to go! Let's ensure these arts specialist positions are maintained at current levels, or even increased. Better yet, what about adding dance programs to every high school? And providing theater opportunities for our elementary aged youth? We believe that the inequity of access to quality arts education must be addressed. Too often, arts education is squeezed out of America's public schools. Let's not see that happen any more in Wyoming schools.

An education without the arts is inadequate. Therefore, we call on our public policy leaders to provide a systemic and rigorous arts education for all students in all public schools by leveraging the expertise and experience of the partners involved in arts education. Here at the Wyoming Arts Council, we encourage certified arts educators, community arts providers and certified non-arts educators to provide quality arts education for their students by collaborating together in support of improved instructional and classroom practices. Opportunities provided by the Wyoming Arts Council and our partners this summer will help to bolster these important relationships and provide professional development opportunities for growth.

From July 28 – August 1, our partners in Laramie at the UW Art Museum will host their annual Summer Teaching Institute, **Transforming Learning: Art and Science Collaborative: Consider the Universe.** Community educators and K-12 teachers alike can benefit from this hands-on, interactive workshop. Join us as we consider how art and science intersect as investigative processes. With UW Science Camp participants, explore a variety of materials and methods that might be used in art and science classrooms, inspired by the exhibit *Starstruck: The Fine Art of Astrophotography*, science theories and new explorations.

This **Summer Teaching Institute** is a great model for the ideal partnership of certified arts, certified non-arts and community partners coming together for the benefit of all education, including arts learning. The cost for participants is \$150 per person, with a \$50 non-refundable preregistration fee or you can bring teams and receive a discount: \$150 for first participant, \$125 for second partner, \$100 for any additional partners, \$50 non-refundable pre-registration fee for each partner. All partners must register together. (3 PTSB or UW credits.)

This summer WAC is sponsoring additional professional development opportunities designed with teachers in mind. Participants are eligible to receive PTSB or UW Continuing Education credits. All of these opportunities are crucial ways to further strengthen teaching and learning skills in and through the arts, grow and build teacher networks, and learn something altogether new. For more information about pricing and registration, please contact Katie Christensen at 307-777-7109 or via email at Katie.christensen@wyo.gov. Here are the rest of the summer courses:

On June 18 - 20, WAC Roster Artist Amelia Terrapin will lead **Mobius Moves** in Jackson. Immerse yourself in an exciting, whole-bodied approach to learning! We will explore different ways to use creative movement to teach concepts like sound energy, states of matter and patterns. This approach is designed to reach learners of all types (visual, auditory, kinesthetic) and make learning fun. This workshop is great for music,

PE, and classroom teachers looking for an active way to keep a diverse group of learners engaged. The cost is \$125 for the workshop – meals and lodging not included. Lodging can be added to your registration in advance for an additional fee. (2 PTSB or UW credits.)

Visual arts and English language arts teachers should head to Buffalo on June 22 - 27 for **Issues in Teaching Printmaking: Book Arts and** Creative Writing. This course will be an intensive study on the basics of printmaking and its role and potential in the classroom, combined with an exploration of creative writing ventures easily adapted for classroom use. Goals are to have each participant find new methods of creation within the classroom, and each participant will print, write, and stitch their own book to take home and implement in their own classroom. Many elements of "the book" will be explored both literary and visual - and ample workshop time provided. Mid-week adventure includes an art and writing studio field day in the Bighorn Mountains. Cost is \$225 for the six days, for the workshop only. We also encourage visual arts and English language arts teachers to come in teams and are offering a partner discount-- \$225 for the first participant, \$175 for second partner, \$150 for any additional partners, teams must register together. Lodging is also offered to all participants for an additional fee. (3 PTSB or UW credits.)

To finish out the summer offerings, travel to Riverton for both **Beginning** and **Advanced Fused Glass**, taught by experienced instructor Marianne Vinich—2013-14 Wyoming Secondary Art Educators' Art Teacher of the Year. For both classes, participants will create their own high quality art glass pieces; learn a variety of techniques, and how to fire glass. Topics will cover a range of issues pertaining to fusing glass, including tools, health and safety concerns, materials, and information about working with glass, and also tips for how to make it successful for anyone. The beginning class is a thorough introduction to fusing and slumping techniques. Advanced class offers participants a chance to

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FOLH ARTS

WYOMING FOLK AND TRADITIONAL ARTISTS ARE FINDING A HOME AT HANDCRAFTED ART TRADITIONS

andcrafted Art Traditions is an online gallery of folk and traditional arts made in the American West. The site is the brainchild of Georgia Wier, who splits her time between Colorado and Oregon. She has served as a panelist and folk arts consultant for the Wyoming Arts Council. Find the web site at http://handcraftedarttraditions.com/

Three Wyoming artists are now participating, and soon Karen Mott from Lander will be represented with her hand-crafted cinches. One of those artists is Mary Maynard, a nationally-known expert on tatting and

crocheting from Laramie. She is also is a member of the Wyoming Arts Council Artist Roster. You can see Maynard's Handcrafted Art Traditions page at http://handcraftedarttraditions.com/shop/category/mary-maynard/

Check out the organization's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/handcraftedarttraditions

For more information, contact Wier at georgiawier@gmail.com

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practice and hone fusing and slumping skills, as well as learn cold working techniques and discuss developing kiln programs for firing glass in schools. Classes are concurrent and begin in the evening on August 1, with the beginning class concluding on August 3 and the advanced class concluding on August 5. Beginning glass base registration is \$250, Advanced class base registration is \$550; both classes have the option for adding a single or double room for an additional fee, paid in advance. (2 or 3 PTSB or UW credits.)

We'd like to see all Wyoming communities foster proactive, long-term advocacy collaborations among certified arts educators, community arts providers, and certified non-arts educators that engage parents, school leaders, and other key stakeholders to support student access to highquality arts education throughout the school and community. This is already starting to happen in our great state in places like Laramie, Buffalo, Jackson and Riverton, and many, many others. For assistance with advocacy, we encourage you to join our partners at the Wyoming Arts Alliance. This summer and into the year, we encourage folks from "pre-k to grey," both teachers and nonteachers, to take an arts class at your local arts organization and become a lifelong learner!